

Study of Different Dimensions of Women Empowerment in India: A Sociological Perspective

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Abstract

Empowerment helps women to be at par and equal with their counterpart or opposite gender at the same time it reduces the gap between two opposite gender. Certain special roles in the society cannot be played in absence of empowerment of women. Women plays very important and significant role in the socio-economic development of the society. A women is the major pillar of the family, she is the first teacher of child and plays very crucial role in the development of sectors like services, agriculture, socio-culture and also helps in creation of civilized society. Contribution of women in the socio-economic development of the society is critical in many sense. Women is blessed by nature to get power of biological reproduction. She can performed all the task at various fronts' viz economic, social and cultural development of the environment. Present study evaluate the spread and reach of women empowerment in India.

Keywords

Women Empowerment, Sociological Empowerment, Indian Women, Gender Equality

[1] Introduction

The emergence of the construct of the concept of empowerment is date back to civil rights within the United States in the 1960s, and since the mid-1980s the term empowerment has become fashionable in the development field, particularly in respect to women, in both grassroots programs and debates. Empowerment has practically interchanged the terms like well-being, elevation, community participation and poorness reduction to explain the goal of development and intervention. Women make up nearly 50% of the world's population, however India has shown a relationship between disproportionate genders for which the feminine population was relatively lower as for their social status, and they're not treated like men altogether places. Even nowadays in India there are disabilities and gender discrimination

[2] Women Empowerment in India: A Historic Perspective

The position of ladies in country has been subject to certain nice modifications over the past few millenniums. In early religious text amount ladies enjoyed equal status with men. Rigveda & Upanishads mention several names of women sages and seers notably Garg & Maitrey. Later the status of women began to deteriorate roughly from five hundred B.C., things deteriorated with invasion of Mughals and shortly by European invaders. The important change came once independence. Constitution of India guarantees equality to women (Article 14). There are different articles too that guarantee rights of women for instance no discrimination by the state [article 15 (1)] equality of chance (Article 16) and so on Feminist policy picked up momentum in country throughout later 1970's. Shortly several teams and NGO's are operating for the authorization of women. We have a tendency to be proud that in India, ladies got right a lot of before USA and a few different European countries.

[3] Indian Scenario of Women Empowerment

The concept of empowerment **stems** from power, it is **acquired** where it does not or **does not** adequately **exist**. Empowering women would mean **empowering** women to be economically independent, self-sufficient, to have positive esteem to enable them to **cope with** any difficult situation and they should be able to participate in development activities; empowered women should be able to participate in the decision-making **process**. In India, the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD-1985) and the National Commission for Women (NCW) worked on The 73rd **and** 74th Amendments (1993) to the constitution of India **gave** special powers to women **only** for reserving seats (33%), while the **HRD** report of March 2002 shows that the legislatures with the highest percentage of women are Sweden 42.7%, Denmark 38%, Finland 36% and Iceland 34.9%. In India "The New Panchayati Raj" is the part of the effort to empower women at least at the village level.

Last few years the most positive development has been the growing involvement of women in the Panchayati Raj institutions. There are many elected women representatives at the village council level. At present all over India, there are total 20, 56, 882 lacs village panchayat members, out of this women members are 8,38,244 (40.48%), while total Anchalik panchayat members are 1,09,324, out of this women members are 47, 455, (40.41%) and total Zillaparisad members are 11, 708, out of this women members are 4, 923 (42.05%). At the central and state levels too women are progressively making a difference. Today we have seen women chief ministers, women president, different political parties leader, well establish businessmen etc.

[4] Different Levels of Empowerment

In line with most theorists on direction, one must read empowerment as going down on completely different levels which modification on all levels is critical if the empowerment of girls is admittedly to occur. We've got to relate empowerment at 3 levels: empowerment on the individual, cluster, and societal/ community level and

therefore the interaction between these. The individual level deals with individual women's talents to require management over their lives, their perceptions concerning their own worth and abilities, their abilities to spot a goal and work towards this goal. The group level deals with the collective action and sense of agency that girl expertise together, during a group. The social group level deals with the disposition of the political and social climate, the societal norms and therefore the public discourse on what's potential and not possible for girls to do, however women ought to behave etc.

[5] Steps Undertaken in India for Women Empowerment

The Constitution framers were considerably alert to the matter of girls management thence they ensured that the Principle of Gender Equality is enshrined within the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, basic duties and Directive Principles. The varied articles mentioned in the earlier paragraph are meant for guaranteeing gender equality. The Constitution conjointly empowers the states to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women.

The National Policy for the management of women (2001) was a vital step taken by the govt. of the time for fast the pace of women empowerment. The policy was geared toward ensuring women management through positive economic and social policies for the total development of girls. The policy assured equal access to women to health care, quality education, participation and deciding in Social, Political and Economic lifetime of the nation. The National Policy conjointly aims at strengthening system for eliminating discrimination against Women. It also visualizes strengthening partnership with Civil Society, significantly Women's organizations. States have also taken varied measures for empowerment of women.

[6] Social Empowerment of Women

Under the social empowerment of women steps needs to be taken to improve the health status of women, reduce maternal mortality especially in the areas which do not have good medical

facilities. A programme for checking the spread of sexually transmitted diseases like HIV / AIDS and infections / communicable diseases like T.B. needs to be launched. Women face high risk of malnutrition hence focussed attention would have to be given to meet the nutritional needs of women at all stages of their life cycle. The problem in the country is serious about the women belonging to disadvantaged groups. They are the most exploited lot. Awareness programmes need to be organised for creating awareness among women especially belonging to weaker sections about their rights. Government has to be vigilant for ensuring that there is no discrimination against the girl child and her rights are protected. The social stigma like child marriage, Female foeticide, child abuse and child prostitution must be eradicated immediately.

[7] Education and Empowerment

Education is a powerful tool of social transformation. Hence, education for Women has to be paid special attention. Greater access for women to education must be ensured in the educational system. Gender sensitivity must be developed. A watch has to be kept on dropout rate of girls and corrective measures should be taken to check the dropout rates.

[8] Role of NGO's in Women Empowerment

Governmental Organizations are formal agencies operating for the authorization of women. however this work needs third-dimensional approach and thus an outsized variety of voluntary organizations / NGO's have gained accumulated attention within the field from grass -root level to national & international level. Their role is thus spectacular as a result of they work with missionary zeal and commitment. The working type of NGO's is open, clear and personal. So, they're simpler during this direction. They organize seminars, conferences and workshops for the arousal of the masses. Their mass charm - vogue contributes to a more robust understanding of women's rights and of suggestion that to confirms the enjoyment of these rights conjointly there should be elimination of discrimination. They prepare urban and rural uneducated women for self - employment, that vital} for the economic authorization of the women. In short, of these

programs and functions of NGO's contribute towards the conclusion of property community development and thus women empowerment.

[9] Conclusion

The authorization of girls has become one among the foremost important considerations of 21st century not solely at national level however also at the international level. Efforts by the Govt. are on to ensure gender equality but Government initiatives alone would not be enough to realize this goal. Society should take initiative to form a climate during which there's no gender discrimination and ladies have full opportunities of Self deciding and collaborating within the Social, Political and Economic lifetime of the Country with a way of equality.

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