



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Economics

SOCIAL FRAMEWORK IN THE ERA OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

KEY WORDS: Women Empowerment, Social Framework, Self Esteem

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ABSTRACT

Empowerment of women means developing them as more aware individuals, who are active, economically productive, and independent and are able to make intelligent discussion in matters that affect them. After independence of nation status of women have changed rapidly. For making a strong, aware, enriched, independent and peaceful society empowerment of women is primary need. Present study discusses status of women in family and society in various aspects.

Introduction:

Indian religion and philosophy consider womanhood nearer to divinity and our religious scriptures assign respectable position of pride and honor to a woman still in reality this contemplated equality has remained a myth. However in Indian social framework women suffered from the denial of freedom even in their homes, repression and unnatural indoctrination, unequal and inferior status, rigid caste hierarchy and untouchability. Consequently, most women were reduced to dumb cattle and had lead to inhuman beastly life.

Women empowerment is acquiring knowledge and understanding the way that make women powerful educationally, socially, economically. Empowerment develops a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life. The process of empowerment has five dimensions, viz. Cognitive, psychological, economic, political and physical.

The parameters of women empowerment are raising self-esteem and self-confidence, elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girl child, building and strengthening partnership with civil society particularly women's organizations, enforcement of constitutional and legal provisions and safe guarding rights of women, building a positive image of women in the society and recognizing their contributions in social, economic and political sphere, developing ability among women to think critically, fostering decision-making and collective action, enabling women to make informed choices, ensuring women's participation in all walks of life, providing information, knowledge, skills for self-employment, elimination of discrimination against women's participation.

The National Mission for Empowerment of Women was launched by the Government of India with the aim to strengthen overall processes that promote multifaceted development of women. It has the mandate to strengthen the inter-sector convergence; facilitate the process of coordinating women's welfare and socio-economic development programs. The Mission aims to provide a single window service for all programs run by the Government for women under aegis of various Central Ministries. In light with its mandate, the Mission has been named Mission Poorna Shakti, implying a vision for holistic empowerment of women.

Objective of Study:

To find family, social, educational and economic empowerment status of rural women
To find family, social, educational and economic empowerment status of urban women

Hypothesis:

There is no significant family, social, educational and economic empowerment status of rural women.

There is no significant family, social, educational and economic empowerment status of urban women.

Methodology:

Descriptive survey method was applied for present study. 300 rural and 300 urban women are randomly selected and interviewed using a self prepared test paper. Test paper consists of questions related to family, social, economic and educational status of women. Collected data was tabulated and comparatively analyzed using mean, standard deviation statistical tool.

Finding and Analysis:

Table-1: Status of Women in Various Fields

Category	Mean Value			
	Family Status	Social Status	Educational Status	Economic Status
Rural	23.6	18.4	8.7	9.5
Urban	42.1	37.5	21.8	19.7

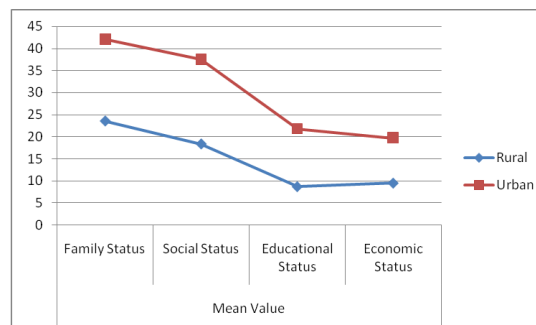


Chart-1: Status of Women in Various Fields

Status of rural women shows that 23.6 mean value for family status, 18.4 for social status, 8.7 value for educational status and 9.5 for economic status. These values are less and indicate poor status of women, hence hypothesis 1 there is no significant family, social, educational and economic empowerment status of rural women is accepted.

Data related to urban women is better than rural women but not according to a developed society. Urban women got 42.1 mean values for family status, 37.5 for social status, 21.8 for educational status and 19.7 for economic status. Thus hypothesis 2 there is no significant family, social, educational and economic empowerment status of urban women is accepted.

Conclusion:

Urban women are empowered in comparison of rural women. However urban women empowerment status is not equal of man. Our social framework needs implication of more empowerment tool which is possible by education of girls and positive, supportive promotion of society. Women have to swim against the stream that requires mere strength. Such strength comes from the process of empowerment which can be done through providing education, good health, nutrition facilities, realization of women power, and equal opportunities of promotion.

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