



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCE RESEARCH, IDEAS AND INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY

ISSN: 2454-132X

Impact factor: 4.295

(Volume 5, Issue 3)

Available online at: www.ijariit.com

Need of women empowerment in India

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ABSTRACT

In a male-dominated society like India, women empowerment most importantly topic lays and maximum coverage it provides a way to enable the underprivileged or even moderately privileged women with much needed equal opportunities and access to education just like their male counterparts. Women empowerment acts as a strong driving force for organisational development. A better organisation can make a better tomorrow. The purpose of this research is to study about the empowerment, Government's Role on Woman Empowerment in India. The paper focuses on the need for women empowerment, government roles for encouraging women and concludes with necessary suggestions.

Keywords— Empowerment, Gender discrimination, Schemes, Organisational development

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of empowerment cannot be understood just by a single definition. It's a vast topic, where many researchers try to explain it in a different manner. The concept of empowerment was started by traced back to the works of Paulo Freire (1921-1997), According to Freire (1974), the duty of a teacher is to make students aware of the social injustice in society so that they can create the means to liberate themselves. The concept of empowerment must be understood in relation to the specific needs of the people who are yearning for empowerment (Kabeer, 2005). Empowerment is a situation in which people, organisations and communities acquire the needed control over the problems that affect them (Rappaport 1987; Zimmerman, 1995). Empowerment is a process in which people acquire social, economic and political power to liberate themselves from injustices in society (Wallenstein, 1992).

1.1 Women empowerment:

Before we understand women empowerment the question that always raises in many women minds are “are the women really strong”, “Do women’s struggle really ended or still they have to come to end”. Do development programmes really bringing progress to women. In developing countries like India, we can also see a high level of gender inequality, women don't have any proper right to education and no freedom of expressiveness. Though she is intelligent they have face violence and abuse in the male-dominated country. The National Mission for the Empowerment of Women (NMEW) launched by the Indian Government, has owned some improvement in the 2011 census. By which the ratio of female sex and female literacy both has increased. According to the Global Gender Gap Index, India needs to take some advance steps to improve the women position in the society through proper health, higher education and economic participation. Women empowerment needs to take full speed in the right direction instead of being in a nascent stage.

1.2 But what exactly is women empowerment?

Providing better education and employment opportunities to women, ensuring their better health, providing justice and ensuring professional equivalence, are the few methods of women empowerment. Or Women empowerment can be defined in very simple words that it is making women powerful so that they can take their own decisions regarding their lives and well-being in the family and society. It is empowering women to make them able to get their real rights in society.

According to the provisions of the Constitution of India, it is a legal point to grant equality to women in the society in all spheres just like a male. The Department of Women and Child Development functions well in this field for the proper development of the women and child in India.

2. INDIAN GOVERNMENT ROLE ON WOMAN EMPOWERMENT

The government of India has implemented many programs for the empowerment of women. Many of these programs are for providing employment, education, health accessible to the masses. These programs have been specially incorporated keeping in mind the needs and conditions of Indian women, to ensure their participation. Some of these programs are – MNREGA (Mahatma

Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme), Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan, Janani Suraksha Yojana (reduce maternal mortality) etc. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has implemented various new schemes specifically aimed at the empowerment of Indian women. Some of those significant schemes are given below-

- (a) **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme:** The scheme focuses on eradicating female infanticide and also on the education of girl child. It aims for changing the mindset of people towards a girl, by providing financial support and also by strict enforcement of laws and acts.
- (b) **Women Helpline Scheme:** This scheme aims to provide 24 hours of emergency support helpline for women who are subjected to any kind of violence or crime. The scheme provides a universal emergency number -181 across the country for women in distress. The number also provides information on women-related schemes in the country.
- (c) **Ujjawala Scheme:** A scheme aiming at the rescue of women affected by trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation and their rehabilitation and welfare.
- (d) **Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP):** The STEP scheme aims at imparting skills to women, making them employable as well as to become self-employed. Various sectors like agriculture, horticulture, handloom, tailoring and fisheries etc. are covered under the scheme.
- (e) **Mahila Shakti Kendra's:** The scheme focuses on empowering rural women through community participation. Community volunteers like students, professional etc. will teach the rural women about their rights and welfare schemes.
- (f) **Reservation for Women in Panchayati Raj Institutions:** In 2009 the Union Cabinet of the Government of India instituted 50% reservation for the women in Panchayati Raj Institutions. It is aimed mainly at improving the social status of women in rural India. The states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, and Andhra Pradesh among various others have the majority of women as the elected head of gram panchayats.

3. NEED OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

Empowering women is not just educating the women or it's not about proving rights to lead her life. Many articles, magazines though trying to phrase it, but it is still a diverting topic in wrong sense. Empowerment is not only providing rights to women, but it all about makes them enjoy their rights full-fledged. It's about complete removing of the term gender discrimination. Still many parts of India, men are treated as a head of their family, they have complete rights to take all the decisions regarding their family. Even in some places a well-educated and high earning women have to sacrifice her carrier to take the responsibilities as a job is a prestige and social status for men. Still many of the remote areas follow paratha system, girl Childs are still killed. It's not only the government involvement striving for a better nation. It's even in the hand of we human how we want to see our nation. It's every Indian responsibility to change their minds and try for the best future. Every household can function in a more synchronized way with shared responsibilities between men and women be it financial or domestic. This is required for proper and better functioning and overall happiness of everyone. Nothing is eviler than wasting the potential of any human being. By accepting the right potential and providing equal opportunities we are not only doing a favor towards our women but to the society as a whole. This will assist in the development and forward progression of our cultures.

4. CONCLUSION

Women are given a top place in India from the ancient time however they were not given empowerment to participate in all areas. They need to be strong, aware and alert every moment for their growth and development. The most famous saying said by the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is "To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves". In India, to empower the women, empowering the main motto of the development department because an empowered mother with a child makes the bright future of any nation. Like the two wheels of any vehicle are needed to be aligned and equal for the proper functioning of a vehicle. Same is with the society, equal opportunities for women will mean half of the world population will join the workforce and this will ensure more happiness and growth for the home, nation, and world in general.

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