

Women Empowerment in India

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Abstract

Empowerment has been defined as an exercise of variation of power relation by which oppressed persons gain some control over their lives and involved in the matters, which affects them directly. The role of women in development is as much familiar to the desire of whole socio-economic development. It is the most pronounced amendment in the structure or institutions that brace and sustain gender discrimination. Self Help groups have been playing a vital role in employment generation and employment of women. Many self Help groups are using the financial resources available to fund investments in assets creation and help financially and socially for the downtrodden women in India. Micro -finance provides non stop help to poor to empower the conditions of women in India. Women from naked seeds invests in self help groups and engaged women in social, economic, and political fields. Women has given the opportunity to play for their livelihood through the self help groups. Marginalized women find self help groups are rejuvenating sparks in their lives. This paper is an attempt to analysis women empowerment in India using various indicators based on the secondary sources. Under this paper were trying to analysis the status of women empowerment in India and also highlight the challenges and issues faced by women. This paper peeks into the thump of Self Help groups in the upliftment of women status through their contribution to the empowered society. Self Help groups helps women to get the better of their personal and professional life. This proves to be new travel in the women empowerment and social development angle. Micro-finance accords hope for those women who are intyrannized sections of the society. This will be programmer of mass enlightenment and empowerment.

Keywords:

Self help group, socio-economic development, gender discrimination, Micro-finance

Objective of study

- Imparts women with appliances and knowledge which empowers them to become economically independent.
- Challenges and issues faced by women in India.
- Informing women for their rights regarding gender-based violence and guides them through rehabilitation.
- To Inform Women about initiatives taken over by Government for empowering women.

Research Methodology

This Study is completely based on Secondary data. The data for the study is collected from the journals, newspapers, and Government websites.

Women empowerment

Women Empowerment becomes dominant Concerns of 21st century not only at national level but also at the international level. Efforts by the Govt. and self help group are on to ensure Gender equality and development of the women but Government and self help group's initiatives alone would not be sufficient to achieve this goal. Women empowerment is a debatable subject. At earlier time they were getting unequal status with men. But now a time the status of the women change slowly and they get respect from the society as well. Empowerment of women means providing them appliances that makes 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. Indian women working as teachers, professors, doctors, bank employments and personal assistants are found in almost all major cities in our country.

“There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the Condition of women is improved.” —Swami Vivekananda

“Women are leaders everywhere you look, a CEO to housewife that holds together a home. Our country is constructed by women who stand alone.”

Present status of women in India

- About 66% of the female population in rural areas is unutilized. This is mainly due existing social customs.
- In agriculture and animal care the women contributes 90% of the total work force. Women constitute almost half of the population, perform nearly 2/3rd of its work hours, receive 1/10th of world's income & own less than 1/100th of the world property.
- Among the world's 900 million illiterate people, women number men two to one. 70% of the people who lives in poverty are women.

Why need of women empowerment

In the present world there is a great need of women empowerment because of the following reasons:-

- Gender discrimination
- Dowry
- Women education
- Domestic violence
- Financial strong
- Self respect
- Female infanticide

Challenges faced by the women

The society is biased in favor of male child in respect of education, nutrition and other opportunities. There are several challenges faced by women in India.

Education:- while the country had fill out from hurdles and vaults since independence education was in trouble The gap between the men and women is very great in number. With span of time where 82.14% of adult men are educated, only 65.46% of adult women are educated in India.

Professional inequality:- women face hopelessness in male customized and dominate environment in government offices and also in private sector.

Poverty:- poverty is also one of the major challenges which impact the women empowerment because if there is no money there is no education or if no education there is no knowledge.

Health and safety:-the concerns of women health and safety plays top most role for the comfort of a country.

Household inequality:- household relations show gender bias in infinitesimally small but significant manners all across the globe.

