
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN: NEED OF THE HOUR

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Abstract: Gender is an important aspect in a society. Gender indicates the socio-cultural pseudonym of man and woman and the way societies identify them and disband social role and responsibilities. Women play an important role in shaping the ethical and social values of the society at the individual, at family level as well as at the larger social level. Women empowerment is the pivotal part in any society, state or country. Special provisions were introduced in which emphasis was given on educational development of women. The Governments and International Organizations shall take steps in almost all parts of the world and launch such policies which will involve women to a greater extent in order to make their sure participation, that can boost the confidence under women and then they can prove much better for their families and for their nation as well.

Keywords: Gender, Empowerment, Society, World, Development.

Empowerment is an important initiative towards improving the condition of women in the world today. The world organizations and respective governments shall take bold steps so that to get the formalities for women empowerment done without any hesitation. Gender is an important aspect in a society. The glamour of world is incomplete without women. The World Health Organization defines gender as the result of socially constructed ideas about the behaviour, actions and roles a particular sex performs. The beliefs, values and attitude taken up and exhibited by them is as per the agreeable norms of the society and the personal opinions of the person is not taken into the primary consideration of assignment of gender and imposition of gender roles as per the assigned gender. Gender is an imprecise concept having many overlapping meanings. It is a series of physical, mental and behavioral uniqueness distinguishing between maleness and femaleness. Gender indicates the socio-cultural pseudonym of man and woman and the way societies identify them and disband social role and responsibilities.

History is obvious that women have been a victim of serious social evils, psycho-physical torture and utmost socio-economic exploitation. They have been uncovered to extreme form of crime, violence and ill treatment and have suffered a lot in the patriarchal social set up due to male superiority. Women have got breather from earlier forms of exploitation but have been caught in the whirl pool of new challenges initiated by the process of modernization, globalization and westernization. Women have a great talent but no intellect for they always remain subjective. Women play an important role in shaping the ethical and social values of the society at the individual, at family level as well as at the larger social level. She is the impersonator of moral values at various levels. Society is incomplete without women. Gender differences that society associate with men and women have no necessary biological component.

In order to get rid from injustice women all over the world launched various mass movements. Feminism as a women's movement has emerged one of the global phenomenon addressing women's issues of prejudice in various spheres. Women have always faced the social and legal inequalities commonly imposed upon them by a patriarchal culture. A woman was generally subject to the whims of her husband and/or father due to social norms that deemed women physically and mentally less able than men and therefore needed to be "taken care of". The epitome of the ideal woman as mother, wife and homemaker was a powerful idea in all epochs of history perpetuating the suppression of women to men. The myth of male superiority is strongly rooted for centuries and has been fostered by women and men to such an extent that now it is deeply embedded in every aspect of our existence.

Women empowerment is the pivotal part in any society, state or country. It is a woman who plays a dominant role in the basic life of a child. Women in general are still left with lot many issues and challenges related to health, economy, education, politics, domestic violence, declining sex ratio, female feticide and infanticide, late marriage, state violence, dowry harassment, eve teasing, unequal wages, child marriage, child sexual abuse, child labor, acid throwing and sexual harassment at work. Moreover, there are budding issues and challenges of elderly women and widows in much parts of the globe. Besides psychological disorders, rape and molestation of women by security forces has taken its ugly turn. Women have a very low socio-economic status due to the existence of patriarchal social system. Selective abortion of girls resulted in the grave issue of declining sex ratio. Child marriage is linked to poverty, illiteracy, dowry, landlessness and other social evils.

Women comprise more or less half of the population in the world even though they suffer a lot as being denied equal opportunities in different parts of the

world. Women is neither considered as the living torch revealing the way to hell nor the devourer of the intellect of men, as it is mostly stated. There are proofs that the women never wore a veil and used to move freely in the society as free as men in various parts of the ancient world. Women were participating in almost all the religious ceremonies and festivals with her men but now slowly they are losing such status. Women enjoyed remarkable freedom, wielded ample powers and exercised responsibility, which gave them a high status in the society. There was no attempt to marginalize them, as was being done in other modern societies elsewhere in the world. Thus status of women was much better than the status of their sisters in other parts/ Communities of the sub-continent. They lived a comparatively comfortable life. Women Empowerment is need of the hour right now and is a worldwide issue and debate on women political rights is at the fore front of many official and familiar campaigns globally. Special provisions were introduced in which emphasis was given on educational development of women. Every developmental plan observed more and more budgetary allocations to provide educational, health, family welfare and nutritional services to women. The Social Welfare Advisory Board along with Social Welfare Department has done a creditable job in sponsoring and sustaining voluntary efforts in various parts of the world. Voluntary organizations have been countenanced through financial assistance to promote the welfare services where they did not exist and also initiate new types of welfare activities in addition to the above-mentioned general services. Special services like rehabilitation of needy women either through education or through involvement in economic activities, full time or part time training in different crafts, maternity services, and homes for destitute women are the services rendered through voluntary and governmental agencies.

Decision-making is one of the fields where women are debarred to a greater extent as compared to men. They are regarded as fruitless category and are kept restricted to only household tasks. They are not considered vital in the process of decision-making and taking, and hence less participation in political activities is also responsible for their exclusion. Women's representation in politics all over the world began to assume importance from mid 1970s when United Nations (UN) declared 1975 as the 'International Women's Year'. This was followed by the UN's decade for Women from 1976-1985 and the

theme was "Equality, Development and Peace". In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue and is considered as an attempt to look at the equality and gender justice and the whole issues which will refute women of their citizenship, property, right to equality, freedom, life and personal liberty. Recently rise in women's status like participation in decision-making processes at the political level in various parts of the world have led to a remarkable improvement of women's conditions throughout the globe. In the world today we can see that women are becoming the talk of the town because of their achievements in various fields of life like politics, professional fields and academics. There has been a marked rise in the overall socio-economic status of women in the world from last few decades. Whether it is in the field of education, health or in the field of economic independence, the governments and International Organizations efforts have produced desired results. But it should not go unnoticed that there is much more to be done. Women play an imperative role in making a nation progressive and guide it towards development. They are essential possessions of a lively humanity required for national improvement, so if we have to see a bright future of women in our country giving education, care, respect, justice and other promotions to them must be a pre-occupation. Efforts are being made to institute the significant role that a woman can play to fortify her family, society and nation at large. Furthermore the Governments and International Organizations shall take steps in almost all parts of the world and launch such policies which will involve women to a greater extent in order to make their sure participation, that can boost the confidence under women and then they can prove much better for their families and for their nation as well.

Nevertheless, by providing educational facilities, political reservations, financial schemes and other suitable facilities to the women, one cannot deny their empowerment, because unless and until women are being given same status as men in almost every field no area or region in the world will not be there where women will be leading from the front along with men. The changes in decision-making and providing beneficial facilities, which will come as a result of empowering women, will have a lasting impact on the progress of the nation and they will raise the pride of the nation to the heights of the sky and we can move forward by maintaining justice.

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