

“Title- Women Empowerment and Development”

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to analyse women development and women empowerment in all over the world. Women are half of world population but still they are facing discrimination in society. Development process affects women and men both in different way. Women have less opportunities compare to men to get education and become self-independent economically. Although men and women both are equal in society but women are accepting subordination. In this modern technical world women are less aware to technology but they are trying to cope up with their declining status. There are one half population of women in the world but they receive only one tenth of world's income. Since last many years there is some improvement in living condition, quality of life, education of women but it is not satisfactory especially for those women who belong to rural area and coming from poorer social economic background. Women's empowerment means the freedom of women from the ill effects of social, economic, political, caste and gender discrimination. It means giving women the freedom to make life choices. It does not mean 'empowering women', but equality instead of muscularity. Women development means overall development of women in all aspects such as political, economic, social, culture and other dimensions. Overall growth of country is not possible until we invest in women's development.

INTRODUCTION

Women need equal employment opportunities and women empowerment is the first step to achieve the goal of economic growth as they are half of world's population. There are no of problems in India related to women such as gender inequality, economic disparities, feminisation of poverty, unsafe working environment and inappropriate working condition. Government should introduce such a policies and plans which give equal employment opportunities to women. Country can achieve its goal when women get empowerment, independence and better position in society. To change women's position in society, the attitude, values and ideology of society should be changed and people should think about legal right, control over resource, gender division of labour and empowerment with regard to women. There is unequal power distribution between men and women as father is ruling the family, taking all major decision, having full control on assets and overall full control over family. Sharing of authority and responsibility can remove constraints which create hurdles in the path of women development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the concept of Women Empowerment and its significance.
2. To know the concept of Women Development and its significance.
3. To study the Strategies for Women Empowerment.
4. To identify the role of Women in Development.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is descriptive and analytical in nature. The Researcher has used secondary data which is collected by different sources such as books, magazines, reports, thesis, Internet and newspapers.

WOMEN AND EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment concept was introduced in 1985 in International Women Conference. According to this concept we should strengthen hands of women who are facing problem of inequality and discrimination so-that they can get equal right, opportunities and become free from control. According to World Bank Report educated and

healthy women are more productive and play outstanding role in agriculture, industry and service sectors to maintain civilized society

THERE ARE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN THIS REGARD, SUCH AS

- 1.Human rights
- 2.Social Women Empowerment
- 3.Educational Women Empowerment
- 4.Economic Empowerment
- 5.Legal Women Empowerment
- 6.Political Women Empowerment

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA

- 1.Murders
- 2.Sexual crimes
- 3.Domestic violence
- 4.Forced and child marriage
- 5.Acid throwing

STRATEGY FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

In seventh five years plan, Government introduced the concept of women empowerment and in ninth five years plan it became a major part of planning. Year 2001 was called the women empowerment year by Indian government. At the time of Indira Gandhi, Various schemes were launched and government gave primary attention for upliftment of women. Schemes for women empowerment are as below: -

- 1) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh
- 2) Mahila Samridhi Yojna
- 3) Dhanlaxmi Yojna
- 4) Kishori Shakti Yojna
- 5) Sabla Scheme
- 6) Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Vivah Shagun Yojna
- 7) Self-help groups at Panchayat levels
- 8) Pooma Shakti Yojna
- 9) Swayamsidh Program
- 10). Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme
- 11) Short stay Home for women and girls
- 12) Mid-day Meal
- 13) Assistance to states for feed & Fodder development
- 14) Rajiv Gandhi scheme for Employment of adolescent girls or Sabla
- 15) Swavlamban Program
- 15) Support to training and employment program

- 16) Janani Suraksha Yojna
- 17) India gandhi matritva sahyog Yojna
- 18) Swarn jayanti Gram Swaraj Yojna
- 19) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
- 20) Swadhar
- 21) Ujjwala
- 22) Swashakti
- 23) Women Entrepreneur Development Programme
- 24 Mahila Samakhya
- 25) Support to training and employment programme for women
- 26) Hostels for Working Women
- 27) National Mission for Empowerment of Women
- 28) Integrated Child Development Services
- 29 Integrated Rural Development Programme
- 30) Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment
- 31) Women Development Corporation Scheme
- 32) Indira Mahila Kendra
- 33) SBI's Sree Shakti Scheme
- 34) SIDBI's Mahila Udyam Nidhi Mahila Vikas Nidhi
- 35) NGO's Credit Scheme
- 36) National Banks for Agriculture and Rural Development's Scheme

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

Women are different according to their age, social class, religion and the place where they live. According to HDI indication gender inequality is present in all countries. This issue was raised under human right in 1950s and the position of women was changed up to great extent by 1970s. Development agencies paid high attention to women development process by 1970s. Women development issue was included in Economic Planning and International Movement for Women was started to increase the equality between men and women. Changing social and economic conditions such as globalisation, privatisation and liberalisation created requirement of women development.

New economic opportunities are entered in the nation but inequality rate between men and women is still not reduced and country is facing the problem of disparities in different aspects like health, education, employment and political participation of women. Government started various programs and policies in five-year plans and now Government also focuses on Entrepreneurship and self-employment concepts to uplift and sustainable development so that they can contribute in family income as well as national income.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Women play different role in society such as farmer, business person, trader, mother, child care, support worker, head of house hold, activist and community leader but development affects men and women in different way. Different roles of women mentioned in paper are below: -

- 1) **Women are farmers & food providers.**

Most of the women in rural area are farmer and contributing in household income as well as national income. Role of women in farming and providing food is highly remarkable in developing country.

2)Women are Business Persons, Employees and Workers

Women work as business persons very successfully, although they do not get equal opportunities but still performing at their level best by earning salaries and wages in offices and factories and contributing to National Income.

3). Women are heads of households

Women are fully devoted towards their family. They are managing outside work as well as domestic work which result into overburden but still, they are fulfilling all responsibilities honestly.

4). Women are mothers

Women role is very reproductive as mother. Sometime people ignore her contribution as a mother and carer but housewife plays great role to manage whole family as she works 24 hours for her family and contributes to development process.

5). Women are community leaders and activists

Some women are leaders and at very good position in society. They perform very effectively as leaders and socialists.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. There are many obstacles to women empowerment and development in India.
2. Poverty and lack of education are major obstacles to women empowerment and development.
3. Empowerment and development goals can be achieved when the economic and social status of women improves. It can be possible by introducing social and economic policies for the holistic development of women.
4. Empowerment and development are based on building confidence in the minds of women.
5. Empowerment can be provided by creating a sustainable world.

CONCLUSION

In any society of this world, status of women is the real measurement of development. Women get always second position in house, work place and society. Women can contribute equally in development process but still, facing many problems in the path of development. According to Amartya Sen it is very necessary to women to get political, economic recognition and social participation in the country, then only society can develop and women can contribute in development. 1975 was declared as an International Women's Year and at international level various issues related to women were raised.

When United National Conference was taken place in 1985, Equal rights and opportunities of education and employment were main agenda.

World Bank has joined with UNO and putting its efforts to enhance the status of women in all countries. Although women are half of world population but have less than one hundredth of world's property and received one tenth of world's income which shows great discrimination. No. of opportunities subsist in technical and competitive business environment but women are not taking advantages of these opportunities equally as men. Poverty and low literacy rate are not only the obstacles but rape, dowry, sexual harassment etc also great hurdles to women development and empowerment.

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