

Women Empowerment: An Emergent Issue



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Abstract

In dynamic period, women's plays distinct role in driving the economy of a country. Liberalization, globalization, privatization and intense competition have identified necessity for women empowerment in the nation. Women empowerment is a chief aim of any development projects of a nation for enhancing growth, minimizing poverty, eliminating discrimination and promotes better quality of lives to women's. Extremely capable and competent individuals are required in developing and developed nations so that quickly rises development growth. Most of women's are deprive from their rights and powers in a society. Therefore, providing equal status in the society, women needs to be empowered and creates awareness among them. The contradictory state that women's sometimes considered as Goddess and at other times, treated as a slave. Present study shows aspects of women empowerment and for enhancing status of women various efforts or programs, special laws, national policies, constitutional provisions etc. introduced by government of India.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, India Government.

Introduction

In today's competitive scenario, women empowerment becomes a prominent issue for the inclusive growth of the country. Human resource is the most significant asset of any country for its rapid growth and women plays a significant role. But due to country customs or trades, full utilization of human resource is not possible. Total parts of the economic activities are done by only majority of male. So women empowerment is a fiery matter across the world.

India is the second largest population country out of which women comprise 48.5% of the population. Then the need arise to empower the women for competitive advantage of the country. The word empowerment means "authority or power given to someone to do something, the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.

The concept of women's empowerment was familiarized in 1985, at the UN's third world conference on women. It defines "as a redistribution of social and economic powers and control of resources in favor of women".The meaning of "women empowerment is the process by which women gain power and control over their own lives and acquire the ability to make strategic choices". Empowered women's partakes in decision making regarding economic life throughout all areas, important to shapes turbidly economies, accomplish internationally decided targets for growth and advances the quality of life for female, male, families as well as communities. The Inter-American Development Bank (2010) defined "women's empowerment in terms of 'expanding the rights, resources, and capacity of women to make decisions and act independently in social, economic, and political spheres".Women's are energetically takes part in educational institution, sports, politics, science and any other fields but the proportion of women empowerment is not satisfactory as per the expect ancy related to advanced countries.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, chairman of the constitution drafting committee, gave assertion "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have made".Women are being adored such as "LAXMI MAA" (goddess of wealth), "SARSWATI MAA" (for wisdom), "DURGA MAA" (for power) in the "Vedas Purana" of Indian culture.

Some examples of women empowerment- Indira Gandhi, Kalpana Chawla, Arundhati Bhattacharya (chief managing director of State Bank of

India), Hina Jaiswal (First Women Indian Flight Engineer), Dipa Karmakar (first female Indian gymnast), P.T Usha, Sania Nehwal, P.V. Sindhu, Mary Kom (famous female players), Bachendri Pal (first Indian woman reach Mount Everest) etc. or any more in different fields.

It is most important for the pleasant-sounding growth and enlargement of the country that women's should stand with men or join shoulder to shoulder and hand to hand for enhancing the competitive position of the country.

Review of Literature

Khatri (2016) investigated the role of education toward women empowerment in India. It was concluded that education play a prominent role for enhancing women empowerment and also have a positive effect on women empowerment. Therefore, by providing education to women and girls we can easily achieve economic growth and overall development of nation.

Varghese et al. (2016) conducted a study role of business & Indian economy in empowering women. The data was collected for this study from secondary sources. It was concluded that due to continuous increasing the involvement of women in business they can enrich her & balance their life financially & socially stress free. Women's are able to capture recognition in the society and their status and position by their knowledge, skills, potentialities and education.

Shettar (2015) conducted a study on issues and challenges of Women Empowerment in India. The data for this study collected from secondary sources like world economic forum etc. It was concluded that education, employment and change in social attitude are vital factors for enhancing women empowerment. Society must initiates that there is no any type of discrimination regarding women and they have prospects of independently decision making and involved in all events of social, political etc. with the feeling of equality and fairness.

Srinivasa & Siddegowda (2015) examined recent trends in women empowerment: an analysis. It was concluded that those countries and companies that promote gender equality at all levels, progress is fast and far insights. Besides this, in present era, focus on women empowerment is utmost or essence for progress of any country (i.e. political empowerment, physical empowerment, legal empowerment, social empowerment, spiritual empowerment etc.). There are so many examples that show women also have more creativity power or capability than male.

