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In Indian Society, Women Empowerment & Judicial involvement

¹Seema Dixit, LLM Student, Student of Faculty of Juridical sciences, Rama University Uttar Pradesh, Kanpur, U.P., India.

²Dr. Shiv Prakash Singh, Associate Professor, Faculty of Juridical sciences, Rama University Uttar Pradesh, Kanpur, U.P., India.

ABSTRACT

‘Empowerment of women is more constructive tool for development of society.’

-Kofi Annan

Women empowerment means- empowerment within the family and in the society. In Indian society the women empowerment includes- Involvement of women in decision making, earning, sharing of basic needs and commanding respect for itself. Women are also required to actively take part in the process of development - planning, policymaking, evaluation and implementing along with their counterpart male. The increasing educational opportunities, obtaining employment opportunities, sharing economic resources, raising social status of women, raising of standard of living, active participation of women in governance and so on constitute the process of ‘empowerment of women’ in letter and spirit. Gender inequity is a major problem that is seen all over the world. Women have been mistreated in every society for ages and India is no exception in that. Indian judiciary- by law & by legal means feel convinced of the need for women's empowerment. The Indian Constitution has taken a long jump in the direction of eradicating the lingering effects of such adverse forces. Indian Constitution makes express provision for concurrence action in favor of women. Indian Constitution prohibits all types of discrimination against women and lays a reprimand for securing equal opportunity to women in all walks of life, including education, employment and participation. India is the 2nd most populous country in the world after China. In June 2022, India has about 1,405,902,718 population and the women constitute about 682,903,415. In India, approx. 72% of women reside in rural areas & most of them live below the poverty line. The sex ratio is 948 females per 1000 males population, this skewed sex ratio between men

¹ Seema Dixit, LLM Student, Faculty of Juridical sciences, Rama University Uttar Pradesh, Kanpur, U.P., India.

² Dr. S. P. Singh, Associate Professor, Faculty of Juridical sciences, Rama University Uttar Pradesh, Kanpur, U.P., India.

and women has resulted in steep imbalances in the society due to the preference for the male child in family, patriarchal social order, lower level of education, lower level of health care among rural women, female mortality during pre and post pregnancies and other factors.

In Indian society, there is a discrimination & sharp division based on sex and caste in society in respect of securing justice of equality, liberty, dignity and other basic rights and needs to lead a decent life.

Key words- Empowerment, Women, society, Indian Constitution, judiciary, Women rights.

INTRODUCTION

“Man and woman are two similar part of humanity without the co-operation of each other neither can reach its highest creative excellence”

- Chief Justice A.S.Anand.

In last few years, In India the safety of women has been lower down and always questionable because of some continuous and terrible crimes against women. The women status from ancient to medieval period has been decline, which is continued in this advanced era also. Indian Women have equal rights, like a men as they occupy almost half population of the country and they contribute in half proportion in the growth and development of the country. Women in modern India are joining on high offices (like President, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Union Ministers, Leader of Opposition, Chief Minister, Governor, etc) however on the back of above high power post in society they are being exploited too also. According to the Indian Constitution, women have equal rights of dignity, equality, and freedom from gender discrimination. Indian women are continuously facing numerous problems in society in spite of law, such as sexual harassment, violent victimization through rape, acid attack, dowry deaths, forced prostitution, and many more.

MEANING OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women empowerment means liberating of women from the brutal clasps of social, economic, political, caste and gender-based unfairness. It means, women the freedom to make life to leave according to its choices. Women empowerment does not mean ‘deifying women’ rather it means replacing authority with parity. In this regard, there are various slants of women empowerment, given here under as—

Human Rights or Individual Rights: A woman is a being to express senses, imagination and thoughts freely. Empowerment in relation to women means to have the self-confidence to articulate and assert the power to negotiate and decide.

Social Empowerment of Women: Promotion of gender equality is a critical aspect of social empowerment of women. Equality in form of Gender implies a society in which both women and men enjoy the same opportunities, outcomes, rights and obligations in all spheres of life.

