

Various Aspects of Women Development



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Abstract

Generally women's rights have not been considered and classified a human rights. Women have been struggling for a long and their various efforts resulted increasing women's rights are seen as human rights. Indian society is a patriarchal society, means male dominated society. This misconception is deep-rooted exists that men is strong and superior so women have to face unequal status in society.

So, it is important to review and discuss rights of women as special category. In this paper, I have tried to analyze this condition in changing context. What is gist of empowerment and which conditions detract to get this goal. My basic concern is to support women empowerment for all our development of a nation assisting their latent quality. There are many reasons, ideology and other matter that are giving either positive or negative impact on the process of women empowerment. Giving some instances I put forth my ideas that what major causes are interrupting the process of feminist campaign and other. Worldwide structure function changes are giving support to women empowerment. Slowly at consequences of incessant efforts by government, UNO and NGOs positive changes are coming in society. Women's contribution should be recognized and welcomed by society.

Keywords: Feminism, Empowerment, Gender Equality, Human Right Etc.

Introduction

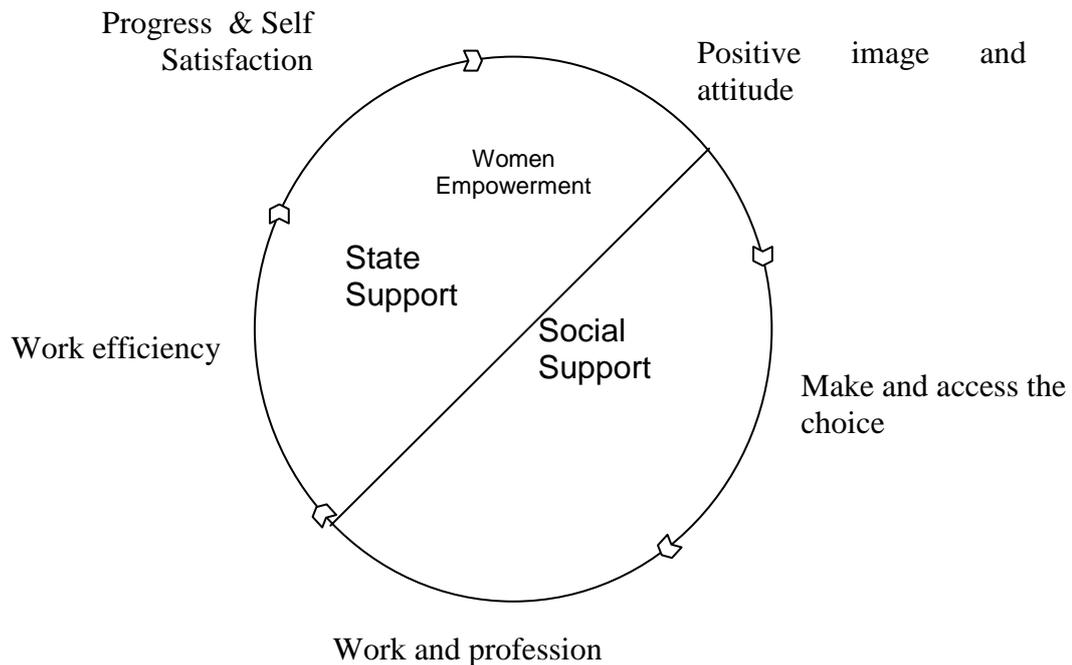
Empowerment is a physical process in which individuals think positively about their ability to make change and gain marking an issue at individuals and social levels. This includes the nation of self efficiency i.e. perceptions of competence personal, control and positive self image.¹

Women empowerment has become a significant subject of discussion over the world although it is contemporary catch word. The word empower is not new having. It answered 17th century with the judicial meaning to invest with authority. Gender empowerment has more comprehensive concept. It defines people of any gender stressing the distraction between geological sex and gender as a role.²

Some people have ambiguous view between feminism and women empowerment but basic difference lied in approach. Both ideology consist a quality wise upliftment of women. Feminism somehow entails a range of political movement and social movements that shares a common goal. Messer Davidow Ellen defines if a movement of west women requiring more freedom according to him. "Feminist campaigns are generally considered to be main force behind major historical societal change for women's right particularly in west."³

Objectives of the Study

1. To review present condition of women in society.
2. Different legal and constitution provision and organizational framework providing assistance for empowerment of women.
3. Understand and analyze various aspect of women empowerment.
4. Identify various possibilities and way to enforce the policies of women welfare.
5. To indicate the hindrances which are producing negative impact on this process.