Nimbalkar & Berad (2014) explored Role of Information Technology for Promoting Women Empowerment Especially with reference to Members of Self Help Groups. It was concluded that information technology has significant impact on women's empowerment. Women needs to have an enough knowledge by means of information technology exclusively regarding economic conditions, political, social, Government schemes regarding entrepreneurship or various subsidies for different projects etc. for upliftment of women's contribution in

the rapid social as well as economic development of the nation.

Sohail (2014) revealed the women empowerment and economic development-an exploratory study. The data was collected from 30 women (10 women from each sector – Banking, Education and Transport) in Pakistan through questionnaire. Percentage method was used to find out the relationship between women empowerment and economic development. It was concluded that economically empowered women, which may lead to economic development and helps in sustaining the competitive advantage.

Chakravarty (2013) investigated the impact of SHGs (self help groups) on women empowerment and determine the current status of SHGs. It was concluded women's of SHGs felt that they has enjoyed their role at home from the family members due to they have become income earner and augment to the family income. Also fulfill their basic needs for their living. Really SHGs makes dramatic changes among women's and also achieve different status in the society.

Aruna & Jyothirmayi (2011) explored the role of microfinance in women empowerment. A sample was collected from 300 respondents of self help group (150 female who availed microfinance loan and 150 who were not availed microfinance loan). It was concluded that microfinance has a significant and positive impact in tremendous growth of women empowerment. Today's microfinance plays a crucial role in upliftment of every sector of economic activities and rising the living standard of each class of society.

Sarumathi & Mohan (2011) conducted a study on role of micro finance in women empowerment. It was concluded that microfinance transported psychological and societal empowerment than economic empowerment. Also, the effect of micro finance considerable in carrying integrity, courage, empowerment and skill development.

Objective of the Study

The key purpose of this article is to assess and deliberate the women empowerment programs and constitutional provisions regarding women's in India started by the Government.

Various requirements of women empowerment programs. These are as following

1. To create analytic, competitiveness and dynamic.
2. To curb gap between males and females and rising standard living of women.
3. To gaining advantage from women's talents, skills, knowledge and innovative ideas.
4. Increasing women's self-ones.
5. Power to determine choices among various alternatives.
6. Authority to access opportunities and resources for taking proper decisions.
7. To generate awareness amid women's for ambitious and looks vision for advancement.
8. To empowers women for controlling their personal lives, both inside and outdoor the home.

9. Enhancing womenself-confidence and self-esteem.
10. Rising competency level among women's.
11. For developing women entrepreneurs.
12. For curbing discrimination against women partakes in various activities of the economy.

Government of India have taken various remarkable initiatives on this nascent matter are as follows

Well education, opportunities for employment in both sectors public as well as private sector and shifting perception of nation towards women's will

pursue their empowerment. Tutoring of women would be fore most nation wide importance. Enhancing of women empowerment will go for enlightening the wellbeing and excellence life of women's and their families which leads to faster development of nation as well as society.

However, issues or challenges such as education, information, atmosphere, deficiency of health and safety along with lack of power etc. should be especially standardized for achieving anticipated consequences for the up liftment of women.

