

Economic Empowerment of Women, Norms and Perspective

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ABSTRACT

The paper highlights the day to day struggle of women in Indian society. In this paper I have basically discussed the problems of women in rural and semi urban society and how their life could be empowered with the help of education, employment and well access to law. This paper put forward the need of the economic empowerment of women, without providing them sufficient resources their opinion and decisions could never be taken into consideration. So economic upliftment will empower women in all walks of life.

Keyword's – employment, safety, women, education, empowerment, access, law, etc

Introduction

The phenomena of managing house-hold, child rearing, domestic responsibilities have always been a primary challenge for women in every society. Man has taken the charge of the public sphere and has contributed efficiently in the earning process. However, the position of an employed man to an un employed woman brings the question of recognition to the fore. The bridge between the public sphere and the private sphere makes a close comparison for the generation of scholar's, who claims patriarchy is dominant in the public sphere and less in the private. In this paper, I would bring several tangible factors, which would show the vulnerability of women in many spheres apart from private and public. Religious dogmas, superstitions, cultural sophistication has already made women vulnerable to stand the social inequalities, positioning man to that of a rule maker in family and in society too. The under representation of women to that of an un paid labourer's, falling prey to the age old social custom, where women is seen as an agent of reproduction places the contemporary society with a challenge that the legal extension of rights though made by man should eventually address women in all sphere of life. We know education is an engine of development if equally placed in society it would bring more results from women to that of man. Since, security is an insecurity discourse, we would place the key of social development in the hand of men than women.

Women from a Daughter to a Mother, A Transformative Phase .

The social positioning of women changes with the change of time, from a daughter to a wife than to a mother places women with a variety of experiences and responsibilities. We know the Indian society is eventually codified with a stereotypic mixture of caste ,creed ,sex, religion and so forth so, the process of socialization also varies .In Bihar and Uttar Pradesh we have seen that the trend of violence against women's from that of infanticides to bride murders, where dowry is still a prevalent phenomena ,though banned is still practiced. The narrowing down of space from that of schooling in the urban areas to that in the rural sphere creates a question of womens progress.

A girl when born is placed under father, he would determine the process of her progress , then she would grow in terms of maturity and soon would be positioned in the eye of society and the societal practices would qualify her and soon she would be handedover to a stranger by her family ,where the rest of her life would be determined .The transformation results into the bearing of reproductive pain ,in some societies if not all , women's had to do all her daily works even during her pregnancy, cause the differentiation from a daughter to daughter in law creates the gap of understanding ,as there is a faulty line of blood-relationship existing between the grooms parents and the bride .The transformation is not yet over, a women who is a mother now knows the complete task of child rearing i.e from breast feeding to all other handful of activities which she cant escape ,from being a mother to that of wife her responsibilities gets multiplied in a tenfold dimensions. Being a mother she is emotional, being a wife she is responsible to all her husbands need , she needs to qualify the wants of other member and in the end of the day ,she undergoes torture and suffering from her husband and son. The task of managing house hold is not an easy affair . The management would define the economic necessities and is definitely a book keeping of all income and expenditure's that a women i.e a mother and a wife actually take account of.

Is protection of women absurd in the private sphere?

Though the state, its presence and protection remain active in the public sphere ,the task of protecting women in private sphere remains a difficult job. The reason behind women's has a deep concern about their family reputation, many of womens bear unbearable torture ,atrocities and exploitations.Unless they move out and challenge against the atrocities of man ,patriarchy remains a dominant phenomena crushing women from the nip to the bud.

We have known how marital rape has been unaddressed by the government stating it to be a private aspect between a husband and a wife.The Shayara Bano case , where a women named Shayara Bano was divorced by her husband by chanting ” TALAK! TALAK! TALAK”, and was refused to pay any fianancial assistance to her , as it was a religious coding by the Uniform Civil Code of Muslim board. However ,the supreme court ruled its verdict for the women who was on her 70's and provided fuller

financial assistance to her. This merger of Shayara Bano has not only inspired other women's in society but it has also brought a cult of revolution which has now undoubtedly ceased triple talak to be a punishable offence.

The right to privacy which is today treated as another fundamental right has actually being design to make women more empowered in terms of privacy.

Women empowerment, A new engine of social development.

The central theme of this paper is to focus on the trend of women's development through empowerment. The most important part of empowerment is to raise women economically. Better job opportunities will not only grow her personality, placing resource in her hand will also ensure her decision making ability. The concept of women empowerment flows from the power. In India the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) and National Commission for Women (NCW) is working at a considerable pace for the development of women. It was during the 73rd and 74th amendment that women were provided with 33% of seat reservation in the government offices. The growth of The New Panchayat Raj institution has remarkably shown an upward mobility in terms of women's participation into the village level. In order to modernize women on to the next level the Government of India has ratified various International conventions to place equity in terms of opportunity to the women. This include, CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of any form of Discrimination Against Women), The Mexico Plan of Action (1975), The Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, etc. The year of 2001 was seen as a year of women's empowerment¹.

