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Women Empowerment

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Introduction

Women have a very unique and special role to play in human race. Even it will not be wrong to say that human society is impossible without the existence of women. But at the same time, Women have always been dominated by the male through out the world. Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio whereby female's population has been comparatively lower than male. As far as their social status is concerned, they are not treated as equal to men in all the places. In the western societies the women have got equal right and status with men all walk of life. But gender disabilities and discriminations are found in India. Even today. The paradoxical situation has such that she was sometime concerned as Goddess and at other time merely as slave.

Empowerment- Literary Meaning

'Power' is the key word of term empowerment. According to the International Encyclopedia & (1999), "power means having the capacity and the mean to direct one's life to-wards desired social, political and economic goals or status". According to Webster's New World Dictionary (1982) the word 'empower' means to make or cause power.

Thus empowerment is a stage of acquiring power in order to understand one's rights and also to perform his/her responsibilities in a most effective way. Empowerment is an active, Multi-Dimensional process which enables women to realize their potential and powers in all spheres of life. Power is not a commodity to be exercised, sustained and preserved.

Women Empowerment-Concept

Women empowerment is an active multidimensional process which enables women to realize their potential and powers in all spheres of life. The process should materialize only when there is a conducive environment for the enlightenment which is to be ensured first. Empowerment is enlightenment and there is no development without enlightenment. It is the quality of life measured not in terms of rising money income or longer life spans alone rather by the autonomy and security enjoyed by women everywhere.

Empowerment as a concept was introduced at the International women's conference in 1985 at Nairobi. The conference defined empowerment as a redistribution of social power and control of resources in favor of women. The concept of empowerment flows from the power. It is vesting where it does not exist or exist inadequately. Empowerment of women would mean equipping women to be economically independent, self-reliant, have positive esteem to enable them to face any difficult situation and they should be able to participate in development activities. The empowered women should be able to participate in the process of decision making. Women's empowerment has become a significant topic of discussion in development and economics. It can also point to the approaches regarding other trivialized genders in a particular political or social context. Empowerment includes control over resources (Physical, Human, Intellectual and Financial) and over ideology (Beliefs, values

and attitudes) (Baltiwala 1994) It is not merely a feel of grater extrinsic control, but also grows intrinsic capacity greater self confidence and an internal transformation of one's consciousness that enables one to overcome external barriers to accessing resources or changing traditional ideology (pinto 2001)

Empowerment of Women in India

In India the ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD-1985) and the National commission for women (NCW) have been worked to women Empowerment in India. A brief Discussion 2012 Safeguard the right and legal entitlement of women. The 73th & 74th Amendments (1993) to the constitution of India have provided some special power to women that for reservation of seats (33%) whereas the report HRD as march 2002 shows that the legislatures with the highest percentage of women are sweeden 42.7% Denmark 38% Thailand 36% and Iceland 34.9%. In India "The Newpanchayat Raj" is the part of the effort to empower women at least at the village level. The government of India has ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights instrument committing to secure equal rights to women. These are CEDAW (1993), the mexico plan of action (1975), the Nairobi Forward looking strategies (1985), the Beijing Declaration as well as the platform for action (1995) and other such instruments. The year of 2001 was observed as the year of woman's empowerment. During the year, a landmark document has been adopted, The National policy for the empowerment of women. For the beneficiaries of the women, the government has been adopted different scheme and programme i.e. the National credit Fund for women (1993), Food and Nutrition Board (FNB), Information and Mass education (IME) etc. The most positive development last few years has been the growing involvement of women in the panchayat Raj institution. There are many elected women representatives at the village council level. At present all over India there are total 20,56,882 laces gaonpanchayat members are 8,38,244 (40.48%) while total AnchalikPanchayat members are 1,09,324 out of this women members are 4,923 (42.05%). At the central and state levels too women are progressively making a difference. Today we have seen women chief ministers, women president, different political leader, well establish businessmen etc.

Women are also involving in human development issues of child rearing, education, health and gender Many of them have gone into the making and marketing of a range of cottage, product pickles, tailoring, embroidery etc. The economic empowerment of women is being regarded these days as a sine-quo-non of progress for a country, hence the issue of economic empowerment of women is of paramount importance to political thinkers, social thinkers and reformers.

In India principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian constitution in its preamble, Fundamental rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive principles. The constitution not only grants equality to women but also empowers the state to adopt measures of Positive discrimination in favor of women. There are different laws benefiting directly or indirectly to women. But in India women are discriminated and marginalized at every level of the society whether its is social participation, political participation, economic participation access to education and also reproduce healthcare women are found to be economically very poor all over the India. A few women are engaged in services and other activates, so, they need

economic power to stand on their own legs on par with man. Other hand it has been observed that women are found to be less literate than men. According to 2001 census, rate of literacy among men in India is found to be 70% whereas its only 54% among women. Thus increasing education among women is of very important empowering them. It has also noticed that some of women are too work, They consume less food but work more.

Conclusion

The most critical component of women's empowerment is found to be education. It leads to improved economic growth, low fertility rate, health and sanitation and an awareness of factors that disempowered women. Work participation rate and political participation also grows in women's education. Women's health is an important component of women's empowerment. In India the highest number of death in the age group of 16 to 25 is recorded among women. Anemia is one of the most commonly found deficiency among the women.

Work participation empowers women. However the condition of women in India is more miserable than the rest of the world in almost every field of social life. They are paid half of three quarters of the money while their male counterparts earn for the same job. Another problem is that workplace harassment of women. There are so many Cases of rape, Kidnapping of girl dowry harassment home exploitation, sale of girl child, girl infant killing and soon. For these they require empowerment of all kinds in order to protect themselves and to secure their purity and dignity women empowerment cannot be possible unless women come with and help to self-empower themselves. There is a need to formulate reducing feminized poverty, promoting education of women and prevention and elimination of violence against women.

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