



A STUDY ON MODERN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The strength of chain is the strength of its weakest link. In a society, women are the weakest links, so that they may be strengthened for strengthening the society as a whole and that is possible only by empowering them. Nehru said, "Women should be uplifted for the upliftment of the nation, if a woman is uplifted, society and nation is uplifted."¹ Women empowerment is critical to the process of development of the community. Empowerment of women is essential to harness the women labour in the mainstream of economic development.

Ladies comprise practically half of the total populace however India has demonstrated lopsided sex proportion whereby female's populace has been nearly lower than guys. To the extent their economic wellbeing is concerned, they are not treated as equivalent to men in every one of the spots. In the Western social orders, the ladies have equivalent right and status with men in varying backgrounds. Be that as it may, sex inequalities and segregations are found in India even today. The dumbfounding circumstance has with the end goal that she was some of the time worried as Goddess and at different occasions only as slave.

KEYWORDS: economic development , women labour , sex inequalities.

INTRODUCTION

Empowerment does not mean setting women against men. Indeed, it means making both men and women realize their changing roles and status and develop a consensus for harmonious living in the context of an egalitarian society. It means redistribution of work roles, redistributing their values to the changing world and attitudes and evolving new kinds of adjustments, understanding and trust with each other. Empowerment of women is a new ideology for carrying democratic values into the family and society. Empowerment of women means equal status to women. Here the balance of power between men and women is equal and neither party has dominance over the other. Empowering women socio-economically through increased awareness of their rights and duties as well as access to resources is a decisive step towards greater security for them. Empowerment includes higher literacy level and education for them, better healthcare for women and children, equal ownership of productive resources, increase participation in economic and commercial sections, awareness of their rights and responsibilities, improved standards of living and acquiring self-reliance, self-esteem and self-confidence.

Harnessing the power of innovation to transform the lives of women in the developing world is an idea whose time has come. Never before has the world experienced such dynamic change in technologies, economies and societies as it is today. Innovation through new ideas, products and practices increasingly is seen as a force for social change. At the same time, there is growing consensus that empowering the millions of women who live in poverty is essential both for their intrinsic human rights and broad benefits for global development and economic growth. An increasingly wide range of institutions from business, civil society and government have committed resources, rhetoric and political capital to promote women's empowerment.

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. In India, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD1985) and the National Commission for Women(NCW) have been worked safeguard the rights and legal entitlement of women. The 73rd &74th Amendments (1993) to the constitution of India have provided some special powers to women that for reservation of seats(33%), whereas the report HRD as March2002, shows that the legislatures with the highest percentage of women are, Sweeden 42.7%, Denmark 38%, Findland 36% and Iceland 34.9%. In India "The New Panchayati Raj " is the part of the effort to empower women at least at the village level.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

From the eradication of foot binding to foot pedaled water pumps, from the Pill to property rights, innovation can transform women's lives. Virtuous circles of change can be sparked by women's use of a seemingly simple technology; a shift in social attitudes about what is possible for women; or increased access for women to economic opportunities, employment, savings and credit. India itself very primitives in there women by providing equality between male and female in education, employment, social status, values, and so. This article focus on women empowerment in modern age reaches closeness between men and women.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

H. Subrahmanyam (2011) looks at ladies instruction in India at present and Past. Creator featured that there has a decent advancement in generally speaking enrolment of young lady understudies in schools. The term engage intends to give legitimate power or specialist to act. It is the way toward getting a few exercises of ladies.

M. Bhavani Sankara Rao (2011) has featured that strength of ladies individuals from SHG have absolutely taken a go to better. It unmistakably demonstrates that heath of ladies individuals examine among themselves about wellbeing related issues of different individuals and their kids and make them mindful of different Government arrangements exceptionally implied for them.

Doepke M. Tertilt M. (2011) Does Female Empowerment Promote Economic Development? This examination is an observational investigation recommending that cash in the hands of moms benefits youngsters. This investigation built up a progression of non helpful

family haggling models to comprehend what sort of contacts can offer ascent to the watched exact relationship.

Sethuraman K. (2008) The Role of Women's Empowerment and Domestic Violence in tyke Growth and under nourishment in a Tribal and Rural Community in South India. This exploration paper investigates the connection between Women's Empowerment and Domestic Violence, maternal dietary status and the healthful status and development more than a half year in kids matured 6 to two years in a provincial and inborn network. This longitudinal observational investigation attempted in country Karnataka. India included inborn and rustic subjects.

OBJECTIVES

The general objectives of the seminar were:

1. To exchange experiences in promoting the empowerment of women through different educational programmes, both formal and non-formal;
2. To discuss the theoretical issues arising from the practice of the education and employment of women.

PRINCIPLES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The Women's Empowerment Principles – Equality Means Business is a partnership initiative of UN Women and the UN Global Compact (UNGC) that encourages engagement with business, civil society, the United Nations and Governments to advance and empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. While designed as a tool for business to strengthen and create company policies and programmes to achieve gender equality, these seven Principles provide a platform for all stakeholders to move their commitments to gender equality closer to implementation. The Principles emphasise the business case for corporate action to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and are informed by real-life business practices and input gathered from across the globe. The Global Compact Network, India and CARE India support the WEPs and have made their promotion and realisation an organisational priority. The principles were launched on 8th March, 2010, by UN Women and UNGC, to help companies make tangible commitments; champion the issues related to gender equality; and make gender transformation a reality in their context.

EMPOWERED WOMEN'S CHARACTERISTICS

- (i) Empowered women define their attitude, values and behaviours in relation to their own real interest. They have autonomy because they claim their freedom from existing male hierarchies, whether they live in traditional societies or modern industrial societies.
- (ii) Empowered women maintain equal mindedness. They act out roles that challenge male dominance. They respond as equals and co-operate to work towards the common good.
- (iii) Empowered women use their talent to live fulfilling lives. They not only survive the harshness of their own subjugation but also transcend their subjugation.
- (iv) Empowered women maintain their strength on the face of pressures from the religion and work and contribute towards the empowerment of all women.

- (v) Empowered women define their values and formulate their beliefs themselves, they do not derive their sense of being from male authorities nor do they live vicariously through men.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

The 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 favour of women. Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, Plans and Programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. From the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78) onwards there has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development and then from Eighth Five Year Plan emphasis was shifted from development to empowerment. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognised as the central issue in determining the status of women. India has also ratified various International conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. Key among them is the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1993. The National Commission for Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The Cairo conference in 1994 organised by UN on Population and Development called attention to women's empowerment as a central focus and UNDP developed the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) which focuses on the three variables that reflect women's participation in society— political power or decision-making, education and health. 1995 UNDP report was devoted to women's empowerment and it declared that if human development is not engendered it is endangered. The Government of India declared 2001 as the Year of Women's Empowerment (Swashakti). The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women was passed in 2001.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT POLICY 2001

Goal and Objectives

1. The goal of this Policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. The Policy will be widely disseminated so as to encourage active participation of all stakeholders for achieving its goals. Specifically, the objectives of this Policy include:
 - (i) Creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realise their full potential.
 - (ii) The de jure and de facto enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on equal basis with men in all spheres—political, economic, social, cultural and civil.
 - (iii) Equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, political and economic life of the nation.
 - (iv) Equal access to women to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office, etc.
 - (v) Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

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- (vi) Changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women.
- (vii) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process.
- (viii) Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and the girl child; and
- (ix) Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organisations.

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