



Women's Education and Social Empowerment and Sustainability

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Abstract:

This present paper emphasises the women empowerment in India. As a general perception, women are considered a weaker sex in every walk of life. For ages now, the Indian society has not reconciled to liberation of women. The position of women in the society has established the fact that they are the disadvantaged gender, being dominated by their male-counterparts. Unless and until all the younger population are involved and their potentials are tapped, a nation cannot be transformed into a developed nation. For all-round development of the nation we should include women in the mainstream by providing an unrestricted equal access to all the resources available in the society. Education in a broad sense, involves the ability to negotiate this unequal and unjust world from a position of strength. The role of educating women will facilitate social and economic progress.

Keywords: *Women Empowerment, Education for Empowerment, Social Empowerment.*

Introduction:

There are many different angles, dimensions, and layers to the concept of empowerment. So, it's not just one thing; it's the result of a complex web of influences, including but not limited to the following: material, social, political, psychological, and attitude-based aspects. If we want to define women's empowerment, we could say it's when women have more say in household and community decision-making and a larger proportion of material, human, and intellectual resources (such as information, ideas, and knowledge) as well as financial resources (such as money and access to money). 'Power' and influence over one's community, state, and country. We now commonly think of women's empowerment when we hear the term used in reference to their fight for equality and social justice.

Women empowerment is a phenomenon with specific forms on the critical and key issues related with the empowerment of women.

Women empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure equal rights to women, and to make them confident enough to claim their rights, such as:-

1. Freely live their life with a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity.
2. Have complete control of their life.

3. Freedom to make their own choices and decisions.
4. Enjoying equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities.
5. Maintain a socially acceptable level of soundness.
6. Promote economic and social fairness by ensuring equal rights.
7. Make your selections in the realms of finance and economics.
8. Educational opportunities for all.
9. Provide equal employment opportunities free from gender bias.
10. Ensure a secure and pleasant workplace.

Reasons for Women Empowerment:

According to Kamela Basin (1992), the reasons for women empowerment are as follows:-

1. Empowerment means recognising women's contribution and development of knowledge.
2. Assisting women in overcoming their personal anxieties, low self-esteem, and feelings of inadequacy is what it means.
3. Boosting their sense of self-worth and dignity is what it entails.
4. For women, it signifies autonomy over their own bodies.
5. It symbolises women gaining independence.
6. It shows that land and other resources are controlled by women.
7. It implies that males will have less labour to do, particularly around the house.
8. What this means is that we need to form and support organisations specifically for women.
9. It entails advocating for nurturing equality.

Challenges for Women's Empowerment:

There are many obstacles that go against the way for women's empowerment in India. Some of the obstacles that need mention are:-

1. Discrimination based on gender.
2. No course for teaching proper speech.
3. Killing newborn girls.
4. Genocides targeted on females.
5. The practice of dowry and child marriage.
6. Inequality in sharing the burden of householdwork.
7. Financial constraints.
8. Inadequate assurance of health care and safety.

9. Discrimination in the workplace, especially harassment
10. Patriarchal order and the subordinate status of Women.

Need of Education in Women Empowerment:

Being able to steer and manage one's own life is a powerful form of empowerment. In it, women learn about and assert their rights at the national, regional, and domestic levels, empowering them to make decisions about their own lives. Autonomy, agenda-setting, and full participation in economic, political, and social decision-making are hallmarks of self-empowerment for women.

Women empowerment has the following components:-

1. Self-worth
2. Right to determine choices.
3. Right to access to opportunities and resources.
4. Right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home and workplace.
5. Ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economical orders, nationally and internationally.

Providing women with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to fully participate in growth is one of the most significant ways in which education may effect society change.

