

Women Empowerment in India and Ways to overcome the challenges

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ABSTRACT: Women empowerment means enhancing the religious, political, societal, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and female community. Women's empowerment in India is heavily dependent on many different variables that include residential area, educational status, social status and age. Due to the conventional mentality in the Indian society, women are still harmed, dishonored, tortured and exploited. In India many cases of domestic violence, sexual violence, and rape cases are not reported due to existence issue. There is an urgent need of changes for the growth and safety of women and girl children. The gender violence can be eliminated and the women empowerment can be achieved only if we change the values of our society. The change should begin from the individual. Only then a healthy respect can be ensured for women.

Keywords:

Women empowerment, gender violence, gender gap, equality

1 Introduction

Women empowerment means enhancing the religious, political, societal, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and female community. It means providing way to women to make their life choices. Women empowerment is the procedure of treating the women with equal status in all the fields of the society with that of men. In recent years global women empowerment is in progress but in our country it only seems a distant dream. The society has constrained its perception to only upliftment of women from the value of an object to the value of a living being. Presently women are facing lot of basic problems like basic education, poverty and safety and health. For solving these kinds of issues the Government has introduced and implemented many schemes and policies for the development of women. Policies on Women empowerment exist at the local, state and national levels in various sectors, including education, health, economic and political contribution. Nevertheless there are major gap between policy advancements and actual implementation at the community level. Women empowerment involves the construction of a society, a political environment, wherein women can respire without the fear of repression, utilization, anxiety, inequity and the general feeling of Harassment. Women are not treated as equal to men in all the places when the social status is concerned. In the Western countries of the world, women have got equal right and status with men in all facets of

life. But in India we can see the gender disabilities and discriminations even today.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA:

The overall development of women in India is the main work of women empowerment commission in India. As per the human rights men and women are kept in same place but society doesn't accept this situation and made the discrimination against women in society. Many studies have indicated that women tilted towards secondary place gradually and started the exploitation through various problems. To prevent and eradication of these problems, the women commission was established by Govt. of India. After independence, the direction has been set and various laws, strategies and policies have been implemented for the women development in India. Certainly it can be said that India has done the improvement in social, economical and political status of women. But still there is need for the strict implementation and development of various schemes and plans for the development of women in India.

SIGNIFICANCE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

1. Intelligent and equally competent with men

Women are intelligent and equally competent with men. In recent years, women are engaged in many socio-economic activities even ahead of men.

2. Women are talented

Maximum women are as talented as men. Before independence, women were not allowed for higher studies and hence their potential was wasted. But the trend has changed now. They are allowed to do higher studies and the exposure motivates women to prove their talents to the development of whole world and not for individually. Presently, in many multinational companies women are holding the top positions.

3. Unemployment

In the world's population, women population comprises around 50% and a huge number of women all over the world are unemployed. The world's economy also suffers from unequal opportunity for women at workplaces.

4. Poverty Reduction

Women Empowerment also helps to reduce poverty. If the money earned by the head of the family is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the family, the additional earnings of women support the family to come out of poverty trap.

5. Countrywide Development

Women are progressively participating in the countrywide development process. In all the areas such as medical science, social service, engineering women are doing extremely well and make the nation feel proud by their outstanding performances.

6. Human rights for women

Every woman wants to be treated with esteem and dignity. If the women are not allowed to get education or not working in a secure environment is against basic human rights. Women Empowerment would help them in handling with human right issues.

7. Hygiene management

Empowering women also include providing them awareness related to cleanliness and hygiene management especially in rural India. When they are aware the benefits of maintaining a clean & hygienic environment, definitely they would make effort towards it.

CHALLENGES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

Economic Backwardness: In India, women comprise only 29% of the workforce but forms majority of the impoverished in the country. There has been a gap in transforming the available women base into human resource. This, in turn, has obstructed not only the economic development of women but also the country as a whole.

Implementation Gaps: In last few decades, the government's major attention is only on developing and introducing new policies and programmes and paid less attention to the appropriate monitoring system and execution short-sightedness and National Rural Health Mission, our country has a skewed sex ratio and a high maternal mortality rate.

Loopholes in the legal structure: Even though there are a number of laws to protect women against all kinds of gender violence yet there has been a significant increase in the occurrences of rapes, extortions, acid attacks etc. This is due to hindrance in legal procedures and the presence of several loopholes in the functioning of a judicial system.

Need of Political Will: In the current scenario Women's Reservation Bill is still- pending which indicates the Government's lack of political will to empower women politically. In Indian politics, the male dominance prevails and women are enforced to remain mute viewers.

Filling implementation gaps: Government or community-based bodies must be set up to monitor the programs devised for the welfare of the society. Importance should be given for their good implementation and their supervising and assessment through social audits

WAYS TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT :

1. Create safe workplaces

Women can be empowered through the establishment of safe working environment. The workplaces should be secure and protected for the female candidates. Indian People willing to send their daughters and wives to work provided they are assured of safe environment at workplaces.

2. Women education

By educating women, economy of the country increases. It has been observed that during last few decades the involvement of educated women in

various activities helping their family. Education of women is also contributed towards health and well-being of the family. Educated women also playing a vital role to the national income of the country. After women get educated, they will be able to know their rights and are able to protect themselves superior.

3. Raise voice against gender inequality

Women education shall turn the formal education into a symbol of progress and an onward step in the direction of gender equity. Women should be empowered by decreasing the disparities in all societal sectors including education sectors.

4. Job skills and health awareness

To yield the better results, the women are empowered with proper training and guidance.

5. Create more part-time job opportunities

Part-time job opportunities should be in larger number for women employees. In Our country, generally women are housewives and they are not having any chance for full-time work. Therefore, additional part-time and flexible job opportunities should be generated so that more and more women can get engaged into various activities including commercial activities.

Need For Future Researches:

In order to develop effective intervention programs and policies, it is essential to know the attitude and perception of the women towards the issue in-depth. The majority of the researches done in the past is little in nature and reflects the provincial picture that might not be an accurate picture of the whole country. Based on the above discussion, it looks essential to understand the women's perspective besides the evaluation of the problem and it associates at national level. Further, in the current world, where gender equality and justice have become the buzz words, examining the gender violence in the largest democracy of the world appears worthy for the betterment of half of its citizens.

Conclusion:

The gender violence can be eliminated and the women empowerment can be achieved. The change should begin from the individual can be started from every house of India. The mothers can teach their son to make support for women and fight against inequality and they have to teach their daughter to break the silence. In this current era there is an emerging need to move beyond the family. Innovative approaches are needed for the growth and safety of women and girl children. Only then a healthy respect can be ensured for women and gender violence will be abolished.

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