Present condition of women

Let one should make a short note on present condition of women empirically in developing countries. This will help us evaluate the fundamental importance of the issue. Existing disruption is by various specialized wings of UNO. It reveals a negative and gloomy picture of nations more than 50% of poorest people in the world today with responsibilities to feed and take care of whole family. Almost 15% of women in the world have no access to financial facilities like bank loans etc. They are deprived from property and asset. This financial facility disperse different level of unbalanced status. Famous writer of B in Agrawal advocates the land right of women. She argues. "Land right offers key way to economically empower women giving them the confidence; they need to take gender in equalities. Often women in developing nations are legally retracted from their Land or the role basis of gender."⁴

It's striking that women's income share barely amounts to percent of all income distributed over the planet moreover female labour where it exists confines to marginal positions and low paid jobs. The majority of women are still living in confinement of traditions and customs. If we turn to education and literacy, available data show that women make a world of illiterates. Two third of population on nearly 900 million adult illiterates worldwide, girls made up 77 percent same number girl children deprived from education.

Women Rights are Human Rights

Women rights is a term which refers to liberty and privilege of female population such rights depends on-

1. Time and space
2. May or May not recognized by law.
3. Permitted or not permitted by social law.
4. Specific historical conditions.

As we know women of worldwide had to struggle to acquire their basic rights which are called 'Human Rights'. Human right means dignitiful behavior to be a human, without any position, difference and other things. So, human rights that indicates encompassing all rights which men are enjoying. Women's rights could be categorized into economic, social legal and political rights. Besides this right to physical integrity and autonomy work to equal ways to own properly, to hold public office.⁵

Structural Innovation

The long heated debate on women rights treated as human rights derives a new comprehensive conceptual understanding the women's rights are fundamental human rights which should be respected in each society. The struggle for decades to accede their basic right uplifting into human rights. The long struggle culminated with success in the international conference on human right held in Vienna in June 1993.

Before this, the convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) approved in 1979, presented another supportive hand, to enhance women role and status. Another step was taken in March 1994, When at special Rapporteur was appointed on violence against women. (POPIN).⁶

Gender Equity and Women Empowerment

Gender equity is a term that covers the area of gender equity, gender egalitarianism of sexual equality. It could be defined as a complex process that aims to establish fairness of treatment and provide women and when with equal opportunities rights and responsibilities (UNDP, 2008)⁷

Defining gender equality UNICEF leveling the playing field for girls and women by ensuring that all children have equal opportunity to develop their talents (2008 UNICEF) report.⁸ The United Nations Population Fund

has explicitly considered gender equality, besides this, other agencies of UNO are doing their best to get gender equality. Gender equality has to be accepted by both man and women positively considering its moral impact of their lives. Gender equality gives to message that one side of expansion of society will not treated positively because empowerment half population will be discarded actual development will remain a dream, gender equality is not only and end in itself. It is a fundamental human right considered as effective and efficient fast to achieve economic prosperity and social justice, by this thought women can access other fundamental rights, like education good health etc.

Finally, gender equity is rightly considered a philosophy and mechanism to work collaboratively and reating on environment of participation planning, decision making and responsibility as well.

Women's Empowerment: Conceptual Context:

Although it is a contemporary catchword, the word empower is not new having arisen in the mid-17th century with the judicial meaning. To invest with authority authorize. Shortly after it acceded to a more general use meaning to enable or permit. Consequently, this word over polished due to political movement and popular psychology tented to women's welfare.

As we knew generally women's rights have not been classified as human rights. It has been the result of continuous struggle by the women's movement that now increasingly women's rights are seen as human rights. Women have never been given equal status in society. Due to find out mentality and patriarchal biases women suffer from subordination exploitation and oppression in society. She always gets second position in spite of formal rights are provided by the Senthntution.

So, when we discuss about women empowerment this should be noticed that two contradictory elements are tuxat.

