

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMENTO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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Abstract: Equal access of women to the social, economic and political domains have a profound impact on the development process of the country. To ensure women participation towards the development goals, the focus should be made on the safety and security of women in the society. If society would effectively eliminate violence against women, it would have to focus its attention towards educational and economic empowerment of women in the country. This paper gives an overview of the importance of economic empowerment of women to eliminate violence against women in the country. For the purpose of the study, the economic contribution of women in Kolasib District of Mizoram is studied, and an attempt is made to establish the relationship between economic empowerment and social status of women.

Index Terms: Economic Empowerment, Educational Empowerment, Main Workers, Marginal Workers, Violence Against Women.

I. Introduction

Women play a key role in the socio-economic development of the country. Women need to be given equal access in the social, economic and political domains and freed from traditions that prevent women participation.

According to Economic Empowerment by UN Women, investing in women economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth. Women make enormous contributions to economies, whether in businesses, on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees, or by doing unpaid care work at home. However, even after increasing literacy rate and rising levels of education in the country, there are certain social barriers that prevent women from fully participating in the Indian economy. It is important to make the men and the society at large accept the important role of women to ensure equal participation in the development process of the country. Societal attitudes and perceptions needs to be adjusted to encourage women participation.

Reported cases of violence against women are steadily increasing in the country. Unfortunately, there are also number of cases which are not reported to the authority. If society would effectively eliminate violence against women, it would have to focus its attention towards educational and economic empowerment of women in the country.

According to the list the of all women empowerments being run by Central & State Governmentby Sarkari Yojana, Central government is running about 147 schemes for women in the country which cater to the different needs of women in the society. These includes schemes for women of all age groups, from all societies or social & economic classes. Other than central government's 147 welfare schemes for women empowerment, the state governments are also running about 195 schemes (combined) in their respective state. The schemes are mainly being run to empower women in every field including education, healthcare, self-employment, and others. The prime goals of all the central and state government schemes for women is to provide them protection, better health facilities, enough education to make them employable and to make them financially strong.

II. Objectives:

1. To analyze the economic contribution of women in Kolasib District.
2. To examine the relationship between economic empowerment of women and the social status of women.

III. Methodology:

This study is based on secondary source of data collection through Government publication, books, journals, and websites. Simple table are used to present data.

IV. Profile of Kolasib District

Kolasib District is situated on the northern tip of Mizoram in India. It shares its northern border with Cachar District of the State of Assam. The District was created in the year 1998 by carving out of the then Aizawl District. The district occupies an area of 1382.51 square km. Kolasib town is the administrative headquarters of the district. The District has two Rural Development

Blocks, Bilkhawthlir and Thingdawl and three sub-divisions namely Kolasib, Kawnpui, and Vairengte. There are 45 villages in Kolasib district and there are 45 (forty-five) Village Councils in Kolasib District.

According to the 2011 census, Kolasib district has a population of 83,955 of which male and female were 42,918 and 41,037 respectively. Sex Ratio for Kolasib district is 956 per 1000 male. The rural population of Kolasib District stood at 37, 077 and urban population stood at 46, 878 respectively.

In terms of Literacy, Kolasib District ranks 4th with 93.5 p.c. from the total average of 91.3 p.c. in the State. According to the 2011 Census, Male Literacy stood at 94.57 p.c. and Female Literacy stood at 92.38. There are 34,147 Male Literates and 31,748 Female Literates out of the total District population of 83, 955.

V. Analysis

According to the 2011 Census, there are a total of 36,672 workers (Main and Marginal) in Kolasib District which accounts for 43.68 p.c. Kolasib District working population according to the 2011 Census are shown in Table No. 5.1

TABLE NO. 5.1

KOLASIB DISTRICT WORKING POPULATION CENSUS 2011

		Number	Percentage
Total Workers (Main and Marginal)	Persons	36,672	43.68
	Males	22,733	52.97
	Females	13,939	33.97
Main Workers	Persons	29,697	35.37
	Males	20,013	46.63
	Females	9,684	23.60
Marginal Workers	Persons	6,975	8.31
	Males	2,720	6.34
	Females	4,255	10.37
Non-Workers	Persons	47, 283	56.32
	Male	20,185	47.03
	Female	27,098	66.03

Source: District Census Handbook, Kolasib. Census of India 2011, Mizoram

As shown in Table No.5.1, the total number of workers in Kolasib District according to Census 2011 stood at 36,672 which is 43.68 of which female workers constitute 13,939 which is 33.97 p.c. The total number of Non-Workers is 47, 283 which is 56.32 out of which female Non-workers constitute 66.03 p.c. that is 27,098.

TABLE NO. 5.2

CATEGORY OF WORKERS (MAIN AND MARGINALS) IN KOLASIB DISTRICT CENSUS 2011

		Number	Percentage
Cultivators	Persons	17,992	49.06
	Male	11,002	48.40
	Female	6,990	50.15
Agricultural Labourers	Persons	5,921	16.15
	Male	3,216	14.15
	Female	2,705	19.41
Workers in household industry	Persons	585	1.60
	Male	332	1.46
	Female	253	1.82
Other Workers	Persons	12,174	33.20
	Male	8,183	36.00
	Female	3,991	28.63

Source: District Census Handbook, Kolasib. Census of India 2011, Mizoram

Category of workers (Main and Marginals) in Kolasib District, Census 2011 are shown in Table No. 5.2. There are 6,990 female cultivators in Kolasib District which are 50.15 p.c. of the total cultivators in the district. There are 2,705 female agricultural labourers which are 19.41 p.c. out of the total Agricultural labourers which are 5,921. The female working in household industry constitute 253 which are 1.82 p.c.

The total number of Employees and Workers under Government of Mizoram, Kolasib District as on 31st March, 2015 is 3862. The total number of Male Employees and Workers is 2881, which is 74.60 p.c. of total Employees and Workers. The total number of Female Employees and Workers is 981, which is 25.40 p.c. of total Employees and Workers. There are 736 number of Technical Employees and Workers which is 19.06 p.c. of total Employees and Workers. There are 3126 number of Non-Technical Employees and workers which is 80.94 p.c. of total Employees and Workers. 2298 number of Employees and Workers are under permanent posts, which is 59.50p.c. of total Employees and Workers. 1564 number of Employees and Workers are under temporary posts, which is 40.50p.c. of total employees and Workers.

In the course of our study, it is found that the women in Kolasib District have contributed or participated to a certain extent towards the economic growth. Rising or higher levels of education will have a positive impact towards higher economic growth. Economic empowerment would become more relevant if women are educationally empowered. Women could increase their income and become financially independent with higher education.

VI. Conclusion

Economic empowerment enables women to become financially independent. They contributed towards the economic growth of the country even when being an unpaid home-maker. Increasing crime rate against women highlight the importance of the safety and security of women in our society. Many women also suffer in silence and never report the issue to the authority due to financial dependence or due to fear of being creating a scandal in the society. It is important to empower women with education, knowledge, skill, finance and governance to establish their credibility in the society which will have a profound impact on the elimination of violence against women in the society. Economic empowerment of women should focus on making women employable, making women self-reliant, increase level of education and end all kinds of discrimination against women.

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