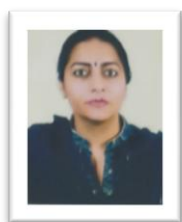


Exploring Ways for Social Inclusion of Women in Northern India



Anjali Sharma

Research Scholar,
Department of Economics
University of Jammu,
Jammu



Renu Jamwal

Assistant Professor,
The Law School,
University of Jammu,
Jammu

Abstract

Women have always been the strong ones of the world and they have proven that by contributing 17 percent to India's GDP, although the participation is very low. A report by World Bank states that India ranks 120th among 131 nations in women workforce. Therefore the need of hour is to increase women participation (i.e. social inclusion) in all spheres of the country. Social Inclusion has evolved as an ideal for the policy of economic development of any nation. Many efforts have been made to bring social inclusion in society, still women are facing social exclusion in different spheres of life, and be it political (as women participation is very low in parliament i.e. 10 percent), social (attendance of secondary education is 26.6 percent), economy (women labour force is 28.8 percent). This paper evaluates three important things in this regard a.) To evaluate major obstacles in the pathway for social inclusion of women in northern states b.) Is there any relationship between economic development and women empowerment and c.) To explore the ways for social inclusion of women.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Social Inclusion, Social Exclusion Economic Development.

Introduction

Women constitute 48.5 percent of our country and their contribution to our economy is just 17 percent whereas the contribution of women to GDP in our neighbour countries is very high for eg. In China (41 percent), Sub-Saharan (39 percent), Latin America (33 percent) and the global average of women contribution to GDP is 37 percent. We need to create conditions for more and more women participation into the workforce. There must be efforts to ensure appropriate, encouraging and safe conditions at home, society, and at the work place to enhance the percentage of working women. Therefore there is a need to redefine status of women with help of women empowerment. According to UNDP (1995), women empowerment includes the expansion of choices for women and an increase of ability to exercise those choices when women are empowered. Duflo(2012) in his study revealed that there is a positive relationship between women empowerment and economic development. Development consists of the removal of various types of unfreedoms that leave people with little choice and little opportunity of exercising their reasoned agency. (Sen,1999). Gender Equality and women empowerment are the cornerstones for the development of the country. Gender equality demands the empowerment of women, with a focus on identifying and redressing power imbalances and giving women more autonomy to manage their own lives. When women are empowered, the whole family benefit, thus benefiting the society as a whole and these benefits often have a ripple effect on future generations.

The most influential evidence on the importance of women to economic development has come from research used to support the World Bank's 'Gender Mainstreaming Strategy' launched in 2001 (Dollar and Gatti 1999; Klasen 1999). This research highlighted that societies that discriminate by gender tend to experience less rapid economic growth and poverty reduction than societies that treat males and females more equally, and that social gender disparities produce economically inefficient outcomes (World Bank 2001a). The primary pathways through which gender systems affect growth are by influencing the productivity of labour and the allocative efficiency of the economy (World Bank 2002). In terms of productivity, for example, if the access of women farmers to productive inputs and human capital were on a par with men's access, total agricultural output could increase by an estimated 6 to 20 percent (World Bank 2001b). In terms of allocative efficiency, while increases in household income are generally associated with reduced child mortality risks, the

marginal impact is almost 20 times as large if the income is in the hands of the mother rather than the father (WBGDG 2003).

Promoting social inclusion in society is an active endeavor in public policy in the modern world (Oxoby 2009). Social inclusion refers to access to favorable opportunities in society to enhance one's life chances (Kelly 2010). Such opportunities comprise employment, housing, education, social services, and social protection, services, and social protection (Smyth 2008). Social inclusion is an integral part of—and vital to—achieving the World Bank Group's twin goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. The World Bank Group defines social inclusion as: a.) The process of improving the terms for individuals and groups to take part in society, and b.) The process of improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity to take part in society.

