

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Since ancient period women have great importance in the society. In this era of Globalisation men and women, both are of equal importance and they also play a key role in the growth of the society and development of the country. In ancient time they also got the chance to get the education. When they will be educated then they will be aware of their rights. In modern era, many act wares came into existence for the upliftment of women. Education plays an important role for women empowerment and helps to outcome obstacles in their way of development. Actually, a family is the first school, where the mother is the first teacher. Many scholars and philosophers also advocated for the women education. Today so many women have touched the zenith (highest position in the society). So, women empowerment through education is the present need for the all-round development of the society.

KEYWORDS: *Ancient India, Education, Society, Status, Women Empowerment*

INTRODUCTION

It is said that wherever the woman is worshiped, the god dwells there [1]. From the Vedic era, women have great importance in society. Their power and position have changed a lot with time. There are lots of social and religious reasons which are responsible for the degradation of the position of women in society. Women face many obstacles in the journey of their progress. There are many families in India where women are not allowed to take education till now. They think women are born to take care of household matters and give birth to children. In this male dominating society, women have no power to take any decision independently. So it is very natural that they will be far away from the thinking of establishing themselves financially independent. In this twenty-first century, we can see a little change in the picture but it is not enough. For women progress and to establish equality between men and women in society, our government also takes many steps. In Article 15 of Indian Constitution where discrimination between men and women has been prohibited on the basis of gender [2]. But everything will go to vain if women do not conscious about their rights and this consciousness can come only through education.

In this era of globalization, men and women are considered as the two wheels of a car. Sound participation of both, men and women in every field like education, working sector, and the cultural sector is important for the growth of a society. A society can't move forward without having any one of them as a car can't run depending on one wheel.

At the present time, we can see there are many women who come forward to participate in the progress of society breaking the stereotype protocols of society that the place of the woman only at the behind of pardah. Today they are working

with men with the same attitude. In our present attempt, we discover how the light of education creates consciousness among women about their rights across the world and giving the birth of women empowerment.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In the Vedic period, there were many dignified women like Ghosha, Gargi, Maitreyi, Lopamudra, and Biswabara etc. come in limelight. They shared the same status with men in every field of life. Women were declared as the 'ardhangini' (better half) of men in this era. But the situation had turned a lot at the end phase of Vedic period. Women got prohibited from the studying Veda. [3]

We see in Smriti literature, Manu has declared that woman has no right to do anything independently at any stage of her life. Moreover, society thinks a woman has no need of Shastric education. Society in the time of Smriti thinks expertness in household matters is enough for women. Child marriage is a very popular and old practice in India from ancient time. If we study our ancient history then we understand that this practice is the main culprit against women education. [4] According to Manu, "by a girl, by young women, or even by an aged one, nothing must be done independently". [5]

Later, Gautam Buddha came forward to promote education among women. Women are not allowed to study Veda. But Goutam Buddha spreads His words among all irrespective of men and women. In that time, there are many women like Sanghamitra, daughter of Ashoka and Rajyashri, Sister of Harshavardhana who comes forward to promote the words of Buddha across the world. This time women were allowed to take education. In the history of the Buddhist period, we find the name of many female Buddhist writers of that time. [6]

Women education, independence of women and their right of leading life on their own wish have changed with time. Sometimes, in our society women treated as the goddess and sometimes she becomes the victim of male domination. If we look back, we see woman enjoys power, position, and respect in society those eras when they are allowed for education. Above mentioned various phases of ancient India are the proof of our statement. Moreover, India is a superstitious country. Various kinds of superstitions related to woman education prevent her from taking education.

In the ninetieth century, when India comes in touch of colonial powers, they realize the importance of women freedom. Hindu Code Bill, Hindu Marriage Act, Widow-remarriage Act, Hindu Succession Act, Sharda Act, Hindu Women Property Rights Act and Panchayat Raj Act etc. had played an important role in promoting women-empowerment. There is an urgent need to encourage all-round development of women in India. Empowerment of women is inevitable in today's global scenario and it is desirable to actively strive by everyone for achieving this goal.

ROLE OF EDUCATION

Education has played an important role in women empowerment and helps to overcome obstacles in its path. It is very necessary to bring women under the light of education to improve the overall situation. Parents especially mother is the first teacher of a child. Therefore it is very important being educated for a mother for the well bringing of a child.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Jagjivan Ram has said in an all-India meeting – "The coming generations will be

well-educated if you give education to your daughter because the child's primary school is home and Mother is the first teacher." [7]

A woman is the basis of society, educating her is to educate the entire society. Napoleon had said – "Give me educated mother's, I will build an educated nation." [8]

Only educated women can take advantage of the rights constructed for their protection. Due to the lack of education, women often misunderstand their rights. Thus, education has an important role in the task of realizing the movement of women empowerment. For this, there is a need to increase women literacy, public education of girls, prevention of girls' abandonment and special incentives for girl's education. Through them, the development of women will increase and they will be able to oppose their atrocities against their rights.

