

Women Empowerment

Abstract

The concept of women empowerment has becoming an important issue in the world including India. This paper tries to analyze the status of empowerment of women in India. Discrimination among men and women has also been age old issue. Women empowerment is a important process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women. This paper tries to grapple with the few problem face by women in like child marriage, female feticide, dowry, denial of inheritance rights, rape, physical violence etc. The study is based on secondary sources. The study shows that women of India are relatively less powered and they enjoy lower status as compare to men. The study concludes that access to Education, Employment and change in Social Structure are only the enabling factors to Women Empowerment.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Socio-Economic Status, Education, Health, Crime against Women, Policy Implication, Women's Rights, Problems, Prospects and Challenges.

Introduction

Women Empowerment means that ability in women to take decisions with regards to their life and work and giving equal rights to them in all spheres like: personal, social, economic, political, legal and so on. The position of women all over the world has risen incredibly in the 20th century; it has been very low in 18th and 19th centuries in India. They were treated like 'objects' that can be bought and sold. For a long time women in India remained within the four walls of their household. A long struggle going back over a century has brought women the property rights and equality in civil rights before the law in matters of marriage and employment. In India, the customs of parda (veil system), female infanticide, child marriage, sati system, dowry system and state of permanent widowhood were either totally removed after independence through legislative measures. Two Acts have also been enacted to liberate women in India. These are Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and the Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act, 2006. The Domestic Violence Act recognizes that abuse be physical as well as mental. Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act can be beneficial in preventing the abuse of marriage institution. It would help to check child marriage.

Review of Literature

H. Subrahmanyam (2011) sees women education in India at present and past. Author highlighted that there has a decent progress in general enrolment of young students in schools. The terms empower means to give legitimate power or authority to act. It is the way of acquiring some activities of women.

M. BhavaniSankara Rao (2011) has highlighted that soundness of women members of SHG have certainly taken a swing to better. It clearly demonstrates that health of women members talk about among themselves about well being related issues of other members and their children and make them mindful of various Government provisions uniquely implied for them.

Doepke M. Tertel M. (2011) Does Female Empowerment promote Economic Development? This study is an empirical analysis recommending that money in the hands of moms benefits children. This study developed a series of non helpful family dealing models to understand what sort of frictions can offer rise to the observed empirical relationship.

Duflo E. (2011) Women's Empowerment and Economic Development, National Bureau of Economic Research Cambridge The study argues that the inter connections of the Empowerment and Development are presumably too weak to be self sustaining and that continuous policy commitment to equally for its own purpose may be needed to bring about equality gents and ladies.



Suman Kathuria

Assistant Professor,
University Business School
M.R.S.P.T.U., Bathinda,
Punjab, India



Priya

Research Scholar,
Dept. of Commerce and Business
Management
M.R.S.P.T.U., Bathinda,
Punjab, India

Sethuraman K. (2008) The Role of Women's Empowerment and Domestic Violence in child Growth and under nutrition in a Tribal and Rural Community in South India. This research paper investigates the relationship between Women's Empowerment and Domestic violence, maternal status and the nutritional status and development more than six months in children matured 6 to 24 months in rural and tribal groups.

Venkata Ravi and Venkatraman (2005) focused on the effects of SHG on women participation and practicing control over basic decision making both in family matters and in group activities.

Objectives of the Study

1. To know the necessity of Women Empowerment.
2. To study the Awareness of Women Empowerment in India.
3. To study the Factors affecting the Economic Empowerment of Women.
4. To analyze the area of Women's Right Violations in India.
5. To know the Government Schemes For Women Empowerment.
6. To find out the Hindrances in the Path of Women Empowerment.
7. To give useful Suggestions in the light of findings.

Research Methodology

This paper is descriptive and analytical in nature. In this paper a try has been taken to analyze the women empowerment and development in India. The data utilized as a part of it is purely from secondary sources according to the need of this study.

Necessity of Women's Empowerment

1. With the help of women's empowerment, we can remove injustice and gender bias and inequalities.
2. If women are empowered, they can enjoy security and protection in life.
3. Women empowerment provides a safe working environment to women.
4. It acts as a powerful tool against sexual and mental exploitation and harassment of women.
5. It helps to get adequate legal protection for women.
6. Women are very creative and intelligent by nature which makes it imperative to receive their contributions in socio-economic activities.
7. For a just and progressive society, women need to be provided equal opportunities for work.

Area of women's Right Violations in India

Missing of girl baby

The idiom "missing women" was for the first time used by Prof. Amartya Sen when he showed that in most of developing countries the ratio of women as compared to men in the population is very low. In India, the girls from poor families are sold off by the brokers to men's in specially in Northern India where discrimination of sex ratio is very common.

Dowry Deaths

The National Crime Records Bureau in its report had showed that still in 2017 around 21 dowry deaths are reported everyday in India. 'The Dowry Prohibition Act' has not been working adequately in

India. It has been find out that many states neither have a Dowry Prohibition officer nor do they made it obligatory to keep the record of things given and received.

Domestic Violence

In spite of 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005,' domestic violence is still a serious issue. The reasons behind this domestic violence are problems of alcoholic of husband or desire for baby boy etc. liable for household cruelties in India.