Promoting and ensuring gender equality and empowering rural women through decent work and productive employment, not only contributes to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, but also enhances the effectiveness of poverty reduction and food security initiatives, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Objectives of the Study

1. Obstacles in pathway of social inclusion of women in northern states.
2. Relationship between Economic Development and Women Empowerment.

Trend in Major Crimes Committed Against Women (Table 1)

Crime Heads	2014	2015	2016	%Increase in share in 2016	%Increase in last 1 year
Years					
Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)	36735	34651	38947	11%	12%
Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec.363 to 373 IPC)	57311	59277	64519	19%	9%
Cruelty by Husband and Relatives (Sec.498-A IPC)	122877	113403	110378	33%	-3%
Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (Sec.354 IPC)	82235	82422	84746	25%	3%
Insult to the modesty of women (Sec.509 IPC)	9735	8685	7305	2%	-16%
Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	10050	9894	9683	3%	-2%
Total Crime Against Women	337922	327394	338954	100%	4%
*Total Cognizable Crimes Under IPC + SLL	4571663	4710676	4831515		3%
% Crime Against Women to Total Crime	7%	7%	7%		

Source: Crime in India 2016, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

IPC: Indian Penal Code & SLL: Special and Local Laws

* Total includes crimes under other crime heads also, therefore total may not tally.

Interpretation

Violence or crime against women can be domestic as well as public, physical, emotional or mental. Fear of violence in their mind may directly or indirectly deter their participation in various social and economic activities. In 2016, 7% of the total crimes reported are the crimes categorized as 'crime against women'. Among the crime against women 'Cruelty by Husband and relatives' has the highest share (33%) followed by 'Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (25%) in the Table 1. During the year

3. To find different ways for social inclusion of women.

Methodology and Database

For the present paper and for the purpose of study data have been collected from secondary sources. Necessary secondary data on conceptual frame work and review of literature are collected from Journals, Magazines, Newsletters, Newspapers, Periodicals, Reference Books, including the reports and documents of Ministry of Human Resource Development, various regulatory bodies like National Sample Survey Organization, Five Year plan documents, Office of Registrar General of India, Report of Census of India etc. and various other publications. Statistical methods were used for the determination of various aspects of inequalities and empowerment of women.

Obstacles

Social factors limit women's rights and engagement in the workplace. Religion still has a key role to play in determining gender norms in many cultures and fundamentalist views across the spectrum of religions threaten or deny women's rights, including rights related to sex and sexualities, and to mobility and employment. Economic fundamentalism, policies and practices that privilege profits over people, also deny women their rights as workers and to work. While political culture is important for bringing change, women continue to have a limited voice at the local and national levels, and women are not able to fully participate in formal systems of power.

2016 there was 12 % increase in Rape crimes, 9% increase in kidnapping and abduction, but the cruelty by husband and relatives as well as Insult to the modesty of women and dowry prohibition act decreased by 3%, 16% and 2% respectively.

Shrinkhla Ek Shodhparak Vaicharik Patrika

Table 2
State-wise Rate of Incidence (per lac women) of Various Crimes Committed against Women during 2016

State	Rates of Incidence of Crimes								Incidence of crimes		% of All India Crime against Women	% of Crime against women to Total Crime within State
	Rape	Kidnapping & Abduction	Dowry deaths	Cruelty by husband & Relatives	Assault with intent to outrage her modesty	Insult to modesty	Dowry Prohibition Act	Total crimes against women	Total crimes against women	Total cognizable crimes		
Punjab	6.2	9.0	0.6	11.7	7.6	0.1	0.0	38.0	5105	57739	2%	9%
Haryana	9.4	21.3	2.1	26.2	14.7	1.0	0.1	77.8	9839	143111	3%	7%
UP	4.6	12.5	2.4	10.8	10.9	0.0	2.8	47.5	49262	494025	15%	10%
Bihar	2.0	10.9	2.0	7.5	0.6	0.3	2.1	26.6	13400	189696	4 %	7%
Uttarakand	6.4	7.2	1.1	7.5	6.6	0.1	0.5	30.4	1588	16074	0%	10%
H.P	7.3	5.8	0.1	6.2	11.8	1.4	0.0	35.2	1222	17249	0%	7%
J&K	4.3	13.0	0.1	5.7	20.7	2.6	0.0	47.8	2850	26624	1%	11%
Rajasthan	10.4	11.5	1.3	39.4	13.8	0.0	0.0	78.3	27422	251147	8%	11%

