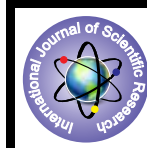


Bringing in to Limelight the Need of Women Empowerment



Economics

KEYWORDS :

Bini. C.B

Department of Economics Sree Krishna College Guruvayur.

INTRODUCTION

Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational gender or economic strength of individual and communities of women. It is the process of empowering women by the means of law in matters relates to gender interest ,related to family well being and socio economic national affairs and provided them the process of decision making.

HOW DID IT BEGUN?

Woman upliftment and empowerment of India first received National and International recognition when Indira Gandhi Government launched the Indira Mahila Yojana and when the United Nation Development Programme(UNDP) incorporated the issue as one of the primary objective.

WHY WOMEN NEED EMPOWERMENT?

In the simplest of words it is basically the creation of an environment where women can make independent decisions on their personal development as well as shine as equals in society. Women want to be treated as equals so much so that if a woman rises to the top of her field it should be a commonplace occurrence that draws nothing more than a raised eyebrow at the gender. This can only happen if there is a channelized route for the empowerment of women

- Educational problems
- Society
- Low confidence
- Problem related with health
- Poverty and ignorance
- Traditional barriers
- Gender prejudice
- Lack of Unity.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA

According to the census report of 2011 total population of India 1.21.billion among these women population is 48.2%.The literacy rate of women India 54% compared to men. The work participation rate was too low 25.63%.India has a highly skewed sex ratio, which is attributed to sex-selective abortion and female infanticide affecting approximately one million female babies per year. In, 2011, government stated India was missing three million girls and there are now 48 less girls per 1,000 boys. In 2012, women occupied only 8 out of 74 ministerial position in union council of ministers. There were only two women judges out of 26 judges in the Supreme Court and there were only 54 women judges out of 634 judges in various High Courts.

DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN

From the fifth five year plan onwards has been marked a shift in the approach to women issues from welfare to development. The NATIONAL COMMITTEE for women was set up by an act of parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of woman.

The 73rd and 74th amendments (1993)to the constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayath and Municipality for women, laying a strong foundation for the participation of women at local levels.

India has also ratified various International Conventions com-

mitting to secure equal rights of women. Key among them is the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women(CEDAW)1993.

WAYS TO EMPOWER WOMEN

- Changes in women's mobility and social interaction
- Changes in women labour pattern
- Changes in women's access to and control over resources
- changes in women's control over decision making

LEGISLATIVE ACT IN INDIA FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

- Constitution of India 1950;
- Article 14-equality.
- Article 15-prohibits discrimination of sex.
- Article 16-equality of opportunity for employment.
- 73rd and 74th amendments of India provided for reservation of seats.

There are various Acts for uplifting women in India like;

The Dowry Prohibition Act-1961,The Child Marriage Restraint Act-1976,The indecent representation of women prohibition Act-1986,The National Commission for Women Act-1992,The Prenatal Diagnostic Technique Act-1994,The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act-2005,The Sexual Harassment of Women at work place(prevention, prohibition, and redressal) Act-2013,The Criminal Law(Amendment)Act-2013 etc..

In Kerala there are; Kerala State Women's Development Corporation.

Kerala State Women's Commission.

Kerala State Social Welfare Board are standing for uplifting women.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

According to International Labour Organisation report ; woman represent 50% of world adult population and a third of the official labour force and they perform nearly two third of all working hours and receive only a tenth of world income. The economic empowerment of women includes:

• Poverty eradication:

By offering them a range of economic and social options along with necessary support measures to enhance their capabilities.

• Micro credit:

Strengthening of existing micro credit mechanism and micro finance institution will be undertaken so the outreach of credit enhanced.

• Women and Economy:

The contribution to socio economic development and producers and workers will be recognized in the formal and informal sectors(including home based workers) and appropriate policies relating to employment and to her working condition should be drawn up.

• Globalisation:

Benefits of the growing global economy have been unevenly distributed and leading to wider economic disparities, the femini-

sation of poverty, increased gender inequality through often deteriorating working condition and unsafe working environment.

• **Women and Agriculture:**

Concentrated effort should be made to ensure that benefits of training , extension and various programmes will reach them in proportion to their numbers

• **Women and Industry:**

Comprehensive support in terms of labour legislation, social security and other support services to participate in various industrial sectors.

• **Support services:**

Child care facilities, including crèches at work places and educational institutions homes for the aged and the disabled.

Constraining Factors for Women Empowerment :

- Heavy work load of women.
- Isolation of women from each other.
- Illiteracy.
- Traditional views that limit women's participation.
- No funds.
- Internal strife/militarization/wars.
- Disagreements/conflicts among women's groups.
- Structural adjustment policies.
- Discriminatory policy environment.
- Actions Taken to Empower Women

Millennium development goal: The United Nations Development Programme constituted eight **Millennium Development Goals** (MDG) for ensuring equity and peace across the world. The third MDG is directly related to the empowerment of women in India. The third MDG is centered towards promoting gender equality and empowering women:

Ministry for women & child development: The Ministry for Women & Child Development was established as a department of the Ministry of Human Resource Development in the year 1985 to drive the holistic development of women and children in the country.

Swayamsidha Programme: Additionally, the Ministry is also implementing the Swayamsidha Programme an integrated scheme for the empowerment of women at a total cost of Rs. 116.30 Crores. Core to this programme will be the establishment of women's self-help groups.

National Commission for Women: The National Commission for Women is a Department within the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was set up exclusively to help women via the Constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Economic inclusion by Increasing income generating potential, vocational training, financial literacy

Social achievement through delayed marriage and pregnancy, encompass reproductive and general health increasing access to education

Changes in political decision making structure

- Promoting girls agency
- Engaging youth
- Training public workers
- Mobilising communities
- Enhancing access to existing government support
- Strong tackling mechanism
- Building net work and consortia
- creating enabling environment
- Change in attitude and relationships

CHANGES OF AN EMPOMERED WOMEN

- Improves personal knowledge
- Self defining power
- Personal power
- Authenticity
- Creativity
- Physical strength
- Equality
- Mutuality in relationship
- Economic independence
- Women identification
- Freedom from oppression
- Having political power in society.

CONCLUSION

Gender equality and woman empowerment are two side of the same coin. We have to accept the fact that things are not going to change overnight; we cannot stop taking action. The society needs a change to its attitude. Strong execution of laws by the part of authorities and create awareness by educating the children, orient teachers, examine the text books and teaching aids and to ensure that next generation grows up with new thinking .Empowerment of women help in raising the standard of the family that way all members of the family get better standards and progress of the nation. Today women is the root of the nation without empowerment of women, progress of the nation is not rapid.

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