During the same year a landmark document has been adopted, "The National policy for the Empowerment of Women". i.e. the National Credit Fund for Women, Food and Nutrition Board. However, in Westbengal the schemes like, "kanyashree and yuvashree", is provided to the girls for solemnising their marriages. Education along with the revolution created by mass media, the use of infotainment system created a spill over effect over the population of our country, apart from the right to suffrage, women movement has made a great leap forward from a surgeon to a f16 pilot our country has successfully made a greater contribution in placing women from being economic have-nots to social and political haves.

"if you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family, women's empowered means mother India empowered".- PT. JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU. The constitution directive to provide free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of fourteen years, yet to be fulfilled till date. Educational experts admits that the slow progress is because of the lack of girl child participation.

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However, in Indian families especially the rural areas, girl children plays the role of second mother by shouldering the responsibilities of household work such as looking after their other siblings, fetching water, collecting woods, cleaning and cooking ,etc.²

Objectives of economic empowerment of women.

Firstly, Women if provided with adequate amount of resources could bring better responsibilities to that of man. A woman is an architect of her home ,she knows the management of the household ten times better than men.

Secondly, Education will introduce women to process of economic development and there by she can realise her potentialities and can match shoulder to shoulder to that of man.

Thirdly, Today we have seen women taking part in almost all areas of services, thus the competition in getting job is not restricted only between men women are equally empowered and are competent enough to suit any ranges of services more attentively than that of man, Here, the public domain is meant for both and equity in terms of opportunity must follow.

Fourthly, in many religion such as Islam we have seen women do not have rights over their property ,which generally deprive women and make them stand facing several dimensions of atrocities. If women has the right to property in all society they can definitely take sound decisions and placing women with resources is the real empowerment of women,

Women in a Tribal society.

We know that life of women in tribal societies differs in terms of obtaining their livelihood .Maximum of women belonging to the indigenous society have to depend on the resources obtained from forests river ,and other part of nature. In the hill areas of Darjeeling ,the tribes earn their living by working in tea plantation. They lack basic standard of living and has to depend on the merchants who collect the leaves and sell them into market. The existence of middleman and regional anti social makes their life more difficult. Women of those tribes lack basic sanitation facilities and are prone to many health hazards. Lack of money force them to get into prostitution and thus they are easily trafficked by the sex rackets , nothing can help this women other than NGO's and the concern of local authorities, The administration needs to tighten its grip to reduce crimes and provide enough scope for skill development. The jhum cultivation in North East ,where tribal women cultivate the soil by burning the forest and use the ashes of the trees as pesticides against insects portray a complete organic farming ,The organic farming may resemble to be very simple but the methods applied where certain traditional methods of worshipping the forest lord is also seen as a major aspect here women has to prepare the entire thing such as cleaning the seeds ,toeing water from rivers ,ploughing the soil and several other things .In spite of their day hard toil they need to face random atrocities by the husbands cause a type of liquor

²MIJMRD Vol.1.Issue, August ,2016

consumption is practiced in those areas .Thus life becomes very difficult and this activities forces the girl child restricted to their homes.

However, Meghalaya gives us a different picture where there is a existence of a matrilineal society ,The husband need to move to the house of the wife after marriages and the husband will be alienated from the properties of their own parents, men takes part in child rearing, women moves out to perform work i.e cultivation or setting up of stalls in markets . We have seen that there is a upward mobility of women’s literacy in the hills compared to the plains of North East. Many schemes have been brought by the central government in the present context to promote safety and increase the standards of living for women, A panorama of these schemes may include the following things-

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
2. One Stop Centre Scheme
3. Women Helpline Scheme
4. UJJAWALA : A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
5. Working Women Hostel
6. Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Scheme and continues existing projects
7. SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
8. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)
9. NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR
10. Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014 & Awardees of Nari Shakti Puruskar
11. Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman
12. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)
13. NIRBHAYA
14. Mahila police Volunteers
15. Mahila E-Haat³

In conclusion, the task of imparting education makes the task of empowerment largely a successful task , without education the pattern of development would be like putting a cart before a horse. Social movements and the new trend of awareness that has been developing like the recent movie named “PADMAN”,could essentially showcase the basic need of women from sanitary pads to maternity leaves ,everything would contribute to devise the gender lens in such a position that the parity between men and women can only be envisaged in terms of individuals no societal cleavage would sponsor man as dominant.Even to that in the public vehicles such as , buses and trains along with the senior citizen and differently abled persons womens pregnant womens

³ Women empowerment scheme’s, retrived from . <http://www.wcd.nic.in/schemes-listing/2405>
Accessed on 01/08/2018

should also be provided with a seat. As napoleon said “The good mothers will create a better nation”. The task of women empowerment as a tool to social development is under vision.

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