

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT

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Abstract

The role of women is now considered to be important for the development of humans and this is now being acknowledged all over the world. The empowerment of women is now among the most important concerns of the 21st century. Women have always played a key role in the upliftment of the entire society and their families. However, despite this, they are still being discriminated against in every essential area of life including in terms of the process of decision-making, property rights, inheritance rights, partner choice, income, and education. Empowerment is defined as the procedure to create awareness and ensure greater capacity building and transformative action. Empowerment of women refers to the creation of an environment where they can make decisions related to the Women in India's welfare of society and for their benefit. The study reflects that women in India enjoy less status and do not get the same opportunity as a man gets in society. In recent years, due to collective efforts of government and society, there has been a significant upliftment of women but still Indian society is male-dominated and women are still considered below par as men.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Social Empowerment, Social Development, Social Struggle

INTRODUCTION

In theory, women in India enjoy the same status equality as men as per legal and constitutional rights. In the recent trend, growth and true development can be achieved by taking appropriate steps and removing discrimination against women in the workplace [1]. This is the procedure of transformation through which groups or individuals grow authority with the potential to get power over their lives which leads to improvement in well-being and access to resources and evaluating their self-confidence. Women empowerment refers to making any women powerful and developing women in such a way that they get the courage to face any challenges and she can

overcome inequality. Discrimination against women is still prevalent across the world even though 50% of the population of the world is human. Most women are denied basic rights such as voting power, freedom of speech, and education.

Engaging women to take part in monetary activity is key to fabricating more grounded economies. The private sector is a key accomplishment in endeavors to properly equity of women. The principle of empowerment of women provides down-to-the-earth direction to businesses and the private division on the best way to engage them in the group, commercial center and working environment. Empowerment is a behavioral scene to make a compelling move and this includes the internal state. Most of the hurdles to the empowerment of women are deep-seated in the minds of people in a few areas and places. The women themselves have accepted it as a fact that they are lower class as compared to men because most of the people consider this in society. Most women believe that this is wrong but they don't get the courage to speak against the injustices in the society [2]. The rate of literacy of females has improved a lot. However, many girls after being educated for some times are being made to leave the schools even before their primary education is complete. In the cities, the girls are as educated as boys but in backward areas and villages, they are not as educated as boys.

Several cultural and social norms have shaped the participation of women in the conventional role of gender. The structure hurdles in the environment, political, economic, and social and reinforce gender-based inequity for women in many ways. Equality in gender can improve the development of humans and quell being for societies, families, and individuals. Unpaid care work is a major barrier and this prevents more women from joining the workforce and moving to the top of economic pyramids. Meanwhile, women are paid less than men for the same job profile and majority of the top posts are being occupied by men.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The empowerment of women has become the most important concern in the 21st century. Empowerment of women is still considered to be an illusion, in the real world, the pictures are still contradictory. Women play a key role in their families and society but despite this, they are being discriminated against in every important area whether in terms of the right to property, inheritance, income, education, and many other aspects. The role of knowledge is being recognized in the sphere of development of work, men and due to this this is one of the most important tropics. The government of India has been making every effort to ensure that women enjoy the same status in society as men and that they have the same opportunities any men have in society.

In India, as per legal and constitutional provision, women enjoy the same right as men in society. The country has taken many steps towards the empowerment and inclusion of women in every

field of life such as domestic violence, female foeticides, inclusion, and dowry killing however still women are being discriminated and they are below par with men.

The word women empowerment states that women possess the power to regulate their everyday lives in terms of economic, social and political lives. Empowerment is an active and multi-dimensional process which ensures women realize their power and identity in every aspect of life. Women empowerment refers to the complete emancipation of women from the shackles of socio-economic objects such as deprivations and dependency [3]. Empowerment of women refers to encouraging women to be economically independent and self-reliant and giving them the confidence to face any difficult situation in their lives. Amartya Sen who is Noble Laureate explains empowerment as freedom which leads to different types of person capability which depend on social arrangements and personal capability. In 1997 stated that women's empowerment is all about change in perception favor of those who in the past exercised minimum control in their lives.

Half of the global population is women and most of them are unemployed. Most women are unaware of the fact that they too are eligible for the position which any men enjoy in every sphere of life. Due to this, the economy of India is weak despite having good human resources. Women in India have always been not as competent as men. Like India, women in major parts of the world are not provided with proper education and they are never allowed to pursue higher education and this had been a key factor in holding the economy backwards.

