

Empowerment of Women Leads to Social and Economic Development

Inderjot Kaur,

Assistant Professor
Government PG College,
Sector 1, Panchkula,, Haryana, India.

ABSTRACT

Women were perceived to be home makers and had a very little say in economy and commerce. Women are as talented as men. In the past they were not allowed to go for higher education like men resulting in wastage of their talents. Now they are getting higher education which encourages women to show their talents. This has not only benefited the women individually but to the whole society. A large number of women around the world are unemployed due to unequal opportunity for women at workplaces. Now days the above said trend is being changed and women across India are now showing a lot of interest to be economically independent. The women empowerment need arose due to gender discrimination and the male domination the women were facing since ancient time. Women Empowerment made them educated and capable of taking their own decisions in every field. Full participation of women in economic life across all sectors is important to build stronger economy, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability and improved the quality of life for women, men, families and communities. Women have become able to equalize their duties of both motherhood and entrepreneurship.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Challenges, Economic Empowerment, Women Empowerment Principles.

INTRODUCTION:

As women empowerment is a very broad term, it is therefore includes the social, economic, political and legal strength given to a woman. We are aware that man and woman are major components of society, so it should be ensured that they both must be given equals rights inter-alia should be allowed to claim these rights whenever required. There should be full participation of both men and women in the society for development. Both should be allowed to live a life of respect and dignity. Everybody should be given preference to make their own decisions. In the field of education and employment both of them must get equal opportunity and any sort of biasness should be avoided. Similarly equal rights without any gender bias may be provided to them to participate in social, religious, public practices and activities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Lalit Mohan Choudhary in 2016 studied in the paper titled as "Women Empowerment in India: Issues and Challenges that the need of great importance is to distinguish those escape clauses or confinements which are watching the acknowledgment of women of empowerment and this activity must be begun from the women people itself and additionally all the more imperatively approach activity taken by the state and society. Give us a chance to take the pledge that we need a populist society where everyone whether men or women get the equivalent chance to express and inspire one's prosperity a Women's empowerment is not a Northern, incorporating nations idea in South, have been testing and changing sexual orientation disparities since the start of the history. These battles have additionally been upheld by numerous men who have been insulted at shamefulness against women. women speak to a large portion of the total populace and sexual orientation imbalance exist given the same open doors that men are, whole social orders will be bound to perform beneath

their actual possibilities. The best need of great importance is change of social disposition to women. "At the point when women push ahead the family moves, the key as their idea and their quality frameworks lead the improvement of a decent family, great society and eventually a decent country. The most ideal method for empowerment is maybe through enlisting ladies in the standard of advancement. Women of empowerment will be genuine and viable just when they are supplied pay and property with the goal that they may remain on their feet and develop their personality in the general public. The Empowerment of Women has gotten to be a standout amongst the most essential worries of 21st century at national level as well as at the universal level. Government activities alone would not be adequate to accomplish this objective. Society must step up with regards to make an atmosphere in which there is no sexual orientation segregation and women have full chances of self-basic leadership and taking part in social, political and financial existence of the nation with a feeling of equity.

Dr Rajeshwari M. Shettar in 2015 studied in the paper titled as Study on Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment in India that the need of the hour is to identify those loopholes or limitations which are observing the realization of empowerment of women and this initiative must be started from the women folk itself as well as more importantly policy initiative taken by the state and society. Let us take the oath that we want an egalitarian society where everybody whether men or women get the equal opportunity to express and uplift one's well being and well being of the society as whole. Women's empowerment is not a Northern concept women all over the world, including countries in South, have been challenging and changing gender inequalities since the beginning of the history. These struggles have also been supported by many men who have been outraged at injustice against women. Women represent half the world's population and gender inequality exists in every nation on the planet. Until women are given the same opportunities that men are, entire societies will be destined to perform below their true potentials. The greatest need of the hour is change of social attitude to women.

Amtul Waris and B. C. Viraktamath in September 2013 in their paper titled as Gender gaps and Women's Empowerment in India –Issues and Strategies studied that Gender equality is considered a critical element in achieving social and institutional change that leads to sustainable development with equity and growth. Inequalities between men and women manifest themselves in all areas of development. Inequalities are most obvious in: health and education, economic development, violence against women, participation in public life and policymaking and social attitudes and gender stereotyping. The Twelfth Plan endeavours to increase women's employability in the formal sector as well as their asset base. It aims to improve the conditions of self employed women with a focus on women's workforce participation particularly in secondary and tertiary sectors, reaching out to women in agriculture and manufacturing, financial inclusion, and extending land and property rights to women. One of the major impediments affecting women's participation in the workforce is the lack of skills. The Twelfth Plan envisages a major scaling up of skill development to promote skill development of women from traditional skills to emerging skills, which help women break the gender stereotypes and move into employment requiring higher skill sets.