Educational Women Empowerment: It means empowering with the skill, knowledge, and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process, & making women aware of their all rights and boosting a confidence to claim them.

Economic and occupational empowerment: It implies a better quality of material life through sustainable livelihoods owned and managed by women. It means reducing their financial dependence on their male counterparts by making them a significant part of the human resource.

Legal Women Empowerment: It reflects the provision of an effective supportive legal structure. It means addressing the gaps between what the law prescribes and what actually occurs in our societies.

Political Women Empowerment: It means the existence of a political system favoring the participation in and control by the women of the political decision-making process and in governance.

IN INDIA WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Historical Background:

From ancient to modern period, women's situations has not endured same and it kept converting with times. In ancient time, women were having identical status with men; in early Vedic period, they were very educated and there are citations of women scholar such as Maitrayi in our ancient contents, but with the coming of famous discourse/ work of Manu i.e. Manusmriti³, the status of women was downgraded to a subordinate place to men. All kinds of discriminatory operations begained to take from such as devdashi pratha, nagar vadhu system, child marriage, sati pratha etc. Women's socio-political integrity were slimed down and they were made fully dependent over the male members of the family. Their right to education, right to work and right to decide for herselfes were taken away. During dark-age period, the condition of women was exacerbated with the arrival of Muslim rulers in India & during the British period. But the British ruler also brought western ideas into the India. A few literated Indians such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy affected by the modern concept of freedom, liberty, equality and justice started to interrogation the prevailing discriminatory exercises against women. Through his uncompromising efforts, the British were enforced to abolish the ill-practice of Sati pratha, correspondingly several other social workers such as Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Swami Vivekananda, Acharya Vinoba Bhave etc. worked for the improvement of women's conditions in India. For example, the Widow Remarriage Act of 1856, was the outcome of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's movement for bettered the conditions of widows in society.

Indian National Congress supported the first women's commission which met the Secretary of State to demand women's political rights in 1917. In 1929, The Child Marriage Restraint Act was passed due to the efforts of socialist Mahhommad Ali Jinna. Mahatma Gandhi called the young men to marry the child widows and encouraged people to stay away from child marriages.

³ Manu Smriti, III, 27

During freedom movement, almost all the Indian leaders struggled were of the view that women should be given equal rights in the free India and all types of discriminatory traditions must stop. And for that to ensure, it was thought to include such provisions in the Indian Constitution's which would help eliminate age-old exploitative traditions & customs and also such provisions which would help in empowering women socially, economically and politically status in the society.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

India's Constitution makers and our founding fathers were very decided to make provision equal rights to both women & men. The Indian Constitution's is one of the excellent equality documents in the world. It gives provisions to firm equality in general and gender equality. Various articles in the Constitution protection women's rights by putting them at equivalence with men socially, politically and economically level.

The Preamble, the Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) & other constitutional provisions provide several general and special defenses to secure women's human rights.⁴

Preamble:

The Preamble in Indian Constitution assures justice inform of social, economic and political; equality of status and opportunity and dignity to the individual living in country. Thus, it treats both men and women equal in country.

Fundamental Rights:

The women empowerment is well established in the Fundamental Rights aggrandized in our Constitution. For instance:

- Article 14 - secure the right to equality to women.
- Article 15(1) - clearly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.
- Article 15(3) allow the State to take affirmative actions in favor of women.
- Article 16 impart for equality of opportunity for all Indian citizens in affairs relating to employment or appointment to any office.

These fundamental rights are justifiable in court and the Government is obliged to follow the same.

Directive Principles of State Policy: Directive principles of State Policy also hold dominant provisions regarding women empowerment and it is the responsibility of the government to apply these principles while formulating any policy or Law. Though these are not justifiable in the Court but these are essential. Some of them are:

- Article 39 (a) imparts that the State to direct its policy towards affix for men and women equally the right to an ample means of livelihood.
- Article 39 (d) directive equal pay for equal work for both men and women.

⁴ Biju, M.R. (2006), "Politics of Women's Reservation in India, in M.R.Biju (ed) Women Empowerment", Mittal Publications, New Delhi, India.

