



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Sociology

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

KEY WORDS: Women Empowerment, Women Education, Women Rights, Women's safety laws

Ranjeet Kumar Sinha*

Law Graduate, B.N. Mandal University, Madhepura – 852113, India
*Corresponding Author

Surabhi Ambastha

Research Scholar, University Department of Botany, Ranchi University, Ranchi-834008

ABSTRACT

The aim of the present study is to determine the factors which affect women empowerment and the issues being faced by the women. This study reveals the status of women empowerment in India and explained the factors affecting their current situation. It has been found during study that females in India are not authorized to do some acts and have lower status as equated to men. Several efforts have been taken by government to endow women at national and global level by introducing and employing numerous schemes and initiatives. This study tries to hypothesize prospects of women in numerous areas and initiatives commenced by the Union of India.

INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century, the world is enthusiastically progressing and taking up the women partake in uplifting the society and economy of the world. India is an emerging nation and its financial status is also deplorable because being a male conquered nation. Empowerment of women would mean inspiring women to be self reliant, economically independent, have positive self esteem, gain confidence to sum-up any difficulty and incite active participation in various social-political development endeavors. Women empowerment will be more relevant if and only if women are having mid-level education. Social concord can also be easily established. If a woman remains unschooled, the future peers will be untutored. There is a list of safety laws for women/ girls in India. Many schemes and programmes for women empowerment are provided by the Union and State Governments. It plays significant role in the overall growth of the republic. Therefore, women empowerment is an indispensable instrument for the India to make it a developed country in the 21st century.

Need And Significance Of The Study:

Reflecting into the “Vedas Puranas” of Indian culture, women are being worshiped such as LAXMI MAA, Goddess of wealth; SARSWATI MAA, for wisdom; DURGA MAA for power. The position of women in India, mainly in rural areas, requires addressing the question of empowering women.

To have the bright future in family, society and country empowerment of women is essential. Today it has converted into one of the essential concerns of 21st century. Therefore, both the researcher, who are good friends, feels to undertake this study on Women Empowerment in 21st Century.

Need And Significance Of The Study:

- The following are the specific objectives of the study
1. To find out Women Education in Modern India.
 2. To analyze Women Rights, Legal Protection of Women in Indian Constitution.
 3. To know the role of NGOs in Women Empowerment.
 4. To know the Government Schemes and Programmes for Women Empowerment.
 5. To find out how Education has helped Women Empowerment.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The present study is a qualitative study. The researchers here collected data from different secondary sources like books, magazines, journals, various government organizations, website etc.

DISCUSSION:

Obj1: Women Education in Modern India:

It was outlined to the years after the Indian Independence. University Education Commission (1948-49), Modular Education Commission (1952-53), Kothari Commission (1964-66), National Policy in Education (1968), National Policy for Education (1986) have recommended for giving important women education. In the present days, the Union takes processes to provide tutoring to all Indian women. Women literateness ostensibly increased in the contemporary days. It became an obligatory anxiety and female mastery has gone developed in comparison to male literacy. At present, the Indian Constitution promises free primary school education for girls up to the age of 14 years. After independence various actions are taken to improve women education.

Obj2. Women rights and Legal protection of Women in Indian Constitution.

The women's rights in India can be categorized into two types i.e. constitutional rights and legal rights. The rights provided by the Indian Constitution are called Constitutional rights. On the other hand, special laws made by the Parliament and State legislatures are enshrining the legal rights to women in India.

Constitutional Rights to Women:

The Indian Constitution has safeguarded the women's right by the several provisions such as Article 15(1), Article 15(3), Article 16(2), Article 23(1), Article 39(a), Article 39(d), Article 39(e), Article 42, Article 51-A(e), Article 243-D(3), Article 243-D(4), Article 243-T(3) and Article 243-T(4).

Legal Rights to women:

The government has also implemented various legislations which contain several rights and safeguards for women:-

1. The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act (1987)
2. The Dowry Prohibition Act (1961)
3. The Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act (1939)
4. The Equal Remuneration Act (1976)
5. The Family Courts Act (1984)
6. The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (1956)
7. The Hindu Succession Act (1956)
8. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (1956)
9. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act (1986)
10. The Indian Penal Code (1860)
11. The Indian succession Act (1925)
12. The Legal Practitioners (Women) Act (1923)
13. The Maternity Benefit Act (1961)
14. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (1971)
15. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act (1986)
16. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act

(2019)

17. The National Commission for Women Act (1990)
18. The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natural Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act (1994)
19. The Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act (2005)
20. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, Redressal) Act (2013)

Obj3. The Role of NGOs in Women Empowerment

The various roles of NGOs in women empowerment are:-

1. Building Various Model and Experiment.
2. Educating the Rural Women.
3. Efforts Organizing the Rural Women.
4. Mobilizing the Optimum Resources.
5. Promoting Rural Leadership.
6. Promoting Technology in Rural Areas.
7. Providing Effective & Efficient Training to Rural Women.
8. Representing the Rural Women.
9. Supplementation of Government Efforts.

