

Women Empowerment in India

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ABSTRACT:

This subject states that now a days women in India are up growing by means of Education which results in living better human life. Women has inbuilt qualities like – decision-making power, patience, courage, money- management, devotion towards work etc.

These qualities can make woman very strong and thus many women set an example in their respective field and many more are the role models for many aspirants.

With the evolution of Education ,Women have a scope of self-growth resulting in their contribution in economic growth of India.

The present paper discuss about the current status of women empowerment in India using various indicators like women household decision making power, freedom of movement, acceptance of unequal gender role, access to education, experience of domestic violence etc. The study concludes by an observation that access to education and employment are only the enabling factors to empowerment achievement towards progress however it depends largely on the surrounding area and attitude of the people towards gender equality.

KEYWORDS – Access to education, Employment, Gender inequality, Current status of woman and Role in upgrowing India.

INTRODUCTION - Women empowerment is a concept which means a change in perspective of a women's life, which enable her increased capacity for living a fulfilled human life. It gets reflected both in external as well as internal qualities

Externally in the sense health, education and awareness, status in the family, participation in decision making, gender equality and level of security.

Internally means self awareness, self confidence, quality of leadership and self defense.

Presently in 21st Century the concept of women empowerment has undergone a wide change from welfare oriented approach to equity approach in every filed.

The thing is that the greater gender discrepancy in human development, the lower is country's Gender related development compared to country's human development .On the contrary, Gender Empowerment shows whether women are able to actively participate in economic and political living.

The Empowerment of Women is being discussed everywhere around the country but very few cares about it.

Besides gender equality, it is found that the position of women in the country in the social, economic and political fields is by no means equal to that of their male counterparts.

There are many other factors that have contributed to gender biasness. Girl, Child is still given less priority in certain parts of India. Since her birth, she is deprived of education, employment, nutrition and social status.

The world economic forum (2005), in its first gender gap study, India stood as 53rd position among 58 nations which shows a significant gap in male and female achievement.

In the same study, the rank of India in terms of political empowerment was 24th at both primary and grassroots level.

The National Population Policy specifically identified the low status of women in India compared to men.

RATE IN INDIAN SOCIETY –

In India, mostly in village this is a fact that many of the girls are married at a very young age, giving them a little scope for self growth. They may also find it difficult to manage both home and office at the same time that leads them to prefer home more than office. Hence in most of Indian family, woman is playing leading role becoming house-wife / house- woman.

Though she has quality (power) to handle management of family with devotion and patience, why we don't see women employees or women entrepreneurs in any sector ? why there is male dominancy is every field ?

Even in leadership roles, only a handful of women leaders are seen. To be very honest there are huge opportunities available in every sector which substantially improved gender equality.

CURRENT STATUS –

Current status of women empowerment in India is collectively measured using various indicators like women household decision making power, Freedom of movement, financial autonomy, acceptance of unequal gender role, access to education, freedom from domestic violence, etc. Basic findings are presented in following paragraph –

DECISION MAKING POWER-

Decision making power of women in HUF (Hindu Undivided Family) is one of the important indicators of women empowerment.

Women's participation rate on household decision making not only varies town rural to urban areas but also gets affected by their background individuality like age, educational status, Husbands education, employment status etc. .Urban married women are observed to be more, empowered than that of the rural women. Empowerment of women increases with increase in their age. Again women who are more educated and employed are relatively more empowered.

Employment also increases their ability of decision making power. In urban areas and in nuclear type of family, women have more independence in household decision making.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT-

The observation of Indian society indicates that about half of women are allowed to go to the market, health care, to travel alone outside. This mobility is also affected by their background characteristics like age, education, marital status, type of family etc. Freedom of movement not only varies with education but also increase with age. Employment and nuclear families gives greater freedom to women so they are free to move wherever.

FINALCIAL AUTONOMY BY VARIOUS MEASURES-

Now a days women and men earn equally and relatively wives earn over their husbands. Women empowered financially by the various measures like household works, online business, home services, making and purchasing through "Bachat Gat ", online marketing, employment in government and private sector etc.,

These various measures are helping and giving a share in sustainable economical growth of India.

Since independence, the Government of India has been making various efforts to empowered women. In various plan periods the issues regarding women , empowerment has been given priority. From 5th Five year plan onwards, there has been a remarkable shift from Welfare Oriented approach of women empowerment to development approach.

Women's access to education which is one of the important source of empowerment.

It is to be noted that educated women protest against unequal gender role in terms of their attitude towards preference for son or wife beating, justice of work, etc. This is another indicator of women

empowerment that means she can fight against injustice for her existence and right to live as human being.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATIONS –

Women's political participation is one of the important issues in the context of empowerment. The 73rd and 74th amendments to the constitution of India provided opportunity to women to take part in active politics. In formal politics provision of reservation is provided to women members for active participations of women in political field.

But many factors are responsible and decisive in the election of women candidates such as literacy financial position, liberal family back ground support of other member of the family etc., Since most of the women lack access to these, few women get tickets and even fewer get elected from this handful of women candidates.

Also in conventional analysis women political participation means activities related to electoral politics like voting, campaigning, holding party office and contesting election.

Political interventions by women of India today range from movement for peace and good governance to protest against dowry, rape, domestic violence, inflation, food adulteration etc.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE –

Extent of domestic violence is high in rural areas as compared to urban areas. Women in rural areas face more violence either physical or mental as compared to women in urban areas. It is observed that extent of violence is not diminished by age.

Thus, it can be concluded that today women of India are present in every field but they are still in a minority. Still there remain large number of women and girl population in India who are deprived of basic education facilities, employment opportunities, decision making in family and control over their earnings.

Further women of India are disempowered relative to men in respect of employment, education, political participation, etc. They face domestic violence, molestation to a considerable degree and hence, women occupy subordinate status both at home and in the society even in 21st century.

CONSTRAINTS TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

Several constraints slow down the process of women empowerment in India. Social norms and family structure in developing India manifests the subordinate status of woman. One of such norms is the continuous preference for a son which is still present in most of the communities in India.

It is observed that male child avails of almost all the facilities and opportunities he can desire of but on the contrary the girl child is hindered of most of the basic facilities.

Further poverty and age old traditions are another factor which proves to be a colossal challenge to women true capability. In a poor family girls are denied the opportunity of basic education. But if they are financially supported they can exhibit better sovereignty both in household and public sphere. Thus providing incentives to girl child and other facilities which they rightfully deserve of, will prove to be a stepping stone towards women empowerment.

Lack of awareness about legal and constitutional provisions, amendments is another factor that affects the process of empowerment. Most of the women are not aware of their legal rights . Even women who are aware of it, lack the courage to benefit for themselves. As far as the right of inheritance is concerned generally women themselves do not try to inherit the property left by their parents.

Although the legal rights are there to create an enabling atmosphere for women empowerment it hasn't been very successful in prevailing .

SUMMARY AND ROLE IN UPGROWING INDIA:

Various indicators of women empowerment mentioned above are analyzed while discussing women's current status in India. After analyzing it is found that household decision making power and freedom of movement vary considerably with age, region, access to education and employment. While observing access to education and employment it is found that gender inequality affects in both the situations. Various constraints in achieving the desired goal of empowerment are poverty ,social norms ,family background ,lack of awareness about legal provisions.

Thus , this paper talks about how such factors are still restraining women in achieving her full potential in a country where women are given god status.