

***WOMEN EMPOWERMENT-CHALLENGES FACED AND MEASURES
TAKEN TO OVERCOME THOSE CHALLENGES***

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Abstract

Over the past years, we have seen India's development is still in work in progress. Slowly but continuously we have improved much in every area of inclusive growth. Though, there are still considerable deep-seated systemic experiments not discussed. Inclusive and equitable growth still escapes us. It is in these circumstances that we should consider it seriously to pay attention at one cause that requires much consideration, but very little real attention: The empowerment of women.

The paper look into the deep rooted inherent cultures, traditions and ethics followed by our society where male dominates and females are considered as an object. The study is based on the women's empowerment measures in order to make them self-dependent i.e. mentally, physically and economically so that no body have a right to let them down at any point of time.

Keywords Women, Women empowerment, NGOs. Women Education

Introduction

Women – Mother, Wife, Sister, Daughter, Sister-law, Mother-in-law, to name a few have many faces but more than that, have an identity which cannot be created or built until measures could be taken to empower them not just economically but mentally and physically also. In olden days women's were considered to be part of four walls where they will deliver all their skills but not beyond the limits set by societies. However, slowly and gradually trends changed, and women stepped outside their house i.e. they called it as "laxman rekha" and began to create their own identity and not just for their parents, husband, or society but for their own self. This was made possible through Education.

What is Women Empowerment? In simple words it is essentially to create an environment where women can make their own decision on their personal front as well as the decisions which have positive impact on society.

Every women wants an equal status so that no one have a right to raise a finger on their Credibility, still there is a glass ceiling attached with every achievement and qualification they have. Hence it is no hidden facts that in spite of considerable progress in last seventy years of independence, but still women have to fight for their rights in this male-dominated society.



I. Objectives of study

- a) To study the empowerment of women.
- b) To identify the various challenges faced by the women.
- c) To find the measures taken to empower women

II. Methodology

The researchers have used the secondary source for data collection ie. From Newspaper, Journals and search engines.

III. Findings

The researchers have found various problems faced by women while struggling to acquire Empowerment. The below challenges are faced by every women in society and if they are overcome, achieving empowerment for women is not impossible state.

a) Right to Education:

Our Country has grown from every area from Agriculture, Services, industrialization, technology, and infrastructure and so on where education plays an important role to make them develop. However still there is inequality between male and female ratio in schools where real education begins. With Education we can achieve progress in every sector we deserve but without development in female education it is not possible.

b) Early marriages

India is a country where still getting married early to daughters is one of the reasons to shed that responsibility of giving them birth. Women's are not able to get matured enough but before that they are getting married. Early marriages and giving birth to children at an very early age women tend to become old at an very early age, due to this factor they don't find any freedom for becoming self-

dependent. Even when they are taught to be self-dependent they don't want to break this vicious circle.

c) Divorces

One of the challenges that today's society is facing is Divorce. Divorce doesn't only affect family; women's are most vulnerable in this situation. When these conditions are put up generally women's are considered a suitable target as they have to take care of children, home and family without the help of husbands. They are not allowed to get married again due to raising their children which is only responsibility left with wife as compared to husband.

d) Economic Instability

Lack of Money is one of the greatest reasons why women's are not empowered, at home they have to do domestic work which is unpaid in nature, and due to lack of education they don't get a good job. Women's who are highly educated have to struggle to get paid equal to men. This is a dangerous state of affairs for any society. The lower economic status of women is alarming enough; their decline in the gender ratio is morally shameful. By denying women the opportunities they need to fulfill their potential, we are ignoring a vast economic asset—human capital. Women are undoubtedly the foundation of the basic unit of society—the family. Even in traditional roles, they demonstrate immense innovation, skill and intelligence—in addition to hard work and commitment. Joining these characteristics, India can effectively roll out the possibility of degrowth which could be possible through all negative effects brought out towards intolerance to women.

e) Lack of status at home/workplace

Historically and presently in India, as compared to men, women are paid less even when they have the same kind of education and are in the same occupation.