- Article 42 imparts that the State to make providing for obtaining just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.

Fundamental Duties:

Fundamental responsibilities are enshrined in Part IV-A of the Constitution and are definite duties for the people of India to follow. It also restrain a duty related to women's rights:

Article 51 (A) (e) hope from the citizen of the country to encourage harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood between all the people of India and to refuse to abide practices derogatory to the dignity of women.

Other Constitutional Provisions: A very important political right has been given to women in 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment of 1993, which is a important landmark in the direction of women empowerment in India. With this amendment women were designated 33.33 % reservation in seats at different levels of elections in local governance i.e. in Panchayat, in Block & in Municipality elections. Thus, it can be seen that these Constitutional provisions are very empowering for women position in society. State duty are to bound to apply these principles in taking policy decisions as well as in enacting laws.

WOMEN POSITION IN INDIA

The position be entertained by women in the Rig-Vedic period get worse in the later Vedic civilization. Women were repudiate the right to education, widow remarriage, right to inheritance and ownership of property. Many social sinfulness/ ungodliness like child marriage & dowry system surfaced and started to inundate women. During Gupta period, the status of women extremely get worse. Dowry became a tradition & Sati Pratha became pre-eminent.

During the British Raj, many social activist such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, and Jyoti Rao Phule started perturbation for the empowerment of women. Their efforts guide to the abolition of Sati pratha and formulation of the Widow Remarriage Act. Later, reliable like Mahatma Gandhi and Pt. Nehru advocated women rights, because of their strenuous efforts, the position of women in social, economic and political level began to buoy up in the Indian society.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN CURRENT SCENARIO

Based on the proposition advocated by our founding fathers for many social, economic and political provisions were in corporate in the Indian Constitution for women empowerment. In India, Women now participate in many areas such as education, sports, politics, media, culture & art, service sector and science & technology for country development. However, due to the well-established paternal mentality in the Indian society, women are still exploit, humiliated, & tortured. Even succeeding almost seven decades of Independence, women are still put through to inequity in the social, economic and educational sector.

LANDMARK FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Amenities made under the Indian Constitution such as:

- **Right to equality:** under Article 14 of the Indian Constitution, all Indian women are equal to man before law.
- **Equal pay for equal work:** under Article 39(d) protects the economic rights of women by equal pay for equal work.
- **Maternity Relief:** under Article 42 allows amenities to be made by the state for acquiring just and humane condition of work & maternity relief for women during pregnancy period & after that.
- **Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961:** make illegal the request, payment or acceptance of a dowry. Demanding or giving dowry can be teach some lesson by imprisonment as well as fine.
- **Domestic Violence Act, 2005,** anticipated for a more effective shielding of the rights of women who are victims of domestic violence. A violation of this Act is punishable inform of both fine and imprisonment.
- **Sexual Harassment at Work Place (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressed) Act, 2013,** helps to fashion a conducive domain at the workplace for women where they are not put through to any sort of sexual harassment.
- **Panchayati Raj Institutions:** By 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, all the local elected bodies reserved their one-third seats for women. By this provision, increase the effective participation of women in politics.
- **Women's Reservation Bill:** It is a pending Bill in India in which proposes to reserve 33% of all the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies seats for women. If passed, this Bill will give a remarkable boost to the situation of women in politics.

Various Government Policies and Schemes- The Government of India is managing various welfare schemes and policies, both at State and Central levels for woman empowerment. Some of the major programs and actions include –

- Swadhar (1995),
- Swayam Siddha (2001),
- Support to Training and Employment Programmed for Women (STEP-2003),
- Sabla Scheme (2010),
- National Mission for Empowerment of Women (2010) etc.

All such strategy and schemes focus on social, economic and educational empowerment of women covering various age groups. Thus, there has been no scarcity of social, economic, political, legal and Constitutional

endeavor made for women empowerment both prior to and post-Independence. However, women in India pursue to face atrocities such as-

- Rape,
- Dowry killings,
- Acid attacks,
- Human trafficking, etc.

According to a global poll conducted by Reuters, India is the “fourth most murderous country in the world for women”.

