

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract : This paper's main aim is to create awareness among women regarding women empowerment and how education and gender equality has always played an important key role and how are governments has taken actions for improving the society for welfare of our nation. Hence, education is the key to every thing. The first part of the demonstrates about the definition of women empowerment and how they enjoy somewhat lower status than that of man in our society. This is because of the cultural norms and gender gap exists because of education and employment. Most importantly education is the key factor for everything; let it be empowerment, prosperity, welfare and development. If women had been empowered and given full access to their rights they would be able to participate in decision making tasks and contribute to the development of our country. In the last five decades there have been many changes regarding empowerment and other welfare issues. Later it has been discussed how women are less involved in cultural and social welfare issues and to overcome these problems how actions have been taken so that they can come forward through the schemes offered by government-

1. RastriaMahilaKosh (1992-1993)
2. MahilaSamridhiYojana (October1993)
3. Swayasjdha

IndexTerms - Women Empowerment, Education, Gender Equality, Development Schemes by Government.

I. INTRODUCTION

Empowerment actually means raising status of a woman or providing them equality through education, working environment and allowing such beautiful beings to make life-determining decisions of their own in our society, that they previously were denied off and how their rightful powers must be given to them at household and occupational levels. Gender equality plays a very major role in women empowerment.[1]Women empowerment is about every women out there in the world. Well said" Each time a woman stands up for herself she stands up for all women", Women empowerment is actually dependent on many variables like caste, age, rural or urban areas, educational status, literacy rate.



Fig.1 Women Empowerment

Gender equality means men and women should be treated equally, they must be given equal rights for everything irrespective of their gender. They must be treated equally when it comes to education or making their own career decisions. They should not be treated unequally in social and cultural issues and their dignity power and freedom must be maintained. Past years reports suggested that the sex ratio ratio went from 930 to 940 from the year 1971 to 2011. With this the literacy rate of females increased from 18.3% to 74.0% from the year 1961 to 2011 and during same period the literacy gap rate of male-female decreased from 26.6% to 16.7%.The policies enacted by government for females exist at different levels like national, state and local sectors covering streams of health, finance, education and work sectors. These several policies of government has actually created a difference in empowering woman.



Fig.2 Women Empowerment Education and Work

II. TYPE STYLE AND FONTS

- 1) **Gross Rita M** has discussed her views in her book entitled “*Buddhism After Patriarchy: A Feminist History Analysis and Reconstruction of Buddhism*” That dharma is neither male nor female and supported feminism fully. She discussed about women rights how they should be given rights to follow spiritual and religious paths and Buddha never suggested that they must be deprived of these things. Buddhism recognizes how men and women are supposed to be treated equally in our society.
- 2) In the **Koalas Sa Nyutta** the Buddha contradicts that the people who are more happy when a boy child is born and not even happy when a girl child is born. He suggested that birth of both gives us the same joy but we created a difference in our mind on the basis of gender and they both are a part of our family must be treated with equality.
- 3) **Dhammananda KSri** in his book title “*What Buddhist Believe*” showed that Buddha never wanted women to be deprived of religious life. As before the era of Buddha, Women were not allowed to even enter the temple as they were not considered as pure soul. But he taught from his book that women are more purest soul and how they should be given higher position than man. Basically, he pointed to Buddha’s point of view on women.
- 4) “*Woman’s Empowerment in India*” by **Sarojini Nayak and Jeevan Nair** discussed the struggle of women from Vedic period to the 21st century and how their powers, dignity must be provided to women of our Nation. Along with women liberation, women inequalities and women’s status have been discussed by both the authors.
- 5) **Narasu PLakshmi** in his book entitled “*The Essence of Buddhism*” has pointed that men and women complete each other. They are each other’s better half so the equality must be shared among them. Women should not be tied to any boundaries when same is not done for men. Women should fight for their rights and there is no limits to women that they cannot do things and therefore be given perfect freedom.
- 6) All these studies suggested that Buddha never wanted people to discriminate among each other and everyone deserves their rights and one should not be deprived of their rights and equality. And how every book of Buddha always showed that women are the purest soul and how Buddhist also followed empowerment of women.

III . WOMEN’S IMPORTANCE IN INDIA

Empowered women, empower women. Women’s empowerment and achieving equality is essential for our society to ensure the sustainable development of our country.[4] Already the ratio of women vs. men is very low and saving girl child would change the face of our Nation Why do people think of a boy child more important than a girl child? Don’t you think girls are more beautiful cute and amazing than boys? Then why boys are still important to families? We need to do something about it for saving our world from nuisance. But the world has become a better place now. Women are found in every sector same as men are not working any less than any other man in their respective sectors, let it be Household chores, Business, IT sector, Air force, Military, Space, every field. Would it have been possible without educating them and believing in them! Definitely not... Hats off to those who believed in us, our family, our society your leaders and every person out there who continuously have been supporting and trusting us. “Behind a man’s success there is always a woman; behind every woman’s success there is always herself.” A truthful saying but not entirely true for me because behind our every ups and down sphere has always been our father, husband, friends and all those men who believed in us and they have always played a major role in each of our lives. This kind of vision and mission wouldn’t have been possible without them being apart of our life. Still at many places, women are denied of their rights which is very hurtful and at the other hand, we here are free to do what we want because of changed mentality of our society.[4] Importance of women in our society is very important for people to understand and to change the face of our Nation, they must not be denied of their rights.