Obj4. The Government Schemes and Programmes for Women Empowerment.

The Indian Ministry are implementing numerous welfare arrangements and programmes for Indian women. Some of these schemes and programmes are listed below:-

1. Awareness Generation Programme (AGP).
2. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme.
3. Condensed courses of Education for Adult Women (CCE).
4. Family Counseling Centers (FCCs).
5. Gender Budgeting Scheme (GBS).
6. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY).
7. Integrated Scheme for Women's Empowerment (ISWE).
8. One stop Centre scheme.
9. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)-Sabla.
10. Scheme for Combating Trafficking.
11. Support to Training & Employment Programme for Women (STEP).
12. Swadhar Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances.
13. Short Stay Home Programme.
14. Women Empowerment and Livelihood Programme in Mid-Gangetic Plain (Priyadarshini).
15. Women Helpline Scheme.
16. Working Women Hostel (WWH).

Many programmes have been employed and routed by the government such as International Women's day, Mother's day etc. in order to bring consciousness in the society about the true rights and value of the women in the development of the nation.

Obj5. How Education has helped Women Empowerment.

The role of education is remarkable in developing the condition of the women. Education is considered as the greatest imperative tool for empowering women in society. It is not merely narrow to evolving the nature of an individual but also plays an imperative role in monetary, communal and national development.

The UNESCO put its exertion in order to attain the equal opportunity of education irrespective of age, gender, race or any other alteration in social and economic status. Education makes women conscious. As a result the women make effort to change their condition. Education brings change in society and culture. Its effect is seen in women also. Cultural and traditional values stand between girls and their prospects for education. Industrialized and technological change has opened vast opportunities of employment for women in different sectors of the national economy. Women today are playing huge roles as investors, consumers, entrepreneurs, scientists, lawyers and doctors. Economic independence of women is important as it enhances their ability to take decisions and exercise freedom of choice, action.

Major Findings:

The following are major findings of the study:-

1. This study shows that there are several legislatures and laws made by the Government both in central and state level. The Indian constitution delivers commanding directives for equivalence and privileges of women in its preamble, fundamental rights and duties and also provides for specific provisions for assenting action.
2. The present study shows that various NGOs and Government organizations have given opportunities through many policies, plans and strategies for women empowerment.
3. This study also shows that the Government has propelled various scheme which aims at making girls independent both socially and economically. Recently the Government has launched some schemes which aims at making girls independent both socially and economically.
4. This study shows that educated women have greater chance to achieve high empowerment level.

Suggestions:

While making the present study, the researchers have found themselves obliged in giving some suggestions for the betterment of women's life:-

1. Today we see an improved women's situation. They are encouraged to acquire education, take their own life decisions and much more. The schemes and programmes started by the government seem to be implemented but not in a proper manner.
2. should give more emphasis on female education to increase empowerment level of women.
3. Government must have a proper data, record and knowledge about all the citizens so that the people who are in need get benefitted and not others
4. Government should create more opportunity for women empowerment.
5. The Government should create awareness of women education and availability of support services among the women.
6. The Government and NGOs should arranged many awareness programme for women empowerment.
7. Women should be provided with proper wages and work at par with men so that their status can be elevated in the society.
8. More schemes related to women entrepreneurship could be great help to empower and uplift the status of women in India.
9. It is also necessary for Governments to invest more money in making the environment favourable and sensitive for girls.

CONCLUSIONS

Win conclusion, promoting human rights and gender equality is not only a matter of social justice, but it is also crucial for economic growth and development. When women are empowered, they can contribute to the economic growth of their communities, promote social cohesion, and ensure that their children receive an education and access to healthcare. Women's empowerment is presently a challenging position in India but changing of gender discriminations, history is now improving. Therefore we see that the women are an active agent for development, participation and guiding their own development.

Women education is essential in the 21st century for women empowerment. Education is an important tool that enables women and girls to participate in decisions that affect their lives and in improving their social status. Women empowerment makes them independent decision makers. By the women empowerment social, political and economic development of a country is possible. So, to develop a country woman should be empowered from all directions. For this the women should be provided more scopes and advantages. By promoting human rights and gender equality, we can create a

more just, equitable, and sustainable world for all individuals. Promoting gender equality is therefore essential for all individuals. Overall, women's representation in local governance is crucial for promoting gender equality, empowering women, and creating more inclusive and equitable communities.