As per the national data agency, the number of actual women who are working is not being tracked and recorded. Meanwhile, the majority of women working are not being paid properly and their salaries are below men for the same job. The women are not being given any share in their parent's property and few laws speak against them hence they cannot even fight against the injustice. Meanwhile, in India there are many crimes in which women are victims. The poor women are busy and they spend most of their time responding to the family's needs [5]. Meanwhile, they also face difficulties such as violence at home, rigid spouse control, social expectations related to motherhood and unsafe environments which put a curb on their physical mobility. The education of women in the country is important for the improvement of the nation. Most women tend to provide advanced training to their young girl children and hence they can provide better direction to every kid. Employment is the major source of income which ensures the economic empowerment of any individual. Any woman when indulging in any work they have the power to make the economic decision of their own.

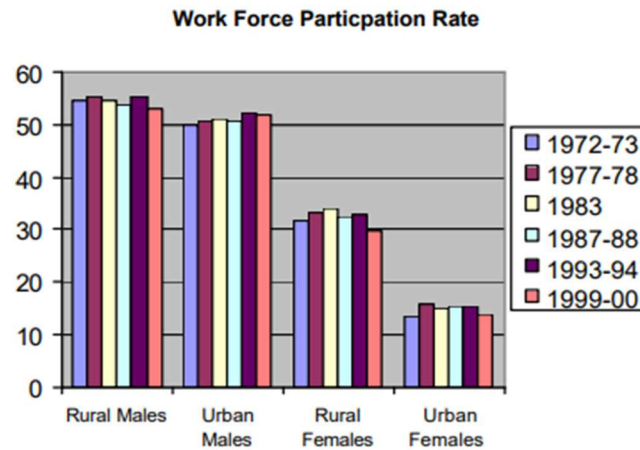


Figure 1: Women's leadership in School [7]

Women who are economically independent with the family contribution enjoy their freedom and rights and they hold more power with a maximum level of self-confidence. These women tend to be more stable financially than those women who are not engaged in any work. The engagement of women in economic activity outside their family helps them to maximize their power in decision making and these results in more control over other resources. An increase in the education of women always leads to an increase in the participation of women in the workforce. A maximum level of education always tends to make people more productive and thence their potential income also tends to increase [6]. The maximum educational requirement for employment in the sector of non-domestic restricts the opportunity of women who have minimum or low education. In India, there exists a positive correlation between the workforce with education in both urban and rural areas. This states that the proportion of work increases with the increase in the level of education. Therefore, it is crystal clear that with low or minimum education most women are not able to get good jobs in the private sector.

Women's empowerment and involvement of women are important to amplification of rights of women and helping women to organize their lives and apply pressure in society. In 2001, the government of India began to take steps for women empowerment and declared as year of empowerment of women. The national policy of empowerment of Women (NPEW) was being formulated with the aim of empowerment, development, and advancement of women.

In low-middle income countries, indirect work also includes accessing basic infrastructure and services such as fuel, sanitizations, and clean drinking water. In India, safety in public places is still one of the major causes of concern and this greatly limits the freedom of movement of humans. Most of the women in India have reported harassment in public places and hence this deters them from entering any job in the formal sector.



Source: National Sample Survey Organisation

Figure 2: Participation of women in the workforce

One of the major problems which limit the employment of women is the lack of asset ownership, digital skills and financial support. Ownership of land especially in rural areas Women have good records of repayment and hence due to this, they are eligible loan takers[14]. This ensures that the businesses which are opened by women are profitable and reliable. However, in Indian society, the absence of a gender responsiveness policy and mandatory requirements of the signature of male members of the family contributes to the perception that women are born with high risks and hence this widens the gap between finance and women.

METHODOLOGY

The role of women has now been accepted in the sphere of human development and it is now widely accepted by most country. The government of India is also giving importance to the women empowerment. The general objective of this study is to analyses the empowerment of women which results in the overall development of the nation:

- To conduct research on the reason behind the empowerment of women
- to research strategies being adopted by NGOs and GOs in the women empowerment
- 'To research the role of empowering, the market of women in the development of nation

In the field of nationality, democracy and education as well as empowerment are being seen as a device for enlarging the accountability of citizens[13]. Empowerment is the type of impression of encouraging the appointment of the community. The World Bank had finished gender mainstreaming which is a main concept in support of the concept.

DIMENSION OF WOMEN' EMPOWERMENT

The Dimension of empowerment of women equals qualitative and quantitative data such as financial funds level of responsiveness, self-worth, self-assurances[12]. Due to the complexity of

determining and defining women's empowerment merely few empirical studies have attempted to inspect the impact of microfinance on the empowerment of women.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Women's economic empowerment and involvement are essential to the amplification of rights of women and facilitating women to have organization who apply pressure on society. It is concerned with generating just and evenhanded societies. In Liberalization and globalization, economic empowerment is the pillar of independence [6]. Financial independence makes people enjoy their basic human rights and play a vital role in the process of making decision inside and within households which is extremely important to live with happiness and dignity. The participation of women in the workforce is limited even after several decades of independence. Moreover, in India, domestic violence is being reported frequently which takes away freedom [11].

The progress of any country is like with economic and social plight of women in that nation. Social empowerment of women is their ability to act collectively and individually to change the intuition and social relationships and discloses which exclude them and keep them in poverty. One of the most important objectives of social empowerment is to address their economic status and move out of poverty [10]. This indicates that girls and women can decide how to utilize their resources and income and jointly; make this decision with their families. One of the most important aspects of social empowerment is to address the roles and prevailing norms in gender and to improve the participation of girls and women [15].

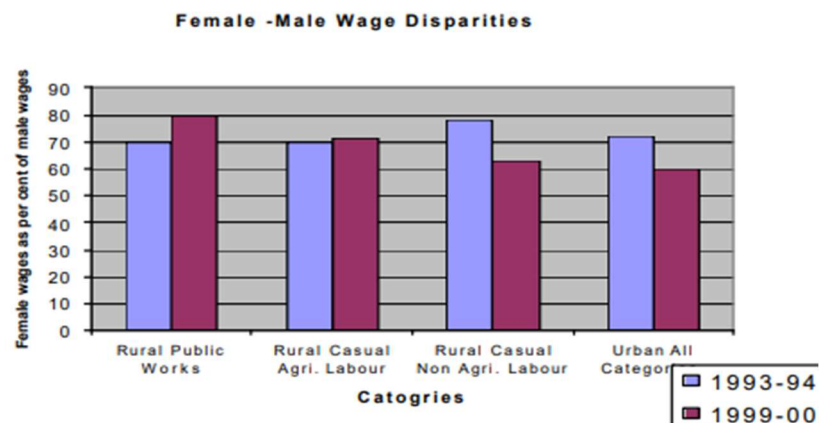


Figure 3: The wage disparities of male and female workers

CONCLUSION

Gender inequality always has been a dominating problem considering political, cultural, social and political conditions. The common problems which have been faced by women both in developing nations like India and other developed nations have been existing for a prolonged period. Since India is a patriarchal society women have a secondary role to play in every household in India. The decade of the nineties has been considered an important phase for the empowerment

of women all over the world. This decade reflected the sexual and reproductive rights of the violence against gender inequality and women. Empowerment of women is considered as a process which takes place during a particular period that control resources and formulate choices. Access to resource material such as social form, human and material maximizes the ability to exercise choice. Empowering girls and women is going to have a multiplier impact on development and economic growth. Meanwhile, it is fair to conclude that in recent decades due to various movement empowerments of women have happened but still Indian society is dominated by men.

The empowerment of women has become a hurdle on the burning issue of national policy as it is demanding the majority of the attention of media and international focus. In the last decade, the country has witnessed many changes in the role of women and their status in society. There had been a major shift in the policy approaches. In the policies of the nineties, the growth and development of women are now being tagged with contemporary terms of empowerment. Empowering women legally, politically, educationally, and economically was and will be a herculean task. It is not going to be an easy task to change the deep-rooted perception that women are dispensable, dependent, and inferior. However, this too does not state that change is implausible. However, with the push towards the right direction. And with every effort this task might be achievable in the long run. The organized approach and needs of the government and the agencies of law enforcement are primarily focused in the right direction. Hence, the empowerment of women can be achieved only if every woman living in India is freed from every form of social evil. The Indian society is also encouraging women to be educated and financially independent.

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