Empowerment word shows progress as World Bank defined – "Empowerment is the process of enhancing the capacity of individual or groups to make choices and to transfer those choices into desired actions and outcomes. (World Bank)⁹

Sociological aspect defines empowerment as a power, acquired by a group or groups that have been executed in different forms, like religious coding, ethnicity etc. " in a more comprehensive sense empowerment is a complex process through which individuals and other groups gain full access to other people, institutions and society.(Wikipedia 2010)¹⁰

Kinds of Women's Rights

Political Rights of Women

There is a common desire all over the world to adjoin women in political activities. Political rights constitute right to vote, right to contest in election, right to campaign and take part in political life peaceful assembly etc. Political rights associates women with political culture and reality of society as well country.

"Despite equal political and civil rights; women are unable to enjoy them. Women's representation in the union and state legislature is

negligible."¹¹ Traditionally, Nordic countries have the wigest number in parliament."¹² Sweden Marroco, Bahrain, Jordan countries have respectable participation of Ladies. In 1/3rd and ¼ the constitutional amendment provide (33%). One third membership in rural areas women's political participation make them politically aware and literate, Newzealand was the first country to grant the voting rights to women in 1893 and Finland, for the time in 1906 granted the right to contest election to women. By the end of the 20th century more than 95 percent of the countries in the world have granted the women two most fundamental democratic rights".¹³

Women Empowerment: The Economic Aspect

Sustainable policy is essential element of economic development for women's. Economic empowerment is a process that demands a comprehensive, sustained policies to produce various chances so that women might participate efficiently.

Economically, empowered women wanted to take part efficiently in all sort of economic activities. They need secured job without any discrimination in salary matter. Good working conditions and environment, some women want to start self business and wanted same need help from govt. They also required financial services specifically tailored to meet their needs.

Micro credit is a powerful weapon to improve and enhance the rural women's position. Many can be obtained by banks. Self help group and other self employed women and family relieve from the grip of the loan imparted by money lenders.

In this context, it is argued, there are crucial factors to ensure that women's empowerment is genuine and factitious. They conclude legal rights giving access to land property, effective participation in decision making representation in local institution securing access to appropriate financial services and other forms of technical help. It is noticeable that the term women's economic empowerment is often used in relation to and sometimes interchangeably with gender equality and women rights. This shows the way of development and satisfaction consequently economic growth and distribution are considered decisive factors to combat poverty and economic socio-cultural empowerment.¹⁴

Women empowerment: Socio-Cultural Aspect

Social, economic and cultural development are interwoven elements. Social development corresponding with economic development involving women collectively as self Help Group. Social mobility changes women's attitude and mentality around the society. Domestive violence, herasment and other social barriers are being turn down, due to social boundations.

Most important serial rights constitute right to food, shelter, medical care social security etc. They are also known as second generation rights or welfare rights."¹⁵

There rights are very necessary for development of society. They ensure the well being of the citizen "women is a substantial part of population and their position reflects according to cultural norms the health status of women, which includes their

physical, mental and social condition, their biological and physiological problems, is also affected by the prevailing norms and attitudes of society."¹⁶

Women have been facing health problems for a long time due to lack of education custom and other pressure. There are important issues which need immediate attention. Over consumerism and beauty demonstration window-dressing are other important issues which show great impact women's life. Now a today, women is being treated as commodity or product. Beauty is no longer understood in terms of one's worth, essence or personality. It has metamorphosed into a commercial as well as a consumeristic article that can be bought, sold, exploited, negotiated, procured, advertised exposed and sexualised according to the forces of the market economy and patriarchy.¹⁷

Today women is trapped in consumerist culture that value, "being beautiful". There is need to understand this content analytically to save dignity of women. Personality development is not to be beautification of face and figure. Body is not an object to sell, advertise or experimentation so, there should be a awareness among women to reject this anti cultural concept. "Women explaining this Rosi Braidott: says- Women have been forced with a structural need to posit themselves as female subjects; that is to say, not as disembodied entities rather corporeal and consequently sexed beings. In short our contemporary beauty game seeks to use women's appealing body for the cause of market economy and not for the cause of women themselves."¹⁸

Here we found a contradiction that feudal and traditional standard are being applied and standardized and beyond this, accepted by a large number of women regarding beauty image. So, it's a challenge to defeat image overpowering and womanhood.

Women Empowerment: Technological Aspect

Women are consistency dived inheritance rights. Women lack access to all productive resources. Generally they have been no entitlement of land and other forms of property. Traditionally land has been basis of political power and status. Though the Hindu succession Act of 1956 made sons, daughters and widows equal claimant in a man's separate property and in his share in joint family property, however it treats agricultural land differently from other properties.

Though women are involved in almost all agricultural operations, different companies (at lower level) yet, they have in adequate technical competency due to their limited exposure. This takes poor performance. Capacity building is must in this concern. Capacity building and empowerment are important for which there should be decentralized capacity building among rural and tribal women. It is important to develop the skills among farm women in order to increase their productivity and keep them absent of modernization and technological changes for being competitive in market. Mass Media is also not playing their proper role to transfer of technical approach by which adequate and timely information

could be disseminated. Therefore, it is utmost need to provide adequate coverage to the programmes related to women and they must get exposure to mass media for improving their communication and meditation skill to strengthen their capacity to contact external world. Besides this, training is an important component of HRD which enhances knowledge skill and attitude for guiding technical competency among fa.... Women, need based sill-oriented training programmes to reinforce their role in form activities need special attention. The training programmes should initially be organized on their felt needs and then be Over to unfelt but essential needs. In order to provide the technological needs order to provide the technological needs the form women appropriate mechanism should be developed equipped with indigenous specialty. There is also a had to strengthen linkage between various research and extension engaged transfer of technology.¹⁹

Findings

Women empowerment refers to creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society women population constitutes around 50% of the world population. A large number of women around the world are unemployed suffers a lot because of the unequal opportunities for women at workplace. So they shouldn't be discriminated while giving jobs and employment. Besides this, they should have safe and secure working conditions.

1. Women empowerment leads to decreasing domestic violence, uneducated women are at higher risk for domestic violence than educated women.
2. There should be respect and dignity towards women having total independences of their own life and life style inside or outside the home treated as a "Human".
3. Developing countries need to transform its colossal women force into effective human resource and this is only possible to emancipate of women from the vicious grips of old tradition and mentality.
4. Empowerment is a multidimensional process which should enable individual or individuals to strengthen and realize their identity. It is not a matter of facilities providing. Whereas the ideology transmitting the value of self esteem and self confidence.

Conclusion

As we know, women have collectively struggled against a lot of barriers. The history of Women movements emergence have been begun from nineteenth century. First the western countries women raised their voice and made their organization. The women organizations focused their allinition and efforts towards development and empowerment.

Women have achieved significant progress every field. Their participation in politics is positively increasing. Literary rate health consciousness, professionalism and progressiveness avoiding traditional content participation in socio-eco matter are traits of development. But still there are many hindrance which should be side track by women.

There are various forms of discriminations experienced by women like malnutrition, poor health, lack of education, unstreatment etc. Malnutrition results in maternal and infant deaths. Besides this various cultural and traditional discriminations existing against women beyond rich participation in politics even till date ladies in polities are not been seen comfortable way. Many misconception are being used by people for them. Reason behind this, very obvious because they are soft victims, they can be harassed easily and sexist behavior imposed on them. So, Delhi is far away for them. Formally, women had got many social-economic rights; however, in reality women are more and less marginalized. Their rights are not taken seriously. They are always seen as the subjects of the state rather than active participants and agents of change. Achieving a lot of positive achievement, there are many reasons subverting by influentive censorism culture accompanied by irresponsible media targeting women as soft target. The obsession of beauty mix. Modernity creating safe environment for girls and women.

So, there is need of a holistic approach to empower women in real scene, education should be provided to strengthen them. An educated women can have better access to health, nutrition and other socio-economic matters. We should try to make a harmonious dignityful environment in society to ensure progress and justice for women. Justice J.S. Verma committee (2013) conclude empowerment in significant way.

"The advancement of women as contemplated under Article 14 and 21 of the constitution of India through integrated strategies, frameworks, programmes, plans activities and budgets which aim to eliminate structural inequalities and which enable women to gain power and control over decisions and resources which determine the quality of their lives in a sustainable manner."²⁰

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