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CHALLENGES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

Kale R. B.Department of Sociology, R. B. Attal College, Georai, Dist. Beed (M. S.)
revennathbkale@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The present paper analysis the status of women empowerment in India and highlight the challenges of women empowerment. Education among women is the most powerful way of attaining power in the society. Empowerment of women is basically the process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally under privileged ones, in the society. It is the process of protecting them against all forms of violence.

Keyword: Status of women, illiteracy, sex ratio.

INTRODUCTION

Empowerment is the process to help everyone to think, approve and act independently. This is the process which one can control the fate and life situation of one's life. Empowerment involves control over resources physical, social, intelligent, economic and ideology. Women's empowerment is vital for the development of society. Empowerment means being able to think and act independently, to choose and to have the power to fulfill their capabilities like the fulfil and equal member of society.

OBJECTIVES OF PAPER

1. To understand the meaning of Women Empowerment's
2. To Know the Challenges of Women Empowerment in India.

DATA COLLECTION

The secondary data has collected through reference books, journal, internet for this research paper.

DEFINITION OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

"Women's economic empowerment refers to the ability for women to enjoy their right to control and benefit from the resources, assets, income and their own time, as well as the ability to manage risk and improve their economic status and well-being."

THE TERM WOMEN EMPOWERMENT MEANS WOMEN (UNIFEM)

"Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relations and the ways in which these relations may be changed".

"Developing a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life. "

"Gaining the ability to generate choices exercise bargaining power".

"Developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change, to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally".

India is a patriarchic country. The status of woman is low in the society. Many social reformers tried to empower women. The constitution has given all the rights and freedom to her, many women movements have been trying to empower them, sometimes new regulations and rules are created for them. Some work is also done at government level, but Indian women could not be empowered totally. Definitely some changes have occurred, some women are working in male dominant fields, some have entered in politics, business also, but expected success did not come to them yet.

Mahatma Phule, Mahatma Gandhi, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar thought that, woman is great than man in so many ways. Naturally woman is powerful. She has many qualities than man like sensitiveness, patience, mercy, kindness, loving. She is mother. So how she is weak? Why there is need to empower her? Naturally woman is empowered but, the selfish patriarchal system has made woman wead in India. So many efforts failed to empower women in India. There are some challenges before women empowerment in India which are discussed below.

Religious mentality is one of the challenges before women empowerment. Sociologists proved many times that the influence of religion is more on women than men. There are many ways to exploit women in religion, even

though she obeys all the customs and rituals of it. The issue of Shani Mandir in Maharashtra is very recent. Women are not permitted on chauthara. Many women movements are fighting /conflict to enter women in temple. But many women opposed him

. Because such women became blind by religious blind faith, she does not understand that, she shoots oneself in the foot. When Dr. Babasaheb framed Hindu code Bill, women were in front to opposite it. So such religious mentality would not empower to women.

The lack of education is one important obstacle of women empowerment. If we glanced on Indian literacy rate since 1901, then we will find that women literacy rate was very low till today. According to census report 2011, the literacy rate is 74.0 out of which she is mother women literacy is 65.5 and male literacy is 82.1. Here it is clear that, there is gap between male and female literacy. The dropout rate of girls is also high due to marriage, money problems, mentality of rural people many girls leaved their education incomplete. The ratio of women in higher education is very low too. Women would not be empower only through literacy, it is needed to give quality education to them.

WOMEN LITERACY RATE IN INDIA

S. N.	Census year	Persons	Gap in Male- Female Literacy Rate (in %)
1.	1901	5.4	9.2
2.	1911	5.9	9.6
3.	1921	7.2	10.40
4.	1931	9.5	12.7
5.	1941	16.1	17.6
6.	1951	18.33	12.30
7.	1961	28.3	25.05
8.	1971	34.45	23.98
9.	1981	43.57	26.62
10.	1991	52.21	24.84
11.	2001	64.83	21.59
12.	2011	74.04	16.68

“Sources: census 2011, India 2016”

Women are themselves a challenge for women empowerment in India. Women preference to boy and neglect girls, some mother in-laws is responsible dowry. The quarrels between mother in-laws and daughters in laws are common in India. If it is not stopped, women could never be empowered. So women are needed to help each other and solve their problems and fight with male dominated mentality.

The male female ratio though improved over last few years is still far from satisfactory level, on average 940 women there are 1000 men. But the age group of child sex ratio (0-6 age group) is declined. This child sex ratio (914) is lowest since Independence. It was 927 in 2001 and 914 in 2011. In India, sex ratio in some states are as much lower as 877. There are the states where the rate of female feticides is higher.

Patriarchal family is another challenge for women empowerment. Such type of society closes the door of development for women. Woman is closed among four walls child and cooking are left to her. She has not decision power in family. She has not any economic rights. Her life depends on her husband or other male member. So the patriarchal society created inequality in society so eradicate it and establish equality in society.

There were some laws made for women empowerment in India like 73rd amendment, 33% and 55% reservation, Domestic Violence Act, etc. But such laws are poor, because many women become Sarpanch, President of Z.P. etc. but males use actual power and authority of women. They should be strictly prohibited. Otherwise women will be only puppets in the hands of men.

CONCLUSION

We can conclude here that, Woman is naturally empowered. She is great in ways than man. But the social system of India made weak her. Blind religious mentality is basic obstacle of women empowerment. Patriarchal family is also main challenge of women empowerment, because there are no any authorities to women to develop themselves. Education facilities could not reached to all people. Not only literate to women but provide quality education is necessary. Poor law system, traditions, woman herself, diversity of India these are also challenge of women empowerment. Without rationality, quality education, strict rules and regulations, matriarchal family we would not empowered women in India.

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