

Society and Women in India: Understanding relative importance of Women Empowerment

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ABSTRACT

The progress of any society largely depends on the advancement of the position of women in that society. But unluckily the truth of Indian Culture is that there is continuous discrimination and disregard of females which could be in terms of insufficient nutrition, lack of job opportunities, denial or restricted access to education, poor health, no property rights, increasing child labour and an abusive behavior at home and so on. If we analyze their condition we can see that their condition is pitiable. This is because females are uneducated, overworked, incompetent, malnourished, powerless and in poor health. However, the issue of females strengthening has received most consideration in the present development debate that is genuinely reflected in the contemporary development literature. Ladies empowerment isn't too old a phenomenon. In oriental belt of globe; it has got currency just in the ongoing past. The approach of female empowerment is expected to conquer any hindrance among men and women. During the 1980s and 1990s, researchers and specialists turned to empowerment, which is said to happen when females assemble themselves and take initiative positions in work settings or the community. The introduction of the 73rd Amendment Act provides a provision for women's empowerment which was funded by the state and in which 33% seat (recently 50%) in Panchayats and in offices are reserved for women. In 1980s women empowerment has obtained a solid ground. It is normally accepted that sexual orientation segregation will vanish itself if ladies play out their obligations and exercises being developed alongside their male partners. A woman being developed doesn't just talk about financial and political advancement yet in addition of domestic uplifts. The paper will thus focus on the place of women in the society of India, to view the problem in the national perspective.

Keyword: discrimination, overworked, uneducated, poor health, empowerment, 73rd amendment act

Objectives of the paper:

- 1) To Study the historical profile of Indian women
- 2) To identify the specific problems of Indian Women.
- 3) The study focuses on the place of women in the Indian society, to view the problem in the national perspective.
- 4) The paper also focuses on several fatal forms of violence that are perpetrated against women in India

Introduction

One way to know the condition of a country is to contemplate the status of its women. Generally the status of women speaks to the models of culture of all ages. The societal position of the women of a nation, symbolizes the social spirit of the age. But to make an inference about the situation of females is a troublesome and complicated issue. Therefore it is essential to know their position in the historical perspective. Over the span of Indian history from ancient to current times there were dissimilar phases of the rise and fall in the status and job of females (Ram, 2004). Throughout the ages, the females has been issue of study-from the ancient to the modern times. The position of women changes immensely from one part of the world to another. But, no place do females enjoy equivalent status with men. However, in the developing countries like Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America, the position of women is low as cannot be imagined by women in the developed countries. Status is a relative term. In sociological articulation, it signifies neither position nor chain but only position vis-à-vis others in terms of rights and responsibilities. In the ultimate analysis, status is "the conjunction of positions a woman occupies.....as a worker, student, wife, mother...the power and prestige attached to these positions and the rights and duties she is expected to exercise." Women's status can then be analyzed in terms of their participation in decision-making, access to opportunities in education, training,

employment and income. In recent years, there has been an increasing recognition of the interface between women's ability to control their fertility and their exercise and enjoyment of other options in life (Aruna, 2004).

Women in Indian Society: An Overview:

The position of women in India has been subject to numerous changes over the past few times. From equivalent position with men in ancient times through the depressed position of the medieval period, to the advancement of equivalent rights by numerous reformers, the historical backdrop of Indian women in India has been astounding. (Savita, 2010). There is no denying the fact that women in India have gained some privileges might be as a result of the social legislation, the advancement made in the fields of education, health or economic or as a result of Technological developments, or because of a procedure of development, however in little numbers, we discover engineers, pilot, journalists, teachers, administrators, judges including a women judge in the Supreme Court, State Governors, ambassadors, members of parliament and ministers. Notwithstanding these accomplishments, the reality remains that the women's condition is an inauspicious reality. In spite of the fact that concern is being communicated for her liberation in each field, economic independence is of vital significance. Efforts are on to guarantee that she is economically not dependent on anyone. But these efforts have hardly been any help. The woman is nowadays troubled with two types of jobs- her work within the house and the job outside the home. . She doesn't find any free time to enjoy the fruits of her economic independence. Not only that, in many cases she is the custodian of her salary till she arrives of her family. The economic independence is not the final solution. An equivalent importance must to be paid on the complete advancement of the woman the awareness about her rights and responsibilities, the acknowledgement of her job and the work that she does at home. If necessary the social system must change so that the woman does not have to ask for concessions (Rao, 2007).

Atrocities on Women:

On the basis of reports published in daily newspapers in India it is clear that the women are victims of social change and economic exploitation in India. From the media news it seems, the rape is becoming a fashion in daily occurrence in cities, towns and rural areas. India has observed sex based disparity from its initial history. The most significant endeavor to update the status of women was made in early 19th century by different social reformers, whose struggles prompted the introduction of various laws for the protection and upliftment of women. After independence, being propelled by debates in the constituent assembly, the constitution of India further attempted to address this authentic blunder by giving a prophylaxis of Articles on specific rights and assurances to Indian ladies. The role of United Nation is remarkable in this regards. Calling for full equality of men and women in its charter, the united nations through its various conventions and resolutions and its four world conferences, in Mexico, Copenhagen, Nairobi, and Beijing has contributed greatly to the progressive strengthening of the social ,economic legal and political dimensions of the role of women However regardless of each one of these activities towards women's advancement, women of today are still lived in a disadvantageous condition.

