

DIMENSIONS IN THE UPLIFTMENT OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMAN IN THE SOCIETY

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Abstract: *“There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.”—Kofi Annan*

From time immemorial we have seen how in many under developed and in developing countries women are being deprived of their basic rights and has been suppressed by their male counterparts. This paper attempts to analyze the role and importance of a woman in today’s scientific world, and why it is necessary to promote women empowerment. Basically, women empowerment has become one of the most important issues globally. The twentieth century has observed how women have been victimized by various social constraints and beliefs. By providing the basic rights like Education, Health, and Voice to women; through this one can also contribute a lot towards the social and economical development of the country. The term ‘Empowered Women’ essentially means the process through which a woman gains her own identity, her own voice, choice, education, right to vote, and equal status in a male dominated and patriarchal society. Thus, we can say that basically it is a process of upliftment of economic, political and social status of any woman in the society. It also means that women can gain access to Education, Employment, Vote to select the candidate of her own choice and adapt to and change happening in the social structure; and most importantly can form a voice of her own which cannot be suppressed under any given circumstances.

Keywords: Employment, Education, Equal Status in Society, Health, Right to Vote, Voice of a Women, Woman’s own Identity,

Introduction: *“We cannot all succeed if half of us are held back.”*

—Malala Yousafzai

We are well versed that Woman Empowerment in general refers to the equal rights and opportunities for the woman’s in the society. It also includes educational, economic, political, social and spiritual strength. Empowerment is a process through which it enables the individual to understand and realize their true identity as well as the worth in the various spheres of life. Thus, we can also say that it is a process through which one generates the inner strength and capabilities of an individual through which they also contributes towards the development of the society in which they are living as well as the country they belong.

Therefore, we can say that the empowerment of women enables a woman to stand independently within the set system of society where they realize their own position, identity, status, power and importance with respect to their male counterparts. The power of decision making is very necessary ingredient in the process of women empowerment as it let her to make her own choice and raise her own voice without any fear.

Moreover, with empowerment a women gets freedom from the age old beliefs, practices and customs present in the society which weakens the status of women within the society. These stages of women empowerment are slow as male dominance and patriarchy is deep rooted and it is necessary to bring the change from one’s own house gradually moving towards the national and global level.

Why women empowerment is necessary in India?:

We all know that in Indian society male dominance and are prominent and women has always been suppressed and deprived of her rights. They impose many restrictions on women and so does not allow them o their basic rights. Through women empowerment, it has been possible for the women to come out of the web of gender discrimination and lead her life with freedom. In order to make India a developed country, it is necessary to begin the process of development from women empowerment. Women are the building blocks of the nation.

The discrimination amongst the gender in Indian society even in twenty first century has become the biggest hindrance on the way of women empowerment. Although, in the contemporary world women have been ‘bestowed’ with the basic rights like education, employment, her voice, right to vote and many other such rights which claims that they are at par with man. But all these rights and equality if taken at deeper level would be found hollow and void when it actually comes towards the social status of women. At peripheral level everyone talks about the empowerment of women but it is not followed at individual level.

Education is the most powerful weapon for any human being. A woman can attain this power through her education. It gives a woman the powers in terms of thinking, the ability to make choices and the empowerment. Thus, to have a comprehensive understanding of the necessity of education for women then it is necessary to entail a process of change as it is the key component for any

development. The women who have the access to education and who exercise their knowledge properly are more empowered than others.

Women Employment: It is very much known fact that if any person gets proper education then he/ she start becoming thirsty for their independence in their life. Education with independence paves ways for other opportunities such as job, exposure to new ideas, innovation and creations. The people's ability towards the expansion and the stability in life forces them to take a well reputed and high earning job which on the other hand gives them a status and recognition in society. So an educated woman if once takes a good job it empowers her further. Moreover, we can say that with education comes the job, with job comes the independence and with independence comes the ability to make strategic life choices. Whereas, the outcome of this is astonishing as the ability to make choices which were previously denied to a woman because of the inequality and social injustices are now easily exercised by them.

Self-consciousness, new skills, knowledge, engagement in new and non-traditional types of work, enhanced status, economic security and the decision making power within the family/ household allocates a women with all new power. This social and political awareness that is, the awareness of their legal status and services makes them able to live an effective life in the public sphere. This identification of the self of women outside the family forum could be attained only through gender equality and education.

Political empowerment of women : The dimensions which depict the political participation as well as economic participation and decision making of female are the various indicators of change in the status of women in all the fields today. The equal distribution of gender empowerment measures can easily be seen in the political field as well. With the equal participation and representation in parliament the economic status of women too increased with the raise of income. Female and male now shares parliamentary seats thus it is a positive indicator towards political empowerment of women. The economic participation and decision making process amongst women lead them to share a position as senior officials, legislators, managers and professional and technical positions. All these changes lead them to rise as an empowered and powerful woman.

Feminism and empowerment: The three waves of feminism too contributed a lot towards the empowerment of women. Feminist movement is considered as the first Renaissance and Enlightenment movement in context of women which made them aware of their importance and status in the society. The first wave of feminism began in late 19th century and early 20th century in

America and European countries. The First Feminist wave arose with the movement in context of women's rights and liberal politics. The first wave was characterized by the call for women's right to vote interwoven with other reform movements like rights for women of color. The first wave of feminism consisted largely of white, middle class, well-educated and bourgeois women.

The second wave of feminism emerged in 20th century at the dusk of World War II in a post war western society. The Second Wave of Feminism focused on the notion and interests of 'oppressed', 'repressed' and 'suppressed' groups like the women, the Blacks and children. Some women writers established as well as gave a new definition of women through their works like Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*, and Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*. Through their work one gave woman's unique voice and writing whereas another gave the concept of the social process of 'othering' women as the second sex in a patriarchal society. So we can say that the second wave of feminism is closely linked with the radical voices of women's rights and empowerment.

The third feminist wave, from the mid-1990s onwards, spring from the need to develop a feminist theory and politics. Emerged from the first and second wave of feminism, third wave of feminists generally consider themselves as a strong, powerful, capable and assertive social beings.

The emergence of new postcolonial world order with the information and technology, and global politics the women of this wave was opportunists and powerful. They manifested 'grrl' rhetoric to overcome the theoretical questions of equity and difference and embraced ambiguity, diversity, and multiplicity in transversal theory and politics.

Conclusion: The change in the development of policies in order to make an active women's role in all strata of life was due to the empowerment of women. In this powerful construction of gender equity and equality the role of education for women, their rights and social policies are interrelated with each other. Thus we can conclude that the empowerment of women demanded constant effort to confront the powerful factors as per their priorities. Women empowerment is giving power to women. It is making women better off. It enables a greater degree of self confidence and sense of independence among women.

In the process of empowerment women should consider their strengths and weakness opportunities and threats and move forward to unfold their own potential to achieve their goals through self development. In our countries empowering women through enterprise development has become an integral part of our development efforts due to three

important advantage entrepreneurs, economic growth and social stability.

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