

Problems faced by women in decision making!



Social Science

KEYWORDS :

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Kanpur Aug 04 [PTI], *"He doesn't leave any opportunity to mentally torture me. He never asks me about what I wish? My family life has been ruined. He is always busy with his female friends"*, wrote Jyoti Dasani, (deceased) in her personal diary, which was later discovered by the police. Jyoti was murdered by her husband and his allies, as she was a hindrance to his extra marital affair with another woman. The sensational murder case that took place in Kanpur, which raised an alarm that clearly indicated the problems faced by women with respect to safety in public and private space. The Violent issue led too many loop holes in our own social system; mental and physical Violence, Inequality and Vulnerability. The culture of violence which has acquired a seat in our own society, along with fake family respect, relationships, needs and wants, various levels of torture that a woman would fail to recognize. The realization of the gaps between her own strength and weaknesses. Decision making, here plays an important role in life and indecisiveness can cost one's own life!! Violence against Women such as: suicides, murders, acid attacks, sexual harassment or sexual assaults are taking place every now and then. Can they be avoided by realizing the situation one is in? In the case of Jyoti Dasani, daughter in law of a billionaire biscuit manufacturer, of Uttar Pradesh was brutally murdered by her own husband. As we dig deep we realize that Jyoti was always aware of her husband's tendencies. Where there no chances of amicable mutual consent divorce? In reality, this is not just about one woman like Jyoti who suffers atrocities, perhaps there are many unable to take a stand. It is a concern of many women in our nation. Today women are educated, self confident; self reliant and self sufficient. Even then why they fail to say a No', *"I will not take this torture! I will not allow anybody to ruin my happiness, my peace and my freedom.* Jyoti was educated and skilled. Jyoti succumbed to the situation she was forced into. She lived in denial. She was under societal pressure. She said, *"I won't leave my husband no matter what"*, triggered the conspiracy of her murder. As she thought divorce was a dead end or a stigma. She could hardly think of a life after a divorce. For such thinking whom should we blame? Jyoti was in danger and lack of capacity reduced the chances of her survival. She was unable to take a decision which eventually took away her life. Often many women fail to make a decision, apparently which is not true? Understanding one's own self - worth and decision to live, survive and move on. In today's era we talk allot about women being equal partners. No doubt women are intelligent, smart and possess values that they can showcase to lead an independent life of self dignity and respect. It's a matter of choice! It's a matter of role play. Women are in capacity to earn and lead their lives peacefully. And history has witnessed many such women, who have developed themselves and moved away from the stereotypical roles. Every woman has a personality and aura. Instead of breaking the chords of life, it is important to break the barriers, and tell one self, **"I WILL LIVE MY LIFE WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT, NO MATTER WHAT!!!** Do we really understand the concept of self and decision making is a question? The concept of taking a decision is a settlement, a fixed bringing of bringing, about a conclusive result, a resolution. It is a systematic process; involving many steps. Decisions are not isolated events. They are a long chain of developments. They are influenced by personal values. A Good decision is always based on reliable and updated information. It helps us evaluate present environment. It implies to a series of logical

stages a person may go through while facing any problem. Problem recognition, information search, evaluation of alternatives and pre - post decision are the logical stages involved. Denial reduces the process of decision making, in our mind. As mind is always pre occupied with thoughts. *A husband is not a commodity that one will possess all her life.* It calls for a crisis immediately if a husband is allegedly involved in an extra-marital affair. Which is a trap? The information search makes you aware of the existence of alternatives that could solve the problems. It is called as awareness stage. Information source have four categories. Personal sources i.e., family, friends, neighbors or acquaintances. Commercial source is to be financially equipped. Public sources like mass media, educational institutions and NGO. Experimental sources like demonstration, counseling, guidance, training, skill and personality development. It helps a person avoid getting isolated. It helps build a strong support system. An active information search and involvement leads one to substantial sources. It is the fuel that drives the decision process. Without adequate information there would be no decisions. Evaluation is done to study the pros and cons of alternatives identified. This includes attributes, self image, safety and security, availability of resources, reliability of resources. Evaluation of alternatives is designed to promote acceptance of self image and reality of life. An action to change, postpone or avoid. Our decisions are greatly influenced by perceived risk. There are many decisions that involve risk, due to the uncertain circumstances that develop anxiety. Any decision taken leads to a specific post decision behavior. Usually it creates some restlessness in our minds and negative feeling creates anxiety and doubts. Such state is called cognitive dissonance. Cognitive dissonance can be reduced only by changing the belief. The status of the women in India is way behind men in literacy rate 39% as compared to 64% among males. Women are still at the receiving end of male chauvinism, barring, a few notable exceptions in politics, management, films, and other spheres of activity and much is needed to be done for their betterment. Envisioning something that would make your world more enjoyable, fulfilling and enriching. A positive change can improve your life right now. The quality of your vision drives the quality of your life. Women indeed have come a long way in all spheres which were hitherto considered exclusive male bastions. Women have to go a long way still in such crucial areas as employment, education, health, or decision- making.