However, women's literacy rates are far lower than men's in most underdeveloped countries. Gender sensitivity is something that needs improving. A woman's education should prepare her to fulfil her role in society by teaching her to apply what she learns in the classroom to the tasks of daily living. The goal of women's education should always be their holistic growth, enabling them to adapt to society's complexities. In order to foster independence in thought and decision-making, education should raise understanding of one's rights and responsibilities. The most critical form of education is one that raises gender awareness about women's economic, legal, and personal rights. The central question for women's effective participation in national development in the twenty-first century is whether they will have access to a quality education that equips them to enter any field, exposing them to science, technology, communications, and creativity.

Need for Social Empowerment:

In contemporary India, women's standing is paradoxical. On the one hand, she is climbing the corporate ladder, and on the other, she is dealing with stress and violence in many places. Women today have come a long way, but there is still a long way to go before they reach parity with women of yesteryear. Women have left the safety of the house and are now fighting for survival in the real world. They are demonstrating their worth. Unfortunately, they have not received their due in India. Every day, women in India face a multitude of challenges, including:

- Malnutrition.
- Poor Health.
- Maternal mortality.
- Lack of Education.
- Selective Abortion and female Infanticide.

- Sexual Harassment.
- Downy and Bride Burning.
- Disparity in Education.
- Domestic Violence.
- No Property Rights.
- Child Marriage.
- Inadequate Nutrition.
- Domestic Violence and Status in the Family.
- No Military Service.
- Satue of Widows.

The social empowerment of women can be seen through following directions:-

Smart and Competent: Women are smart and competent just like males. In many societal and economic spheres, women are now even ahead of males.

Capable: When it comes to women, women are capable as men. Historically, women were not granted the same access to higher education as males, which resulted in their capabilities were wasted. But, nowadays, they are also allowed to go for higher studies and it encourages women to show their capabilities which will not only benefit her individually but to the But now they may go to college too, which empowers women and reveals their whole world at large.

Societal Advancement: One major benefit of women's empowerment is the improvement it will bring about in society as a whole. Earnings made by women benefit not just themselves and their families, but also the progress of society as a whole.

Economic Advancement: Women's Empowerment also causes societal and individual economies to flourish. Women empowerment encourages women to take charge of their lives, achieve financial independence, and contribute to the growth of their families and the country's economy.

Reduce Poverty: The added earnings of women help the family to come out of poverty trap.

Under-employed and Un-employed: Women population constitute around 50% of the world population. A large number of women around the world are unemployed. The world economy suffers a lot because of the unequal opportunity for women at workplace.

Natural Development: Women are increasingly participating in the national development process. They are making the nation proud by their outstanding performances almost in every sphere including medical science, social service, engineering, etc.

Ways of Achieving Women's Empowerment:-

Through Social Empowerment: Awareness programmes need to be organised for creating awareness among women especially belonging to the weaker sections about their rights and for checking the spread of sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS and infections/ Communicable diseases like TB nearby. The social stigma like child marriage, female foeticide, child abuse and child prostitution must be eradicated immediately.

Through Education: Education is a powerful tool of social transformation i.e.; empowering women with the Knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process.

Through Economic Participation: Women's quantitative participation in the workforce is important not only in addressing the disproportionate levels of poverty among women but also a key step toward raising household income and encouraging economic development.

Through Political Empowerment: Effective political involvement includes the equitable representations of women in decision-making structures, both formal and informal and their engagement in formulation of policies affecting the socio-economic groups in which they live.

Through women's Organisation: Women's organisations have come to be recognised as the main source of power, position and strength for women in modern India.

Conclusion:

The extent to which women have contributed to the development of human society is a topic on which there is a vast chasm between theory and practice. Government and corporate initiatives aimed at empowering women have failed to gain traction in local communities because of inaccurate portrayals and a lack of concrete action. The lack of economic independence and illiteracy among women has prevented them from actively participating in their own emancipations.

On the part of government and other interventions can help women to achieve their aspirations such as right over property, safer childbirth, more opportunities for education, and training and social status. This will lead to Women's empowerment and sustainability.

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