Source: Crime in India 2016, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Interpretation

In the Above table 2 represents the state wise rate of incidence of various crimes committed against women in the northern states during 2016. These eight states shows different rate of incidence of crimes. The rate of incidence of rape was highest in Rajasthan (i.e. 10.4), kidnapping and abduction is highest in Haryana (i.e. 21.3), Dowry deaths are highest in U.P (i.e. 2.4), Cruelty by husband & Relatives is highest in Rajasthan (i.e. 39.4) followed by Haryana (i.e.26.2), Assault with intent to outrage her modesty is highest in J&K (i.e. 20.7) followed by Haryana (i.e. 14.7), Insult to modesty is highest in J&K (i.e. 2.6), Dowry Prohibition Act is highest in U.P (i.e. 2.8). The overall percentage of "All India Crime against Women" is highest in U.P (i.e. 15%) followed by Rajasthan (i.e. 8%). And percentage of Crime against women to Total Crime within State is highest in J&K and Rajasthan (i.e. 11%) followed by U.P and Uttarakand (i.e. 10%).

Table 3
Disposal of cases of Crime Committed Against Women by Police and Courts During 2016

Crime Head	Cases Reported during the year	% Disposed of total cases for Investigation by Police	Cases Sent for Trial during the Year	% cases convicted of total no. of cases for trial
Rape	38947	70%	33628	3.1%
Attempt to commit Rape	5729	73%	4290	2.1%
Kidnapping & Abduction of Women *	64519	60%	29084	1.8%
Dowry Deaths	7621	67%	7067	3.0%
Assault on Women with intent to outrage her Modesty	84746	71%	71638	2.2%
Insult to the Modesty of Women	7305	62%	6336	2.0%
Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives	110378	68%	91810	1.0%
Abetment of Suicides of Women	4466	63%	3872	1.5%
Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	9683	65%	8455	1.3%
Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986	38	73%	54	2.9%
Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005	437	75%	403	1.9%
Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (Women Cases only)	2214	60%	1921	3.7%
Total Crimes against Women #	338954	67%	260304	1.7%

Source: Crime in India 2016, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

* Includes cases of importation of girls from foreign countries (Section 366B IPC)

includes other crimes, therefore total varies.

Interpretation

Table 3 represents the disposal of cases of crime committed against women by Police and Courts during the year 2016. Percentage of Disposed of total cases for Investigation by Police was 67% and cases reported during the year were 338954. Percentage of cases convicted of total number of cases for trial was 3.1% where as cases sent for trial during the year were 260304. But the percentage of disposed cases by police was more under protection of women from domestic violence act (i.e. 75%) and by court was under Rape head (i.e. 3.1%). Cases reported by police during the year were highest in Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives (i.e. 110378) and by court was Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives (i.e. 91810).

Few More Constraints

1. Social- According to UNICEF (United Nation Children's Fund), 47% of girls are married by 18 years of age, and 18% are married by 15 years of age. These marriages are often performed without the consent of the girls involved in the marriage.
2. Political- Available Statistics reveals that India has witnessed 16 General elections to the Lok Sabha of Nation's Parliament so far. As in January 2015, India, the world's largest democracy, has only 65 women representatives out of 542 members in Lok Sabha, while there are 31 female representatives in the 242 member Rajya Sabha and at present, 12.24% seats of Indian Parliament is held by women. According to data released by Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU),

India ranks 115 in the World for proportion of National Parliament seats held by Women. Just 22 per cent of all parliamentarians are women and fewer than 25 of the world's 196 countries have a woman leader. Around the world, women are underrepresented as voters and as leaders, whether in national, regional or local government. Even at the community level, women's voices are not heard. Obstacles to Political Participation are many, but some of the most obvious ones are lack of public support even in the most developed democracies coupled with the lack of political party support; entrenched traditional views; lack of confidence; lack of financial means; lack of capacity building opportunities; lack of access to technology; and the fact that it is often physically unsafe to be part of political processes. During mentorship on political participation for young women before the elections some of the women expressed worries that, political thuggery and violence is a major concern for them in their path to political heights.