Zaveri Mansi N. and Shah Nisarg P. in their paper titled as Women empowerment in 21st century: Why and How? studied that the India has enacted many legislative and constitutional provisions and many progressive plans to improve position of women. Government activities alone would not be sufficient to accomplish this objective. Society must take up activity to make a domain in which there is no sexual orientation inclination and ladies have full chances of self choice making and taking an interest in political, social and financial existence with a feeling of equity. Women's Empowerment could only be accomplished if their social, educational and economic status is improved. The top preference should be given to the education which is the real issue. Development plans should be constructed to remove female illiteracy and creating skills & capability among women for empowering them to remain all alone on their feet. An urgent need for a constant effort at all levels to uproot the issue of gender unfairness in a focused manner. "The country which does not respect women have never become great now and nor will ever in future" said Swami Vivekananda. To make India a great country, let us strive to empower women to the most extreme "We have a long way to go, but we will get there one day". We shall overcome.

OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of this study are as under:-

1. To understand the concept of Women Empowerment.
2. To know the need of Women Empowerment.
3. To find the challenges of Women Empowerment.
4. To understand the impact of Women Empowerment in the field of education, social and economic development.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study is descriptive in nature and is based on the secondary data which has been collected through secondary source like Text books, Journals, websites and other publication.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION:

Need of Women Empowerment:

Women empowerment is much raised and discussed topic all over the world. Women have the rights to get their voices heard. It is perquisite for creating a good and developing nation. It is a way to get the underprivileged as well as the reasonably privileged women to realize their worth and potential in the face of a male dominated world.

1. Women are equally intelligent and competent. Moreover sometimes even better than men in many socio-economic activities.
2. Women are as talented as men. In the past they were not allowed to go for higher education like men resulting in wastage of their talents. Now they are getting higher education which encourages women to show their talents. This has not only benefited the women individually but to the whole society.
3. A large number of women around the world are unemployed due to unequal opportunity for women at workplaces.
4. Women empowerment gives economic independence to women and gives them opportunity to earn for themselves and for their families.
5. There will be decrease in domestic violence cases also as uneducated women are at higher risk for domestic violence than educated women.
6. It is seen that sometimes a poor family where male income is not sufficient comes out of financial problem with the added earning of a woman.

The challenges of Women Empowerment:

Woman has to fight against the society at many points in times. Due to superiority complex among the males, women have to face many barriers and challenges to step out in male bounded society.

1. Due to patriarchal society women have to face lots of challenges and it is admitted fact that the boy-child often gets preference for education and healthy diet over the girl child and preference for male-child still exist among many families in the society.
2. Problem of raising capital is also faced by women entrepreneurs because it becomes difficult for them to convince investors.
3. As the society perceives woman to be “homemakers” instead of “business women”, so it de-motivates woman even before starting their journey towards achieving their goals.
4. The upbringing of the children is mother’s responsibility, so getting the support of their families is also a big challenge faced by women entrepreneurs.
5. Women are sometimes considered by the society to be temperamental in handling adverse situations and incapable of taking risk.

Remedies available for the challenges and barriers of women empowerment through:

Spirituality Point: The Art of Living has initiated women empowerment programs which equip women from different sectors of society with skills and instill inner strength to take life challenges. The programs empower women with economic independence, education, leadership training and social empowerment.

So Kyon Manda Aakhiye Jit Jamme Rajan: Guru Nanak Dev Ji, founder of Sikh religion, (Sri Guru Granth Sahib, p.473), said men and women are equal and therefore women cannot be considered socially or spiritually inferior. We marry woman, when woman dies then another woman is sought for marriage, woman gives birth to child. It is the woman who gives birth even to king and women are our friends inter-alia by the women our civilization is continued. It is by woman the entire social order is maintained. Then why call her bad?

Education: Every child in the country has equal right to educational opportunities. The history has proven that “If you educate a man, you educate an individual but if educate a woman you educate a nation”. Educated women will actually play better role in directing their children in their life’s journey. Improving education for women helps raise their levels of health and nutrition. Education will instill self-esteem and confidence in women and they will actively participate in the development of society.