Women and Empowerment: An Indian Perspective:

Since the status of women shows the character of a society and women empowerment is an essential factor in deciding women's status, it is imperative to learn about the significance of women empowerment in India.

Once woman start enjoying freedom in all these areas, we can say that they are empowered. It would contribute to better self-image, which

will encourage her to perform better not only for the sake of herself but for the family and the society as a whole (Praveen, 2008).

Importance of women Empowerment:

Women empowerment is a continuous and dynamic procedure which allows women to take an interest in the choice – making in all financial, political and social procedures in the general public and improves their capacities to change the structure and condition that keep them hindered. The introduction of the 73rd Amendment spoke to an exertion for women's empowerment which was supported by the state and in which 33% seat in Panchayats and in workplaces are saved for ladies. Reservation in the Panchayats was viewed as a noteworthy milestone during the time spent empowering women in India. Empowerment of women is essential for maintaining economic development of the nation when 50 percent of the populace comprises of ladies. As Ex-President A.P.J.Abdul Kalam stated that empowering women is an essential for making a decent country, when women are empowered, society with stability is guaranteed. Women's empowerment is crucial as their

considerations and their value system lead to the improvement of a decent family, great society and eventually a decent country. It has been acknowledged worldwide that country's advancement is not thinkable without women's empowerment. The worldwide efforts towards women's empowerment have made a similar situation in India likewise where the empowerment of women has received priority on the nation's advancement agenda. The year 2001 was proclaimed as Women's Empowerment Year, though prior plans dealt with just welfare of women. The National Policy for Empowerment of women was introduced in India in 2001. To actualize it effectively, a National Plan for action for empowerment of women was implemented during 2003-04. A coordinated methodology for Women Empowerment with unequivocal objectives, targets and a time period had been incorporated in Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07). Since women empowerment depends not only on economic determinants but on social factors also, Government of India has brought fourth-three dimensional strategy of social empowerment, economic empowerment and provision for gender equality. The Government has taken a few activities including projects and strategies to guarantee this present system's success. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, the Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Amendment Act, 2003, Sati Prevention Act, the Hindu Succession Act, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Various plans actualized under The Ministry of Women and Child Development like Swayamsiddha, Support for Training and Employment Program (STEP) and so on., Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (provides small scale credit), Kishori Shakti Yojana, Nutrition Program for pre-adult young ladies, are the couple of out of numerous means attempted by the Government to improve financial status and gender equality. Working ladies lodgings and crèches have additionally been set up to help working ladies in increasing financial power and further their societal position. Strengthening legal system to eliminate discrimination against women and mainstreaming gender perspective in development process are the main objectives of the 11th Five Year Plan (Neelam, 2009). The vision for the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017) is to guarantee improving the position and condition of ladies by addressing structural and institutional boundaries as well as strengthening gender mainstreaming.

Women Rights in India

The guideline of equivalence status of women is cherished in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The constitution provides equity to women, yet in addition enables the State to make provisions of positive discrimination in favour of women. Some of the significant articles are as per the following

women[Article 51(A)(e)] Legislations

Conclusion

Despite the fact that the Indian Constitution grants women equivalent rights with men, the solid man centric customs made them feeling suppressive. The origin of the Indian thought of a female conduct can be traced to the guidelines set by Manu in 200 BC. Manu says: "by a little girl, by young ladies or even by a matured one, nothing must be done freely even in her own home". While exploring the status of females, one can see their despicable condition. This is a result of numerous reasons, for example, ladies are uneducated, exhausted, untalented, abused, weak, malnourished and in unforeseen weakness. India has the biggest populace of non-school going girls. Women get far less training than men because of social standards and dread of viciousness. Women work longer hours and their work is progressively challenging than man's. Women's work is rarely recognized by the men and they consider most of the women's work as invisible. The impact of technology made a drastic negative change on women because the introduction of technological applications in the areas where women worked displaced them by men. Inconsistent access to instruction confines women capacities to become familiar with the technique which are essential for various employments. In the skill development, women are impeded by their lack of mobility, low literacy levels and prejudiced attitudes towards women. Higher officials have preconceived ideas of what women are capable of and stereotypes of what is considered as women work. Atrocities against women is the most unavoidable human rights infringement in the country today. Fear of viciousness is a reason for women's absence of cooperation in activities in the outside and also in home. Today, the insecurity outside the home is the greatest obstruction in the way of females. Therefore the need of the hour is to plug the existing loopholes in the laws, bring about proper and effective implementation of the policies/ programmes/ schemes and also to sensitize the administrative and judicial machinery in order to remove the hurdles and bring about effective and blotless gender justice in India. In addition to laws and structural changes, it is necessary to bring awareness among women regarding their Constitutional and legal

safeguards. Besides it is vital to change the attitudes and mindset of the society, as a whole, in order to build a gender just society where women's equality will be recognized and respected and where they enjoy their legitimate freedom and rights. There are no dearth of policies.

Y More emphasis should be given on the implementation of the policies.

Y It is to be ensured that the system works properly.

Y Public awareness is to be created on the importance of women education.

Y More scientific studies should be encouraged for effective measures

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