Rights of women in India

- **The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006)** :According to the act, a marriage is considered to be a child marriage when either the girl or the boy is underage, i.e., for girl child below 18 years of or the boy below 21 years.Ifparents forcefully tries to marry their girl child before the age of 18, it will be a punishable offence in the eye of the law.
- **The Dowry Prohibition Act (1961)** : Dowry is usually taken by the groom's family from the bride's family. In India, there are many places where even after the marriage of girl child their Inlaws demands dowry and for non fulfillment of their demands women are abused. Accepting dowry is illegal in India. According to the Dowry Prohibition Act (1961), no one in our has a right to demand for dowry, not even has a right to took or gave dowry to/from the bride or the bridegroom at the time of marriage. Its a punishable offence if anyone findsperforming this act will be penalized.
- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005** :The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act was implemented to protect women from domestic violence. The main objective of this act is toto protect the wife, a female partner or a woman living in household like a mother or a sister, from domestic violence from a husband, male live-in partner or relatives.
- **Sexual harrasment of women at workplace(prevention, protection &redressel) Act, 2013:** This Act provides women right to file a complaint against workplace harassment. Under this Act, she can submit a written complaint to an Internal Complaints Committee(ICC) at a branch office within a period of 3 months.
- **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987:** Women have the right to get free legal aid or help from legal services Authority who have to arrange a lawyer for her.

- **Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013:** Women have a right to file a Zero FIR. An FIR that can be filed at any police station irrespective of the location where the incident occurred or specific jurisdiction it comes under, the Zero FIR can later be moved to police station in whose jurisdiction the case falls under.

Government Initiatives towards Women Empowerment

- DAY-NRLM-(DeenDayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Yojana)
- DDU-GKM(DeenDayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana)
- MKSP(Mahila Kisan SashaktikaranPariyojana)
- EWR's(Empowering Elected Women Representatives)
- RMK(RastriyaMahilaKosh)
- BBBP(BetiBachao Beti Padhao)
- Start up India
- PM Jan Dhan yojana
- PM Ujjawala yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas yojana
- NNM(National Nutrition Mission)
- NARI(National Repository of information for women)
- Mahila –e- Haat
- PMMVY(Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana)
- SwadharGreh Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra yojana
- Stand up India

Findings of The Study

1. There are lots of efforts done by government and the self help group but, however there are still quite a few areas where women empowerment in India is largely lacking.
2. There needs to be change in the mind set of the people in the country. Because society thinks that women are weak and cannot handle the work life along with the personal life.

3. There are several Government programmes and self help group in the Country but the women cannot feel the safety as well as not enjoy the rights.

4. Poverty and illiteracy are also become one of the major complication in women empowerment.

5. Empowerment of Women can be accomplished only when their economic and social status is improved. This is achievable only after adoption of definite social and economic policies with a viewpoint for the total development of women and to make them realize that they have the potential to be strong human beings.

6. To build sustainable world, start up to Empower Women.

Suggestions

1. Women education should be given at top most level and prior level . Hence, education for women is to be to be paid special attention.

2. Awareness programmes should be arranged for creating awareness among women especially who belongs to weaker sections about their rights.

3. Women has given the right or has allowed to work and should be provided with proper security and support to work. They should be provided with proper wages and work at par with men so that their status can be elevated in the society.

4. Strict implementation of Programmes and Acts.

Conclusion

Women Empowerment becomes dominant Concerns of 21st century not only at national level but also at the international level. Women constitutes half of the world's population and gender inequality exists in every nation on the planet. Among the educated women in India, women from the middle class are continuing to improve in walk of lives cutting their traditional boundaries.

It can be said that from the above discussions that women empowerment plays a major role in the developing countries like India as by undertaking the education. Having seen the status of women in India from strength from past to present, It is worth quoting from the statement of Jawaharlal Nehru "you can tell the condition of a Nation by looking at the status of its women." The most important measure of their success should be the extent to which they enable woman to interpret , apply incorporating their own values and concerns.

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