Meager payments for women along with longer life expectancy and increased responsibility to take care children make it more possible for women to be at an economic disadvantage.

f) Poverty

While women are more likely to be diagnosed with depression and anxiety disorders, living below the poverty line is one of the most reliable predictors of depression and other mental health disorders. The link between depression and low-income women can be attributed to increased stress caused by living in poverty and minimal social support often associated with low socio-economic status.

Welfare reform designed to facilitate the transition from welfare to work has placed limitations on benefits that many low-income women can use to ensure the well-being of their families, causing increased stress and contributing to the onset and exacerbation of psychological illness

g) Pregnancy

Due to pregnancy many women's tend to leave their job, in order to raise children and after few years of raising children, either they find it difficult to cope with outside world along with domestic work or they are demotivated to find their place and get empowered by working along with giving responsibility to their home.

h) Crimes against women

Rape, kidnapping, dowry death, mental/physical torture, Molestation, human trafficking, due to all these challenges women did not empower herself to face outside world, in order to empower them Education is must for every female child, Education empowers women to overcome every discrimination which she has to face at home or in society. Girls and young women who are educated have greater awareness of their rights, and greater confidence and freedom to make

decisions that affect their lives, improve their own and their children's health and chances of survival, and boost their work prospects. At present age, still one in 10 girls are married by the age of 15 in India and other developing countries, and one in seven has given birth by the age of 16. Ensuring that girls stay in school is one of the most effective ways of preventing child marriage and early births. Education is also a key factor in accelerating the demographic transition to lower birth and mortality rates. Thereby more and more female child in society, which at present is 944 females for every 1000 males as per latest data of year 2016.

IV. Measures taken to empower women

i. Establishing NGOs



Every woman has its own story to share. Some NGOs promote empowerment to poor women. Due to their continuous efforts, life expectancy among women increased significantly, Girls enrollment in primary school increased, total fertility rates have declined, and women's are now more receptive to contraception, this has changed the perception of women in thinking about equality, development and growth.

ii. Self Help Groups



A self Help Group includes 10 to 12 women entrepreneurs having homogenous social and economic background, all voluntarily coming together to save regular sum of money and mutually agreeing to contribute a common fund and to meet the emergency need of any of the member . By this saving of money they make themselves self-employed thereby not going to any money lenders in need of help, where they charge with high rates of interest.

iii. Free Education



Due to Free education, girls and women are more able to influence their future thus to reduce poverty, women are able to take their own decision so to reduce the risk of child mortality, the women's who are educated enough can better think of immunization of their children and can gain self-confidence and self-esteem due to which they help to contribute and prosper their community which will bring the most prosperous dream of empowering women.

iv. Political system



Women empowerment can be achieved by means of capacity of women to participate as equal partners in social, economic, legal, cultural and political systems of a country. At present there are 61 women members in Lok Sabha of the country, as compared to 58 in the year 2009. There are 31 members in Rajya Sabha, by the measures of the govt. it is probably going to rise in near future which will empower to take decisions at political level of the country.

v. Millennium Development Goals



According to MDG endorsed by world leaders at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 and of this report, prepared by the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality, its purpose is to ensure the seven strategic priorities which are interrelated and necessary to empower women and given equality to women in this society. These are:

Bring strong opportunities for post-primary education for girls, Guarantee for sexual and female reproductive health and rights, Develop infrastructure to reduce time burdens on girls and women's, bring inheritance rights after girls marriages, Remove gender inequality informal employment, earnings, and occupation separation. Strengthen share in political system, and reduce violence against girls and women's.

V. Limitations

Once Christine Lagarde said on the launch of W20 a grouping of women leaders from the 20 largest economies that India's GDP can expand by 27% if the number

of female workers increases to the same level as that of men, but is almost impossible to dream. Only 12.9 crore women work as per National Sample Survey office Report in last survey conducted in 2011-2012, as per this survey, while 23.9 % women, who are graduates and above were working in urban areas, just 2.4% in the same category were working in rural areas. In order to enhance the women workers in India, Ministry is providing training to women through many Institutes for making them self employable. Even though providing them all kinds of training, women are not safe in India thereby putting a big question mark [?] on their safety. In previous years due to many rape cases, assault cases on girls achieving empowering of women is far away to achieve.

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