3. Economic - Women workers face serious problems and constraints related to work such as lack of continuity, insecurity, wage discrimination, unhealthy job relationship, absence of medical and accident care etc. These are the reason leading to less participation of women in economic spheres.
4. Financial – A large number of girls/women are not able to get proper education because of lack of financial facilities. Poverty is deep-rooted evil present in our society due to which women in rural areas are lagging behind because of lesser basic education.
5. Women are concentrated in sectors marked by low productivity for example; over 78 per cent of the female workforce is engaged in "traditional" industries (agriculture, tobacco products, private households, wood and wood products) which also registered the lowest average gross value added per worker. The percentages of women in industries with high productivity, such as banking and financial intermediation, air transport, computer and related activities, and real estate activities were very low. The reason behind low productivity is women spend as much as time as men in market work but women earn between 10 and 30 % less than men. (ILO Data,) In 2010, women accounted for just below 12% of board members in the largest publicly listed companies in the European Union, and Just over 3% on board chairs”.

Need for Women Empowerment

There is a great need for Women Empowerment because of the following reason:

1. India is among the top most countries of street harassment and public violence against women.
 - a.) 79% of women living in the cities of India
 - b.) 86% in Thailand
 - c.) 89% in Brazil
 - d.) 75% in London.

This staggering data is revealed by The Stop Street

Harassment study, “Statistics– The Prevalence of Street Harassment”. These high rates of street harassment prove that women are treated as inferior. Women face serious insults in the streets every day including myself. In addition to street harassment, sexual harassment is a grave problem.

2. Nearly 40,000 girls are wed before 18. In 36% of cases, the girls are younger than fifteen. Child marriages take away the childhoods of little girls and push them into the responsibilities of married life. These young brides cannot continue their education, they cannot enjoy their childhood, and they have more health complications and high maternal mortality during childbirth. In India, if this issue is not addressed, more than one hundred and forty million girls will become child brides by the year 2020. Early marriages are forced marriages. Child marriages hold a larger risk of sexual abuse and domestic violence than adult marriages. We need women's empowerment because girls have fewer opportunities to receive an education in developing countries due to limited resources and gender parity. Providing education to girls will help to end vicious cycles of poverty. Therefore a strong need for women empowerment is required to provide women at least with the fewer opportunities to improve their standard of living.
3. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that if female farmers had the same access to productive resources as male farmers, they could increase the yield on their farms by 20 to 30%, raising total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5 to 4%, thereby contributing to both food security and economic growth.

Relationship between Economic Development and Women Empowerment

“You can tell the condition of nation by looking the status of the women” –

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

Women contribute half of the humankind and 40% of the Global workforce and they are growing in different sectors and contributing to country's GDP as workers, entrepreneurs and service providers. There is a bidirectional relationship between economic development and women's empowerment defined as improving the ability of women to access the constituent of development. (Rao, 2014) According to NASSCOM'S IT-BPM Sector in India 'Strategic Review 2015', this industry contributes a staggering 9.5% to the national GDP and employs more than 1.2 million women. Some of the biggest multinational technology firms, including IBM India and HP, are headed by women.