IN INDIA LAWS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

In order to accomplished Constitutional obligation of women empowerment, the list of some specific laws which were enacted by the Parliament:

- In 1976, The Equal Remuneration Act.
- In 1961, The Dowry Prohibition Act.
- In 1956, The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act.
- In 1961, The Maternity Benefit Act.
- In 1971, The Medical termination of Pregnancy Act.
- In 1987, The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act.
- In 2006, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.
- In 1994, The Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act.
- In 2013, The Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Protection and) Act.
- This law provide some specific legal rights to women but also gives them a sense of security and empowerment with help of above-mentioned acts & other law.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS OF INDIA FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

India is a part to abundant International conventions and treaties, which are, engage in to assure equal rights of women. One of the most dominant among them is the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ratified by India in 1993.

Other foremost International contrivances for women empowerment are:

- The Mexico Plan of Action (1975),
- The Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (1985),
- The Beijing Declaration as well as the Platform for Action (1995) and

- The Outcome Document adopted by the UNGA Session on Gender Equality and Development & Peace for the 21st century, titled “Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action”.

All these have been completely sincerely endorsed by India for pertinent follow up.

These different national and International commitments, laws and policies not resist women’s situation on the ground have still not improved satisfactorily. Different problems related to women are still serving, female infanticide is get bigger, and dowry is still widespread, domestic violence against women is proficient; sexual harassment at workplace and other heinous sex offence against women are on the rise day by day.

Although, economic and social status of women has ameliorate in a significant way but the change is mainly visible only in metro cities or in urban areas; the environment/ conditions of women is not much improved in semi-urban areas and villages. This imbalance is due to lack of education opportunities & job opportunities and negative mind set of the society & family member which does not approve girls’ education even in 21st century in India.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND SCHEMES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Whatever improvement and empowerment in women have seenmanily due to encountered is especially due to their own efforts and struggle, though governmental schemes are also there to help them in their venture or effort. In 2001, the Government of India launched a **National Policy for Empowerment of Women**. The specific intentions of the policy are as follows:

- Creation of an environment or surrounding through positive economic and social policies for full progress or growth of women to enable them to perceive their full potential.
- Creation of an surrounding for enjoyments of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on equal ground with men in all political, economic, social, cultural and civil domain.
- Providing equal approach to participation and decision making of women in social political and economic life of the nation. Providing equal approach to women to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public life etc.
- Strengthening legal systems focused at elimination of all forms of bias against women.
- Changing common attitudes and community execution by active participation and involvement of both men and women.
- Mainstreaming a gender position in the development process.
- Elimination of bias and all forms of violence against women and the girl child.
- Building and strengthening collaboration with civil society, particularly women’s groups or organizations.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal organization for all matters concerning to welfare, development and empowerment of women. It has evolved schemes and plans for their benefit. These plans or schemes are spread across a very wide scale such as women's need for shelter, security, safety, legal aid, justice, information, maternal health, food, nutrition etc., as well as their need for economic nourishment through skill development, education and access to credit and marketing. Various schemes of the Ministry like- STEP, Swayamsidha, Swashakti, and Swawlamban enable economic empowerment. Working Women Hostels and day nursery provide support services. Short stay Homes & Swadhar provide protection and rehabilitation to women in difficult situations or circumstances. The Ministry also supports autonomous bodies like - National Commission, Central Social Welfare Board and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, which work for the development & welfare of women. Economic nourishments of women through skill development, education and getting to credit and marketing is also one of the areas where the Ministry has to take action or focus regarding women empowerment.

JUDICIARY ROLE

Indian judiciary feel assured of the need for women's empowerment-by law and by legal means. The Indian Constitution has taken a long dart in the direction of eradicating the abiding effects of such adverse forces as far as women are concerned. Our Constitution makes express provision for concurrence action in favor of women. It prohibits all types of discrimination hostile to women and lays a carpet for securing equal chance to women in all lifestyles, including education, employment and participation. Judiciary has participated an active role in enforcing and strengthening the constitutional aim towards protection/rights of the women of the land. The Indian courts have tried to interpret laws in accordance with the international treaties and conventions. Some of the major cases are:

1. Air India Vs Nargesh Meerza, [(1981) 4 SCC 335]⁵

This case trades with the women's right to equality. In this case, the Supreme Court struck down the article or clause of retirement of airhostess on attaining 35 years of age or on marriage within first 4 year of service or on first pregnancy as being arbitrary and unreasonable and clearly breach of article 14 of Indian Constitution.

