

Status of Women in India:

In previous times, the status of women in India was inferior to men in the practical life. However, they had a higher status in scriptures. They are considered as the perfect home maker in the world. With their incomparable quality of calmness of their mind, they can easily handle even toughest situation. Indian women are completely devoted to their families. They're preached in the names of Goddess Saraswati, Goddess Durga, Parvati & Goddess Kali. Their condition remains unchanged even during the modern times with only little changes. In India, women were never given any right of liberty & equality. Their condition becomes even worse when they gave birth to girls. Men treated them in a humiliated manner. They were not only permitted not to step outside their house but also abstained from being educated.

They were also supposed to eat after their husbands or even sometimes to eat their husband's leftovers. Women were prohibited from prohibited from taking external matters as well as domestic matters. They were under the influence of their parents before marriage & their husband after marriage.

Women Status in Modern India:

During this time there was a little development in the women status. There were many women reformers in India who worked for the uplift & betterment of their female counterparts. The begun of Bhopal discarded the 'Purdah' & fought in the revolt of 1857. Their education was elevated and English was introduced during this period. Various female writers emerged in the society. In the modern time, women in India were given freedom & right such as freedom of expression & equality as well as the right to be educated. Various prestigious positions at this period were held by women. They're enjoying the 'ladies first' facility in different fields. However, some problems such as dowry, domestic violence, sex selective abortion, female infanticide are still prevalent.

Women Empowerment



Empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation, to greater decision making power and control and transformative action. Empowerment as a concept was introduced at the International Women's Conference at Nairobi in 1985. The conference defined empowerment as "A redistribution of social power and control of resources in favour of women. It is 'the process of challenging existing power relations and of gaining greater control over the sources of power'. Empowerment is a multi-faceted process which encompasses many aspects i.e. enhancing awareness, increasing access to resources of economic, social and political etc.

Women Empowerment in India

There are still uneducated and poor town ladies fiscally reliant on their relatives, despite the fact that they are persevering and have their own particular capacities to be monetarily self-subordinate. Still, they won't land any great position and no money related backing to begin their own particular family unit businesses and additionally fare the well.

Barriers to Women Empowerment

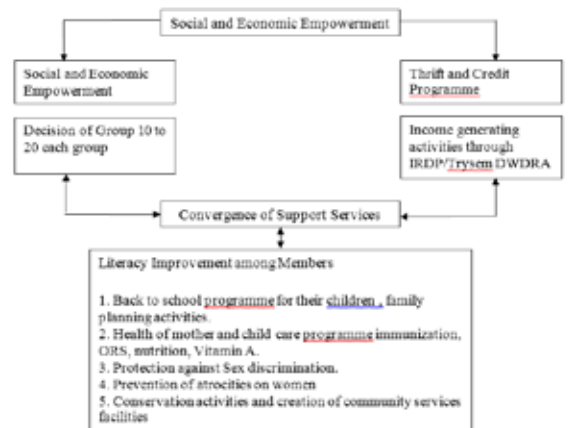
Many of the barriers to women's empowerment and equity lie ingrained in cultural norms. Many women feel these pressures, while others have become accustomed to being treated inferior to men. Even if men, legislators, NGOs, etc. are aware of the benefits women's empowerment and participation can have, many are scared of disrupting the status quo and continue to let societal norms get in the

way of development. Research shows that the increasing access to the internet can also result in an increased exploitation of women. Releasing personal information on websites has put some women's personal safety at risk. In 2010, Working to Halt Online Abuse stated that 73% of women were victimized through such sites. Types of victimization include cyber stalking, harassment, online pornography, and flaming and recent studies also show that women face more barriers in the workplace than do men. Gender-related barriers involve sexual harassment; unfair hiring practices, career progression, and unequal pay where women are paid less than men are for performing the same job. Such barriers make it difficult for women to advance in their workplace or receive fair compensation for the work they provide.

Schemes of Women Empowerment

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
2. One Stop Centre Scheme
3. Women Helpline Scheme
4. UJJAWALA : A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Resue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
5. Working Women Hostel
6. Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme For the Children of Working Mothers
7. Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Scheme and continues existing projects
8. SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
9. Revision under IGMSY in Accordance with National Food Security Act, 2013 in XIIth Plan
10. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)
11. Nari Shakti Puraskar
12. Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014 & Awardees of Nari Shakti Puruskar
13. Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman
14. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) - A Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme
15. Release of 2nd Installment of Grant for 2015-2016 for all the States under IGMSY

Activity of the Self-Help Groups of Women



Conclusion:

The women play a strategic role in the society and in the economy. The status of women in India is not even in all the times. Though the women's has to come forward without any fear or hesitation to take them into high position. Empowerment is the context of women's development it is the way of defining, Challenging and overcoming barriers in a women's life and environment. The government of India has many arms to exchange blows for women empowerment, the prompt and strict execution is quite essential. Unless the Acts, Policies, Rules, Regulations, etc. are strictly implement the idea of women empowerment remains unachieved. Hence the awareness of schemes need more to the women's which is offering by the government

Reviews:

1. Prof PSR Murthy, Ph.D (2012), "Economic Empowerment Of

Rural Women by Self Help Group Through Micro Credit", Electronic copy available at: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2193045>, December 22, 2012

2. **Dr. (Mrs.) MARINA PEREIRA** (2016) "*Gandhian Principles and Women Empowerment through Self-help Groups*"

3. **Dr. UMA NARA** (2012) "Self Help Group: An Effective Approach To Women Empowerment In India" International Journal of Social Science & Interdisciplinary Research Vol.1 Issue 8, August 2012, ISSN 2277 3630

4. **Dr. Ravi N. Kadam** (2012) " *Empowerment of Women in India- An Attempt to Fill the Gender Gap* International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications, Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2012 1 ISSN 2250-3153

Reference:

1. http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/17919/7/07_chapter%201.pdf
2. <http://www.tamilnadumahalir.org/sample-sites/mahalir/shgs.html>
3. <http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/india-2/self-help-group/self-help-group-shg-of-india-meaning-need-and-objectives/66718/>
4. <http://www.icicibank.com/rural/microbanking/shg.page>
5. <http://www.wcd.nic.in/schemes-listing/2405>
6. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-help_group_\(finance\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-help_group_(finance))
7. Theoretical Perspectives and Functioning of Self Help Groups, Empowerment of Rural Women through SHGs