



Women empowerment

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Abstract

This paper attempts to analyze the status of women empowerment and highlights the issues, challenges, economic development, legal awareness. Today the empowerment of women has become one of the most important concerns of 21st century. A major role in driving down inequality between men and women; in the other direction, empowering women may benefit development. This paper reviews the literature on both sides of the empowerment– development nexus, and argues that the interrelationships are probably too weak to be self-sustaining, and that continuous policy commitment to equality for its own sake may be needed to bring about equality between men and women. The paper talk about the people and how need in the equality that women of India are relatively disempowered and they enjoy somewhat lower status than that of men in spite 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 observation that access to Education, Employment and Change in Social Structure are only the enabling factors to Women Empowerment.

Keywords: Socio-economic status, crimes against women, economic growth, inequality, education, legal awareness

Introduction

Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and communities of women. Women's empowerment in India is heavily dependent on many different variables that include geographical location (Urban / Rural) educational status social status (caste and class) and age. Policies on Women's empowerment exist at the national, state and local (Panchayat) levels in many sectors, including health, education, economic opportunities, gender-based violence and political participation. However, there are significant gap between policy advancements and actual practice at the community level.

Women Empowerment

The word empowerment is defined as the process by which women take control and ownership of their choices. Empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation, to greater decision-making power and control and transformative action. Empowerment of women signifies harnessing women power by conscientizing their tremendous potential and encouraging them to work towards attaining a dignified and satisfying way of life through confidence and competence as person with self-respect, rights and responsibilities. The core elements of empowerment have been defined as agency (the ability to define one's goals and act upon them), awareness of gendered power structures, self-esteem, and self-confidence.

Women Empowerment refers to an increase in the strength of women such as spiritual, political, social or economic. The most common explanation of "Women's Empowerment" is the ability to excise full control over one's actions. Thus, women empowerment occurs in real sense when women achieve increased control and participation in decision making that leads to their better access to resources it often involves the empowered developing confidence in their own capacities.

Women Empowerment in India

The year 2001 had been declared by the Government of India as "Women's Empowerment Year" to focus on a vision where women are equal partners like men". Because the Constitution of India grants equality to women in various fields of life. In the past, the position of women was miserable in the society and even women were not ready to undertake any assignment or job due to many reasons like fear, shyness, male dominance in the society and purdah system but time has been changed now. Women of today are not like the early days. Now, they are always ready to come forward and want more economic independence, their own identity, achievements, equal status in the society and greater freedom. freedom. and Government of India has provided for Self Help Groups (SHGs) to them so that proper attention should be given to their economic independence through self-employment, entrepreneurial development and well-being that ultimately leads to its contribution.

Self-Help Group

Women and SHGs in many parts of the country have achieved success in bringing the women to the main stream of decision making. The SHG in our country has become a source of inspiration for women's welfare formation of SHG is a viable alternative to achieve the objectives of rural development and to get community participation in all rural development programmes.

Self Help Group (SHG) is a small voluntary association to form a group. It is informal and homogenous group of not more than twenty members. SHGs consist of maximum 20 members because any group having more than 20 members has to be registered under Indian legal system. That is why, it is recommended to be informal to keep them away from bureaucracy, corruption, unnecessary administrative expenditure and profit motive. In fact, it is a home-grown model for poverty reduction which simultaneously works to empower and shape the lives of its members in a better way. Groups are expected to be homogenous so that the members do not have conflicting interest and all the members can participate freely without any fear. Self-help groups (SHGs) movement has triggered off a silent revolution in the rural credit delivery system in India. SHGs have proved as an effective medium for delivering credit to rural poor for their socioeconomic empowerment.

Advantages and Disadvantages

Cultures and countries that educate women see an overall decrease in birthrate, with a population problem, that's an advantage. Women from educated circles tend to have children later in life, and fewer of them, and there's a correlation with drops in overall crime because you have more established people taking care of children. Furthermore, providing women birth control also aids in this exertion, and by decreasing family size, each family has overall more funds, which creates a general decrease in poverty.

The disadvantage of empowering women is that when you preach total equality, you might lose gender identity. There are differences between men and women that should not be blanketed by extreme equality measures; women are simply better at teaching; men are simply physically stronger. For example, there seems to be a sense that "women should be respected" regardless of how they act. People should be respected, if they deserve respect. I've met plenty of stupid, classless women that insist you treat them a certain way simply because they are women. No, you earn respect, regardless of whether you're a man or a women

Ngo Working for Women Empowerment

With girls expected to help with household work and take care of younger siblings, the rural gender gap in female and male equality becomes more pronounced as girls underperform in school. Providing holistic and quality education to the girl of India can make them capable of being skilled worker and employees when they grow up. They can tap the potential of education as a powerful asset to uplift themselves their families and even the community around them.

The government is an actively attempting to flight this social evil with the '*Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*' programming order to provide survival, safety and education to the girl children in India. Powered by the civil society initiatives here is how women empowerment can change how India perceives girls.

Objectives of the Study

1. To know the need of Women Empowerment.
2. To assess the Awareness of Women Empowerment in India.
3. To analyze the Factors influencing the Economic Empowerment of Women.
4. To study the Government Schemes for Women Empowerment.
5. To identify the Hindrances in the Path of Women Empowerment.
6. To offer useful Suggestions in the light of Findings

Exploitation of Women

Incidences like sexual abuse by near relatives, co-habitation with near or dear friends and subsequent decline of marriages and issues relating to illegal pregnancy etc. are the real fact, the information of which remains mostly in darkness. In addition, girl students molested by teachers or repeated sexual abuse by antisocial activists are also an unfortunate reality. Women exploitation in the form of physical and mental torture on wives by husband is also common, \ mostly where women are simply a house wife and not associated with any employment. As a result, they are compelled to keep their head down in a speechless manner tolerating the cruelty of their husband helplessly. This ultimately makes them mentally disordered for which they often take the shelter of suicide or other means of malpractices that result very disgrace social, moral, ethical, and after all economic support to them. However, some main aspects of such exploitation may be highlighted as following;

1. Use of women to earn money
2. Physical and mental harassment by men in society
3. Trafficking of women
4. violence against women

Challenges

There are several challenges that are plaguing the issues of women's right in India. Targeting these issues will directly benefit the empowerment of women in India;

Education, Poverty, Health and Safety, Professional Inequality, Morality and Inequality, Household Inequality

Conclusion

The Empowerment of Women has become one of the most important concerns not only at national level but also at the international level. Society must take initiative to create a climate in which there is no gender discrimination and women have full opportunities of self-decision making and participating in social, political and economic life of the country with a sense of equality. Education for girls must be made compulsory so that women can become literate to make a life for themselves. *“When women move forward the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves”*. It is essential as their thought and their value systems lead the development of a good family, good society and ultimately a good nation.

Recommendation

Based on the findings obtained, this paper calls upon the government to take the following measures to bring about sustainable development in the country.

1. Empowering women and making full use of their labor force for economic growth.
2. Educating and maintaining the health of women to enhance productivity and social development.
3. Protecting the environment to bring about sustainable development, as the environment is the key source of the country's economy. Empowering women to play an equal role in the protection and management of the environment.
4. Education for girls must be made compulsory so that women can become literate to make a life for themselves.
5. Women must be giving equal opportunities in every field irrespective of gender

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