2. Vishaka Sawhney Vs State of Rajasthan, AIR 1997 SC 3011, (1998)⁶

This is the very landmark case and the alarm raiser for the need of such provision, which can protect the women from sexual harassment occurring at the work place. In this famous judgment, the supreme case grasped that

⁵ Air India Vs Nargesh Meerza, [(1981) 4 SCC 335]

⁶ Vishaka Sawhney Vs State of Rajasthan, AIR 1997 SC 3011, (1998)

sexual harassment occurring at work place is a violation of article 15 and 21 of the Indian constitution and he laid down the exhaustive guidelines to prevent sexual harassment of working women in places of their work until a law is passed for this purpose. Recently in 2013, the parliament of India has passed, The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION and REDRESSAL) Act, 2013.

3. Sarla Mudgal Vs Union of India 1995, AIR 1531, 1995 SCC (3) 635⁷

This case brought the focus of attention, the gross utilization of personal laws of women. In this representative case, a Hindu male, married under the Hindu law, hopping for taking on a second wife, he converted to Islam. After the second marriage, he again reverted to Hinduism. Second wife assert that she had no protection under either of the personal law. In this case, the Supreme Court pointed the union government to implement uniform civil code.

4. Mohammad Ahmed Khan Vs Shah Bano Begum, 1985 AIR 945, 1985 SCR (3) 844⁸

Popularly known as the Shah Bano case, a destitute Muslim woman professed for maintenance from her husband under section 125 of the code of the criminal procedure after she was given triple talaq from him. The Supreme Court says that the Muslim women also have a right to get maintenance from her husband under section 125. After this decision, nationwide discussions, meetings and agitations were held. Then Rajiv Gandhi led government revoke the Shah Bano case decision by way of Muslim women (Right to protection on divorce) act, 1986, which lessened the right of a Muslim women for maintenance under section 125 of the code of criminal procedure.

5. Tuka Ram And Anr vs State Of Maharashtra, 1979 AIR 185, 1979 SCR (1) 810⁹

Generally known as the Mathura rape case an incident of custodial rape. Two police officers on the compound of Police Station allegedly raped a young tribal girl Mathura. But the Supreme Court declare innocent the accused, and the decision resulted the big public shout and protest, which in due course led to amendments in Indian rape law via The Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act 1983 (No. 46) .

6. Mackinnon Mackenzie Vs Audrey D'costa, 1987 AIR 1281¹⁰

In this case, the Supreme Court had delivered the first major judgment on the Equal Remuneration act. In this case, Audrey a woman stenographer sued her company under equal remuneration act as she was paid less than the male stenographer.

⁷ Sarla Mudgal Vs Union of India 1995, AIR 1531, 1995 SCC (3) 635

⁸ Mohd. Ahmad Khan v. Shah Bano Begum, AIR 1985 S.C. 945

⁹ Tuka Ram And Anr vs State Of Maharashtra, 1979 AIR 185, 1979 SCR (1) 810

¹⁰ Mackinnon Mackenzie Vs Audrey D'costa, 1987 AIR 1281

7. Apparel Export Promotion Council vs. A.K. Chopra

The accused respondent tried to molest a women employee (Secretary to chairman of a Delhi based Apparel Export Promotion Council) Miss X. (name withheld), a typist cum clerk on 12 th August, 1988 at Taj Hotel, Delhi. The respondent persuaded Miss 'X' to accompany him while taking dictation from the chairperson, so that her typing wasn't found fault with. While Miss 'X' was waiting in the room, the respondent taking upper hand of the isolated place tried to sit too close to her and touch her despite their objections; and tried to molest again her physically in the lift while coming to the basement, but she saved herself by pressing emergency button, which made the door lift open. In appeal of the case supreme court held that "In a case involving charge of sexual harassment or attempt to sexually molest, the courts are required to examine the broader probabilities of case and not swayed away by insignificant discrepancies or narrow technicalities or dictionary meaning of the expression 'molestation' or 'physical assault' The sexual harassment of a female employee at work place is incompatible with the dignity and honor of a female and need to be eliminated and that there can be no compromise with such violation".

8. The Chairman, Railway Board & Ors vs Mrs. Chandrima Das

It was a case of gang rape of a Bangladeshi national by the employees of the Indian Railway in a room at Yatriniwas at Howrah station. These employees managed the 'Yatriniwas' the government contended that it could not be held liable under the law of torts as the offence was not committed during the course of official duty. However, Hon'ble court did not accepted this argument and stated that the employees of union of Indian, who are deputed to run the railways and to manage the establishment, including the Railways station and Yatriniwas are essential components of the government machinery which carries on the commercial activity. If any such employee commits an act of tort, the Union Government of which they are the employees can, subject to other legal requirement being satisfied be held vicariously liable in damages to the person wronged by the those employees. The victim was awarded by Supreme Court with a compensation of R.s 10 lakhs for being gang raped in Yatriniwas of railway. Since the right is available to non-citizens also, the reach of the right is very wide.

9. Deelip Singh @ Dilip Kumar vs State Of Bihar

Court held that consent given a women believing the man's promise to marry her would fall within the expression 'without her consent' vide clause (ii) to section 375, I.P.C, only if it is established that from the very inception the man never really intended to marry her and the promise was a mere hoax. When prosecutrix had taken a conscious decision to participate in the sexual act only on being impressed by the accused's promise to marry her and the accused's promise was not false from its inception with the intention to seduce her to sexual act, clause (ii) to section 375 I.P.C. is not attracted and established. In such a situation the accused would be liable for breach of promise to marry for which he will be liable for damages under civil law. False promise to

marry will not ipso facto make a person liable for rape if the prosecutrix is above 16 years of age and impliedly consented to the act.

OBSERVATION

It is observed that not only the legislature but also judiciary plays a very vital and important role in case of women empowerment. Judiciary empowers the women in society by its both traditional and by its activist role. The role of judiciary is to provide justice through interpretation of laws. Some times through the wide, analysis of provision of various legislation and also the provision of constitution judiciary is able to empower the women. Another role of judiciary is the activist role, which is popularly known as “Judicial Activism”.¹¹

Where there is no specific law for a specific crime, in that case judiciary applies its activist power. As our society is dynamic, because the rigidity of law or because of the long and time taking strategy of enactments of laws by legislature, it is unable to keep pace with the fast changing society. There is always a gap between the advancement of the society and the legal system prevailing in it. This is sometimes causes privation and injustice to the people. Women empowerment is a burning issue of our country. In addition, this concept is in progress. Therefore, there are so many areas of women empowerment where there is no law for the protection of women; in that case, judiciary is the last hope. Because only judiciary can give equity by applying its activist power e.g. we have already discussed Vishakha case where the question regarding the sexual harassment of women in working places was raised and on this area there is no law at that time judiciary by judicial activism declared some guidelines for the protection of women from sexual harassment of women in working place. This guideline was provided by Supreme Court in the year of 1997 and the Bill titled as Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace was produced before parliament in 2010 but Bill is still pending. That means the need of the society is realized by the parliament after 13 years. In case of compensation jurisprudence also, judiciary is released need to compensate the victim but in criminal law there is no such specific law regarding the compensation jurisprudence. So, it is clear that through judicial activism judiciary is also able to provide progress in the area of women empowerment.

CHALLENGES IN REGARDING TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Perspective: The most extensive and dehumanizing bias against women are on the basis of the biased perspective. The bias against the girl child begins from the birth. Boys are preferred over girls in family; hence, female infanticide is a common practice through out India. The trial that an Indian girl faces at birth is only the beginning of a long standing struggle to be seen and heard.

¹¹ S.P. Sathe : Judicial Activism in India ; Oxford University Press;

Patriarchate Bottlenecks: The customary Indian society is a patriarchal society governed by the diktats of self-proclaimed caste lords who are the defender of archaic and unjust traditions. They put the cargo of traditions, culture, and honor on the shoulders of women and mark their growth. The prevalence of “honor killing” reveal the malformed social fiber in the male-dominated society.

Economic Backwardness: Women constitute only 29% of the workforce. Majority of the destitute in the country, There has been an abortion in transforming the available women base into human resource. This, in turn, has obstruct not only the economic development of women but also of the country’ as a whole.

Implementation Gaps: In these years, the attention is only on developing and devising new schemes policies and programmers and have taken less attention to the proper monitoring system and implementation shortsightedness, for e.g. despite in The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technologies Act and various health programmers like Janani Suraksha Yojana and National Rural Health Mission (NHRM), our country has a arched sex ratio and a high maternal mortality rate (MMR).

Loopholes in the legal structure: Although there are a number of laws to safe the women against all sorts of violence, yet there has been the significant rise in the episodes of rapes, extortions, acid, attacks etc. This is due to delay in legal process and the presence of several loopholes in the functioning of a judicial system.

Lack of Political Will: The still- pending Women’s Reservation Bill emphasize the lack of political will to empower women politically. The male dominance prevails in the politics of India and women are strained to remain mute spectators.

SUGGESTIONS

Way ahead starts with reach across the deep-rooted biases through sustained renovations. It is possible only by promoting the idea of gender equality and uprooting social doctrine of male child prefer ability. This hypothesis of equality should be first developed in each household and from there; it should be taken to the society. This idea can be achieved by running sustained awareness programs throughout country with the help of Nukkad Natak or dramas, radio, television, Internet, etc. across the country.

Replacing ‘Patriarchy’ with Parity: A strong dominance of male society with deep- rooted socio-cultural values continues to affect women’s empowerment. The need of the hour is a democratic society, where there is no place for dominance. The Government should recognize and eliminate such forces that work to keep breathing the tradition of male dominance over its female counterpart by equipped inhumane and unlawful diktats.

Education is the most principal and indispensable device for women empowerment which makes women aware of their rights and responsibilities. Educational achievements of a woman can have undulation effects for the family and across generations. Most of the girls drooped the schools due to the unavailability of separate toilets for them. The recently launched ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’ by Government of India focusing on improving sanitation facilities in schools and every rural household by 2019, can manifest to be very significant in bringing down the rate of girls dropping out of school.

Political Will: Women should be given decision-making powers and due position in governance. Thus, Women Reservation Bill should be proceed as soon as possible to increase the effective participation of women in Indian politics.

Bridging implementation gaps: Government/ community-based bodies must be set up to monitor the programs conceive for the prosperity of the society. Importance should be given for their proper implementation of programs and their evaluation & monitoring through social audits.

Justice delayed is justice denied for these efforts should be made to reconstruct the legal process to deliver in-time fair justice to the victims of heinous crimes like rapes, acid attacks, sexual harassment, trafficking and domestic violence.

Fast-track court idea, devised to impart in time justice to the victims of rapes and other crimes against women, is a good initiative taken by the Indian Government & judiciary.

- Building public perceptions and support is crucial for the judicial activism.
- The National Commission for Women and the National Human Rights Commission could be important allies in addressing violations of women's rights.
- Judiciary should be sharper eyed in protecting the rights of women
- Judiciary should take decision in punishing the offenders
- Make positive judgement in favor of victims women.

CONCLUSION

Women empowering inform of socially, economically, educationally politically & legally is going to be a grueling task. It is not easy going task to change the culture of ignored for women, which are so stabilized in Indian society. However, it does not mean that it is unconvincing. Only rioting bring changes in a day, but reforms take their time to occur. The concept of women empowerment hard by the yard, but by the inch, it is just a cinch. We needed a concentrated effort attentive in the right path that would rest only with the liberation of women from all forms of evil existing in our society.

“The condition of a nation depend on the status of its women”

– Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru