

## **The Status of Women Empowerment in India - An Analysis By The Issues and Challenges**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Women Empowerment is the term which rules nowadays world. All the social activists, politicians, economists, etc... are speaking about women empowerment and fighting for their welfare. Empowerment is to improve the well-being marginalized women in India. It refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individual and communities of women. The term Women Empowerment has becoming burning issues all over the world including India. Today the empowerment of women has become one of the most important concerns. But practically women empowerment is still an apparition reality. We observe in our day to day life how women become exploit by various social evils. In this backdrop, the present study is undertaken to study about the "Women Empowerment". The present article has the intention to know the need of Women Empowerment, to assess the Awareness of Women Empowerment in India, to analyze the Factors influencing the Economic Empowerment of Women, to study the Government Schemes for Women Empowerment, to identify the Hindrances in the Path of Women Empowerment and to offer useful Suggestions in the light of Findings. This paper is basically vivid and inquisitive in nature. In this paper an attempt has been taken to scrutinize the empowerment of women in India. The data used in it is purely from secondary sources according to the need of this study. The study betrays that women of India are comparatively disempowered and they enjoy somewhat lower status than that of men inspite of many efforts undertaken by Government. It is found that acceptance of unequal gender norms by women are still prevailing in the society. The study concludes by an inspection that access to Education, Employment and Changes in Social Structure are only the legalizing factors to Women Empowerment.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Topic on Women Empowerment is a burning issue all over the world. Women empowerment and women equality with men is a universal issue. It refers to the creation of environment for women where they can make decisions of thier own for thier personal decisions of thier own for thier personal benifits as well as for society. Women constitutes 50% of of world's population but they are not enjoying equal status.women are not treated equal to men in all place. women empowerment, the word itself insists the importance of women in the society.It is not simple as the culture has entangled along with the women. It should be sown in the heart and activity of the each and every women to be make the society in the great manner. In our society it was earlier df

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

- To study the Growth of Women Empowerment in India
- To trace the Challenges faced by the Women Empowerment in India
- To know about the Statergies to overcome the Barriers of Women Empowerment

- To study the Government Schemes for Women Empowerment in India

## **WOMEN RIGHTS**

Women Empowerment refers to increasing and improving the Social,Economic,Political and Legal strength of the women,to ensure equal rights to women, and to make them confident enough to claim thier rights,such as

- Freely live thier life with a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity
- Have complete control of thier life,both within and outside of thier home and workplace
- To make thier own choices and decisions
- Have equal rights to participate in social,religious and public activities
- Have equal social status in the society
- Have equal rights for social and economic justice
- Determine financial and economic choices
- Get equal oppurtunity for Education
- Get equal employment oppurtunities without any gender bias
- Get safe and comfortable working environment

## **IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

**1. Under-employed and unemployed:** Women population constitutes around 50% of the world population. A large number of women around the world are unemployed. The world economy suffers a lot because of the unequal opportunity for women at workplaces.

**2. Equally competent and intelligent:** Women are equally competent. Nowadays, women are even ahead of men in many socio-economic activities.

**3. Talented:** Women are as talented as men. Previously, women were not allowed higher education like men and hence their talents were wasted. But nowadays, they are also allowed to go for higher studies and it encourages women to show their talents which will not only benefit her individually but to the whole world at large.

**4. Overall development of society:** The main advantage of Women Empowerment is that there will be an overall development of the society. The money that women earn does not only help them and or their family, but it also help develop the society.

**5. Economic Benefits:** Women Empowerment also leads to more economic benefits not to the individuals but to the society as well. Unlike earlier days when they stayed at home only and do only kitchen stuffs, nowadays, they roam outside and also earns money like the male members of the society. Women empowerment helps women to stand on their own legs, become independent and also to earn for their family which grows country's economy.

**6. Reduction in domestic violence:** Women Empowerment leads to decrease in domestic violence. Uneducated women are at higher risk for domestic violence than an educated women.

**7. Reduction in corruption:** Women Empowerment is also advantageous in case of corruption. Women empowerment helps women to get educated and know their rights and duties and hence can stop corruption.

**8. Reduce Poverty:** Women Empowerment also reduces poverty. Sometimes, the money earned by the male member of the family is not sufficient to meet the demands of the family. The added earnings of women helps the family to come out of poverty trap.

**9. National Development:** Women are increasingly participating in the national development process. They are making the nation proud by their outstanding performances almost every spheres including medical science, social service, engineering, etc.

## **CHALLENGES OG WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA**

Education, which is powerful tool in women empowerment in the modern world. It brings the lots of enlighten to the women to be aware of things which is happening around them.

- Changing the attitude of society towards women is one of the major challenge of women empowerment.
- The inferiority complex of female child especially in rural, tribal and poor families should be developed.
- Many girl children in families play the role of second mother by doing household works.
- There are may laws and amendments that have been enacted to end discrimination
- Media is playing a negative role, which is affecting women instead of encouraging.
- Many things are happening in the name of women empowerment and we should check the reality.

## **STATERGIES TO OVERCOME THE BARRIERS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

Some of the statergies which can be considered for bringing phenominal change in the empowerment of India are;

- The situation of poor or less enrolment of girls in schools closes the door for the improvement and prosperity of future generation of women. Initiative steps must be taken jointly by the government, parents and civil society to achieve the enrolment of girls in education. compulsory education should be given to every girl child.
- Zero drop-out among girls in education should be encouraged by the Ministry of Education both at centre and state level.
- The proper research should be made to identify the poverty stricken families and provide necessary poverty allievation services to strengthen thier income. This helps them to send thier children to schools and colleges without much financial difficulties.
- Necessary steps should be taken by the educational authorities along with participation of commities to bring the girl children to the main stream of education and develop them at every level.
- The Midday meal scheme and other educational supportive services like free text books, note books, fees, uniforms, free bicycles, free bus, scholarships, free bus pass and so on can be provided by all state and union territories to lift up literacy level among girls.
- The electronic and print media can do positive advertisements and news regarding women instead of depicting them as an object and gain of money.
- The parents of childrens belonging to poor and underprivileged families must be properly educated about the importance of education which leads to empowerment.
- Mass awareness programmes and social welfare measures with the support of public, political parties, NGOs, government agencies must be initiated to eliminatethe social evils in the society

to bring up the empowerment.

### **GOVERNMENT SCHEMES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA**

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
- One Stop Centre Scheme
- Women Helpline Scheme
- UJJAWALA : A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Resue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Working Women Hostel
- Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme For the Children of Working Mothers
- Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Scheme and continues existing projects
- SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
- Revision under IGMSY in Accordance with National Food Security Act, 2013 in XIIth Plan
- Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)
- NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR
- Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014 & Awardees of Nari Shakti Puruskar
- Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman
- Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) - A Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme
- Mahila police Volunteers
- Mahila E-Haat

### **THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO EMPOWER WOMEN SUCH AS**

- Women can be empowered through the creation of safe working environment. If the work places are safe, people will like to send their daughters and wives to work.
- Economy of the country increases by educating women. Women involvement in various activities helps the country to move towards Socio-Economic development.
- Women can be empowered by decreasing the gender disparities in all sectors of society especially in education.
- Job skills and vocational training should be provided to women for their better improvement.
- Part-Time job opportunities should be provided to women, especially for housewives, because they do not get any opportunities for full-time work.
- Women are considered an important icon of our society. The modern world has recognized her individual identity. It is also believed that, she has equal ability and quality as a man. She should have equal opportunities to develop her career to her own choice. Women can help the society for improvement. She can engage herself in social activities for the betterment of society.
- Young educated girls can be engaged in a profession of her own choice. Our society needs more doctors, engineers, software developers, chartered accountants and social workers. The world cannot grow at a good manner unless women come forward and take initiative for the development.
- They are expected to contribute highly in the field of health care. It helps to improve the level of sanitation and hygiene. As a mother, her role is very enormous. She is not only a creator but also a maintainer of her child.
- Women are now an important instrument for social change. Her participation in corporate life is a measure of social improvement in India. Their interest in cultural activities is also increasing. They have been growing interest in travel and literacy activities.
- Social practices such as dowry, sati, female infanticide, permanent widowhood, child marriage,

and many more is in need of complete abolition. Many people as well as organisation including government have been taking steps to improve the social and economic position of women. Nowadays, many women welfare organisations have been developed. Women are actively involved in these organizations and contribute for the women welfare. These organizations are formed at local, state, and national level.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

Each and every women had to think in the broad way to customize the things to happen. women have been empowered through many ways at the same time they have to struggle a lot to gain this power and thier voice heard. we all should put hands together to work in a way to bring more power to all women who suffer to show their livelihood in the society.Swami Vivekananda once said “arise away and stop not until the goal is reached”. Thus our country should thus be catapulted into the horizon of empowerment of women and revel in its glory.

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