Women's participation rate in the agricultural sectors is about 47% in tea plantations, 46.84% in cotton cultivation, 45.43% growing oil seeds and 39.13% in vegetable production. While these crops require labour-intensive work, the work is considered quite unskilled. Women also heavily participate in ancillary agricultural activities. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, Indian women represented a share of 21% and 24% of all fishers

and fish farmers, respectively. The high growth figures of 8 to 9 percent of Indian economy depend basically on high rates of savings and capital formation. It is remarkable that India could reach a saving rate of 33 percent of its GDP of which 70 percent comes from household saving, 20 percent from private corporate sector and rest 10 percent from public sector undertakings. Household saving in the country is all due to women as it is part of the culture of the Indian society to save. Nearly 4,400 start-ups, fewer than one in 10 were founded by women, according to industry body NASSCOM. In the words of the CEO of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, "India can grow at over 10-11% if we include women in the economic process. They can contribute to building new businesses – from traditional industry to startups."

Suggestions

The success of the process of empowerment depends on mutual cooperation of both within and outside the four walls. The society should feel its importance of women empowerment and they can change the world by providing with all possible modes to ensure a smooth and productive process of all round development. One more important ingredient can serve the purpose that is Education, being the most basic step towards this objective, it is essential to continue the initiatives directed to improve the situation of participation in all levels of education by both genders.

1. Creation of safe, trusted space for women to gather and learn about issues like gender equity, women's rights, or health.
2. Ensuring women participation in different kinds of job with assurance of safety. For example, in northern India participation of women as entrepreneur, market or vegetable vendors, public transporter (Drivers and conductor) is very less. As women in other corner of our country (Southern India) are performing these jobs with no constraints.
3. One of the most important factors that are necessary to increase women participation is Support by the family. Women can conquer and lead the world with more efficiency.
4. Teach job skills to women and seed businesses. Women should be engaged in learning beekeeping, mushroom farming, sewing, and other income-generating skills through training programs.
5. Women should be encouraged to actively participate as public leaders. Women rarely hold public leadership roles; government should provide leadership training for women to increase their presence in the public sphere.
6. Although various policies and self help groups (SHGs) are available by the government to help women entrepreneurs but performance of these SHGs is not up to the mark. Therefore government needs to implement these policies

more effectively.

7. To establish more NGOs to educate and empower women especially in rural areas where women are not aware about their basic legal rights. Moreover, a large number of NGOs are established by government but NGOs are not giving financial encouragement to girls. To minimize the drop-outs among girls, the government have launched many scholarships and other educational schemes but effective implementation is required.

References

1. Dollar, D and Gatti, R. (1999) "Gender Inequality, Income, and Growth: Are Good Times Good for Women?", *Gender and Development Working Papers*, No. 1
2. Duflo, Esther (2012) "Women Empowerment and Economic Development", *Journal of Economic Literature*, 50(4), 1051-1076.
3. Kelly, L. (2010). "Social inclusion through sports-based interventions?" *Critical Social Policy*, 31(1), 126-150.
4. Klasen, S. (1999) "Does Gender Inequality Reduce Growth and Development? Evidence from Cross Country Regressions", *Gender and Development Working Papers* No. 7
5. Mandhre,Prakhar (2016) "A review on :Role of the women in Indian Economy", *I J R T E R Special Issue*
6. WBGDG.(2003) "Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals", *World Bank Gender and Development Group*
7. World Bank. *Social Protection Strategy: From Safety Net to Springboard*, Washington DC:World Bank, 2001a.
8. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/am307e/am307e00.pdf>
9. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_agriculture_in_India
10. <http://www.makeinindia.com/article/-/v/make-in-india-women-central-to-india-s-growth-story>
11. Naz, Farida. (2018) "Why do we need women's empowerment" data retrieved on 8th April 2018 from <https://voicesandvisionsjournal.com/2017/04/16/why-do-we-need-womens-empowerment-a-personal-manifesto/>
12. Sen, A. (1999) "Development As Freedom" Oxford: Oxford University Press
13. Oxoby, R. (2009). "Understanding social inclusion, social cohesion, and social capital", *International Journal of Social Economics*, 36(12), 1133-1152
14. Rao, (2014)
15. Smyth, P. (2008). "Closing the gap? The role of wages, welfare and industry policy in promoting social inclusion", *Journal of Industrial Relations*, 50(4), 647-663