Fig.3 Women's importance in India

IV. LIMITATIONS IN INDIA

The women empowerment is basically dependent and consists of several factors like educational status, social status (age and caste) and other factors too because of which several challenges and constraints are faced by women of our Nation.

Literacy rate: Education is a root to everything and reports suggests that 82.14% of adult men are educated whereas only 65.46% of adult women are known to be literate in India, which is such a huge gap between the gender. We can overcome this by campaigning from small places to larger cities to make women aware about education and about their rights.[5]

Professional Inequality: In many sectors, women are less considered and they are not appointed because of gender issue. For example, in mechanical stream, boys are given preference and same for field work too. But we need to make people understand that women are also capable of doing mechanical and field work and that's why government has also enacted rules like ratio of men and women should be equal in any industry.

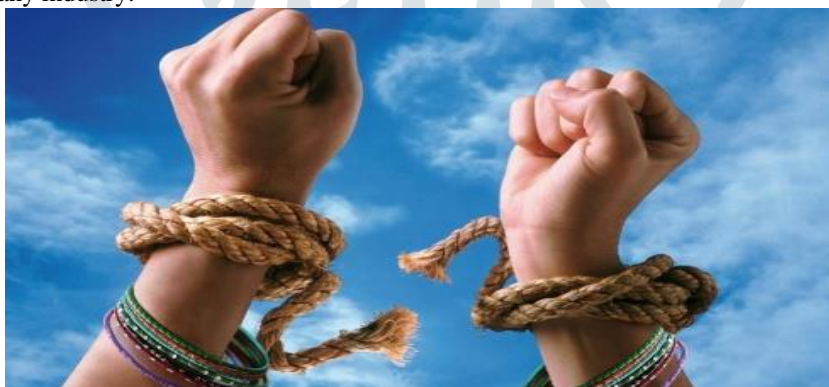


Fig.4 Empowerment Limitations in India

Poverty: Poverty is considered as the greatest threat to India. Status of people below poverty line is more when compared to other countries which are also a major issue for women empowerment. [6]Due to this many families are not capable of sending their kids to school. Government schools provided by our Government have actually enabled people to send their kids to school whereas many NGOs are also providing education to poor people in free.

Household Inequality: Ladies are more considered to do household chores instead of men which is definitely not right.[7] Both parents must share equal weight age of work not only at home but in outer world also. Men and women both should share burden of childcare, household chores.

Gender Inequality: This is the biggest threat to everything and is a constraint for women empowerment. There should not be any gender discrimination because both are capable of doing the same work. People should be trusting and believing women that they can do whatever they wish to they shouldn't be tied to any boundaries.[8]

According to me, we should not be bias to anyone. And these constraints are needed to be solved immediately so that women can be more empowered for the betterment of our nation. Believing in them and letting them do whatever they want to, will lead them to become a better person and sure they will never let us down. They are always doing something great for our homes, societies, Nation. "She's everything, even when she's treated like nothing." [8]

V. CONCLUSION

"If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman". Woman contributing in every stream has obviously made the world a better place. We are familiar with their contribution for the society. Nowadays, women are ahead of men in every work they do. Few women are travelling to the moon and back and few are not even allowed to stay out of their homes. People need to stop thinking girl as a puppet, they should be allowed to do whatever they want, whatever they want to wear and whom so ever they want to talk to. Illiteracy, sexual harassment are also few major problems of our society which leads to rapes violating a woman's personal space harassing them in public and private. "When women move forward the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves "Women has always been taken care of their families and other people's emotions

and she takes care of everyone related to her and the same women is not given equality or not treated well in society. The empowerment of women has not only become a major topic at National level but also at international level and in every city, state or country actions are being taken. They have started participating in economical, political and social issues and women nowadays have full access and are provided with same facilities as men and are given equal preference in each and every sector and they are working day and night to make world a better place which has improved every country's literacy rate, economy values.



Fig.5 Women Empowerment Improved Performance

So, empowering women till yet has lead us to the moon and encouraging them more can further lead us to places we have never imagined. To all the beautiful, amazing ladies out there – wake up, you always have been a defender so fight for your rights, create a difference, make world a better place.

VI. Future Work

First of all, awareness programs must be conducted especially in weaker areas to make sure that women are aware of their rights and how they can come forward to retain them.

1. Everyone deserves to be treated equally, their respect, dignity and to maintain prosperity among ourselves, we need to aware our neighbors who are less educated and still think of woman as someone who is capable of doing household chores only.
2. Education has been proved very important for development of ourselves and our society. Therefore, education will alternatively lead women to success. Hence, educating women must be given as first priority.
3. Women should allowed to work wherever they want and whatever it suits them but safety must be kept in mind. If they are ready for night shifts, they must be given proper safety at workplace and home also. Proper transportation must be provided to them by industries only.
4. Many schemes are provided by government to women of India so that they can also contribute in leading our Nation same as men. There have been several schemes provided for women –
 - Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) (2010)
 - Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) (2009-10)
 - Support to Training and Employment Programmers for Women (STEP)
 - Dhana lakshmi (2008)
5. There should be strict implementation of these Programmers and Acts which have been discovered by government and also for upcoming Acts so to prevent from violation and malfunctioning of rights and regulations.

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