The Internet as a tool of empowerment: The growing access of the web has allowed women to empower themselves by using various tools on the Internet. With the introduction of the World Wide Web, women have begun

to use social networking sites like Face book and Twitter for online activism. With the help of online activism, women are able to empower themselves by organizing campaigns and voicing their opinions for equality rights.

Some Government schemes for Economic Empowerment of Women in India: The Ministry of Women and Child Development seeks to promote economic empowerment of women through policies and programmes. The some of the important programmes in different areas are as under:-

- a. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG).
- b. Central Social Welfare Board has formulated the Integrated Scheme for Women Empowerment (ISWE)
- c. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh – (National Credit Fund for Women).
- d. Support services: Hostel for Working Women.
- e. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) – Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme.

Women's Empowerment Principles:

The Women's Empowerment Principles offer practical guidance to business and the private sector on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. These principles are a result of collaboration between the United Nations Global Compact and UN Women which have been designed to support companies in reviewing existing policies and practices inter-alia establishing new ones in order to realize women's empowerment. In brief, the Principles are as under:-

- 1) Promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy.
- 2) Establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality.
- 3) Ensure the health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers.
- 4) Treat all women and men fairly at work—respect and support human rights and nondiscrimination.
- 5) Promote education, training and professional development for women.
- 6) Implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women.
- 7) Measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality.

CONCLUSION:

Women entrepreneurs have become a strong driving force in today's corporate world. In fact women are competing with men in every field. They are doctors, scientist, teachers, managers, artists and social workers inter-alia some of them have become famous internationally. Their primary goal is not only monetary reward but their personal satisfaction and community involvement also. Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, to achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability besides to improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities. Women have become able to equalize their duties of both motherhood and entrepreneurship.

REFERENCES:

Women's empowerment (Retrieved on 21 FEB 2019). from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_empowerment

Women Empowerment (2019). (Retrieved on 21 FEB 2019) from <https://www.artofliving.org/in-en/women-empowerment>

Essay on Women Empowerment: Meaning, Importance, Ways (Retrieved on 21 FEB 2019). from <https://www.importantindia.com/19050/essay-on-women-empowerment/>

Choudhary Lalit Mohan (2016). Women Empowerment in India: Issues and Challenges, *IOSR Journal of Humanities And Social Science*, (IOSR-JHSS) Volume 21, Issue 10, Ver. 4 (October.2016) PP 50-56 e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845. www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Vol.%2021%20Issue10/Version-4/J2110045056.pdf

Waris Amtul and Viraktamath B. C. (2013). Gender gaps and Women's Empowerment in India – Issues and Strategies, *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*, Volume 3, Issue 9, September 2013 1 ISSN 2250-3153 [www.ijrsp.org](http://www.ijrsp.org/research-paper-0913/ijrsp-p21116.pdf) (Retrieved on 21 FEB 2019) from <http://www.ijrsp.org/research-paper-0913/ijrsp-p21116.pdf>

Empower Women (2018). (Retrieved on 18 FEB 2019) from <http://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/businesses-and-foundations/womens-empowerment-principles>

Nayak Abhay, India Microfinance, List of Government schemes available for Economic Empowerment of Women in India (Retrieved on 22 FEB 2019). from <https://indiamicrofinance.com/government->

schemes-women-india.html
Women Empowerment (2015, July 2). (Retrieved on 24 FEB 2019) from <https://www.importantindia.com/19047/short-paragraph-on-women-empowerment/>

Dr. (Smt.) Rajeshwari M. Shettar (2015). A Study on Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment in India, *IOSR Journal of Business and Management*, (IOSR-JBM) e-ISSN: 2278-487X, p-ISSN: 2319-7668. Volume 17, Issue 4 Vol I (Apr. 2015), PP 13-19 www.iosrjournals.org DOI: 10.9790/487X-17411319 www.iosrjournals.org 13 | Page (Retrieved on 21 FEB 2019) from <http://iosrjournals.org/iosr-jbm/papers/Vol17-issue4/Version-1/B017411319.pdf>

Women's Empowerment Principles (Retrieved on 21 FEB 2019). from <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/china/weps>

Zaveri Mansi N. and Shah Nisarg P Women empowerment in 21st century: Why and How? *International Journal of advance Research in Engineering, Science and Management*, www.ijaresm.net (Retrieved on 22 FEB 2019) from <http://bvpinst.edu.in/download/Publication/12.%20Women%20Empowerment%20In%202021St%20Century%20Why%20and%20How%20by%20Mansi%20Z,%20Nisarg%20S.pdf>