<p>Ministry of Women and Child Development</p>	<p>This step was taken in 1985 by Ministry of Human Resource Development for pushing women and children development in the nation. In the year of 2006, the specific department has been provides a ministry standing laterally with the administration of framing strategies, rules, devices, campaigns and programs, amends regulation, laws synchronizing and supervising efforts of both government and non-government establishments that are working in the women and child development.</p> <p>Few steps are Integrated Child Development Services provides a comprehensive package arrangement facilities like periodically health checks up, additional diet and vaccination etc. Women's fitness is an component of women's empowerment for rising empowers among them. Provides health and protection to women's continuously by ministry working for them keeping in view their importance.</p>
<p>Swayamsidha Program</p>	<p>This program was implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development It is vast cohesive step initiated for the women's empowerment at the whole total of Rs. 116.30 crores. Main objective of this scheme is to establishments of women self- help groups' for empowering them. It comprises growth of all women's urban as well as rural.The exact program working on the advantage of about 9,30,000 women with the planning of up to 26,500 village societies, 53000 self -help groups along with 650 block societies. Women's knowledge, confidence, ability, skills and capability, awareness among them have been expressively enlarged.</p>
<p>National Commission for Women</p>	<p>National commission for women was introduced in 1992, statutory body of the Indian government. Its working on suggesting the government on all policies or strategies experience disturbing women. But the main goal of this body is to express the women's rights and to grants or rises a voice for their issues and matters. The area focused in this scheme like equal representation for women in jobs, curb the exploitation of women, dowry or any abuses against women.</p>
<p>National Mission for Empowerment of Women</p>	<p>It was introduced in 2010 by India government on the event of International Women'. The main objective of enhancing all over procedures, encouraging the inclusive development of women.</p> <p>The specific commission has the training for the enhancing the significant inter-sector merging along with simplifying the process of organizing the social and economic expansion wellbeing plans for the women across departments and ministries. Single Window facility was provided by this scheme.</p> <p>Various services are introduced to accomplish women empowerment task like education and skill development, vocational training, Poverty Alleviation and Economic Empowerment of Women, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme, Short Stay Home for Women and Girls (SSH), Mid-Day Meal etc.</p>

Source: website of HRD ministry

Current schemes for women empowerment introduced by Government of India are as follows:

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao

This scheme was implemented in January 2015. This step is taken by government for upliftment of in all sectors by confirming safety and existence of the girl child in bright of the falling child gender proportion. This step have gains fruitful results.

Sukanya Samriddhi Account

It was introduced in January 2015. This scheme is further extend above plan. Main focus on serving families monetarily for their daughter's

schooling, training and marriage expenditures. And encouraging people for saving more and more girl child.

One Stop Center Scheme

It was launched in April 2015. Presently, women facing exploitation, torture and violence across all field in any form i.e. mental, physically, sexual or emotional abuse. It's a chief obligation of country's government to grants a protective and fair environment to its citizen. It takes immediate actions, gives response, medical facility and legal, counselling or psychological aid to victim women and girls.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

It was introduced in March 2016. The aim of yojana to retain each family nourished and serving free LPG linkage to women's lower poverty line. It has two objective first, work for upgrading of females by cultivating their fitness, forcing them stay from burn smoke and dirt, second save non-renewable means used for fire by women's which are scarce in nature. Most of households are benefitted on large scale by this scheme.

Mahila E-Haat

It was launched in March 2016. Concentrate on permitting women entrepreneurship, self-help groups (SHGs) and minor manufacturers. It presents online advertising stand for women's includes whole country to display products produced and services provided, to fascinate more and more clients.

Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)

It was introduced for the pregnant and lactating women. Main focus area for pregnant and lactating women's of age above 19 years or first two live births for donate a improved environment by providing conditional cash transfer for better health and food, diet. It provides cash maternity benefit to the working women for childbearing and childcare. Good environment and nutrition, for safe delivery of women.

Women's Helpline

It was introduced in April 2015. The focus is providing instant emergency reply fronting violence. It offers telephonic help for twenty hours toll free to protecting women's or girls fronting ferocity in every area of lifecycle. This facility helpful in serious conditions providing admitting hospital, ambulance facility, police station and others.

Nari Shakti Puruskars

These prizes are national level honors identifying the contribution by women and organizations in execution of eminent facilities for the foundation of women, particularly helpless and demoted.

Kishori Shakti Yojana

The objective of yojana is enhancing nutritious, wellbeing and growth status of teenage and young girls, encourage awareness among fitness, cleanliness and family care, provide skills for self defense, business opportunities for young girls, raise creativity or skills among them, organise different training programmes, helping them for prolific members of the society.

STEP

The Support to Training and Employment Programme for women to deliver assistances, employability and capabilities or expertise that empowers women to converting into entrepreneurs or self-employed. Area comprises like Defense, Food Process Making, Handlooms, Stitching, Handicrafts, Beauty Parlours etc. Computer application programs, enhancing easy-going skill such as spoken English, Jewellery etc.

Working Women Hostel

Under this provisions regarding of harmless and modest hostel facility to employed women, isolate and living far from family or home. At every locality

whatever municipality or rural zones where service prospects exist for women's.

Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme

It was launched in 2012, this scheme was revamped in 2016 in which assistance is provided to NGO's for running creches. The objective is to helps those women resides outside of their hometown to work, providing with daycare facility for their children's during daytime or working hours.

For upliftment of women empowerment various constitutional provisions, special laws and national policies are introduced

The status of women is an important among individuals in the nation was recognized by the Constitution of India, it not only provides equivalence to women's but too empowered them. Numerous acts in the constitution towards social, psychological and economic growth of women and provides right to partake in various decision making proposals. Following are:

Article 14

Under this, men and women have equal rights, privileges and opportunities in the political, economic and social domains.

Article 15(1)

Preventing discrimination against any citizens on the grounds of religion, race, sex, caste etc.

Article 16

Equal prospects related to public appointments for all citizens.

Article 39 (a)

Provides that State to direct its policy regarding securing equally rights of men and women for an adequate means of livelihood.

Article 42

Under this, state should make provision for confirming primary and humane condition of work and maternity relief.

Government has passed specific acts or laws for protection of women's interests and enhancing their status in the nation. Following are -

The Hindu Succession Act, 1956

Which provides right for women in the parental property.

The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

Which affirms that taking of dowry an illegal activity and thereby prohibits manipulation of women.

Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

Which provides payment of compensation equal with men for work of equal value.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971

It provides a provision regarding abortion granting right to the women for abortion on the issue of physical and psychological wellbeing.

The Criminal Law Amendment act, 1983

Which seeks to stop various types of crimes against women.

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986

Which prevents the vulgar presentation of women in the media such as- newspapers, cinema, T.V. etc.

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

It provides a provision for active safety of the privileges of women definite under the Constitution who suffers violence of any kind happening within the family.

However, above specified are some of the schemes playing a prominent role for enhancing women empowerment in all sectors in India. Whole countries, business houses, industry and societies can be benefitted by executing various agendas, plans and policies that accept power of women's empowerment. For achieving faster, sustainable and inclusive progress, only government schemes are not enough but other institutions should also come ahead to develop competence skills and knowledge in women's of the country.

Conclusion

Women empowerment is the need of the hour. Thus, it can be concluded from the above study that government initiatives and constitutional provisions have a crucial part in the societal, spiritual and commercial empowering of women's in India. The power of micro finance is noticeable in transporting self-assurance, courage, ability and empowerment. A skilled workforce for India is very essential to be competitive in the world. For economy upgradation, contribution of all people in a nation is required and women's should use their maximum skills or knowledge at possible. Programs and provisions made by government supporting women's for a well standard of living and significantly encourage role of women in development of nation. Women also have a capability, bundle of knowledge, competency, skills and stamina for taking competitive tasks. So it is essential to empower women for acquiring the benefits of their knowledge or skills. Women also have equal intelligence power comparison to male but they just need only guidance and support. In the end, we say that for all over development of country it is essence to empower women. So, there is a need to have some new and sustainable programs toward women empowerment. Government should come ahead with some viable and updated scheme, and spread awareness among the women about these schemes.

Suggestions

1. Sternly execution of programmes, policies and acts for enhancing women empowerment.
2. Women should be provides reservation in risk service sectors or tasks for encouragement to participate in those activities.
3. Provides granted loans at concessional interest charges to women's like microfinance so that they can easily take steps for starting any business or project.
4. Policy action ought be taken for reducing gender inequality.
5. Women must have simple paper work, lack of formalities and business registration procedures.
6. Equal pay for equal work should be specified for both male and female and should be rational so that they lives better life.
7. Provides those sectors or fields to women which are reserved for male and motivates them.
8. The main problem is lack of education and knowledge among women's so pay special attention towards women education.
9. Government, welfare societies, media and NGOs should create alertness among women about their rights and power.

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