



Women Empowerment And Gender Equality: An Anthropological Study

Dr.SukritaTirkey, Assistant Professor, ShaheedMahendra Karma Vishwavidhalaya, Jagdalpur, Bastar, Chhattisgarh

Abstract:

In tangible terms, women's social and economic status has a direct impact on their independence. Women played a vital role in ancient Indian civilization. Typically, an individual's status is decided by his or her economic position, which is acquired via the exercise of rights, opportunities, and involvement in decision-making; but, if women are not granted equality, this is not achievable. Gender equality unquestionably supports long-term growth. One of the characteristics of sustainable development is participation in economic decision-making. Suppression of women cannot provide positive effects because they are an integral part of progress. Gender equality fosters a sense of community empowerment. Sufficiency of women can have an impact on both the human development index and economic empowerment. Women work greater hours than males, despite the fact that the majority of them work in low-wage jobs. Participation in political decision-making is another factor that impacts women's position. Social sustainability is exemplified by equal participation in parliamentary institutions.

Key Words: Women Empowerment, Gender Equality, Sustainable development

Introduction:

Gender can be explained as “the as a fact of being male or female” in the oxford online Dictionary Gender is usually characterised in development projects as being distinct from sex, i.e. the biological difference between men and women, and as being about the socially determined aspects of being a woman or a man. It was first used in this manner by Ann Oakley and others in the 1970s, and it is now commonly used to focus on gender power disparities between men and women in specific civilizations (Oxfam GB. 1994). Unfortunately, because of male dominance, women face harsh abuse at the hands of men. Abuse against women is the most common human rights violation in the world (UNIFEM, 2006). The major problem facing today by women in today world are severe domestic violence, both in physical and psychological wellbeing (WHO, 2005). The national and international policies during 1980s and 1990s in particular, introduced or worsened various structural variables that have contributed to increased levels of

gender disparity and marginalisation (Maple; & Desai. 2002). Women have acquired high levels of education and made advances in the employment market and public life in the backdrop of globalisation. However, gender inequality is a source of concern in Indian society; male dominance persists and fosters a sense of insecurity among women. The lack of proper working hours, socioeconomic services, and inadequate social security measures are impeding women's empowerment. Traditional gender-related difficulties, as well as male dominance in the family, community, organisation, and governance, are putting women at risk. Despite the obstacles, women around the world have made significant gains towards gender equality in recent decades. Literacy rates for young women and girls are greater than ever, and gender differences in elementary education have narrowed in nearly all countries. Over the last three decades, more than half a billion women have entered the global labour force (World Bank 2011e).

Gender equality is a psychological phenomenon that connects physical and psychological variables. Equality should begin at home and conclude in the community. Gender equity is a fallacy in the Indian setting due to masculine dominance and a male-dominated culture. The graph below shows a significant disparity between the male and female populations. Equality should begin at home; women are neglected at home, not in the community. Gender discrepancies are greater in the Indian context, and women's roles are severely constrained; they have limited access to and control over productive assets such as land, gold, and money. In the Indian setting, men have greater freedom than women; women must always rely on men. Women have historically had significantly less access to resources than men. This kind of imbalance has harmed women equality and empowerment. Furthermore, women do labour harder in the house than men because they contribute more to family building and asset protection.

Gender Equality:

Gender equality does not imply that men and women are or should be the same, but it does imply that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities in all aspects of life. It is based on men and women being equal partners in their homes, communities, and societies. In the context of local economic development, it means that gender does not influence participation in governance or access to appropriate employment opportunities, working conditions, resources, or services (ILO, 2010). Gender equality can be defined in two ways: opportunity equality and result equality. Equality of opportunities assesses inequities caused by situations outside individuals' control. Equality of outcomes assesses the equality of outcomes (World Bank 2011). The outcomes show the status of women in that society. Women will achieve equality when they are able to act on their own behalf, with a powerful voice, to guarantee that their opinions are heard and considered. This entails recognising women's right to define their own development goals. Countries such as India should note the Nobel Prize-winning economist's statement. Amartya Sen altered the development narrative by arguing that progress is about more than just boosting people's earnings or reducing poverty; it is also about promoting freedoms and equality for all people (Sen 1999). Gender inequality impairs a country's ability to compete in this increasingly globalised economic context, whether in endowments, economic opportunities, or agency (World Bank 2011).

The Government of India (GoI) has taken various steps to promote gender equality, with its legislation, in particular, producing positive effects in terms of closing the gender gap. Several elements, such as women's education, reform movements, women's political participation, and numerous social legislation, are responsible for improvements in the day-to-day lives of women in today's India. Some of the important statutory legislations to better women's positioning include:

- The Hindu Widow Re-marriage Act of 1856
- The Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929
- The Hindu Women Right to Property Act of 1937
- The Hindu Marriage Act of 1956
- The Hindu Succession Act of 1956
- The Suppression of Immoral Traffic Women and Girl Act, 1956
- The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961
- The Indecent Representation of women (Prohibition Act, 1986 (No. 60 of 1986)
- The commission of sati (prevention) act, 1987
- Protection of women from domestic violence act, 2005
- The sexual harassment of women at work place,2013.

The right to control one's fertility is frequently restricted. In actuality, in many communities where women are subservient and their ability to challenge the authority of their spouse is highly limited, reproductive independence is an illusion. Obstacles to exercising free choice include contraceptive and abortion laws and regulations, insufficient reproductive health services, and a lack of decision-making power. Leaders, policymakers, and administrators must stand up against the dehumanisation of half of the population. A determined effort to transform society attitudes, the abolition of all forms of bias, prejudice, and discrimination, the active engagement of women in all aspects of life, gender auditing, and, finally, making them 'visible' and 'heard' at the family, regional, national, and international levels.

There is an urgent need for legislative frameworks that safeguard women from the harmful consequences of globalisation in terms of health and safety, occupational standards, and so on. Governments should limit some kinds of privatisation of public healthcare services while still ensuring appropriate infrastructure for women to access these services. Women should also be empowered in decision-making in order to acquire access to and control over resources. More focus should be made on gender sensitive policies to alleviate some of the gender inequities linked with globalization's increasing economic integration and market development.

- The Economic opportunities for women. Especially to participate in entrepreneurship and economic forums. Special package should be promoted for the women economic empowerment
- Financial Institutions(Banks/ Micro Finance institutions/SHGs)
- Social the government should help the women to access education, health services and promote family and communities, Government Institutions Families.
- Political Enhancement of Participation in decision making. A Separate policy should be evolved for the promotion of the women in political institutions.
- Government Institutions
- Local Governance
- Recommendations for Gender Equality and Empowerment
- Address the long standing women issues related to the economics and revitalize the income sources.
- Promote the women ownership in policies, politics and administration.
- Develop and establish homeownership and land assignment processes on the name of women.
- Develop and Increase the usage of local and other resources to reduce the poverty and violation of rights.
- Enhance the health and meet the day to day needs "here the financial implications are involved.
- Involve underrepresented women in the community planning to ensure *the* participation and ownership.
- Increase and enhance employment & income opportunities for women who are in extreme poverty.
- Develop and promote inclusive strategy of women in politics and administration.
- Reduce domestic violence.
- Reduce the atrocities on women regarding sexual / lifting and other forms of violence.
- Women should be considered as a potential group of investors.
- Promote change in systems that conserve the distribution of power and resources from women perspective.
- Promote more jobs including a higher level of entrepreneurship among women,
- Increase better opportunities for buying services that ease the burdens of everyday life.

Conclusion:

Equality is linked to empowerment, and women's empowerment begins with equality. Violence, hurdles to women's economic empowerment, domestic violence, and other health-related issues are some of the specific challenges that must be handled on an emergency basis. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment are difficult issues; nonetheless, purposeful efforts can be made to improve women's situations in order to accomplish those criteria. The government should prioritize the reduction of social, economic, and political inequities. In addition to these drivers, attention should be paid to gender-based violence and its negative consequences.

References:

- Abdullah. A.F. Ibrahim and J. King (2010) Women's voices, work and bodily integrity in pre-conflict, conflict and post- conflict reconstruction processes in Sierra Leone. IDS Bulletin 41 (2): 37-45
- Cornwall, A, and J. Edwards (2010) Introduction: Negotiating empowerment 105 Bulletin 41 (2): 1-9.
- Huq, S. (2010) Negotiating Islam: Conservatism, splintered authority and empowerment in urban Bangladesh. IDS Bulletin 41 C2): 97-105.
- ILO (2010): Gender Mainstreaming in Local Economic Development Strategies Bureau for Gender Equality
- Johnson, P. (2010) Unmarried in Palestine: Embodiment and (dis) empowerment in the lives of single Palestinian women. IDS Bulletin 41 (2): 106-115.
- Kabeer, N. (2008) Paid work, women's empowerment and gender justice: Critical pathways of social change. Pathways Working Paper 3. Brighton, UK: Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme Consortium.
- Kabeer. N., and L. Hug (2010) The power of relationships: Love and solidarity in a landless women's organization in rural Bangladesh. IDS Bulletin 41 (2): 79-87.
- Naples, N. A.: & Desai, M. (2002), Women's activism and globalization; Linking local struggles and transnational politics. NY: Routledge.
- Oxfam GB, 1994. 4 Praxis Note 58: Reflections on Building CSO Capacity to Integrate Gender and Diversity Equality © INTRAC 2011
- Priyadarshani, A, and S.A. Rahim (2010) Women watching television: Surfing between fantasy and reality. IDS Bulletin 41 (2):116-124.

- Sardenberg. C. (2010a) Family, households and women's empowerment in Bahia, Brazil, through the generations: Continuities or change? IDS Bulletin 41 (2): 88-96.
- Sen. A. (1999). Development as Freedom. Oxford University Press: Oxford United Nations Development Fun4 for Women. (2006). Violence against women: Facts and figures. New York. NY: UNIFEM
- WHO. (200S). WHO multi-county study on women's health and domestic violence against women: Summary report of initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses. Geneva', Switzerland: World Health Organization.
- World Bank. (2011). Justice for the Poor. The World Bank, Washington DC
- World Bank. (2011e). Defining Gender in the 21st Century: Talking with Women and Men around the World, AMulti-Country Qualitative Study of Gender and Economic Choice. The World Bank: Washington DC.