Child Marriage

Child Marriage Act 2006 prohibits child marriage and Act declares marriageable age 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys. According to the National population policy, "above 50% of girls marry under the age of 18, resulting in a typical reproductive pattern of very fast, very frequent, too many, resulting in a high IMR"

Education

Education is very important for women empowerment. Article 21 of Indian Constitution have made it compulsory for the Government to give free education to everyone but rate of women's education is still very low. The main reason behind this is that the parents want girls to look after the siblings while they are at work in cultivation. The parents show more interest in boys education as compare to girls because they think that the girls are to be married off.

Rape

According to National Crime Records Bureau, in 2016, a total of 38947 cases of rape were registered. The cruel gang rape in Delhi had led to the implement of a stricter Law i.e. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 to deal with the rape cases in India.

Hindrances of Women Empowerment

The main problem faced by women in past and still today up to some extent

1. Lack of Education
2. Gender inequality
3. Female foeticide
4. Preference for a son
5. Sexual harassment (like Rape)
6. Family Responsibility
7. Financial constraints
8. Low mobility
9. Absence of ambition for the achievement
10. Dowry, marriage in same caste and child marriage
11. Pardhpartha (veil system)
12. Domestic violence

Government Schemes for Women Employment

At present, the Government of India has implemented above 27 schemes for women by different department and ministries. Some of these are as follows;

1. Rastria Mahila Kosh (RMK) 1992-1993
2. Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) October, 1993
3. Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) 1995
4. Mahila Samakhya being implemented in about 9000 villages
5. Swayasjdha
6. Swashakti Group

7. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)
8. Swalaban
9. Crèches/ Day care centre for children of working and ailing mother
10. Hostels for working womens
11. Swadhar
12. National Mission for Empowerment of Women
13. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (1975)
14. Dhanalakshmi (2008)
15. Short Stay Homes
16. Ujjawala
17. Scheme for Gender Budgeting (XI Plan)
18. Integrated Rural Development programme (IRDPA)
19. Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana(PMRY)
20. Working women's Forum
21. Indira Mahila Kendra
22. Mahila Samiti Yojana
23. Khadi and Village Industries Commission
24. Indira Priyadarahini Yojana
25. SBI's Sree Shakti Scheme
26. NGO's Credit Schemes
27. SIDBI's Mahila Udyam Nidhi Mahila Vikas Nidhi etc.

The effort of government and its agencies are playing important role in facilitating women empowerment. We have a long way in empowering women yet the future journey is difficult and demanding.

Finding of the study

1. Globalization, Liberalization and other Socio-Economic forces have given some relief to a large proportion of the population. However, there are still quite a few regions where women empowerment in India is largely lacking.
2. There should be a sea- change in the attitude of the people in the nation. Not just the women themselves, but rather men need to wake up to a world that is moving towards equality and equity. It is better this is grasped earlier than later for our own great.
3. There are several Government projects and NGOs in the Country, there is still gap that exists between those under assurance and those not.
4. Neediness and ignorance add to these complications, the Empowerment of women begins with an assurance of their health and security.
5. Women Empowerment must be accomplished if their economic and social status is improved. This could be possible only by receiving distinct social and economic policies with a view of total development of women and to make them understand that they have the potential to be solid people.
6. Keeping in the mind to create a sustainable world, we should begin to Empower Women.

Suggestions

1. The first and foremost priority should be given to the women's education, which is the grassroots problem. Hence, training for women has to be given careful attention.

2. Mindfulness Programs need to be organizing for making mindfulness among women particularly belonging to weaker section about their rights.
3. Women should be permitted to work and should be sufficiently given safety and support to work. They should be given proper wages and work and standard with men so that their status can be elevated in the general public.
4. Strict implementation of Programs and Acts should be there to control the mal practices common in the society.

Conclusion

Women's empowerment is a wide concept in all over the universe. Many countries have been challenging and changing gender inequality since the beginning of the history. These conflicts have also been supported by many men who have been angry at injustice against women. Women exhibit half the world population and gender inequality exists in every country on the planet. Until women are given equal opportunities that men are, entire societies will be certain to perform under their true potentials.

"When women move push the family moves, the village moves and country moves". It is important as their idea and their value framework lead the development of a good family, good society and ultimately a good country. The best method of empowerment is perhaps by drafting women in the mainstream of advancement. Women empowerment will be real and effective only when they are earned income so that they may stand on their feet and developed their identity in the society. Society should be take initiative to create an atmosphere in which there is no gender inequality and women have full chance of self decision making and taking in interest in social, political and economic life of the country with a feeling of equity.

Reference

- bonjourplanetearth.blogspot.com.au*.(2014)
- Dulfo E. (2011). *Women's Empowerment and Economic Development*, National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge.
- Doepke M. Tertilt M. (2011). *Does Female Empowerment Promote Economic Development? News Paper Article*.
- National Commission on Population, *National population Policy 2000-Ojectives*, National Commission on Population, Government of India (2000)
- M. Bhavani Sankara Rao (2011). *Education for Women Empowerment and Economic Development*, IJRCMT Vol-1,pp;17-18.
- SenAmartya, *Missing Women*, *British Medical Journal*,304,587-587(1992)
- Sethuraman K. (2008). *Empowerment of Women in India-A movement for Tribal Women education*.
- Venkata Ravi and Venkatraman (2005). *Empowerment of women in India; A review of women's SHGs Movement in India*. (<http://populationcommission.nic.in/npp-obj.htm>) www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation.