

Trends of Women Empowerment in Chirang District: A Study with Special Reference to Kajalgaon Sub-Division



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Abstract

Women constitute almost half of the world population and they are the integral part of the society. Nobody can deny that women's contribution to the nation's development is in no way less than male counterparts. Women represent an important sector of human resource that promotes national development. In today's competitive time women are playing key role in different fields and they share a large proportion in the socio-economic development of a country. Empowerment of women has emerged as an important global issue in recent time. The term women empowerment means women should have the power or capacity to regulate their day to day lives in the social, political and economic spheres – a power which helps them to move from the periphery to central stage. The term 'women empowerment' could also be understood as the process of providing equal rights, opportunities, responsibilities and power positions to women so that they are able to play role at par in man with society. This paper study the trends of women empowerment at Kajalgaon sub-division. Further paper also highlight the role of education in women empowerment and suggest remedial measures for improving the women.

Keywords: Empowerment, Trends, Women Empowerment etc.

Introduction

"If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered".

-Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

Women constitute almost half of the total population of the world and they are the integral part of the society. But consciously or unconsciously women are considered as a weaker section of the society till today. Nobody can deny that women's contribution to the nation's development is in no way less than male counterparts. In today's competitive time women are playing key role in different fields and they share a large portion in the socio-economic development of a country. Women power is crucial sector to the growth of economic of any nation. Women empowerment is a global issue. The concept of women empowerment was introduced at the International women's conference held at Nairobi in 1985. It had attempted to define the term as 'redistribution of social power and control of resources in favour of women'. The definition implies giving social power equally to men and women and control of economic resources of the country in favour of women for their development. So we can say that women empowerment is the process and the outcome of the process, by which women challenge gender based discrimination against women in all the structure of the society.

Definition of Women Empowerment

Women empowerment is defined as the process in which their spiritual, political, social or economic status is raised. It also includes the right to raise the women's level of confidence regarding their own capabilities. An empowered woman is self-confident and can recognize her own potentialities.

In the words of C. Nongbri, "Empowerment in the Indian context means the development of women capacity to make informed choices and expansion of their capacity to manage their domestic and economic environment effectively."

Again, according to the Country Report of the Government of India, "Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power."

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are stated below-

1. To study the trends of women empowerment.
2. To highlight the role of education in women empowerment.
3. To give necessary suggestions for improving women.

Delimitation of the study

The study delimited to the following-

1. The study is delimited to Kajalgaon sub-division only.
2. It is restricted to a sample of 50 women of Kajalgaon sub-division.

Sample of the Study

The investigator followed the Simple Random Sampling method for the present study.

Accordingly 50 women were selected randomly from four different areas of Kajalgaon sub-division under Chirang district.

Tool Used in the Present Study

In any kind of research study, certain tools and techniques are required for collecting data. Different kinds of tools are used by researchers according to their needs. In the present study, for collection of required data the tool used was an Interview Schedule which was prepared by the investigator.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

The technique of data analysis is quantitative in nature. The collected data were coded and the percentage values of each response were then calculated.

Table-1
Trends Expressed by the Respondents

Sl. No.	Trends	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Women Empowerment is necessary in modern time.	50	100%
2	Every woman should be educated or highly educated?	46	92%
3	Are you aware about the government policies and various empowerment schemes prevailing in our society?	21	42%
4	Are you interested to take part in the women related multipurpose training centre?	36	72%
5	Are you a member of a Self-Help Group?	34	68%
6	Do you like to admit yourself in technical education?	38	76%
7	Do you believe that work is worship?	41	82%
8	Do you want to become economically self-dependent?	36	72%
9	At present, Women are much secure financially.	18	36%
10	Do you think culture and religion effect in women empowerment?	40	80%
11	Women empowerment can develop the society?	42	84%
12	Women should take part in decision making process.	46	92%
13	Education is the only means to empower woman.	44	88%
14	Women can contribute to the development of the nation?	36	72%

1. Table 1 indicates cent percentage of the women think that women empowerment is necessary in modern time.
2. Women should be educated or highly educated is pointed out by 92% of the respondents.
3. The above table shows 42% of the respondents are aware about the government policies and schemes.
4. From the above table it is seen that 72% women are interested to take part in the women related multipurpose training centers.
5. The above table indicates that 68% of the women are member of the SHG's.
6. From the study it is observed that 76% of the women like to admit themselves in technical education.
7. The above table shows 82% of the women believe that work is worship.
8. From the above table it is seen that 72% of the women want to become economically self dependent.
9. From the study it is seen that only 36%of the women opinioned that they are much secure financially today.
10. The study shows that 80% of the women admit culture and religion effect in their empowerment.
11. The above table indicates that women empowerment can develop the society (84%).
12. A portion of the respondents (92%) report that women should take part in decision making process.
13. Education is the only means to empower women is indicated by 88% of the respondents.
14. The study shows 72% of the women agree that they can contribute to the development of the nation.

Role of Education

Education is considered as a tool for women empowerment. It has a great role to play in empowering the women. Education is a powerful instrument that can bring changes in every phase of the lives of the women and enables them to respond to the challenges of their lives. The role that education

can play in women empowerment are highlighted below-

1. In order to strength the women empowerment, female literacy has to be promoted. Every girl child and woman should be educated.
2. Education should make women aware about their constitutional and legal rights both in the work and social life.
3. All kinds of Vocational, technical and professional education should be given to women as per their needs, interest and attitudes for economic independence.
4. Education should help in the social change i.e. change of patriarchal attitude.
5. It should change the mental set of women as well as men.
6. Physical education should be given to women to make them physically strong.
7. Value education should be given to women as well as men.
8. Education is the weapon which should strengthen the personality of the women and makes them confident.
9. Education should help in the mental development of the women, as a mentally satisfied and contented woman is an asset to a family, society and nation and she can use her efficiency and potential in the right manner.
10. Education plays an important role in removing economic poverty by opening various job avenues to them so that they can work hand in hand with men and give support to the family.

Suggestions

The following suggestions are given by the investigator for improving the women.

1. Some provisions should be made available for the women such as Scholarship facilities, Professional & Technical Training facilities etc.
2. It is the responsibilities of the society to organize awareness programs in order to create awareness about different government policies, programs and schemes.
3. Government should take initiative by adopting some special developmental schemes for women in various sectors.
4. Government, Society and NGO's should facilitate participation of women in economic development.
5. Capacity building among the women in technical skills, information sharing and leadership development.
6. Gender vigilance to ensure women's participation in all fronts and access to benefits in training,

entrepreneurship and activities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's)

7. Steps should be taken that education may use as a tool that help in reducing inequality between men and women.
8. Ensure at least 30 % reserved seats for women in all political participation and representation in the public sphere.
9. To encourage the education of women at all levels and for dilution of gender bias in providing knowledge and education, the government should establish schools, colleges and universities even exclusively for women.
10. To bring more girls, especially from marginalized families of BPL, into mainstream education, the government should provide the facilities of free books, uniform, boarding and lodging, midday meals, scholarships, free circles and so on.

Conclusion

The present study was conducted on the trends of women empowerment at Kajalgaon sub-division. Women's empowerment is need of the hour. In the present study the investigator found that almost all the women of the Kajalgaon sub-division have a general tendency to empower themselves and they also want to help their family financially. From the study it is also found that most of the women think that education is the only way for their empowerment. So in order to promote women's education, it is necessary to create an environment that will allow women to participate in educational programs and share the benefits. The educational and other policies for women empowerment should be implemented in reality for empowering women. When every girl child and women will be educated in the real sense of the term, they will be aware of their legal provisions, their rights and even they will be socio-economically alert. But in these regard the co-operation of every conscious people, society, government, NGO's, legal practitioner, are essential.

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