A WORLDWIDE DEMAND OF EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Today, there is a need for women's empowerment not only in India but also in the whole world. The need for women's empowerment and barriers to its path is not only the problem of India but almost all countries of the world regardless developed, underdeveloped and undeveloped countries also. The dimensions of this unfortunate problem can vary among different nations and societies, but the empowerment of women is a worldwide demand of the present time. In the context of the Indian environment, their empowerment is necessary to ensure the full and proper role of women in the democratic national life. Organizations such as International Women's Year (1975), SAARC Girl's Year (1990) and the SAARC Girl's Decade (1991-2000) are indicative of the worldwide awareness in this direction. In the representation submitted by women's status committee by the Government of India, various measures such as age limit for women in jobs and duration of working hours, hostels for working women, the constitution of National Commission for Women, girl's prosperity plan, in the direction of empowerment of women Asking for the effort. Only on giving proper guidance to women empowerment, women can be transformed into such a great and powerful power that can make an optimum contribution in society and national development.

RIGHT USE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

At present, women have progressed by taking education. Duties and responsibilities of women are very meaningful and great. She is moving forward at a rapid pace. Several prominent women like Indira Gandhi, Pratibha Patil, Mayawati, Mahadevi Verma, Sunita Williams, Kalpana Chawla, Anna George, Kiran Bedi, Sania Mirza, Saina Nehwal, Margaret Thatcher, Hillary Clinton etc. are the names.

Today women are beginning to understand their rights and are opposing the atrocities like dowry etc. But women use their rights as a shield for their protection; they don't use their rights as a sword. They should also keep this fact in their mind that the women's power should not be wasted in kitty parties and clubs or observation of without head-footed television serials, but it should be used in useful works. Undoubtedly it is good to have knowledge, intellectualism, and differentiation, but if they do not make life full of passion, they do not have any significance.

During the efforts of women empowerment, it has to be noted on this occasion that empowerment of women should not be focused only on the prosperity of the rich or the so-called upper classes and all women should have equal economic- social status to get their share of rights. The significance of empowerment of women lies in efforts to maximize cooperation in the uplifting of family, society, and nation. For this, women will have to adopt the eternal obligation of the author of the lofty qualities of human life with a productive approach.

DIMENSIONS OF FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment in Family

First step of women empowerment start in their families. In this twenty-first century, we can see treatment towards women and men is different in many families. People think the birth of a boy is profitable for them and they think girls are the burden. At first, we should change this mentality. We should start respect women as our mother, wife daughter and sister at first then we can respect her as a separate identity. We should pay attention and give importance to their words and contribution to the family.

Empowerment in Society

We should not discriminate between men and women in the working field and educational field etc. Men and women have an equal right to take education, to get a job. There are families in India think only boys have the right of having education and doing jobs. We should come out from this mentality barrier and let women involve more in social fields.

Empowerment in Economic

we should generate financial-consciousness among women. In our country, women are not conscious of the financial independency they don't realize the importance of financial freedom. There are many women who earn money but have no idea what to do with this money. They spend their entire money in the well bringing of families or they handover the money on their men's hand. Women should change their mentality and understand the importance of money. Money is the key to earning respect. It is high time to understand that women are not born to control by men in every stage of life.

Empowerment in Education

Educational empowerment can be said to be the basis of all the dimensions of women's empowerment, through which can be possible to educate women and make them active, and effective in different areas.

Empowerment in Political Field

This means that not only is the division of women in politics to the counterpart of men but to improve the status of women through policies made at the level of political governance and government regulations, statues and ordinances and decisions.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

Women worship in India as a Durga, Kali, Lakshmi and Saraswati which are the symbol of power, bravery, glory, and knowledge. In Indian, men and women are considered as the complement of each other. Without one the other is incomplete.

In a short writing entitled *The Mother* Sri Aurobindo described the personalities of her- “Four great Aspects of the Mother, four of her leading Powers and Personalities have stood in front in her guidance of this Universe and in her dealings with the terrestrial play. One is her personality of calm wideness and comprehending wisdom and tranquil benignity and inexhaustible compassion and sovereign and surpassing majesty and all-ruling greatness. Another embodies her power of splendid strength and irresistible passion, her warrior mood, her overwhelming will, her impetuous swiftness, and world-shaking force. A third is vivid and sweet and wonderful with her deep secret of beauty and harmony and fine rhythm, her intricate and subtle opulence, her compelling attraction and captivating grace. The fourth is equipped with her close and profound capacity of intimate knowledge and careful flawless work and quiet and exact perfection in all things. Wisdom, Strength, Harmony, Perfection are their several attributes and it is these powers that they bring with them into the world. . . to four we give the four great names Maheshwari, Mahakali, Mahalakshmi, Mahasaraswati. ” [9]

Even after so many efforts, women in India are still worried today. Female feticide continues to increase. Due to the lack of active involvement in female infanticide, dowry harassment, female illiteracy, negative attitude towards female education, sexual harassment, neglect in the family, lack of employment opportunities, lack of active participation in social and political activities, women’s status is still under threat

CONCLUSIONS

Today women are using female empowerment as a weapon against men, so there is a need to make women empowerment efforts in mind only with this strict fact about the physical body organization of women and men. There is no doubt that through education, both men and women are made eligible to know and follow their own customs duty. Therefore, it is necessary for society to promote girls and women by providing the right type of education and training. We need to prepare women who think about meditation, duty, and authority and advance the country and society on the path of progress. Only women skilled in their workplaces and providing them with the proper opportunities to showcase their talent can be a welfare of family, society, and nation.

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