



Women Empowerment: A Brief Analysis

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Abstract :

UNESCO has defined “Women’s empowerment is the process by which women become aware of gender-based unequal power relationships and acquire a greater voice in which to speak out against the inequality found in the home, workplace, and community”. The definition itself indicates that the women empowerment is process and it has change according to the situation. That process also include social, economic, political and cultural progress among women. The present research paper intend to find out those progress with a sociological point of view. Historical elements witnessed there was no space for women in any aspect. Treated as subordinate of men and denied in decision making. However, the present situation somehow better and progressive. Hence, the present research paper tries to find out some of the important aspects of women empowerment.

Keywords: Empowerment, Inequality, Change, Subordinate, Process.

Introduction

Globally women in all the countries treated as subordinate of men. They are consisting 48.5% of overall population yet there is discrimination in all the sectors. India consider patriarchal society where man is the decision maker of the family. Even though we are in 21st century denying to provide power to woman. Talking about sociological point of view we are dying provide equal opportunities. In political aspect there is list number of women representatives and older political parties. Culturally woman does not get a good reputation in the society. Economically women depends on men end there is a discrimination among pages especially in agricultural field. In education sector especially in higher education women enrolment is very low. Keeping all these aspects the present research paper try to incompass or advocate strategies of women empowerment in India.

The concept of women empowerment is all about power, focused on women sharing equal rights. Women consists around 50% of the country’s population and globally, and a many of them stays economically dependent on each other without employment and politically there is a lack of opportunities. Women have perform multiple roles including domestic work, but couldn’t get recognition in terms of wages. Every society should require women and they are considered backbone of every society. Though, their work and role is neglected from the society. Hence, women empowerment is an essential phenomena to develop any country.

Types of women empowerment

Social and cultural empowerment

Social Empowerment: Social empowerment refers to women's ability to participate in social and cultural spheres. Women should be free from unequal and discrimination along with violence. Social employment also include getting equal opportunities in education and cultural spares. Women must get good health care facilities. Domestic work also considered a type of job. An important aspect of social empowerment is to address the social issues which are related to the women of this country. Basically India is a patriarchal society where male dominates over male. Hence, it is very important to tackle and discuss the limitations which are obstacles for the development of women in country.

Educational Empowerment:

Education is an essential part of any society. Per-se Women's education is also plays an important role. Education is of course an equal right to every man and women. Though women's literacy rate is only 65.46% in India. Whereas men literacy rate is 82 % .

There is a huge gap in literacy rate among men and women in India. We are in 21st century the whole literacy rate of women in developing countries including India is very low. One of the main reasons for the low literacy rate in women is a lack of proper resources, gender disparity and old societal thoughts which create imbalances in the literacy rate in India. Education not only provides empowerment to women but also helps in developing their capabilities in order to become financially successful.

Political Empowerment

Political representation of women in India is very low. nearly 50% of the population of India is women. Yet the representation in the politics is considerably very low. As of late 2024/mid-2025, India has approximately 74-78 women Members of Parliament (it is only 14%) in the current 18th Lokh Sabha (lower house) and around 24-39.

The importance of women's political participation

To any democratic country, participation of women is vital for the development. For this women must break traditional gender roles, and inspire other women to participate in the politics. The participation in politics brings vital perspective with experience to policy making, and also political participation redefine the power structures to promote gender equality.

Economic Empowerment of Women

“Investing in women's 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”. (UN WOMEN...For all women and girl)) UN for women states that to eradicate gender equality, poverty, the inclusiveness of women in economic sector is very important. However, the present situation in India is not favourable to the women of this country. That too working in domestic sector as homemaker doesn't count in the income sector.

Importance of economic empowerment

Women empowerment is not only crucial for achieving gender equality but is also a catalyst for India's progress and development as it unlocks the full potential of women and fosters a more inclusive and prosperous society.(Significance of women empowerment in India. Manila housing trust. Online source). The term empowerment means not only provide equal opportunities but also provide gender equality to sustainable development of any country. If any country would be considered as progressive and developed the women of those countries should participate in economic activities.

Conclusion

Gender equality is, first and foremost, a human right. A woman is entitled to live in dignity and freedom. Empowering women is also an indispensable tool for advancing development and reducing poverty. Empowered women contribute to the health and productivity of whole families and communities and improved prospects for the next generation (Joonak Konwar Women empowerment. Times of India. 2020 online article). There is a need policies and programs that creates huge and vital opportunities for the women development and brings gender equality in the country. To attain “sustainable development goals” India must understand the importance of women empowerment.

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