



CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

The role of the women is predefined as social, cultural, and religious spheres. Women's Empowerment is a movement involving respect, honor and recognition towards all women. It is the process that creates power in individual over their own lives, society, and in their communities. Women are empowered when they are able to access the opportunities available to them without limitations and restrictions such as in education, profession and lifestyle. The role of women nowadays is far beyond confined to their home. We can empower women by giving them proper education, literacy and training.

Today, it is overwhelming to see that good proportionate of women in India are in the respectable positions in all walks of the fields. The concept of empowerment is strictly connected with the concept of equality, freedom, justice, and well-being. This paper try to clarify the role of women has changed in the society overtime.

KEYWORDS: Empowerment, Freedom, literacy, Development

INTRODUCTION

A women's role has changed tremendously and is making its greatest impact in our society today. Many years ago, women's contribution to society was limited and controlled by men. Women are standing tall and are playing a major role in many important areas. Women's role has changed at an accelerating rate and have part in areas such as Politics, Profession training, jobs, medicines, business and laws. Empowerment of women is essential to harness the women labour in the mainstream of economic development. According to Swami Vivekanand, "..... there is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of the women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing.(Yojana, Aug. 2001). Women have to play an important role in the building up of every economy. Women who form almost one half of the world's population constitute the visible majority of the poor. Women either solely or largely support an increasing number of families. Women experience poverty more than man. When money is given to men, it may not benefit the family but when women manage money, it is found to be better utilized.

It is a fact that of the total populations in the globe, women constitute almost 50%. But this is not true in India as India shows disproportionate sex ratio. Though India is marching forward to the status of developed nation, it is shocking to find that population of females has been comparatively lower than males. The women sometime considered as Goddess and sometimes as a slaves.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kabeer (1999) and Rowlands (1998) analyze empowerment from relational and time and scale perspectives, respectively. Kabeer (1999: 436) defines empowerment as “the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make strategic life choices acquire such an ability”.

The study of Rowlands (1995) has explored the meaning of empowerment, in the context of its root-concept: power. According to her empowerment is more than simply opening up of the access to decision making; it includes the processes that lead people to perceive themselves as able and entitled to occupy that decision making space, and so overlaps with the other categories of ‘power to’ and ‘power from within’. She has opined that empowerment has three

dimensions such as Personal, Close relationships and collective. The concept of empowerment has been used in different contexts, but it has been most usefully applied in development context.

In Manusmriti women were treated as animals and slave. Such was the placement earmarked to our daughters, sisters, wives, mothers and grandmothers that the heads of humanity bend upon down with shame. As Swami Vivekananda said, “There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing”

. Our society has never been reluctant to accept female politicians at the power centre. India has respected women leaders like-Sarojini Naidu, Indira Gandhi.Mamta Banerji, Sheila Dikshit, Jayalalitha, Sushma Swaraj to name a few. The year 2020 will no doubt see more women politicians at the helm of affairs and our experts are confident that women will make a better administrator, and she will clean up the mess created by men.

According to UM Gopal Krishna et.al.,(2017) In the previous decade, women were compelled to participate in any social exercises and not considered piece of any basic leadership process in the family. The states of women in provincial and remote zones were still more terrible. In any case, with the evolving times, women are engaged with wage producing exercise.

According to Dhyandipta Panda women are considered as the goddess in Indian culture. In any case, till today in each circle of life women have been mortified like anything in the general public. In India numerous tenets and enactment has been made for women since freedom however till today a lady is battling for her key.

OBJETIVE

1. To describe the condition of women in past time
2. To study the impact of the education in the growth of women
3. To study the changing role of women in present time

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This present study is Descriptive in nature which provide the necessary information about the topic. The data in the study are collected from the secondary sources. The secondary Data is collected from different books, Internet and journals, magazines, newspaper etc.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN PAST

From the ancient times the women are treated with respect. India is the country where the women was treated with respect and courtesy . The women were in the position of goddess or of a mother.

During the period of Rig Veda the position of wife are honored and women's position acknowledged, especially in the religious Ceremony. Education of girl was considered as an important qualification for marriage. In Kshatariya society, brides has the full right to choose their consorts, which were known as 'Swayamvar'. However being a patriarchal the women has to give birth to son, who performed the last rites and continue the lineage. Female morality considered on high standards.

In Rig Veda, it is stated that the widow has the right to marry again with her husband's brother. In the age of Upanishada , the 'anuloma' system of marriage, i.e. between the male if higher cast and the female of lower cast were prevailing . In past time the women held an honored position in House. She can sing, dance, and enjoy her life.

The situation of the women in the public further weakened. When Sati among a few groups, youngster relational unions and a prohibition on dowager remarriages turned out to be a piece of social life among a few groups in India. Among the Rajput of Rajasthan, the johar honed .The condition in the mid time is very poor, because many crimes like rape, domestic violence, sexual harassments are prevailing at that time. The women are not aware about her rights.

IMPACT OF EDUCATION

Education is the milestone of the development of the women. Only educated women can contribute in the development of a country as well as become an informed citizen, parent and a family member, Therefore, "educating the women" is the most powerful tool that can bring

change in the position of women in the society. Still large number of women are illiterate, backward and exploited.

There is wide gender disparity in the literacy rate of India. According to census of 2011, effective literacy rate of India is 82.14% for men and 65.46% for women. The dramatically low literacy rate of female will impact negatively in the development of the society. Many of the country experienced that the investment done in the education of women is the most precious investment which helps the nation in its overall development.

The impact of women education on different area are as follows:

Employment : Educated women are most likely to participate in decision regarding her own health care, family purchasing, spending of household earnings as compared to uneducated women. Employment of women are also positively participated in these decisions.

Economic Benefits: Education of women is also helpful in the development of economy. Women's education increase their income and which increase the growth of the GDP. An investment made on the education of women consider the most precious investment in the development of a nation.

Social Benefits: Women education greatly impact on the women fertility rate, the infant mortality rate, the female disadvantage of child survival, and on child health and nutrition. Increase in the education of women also improve the family planning service provision and other social provision.

CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN:

The role of women has changed tremendously and they have been able to create a positive impression in the society. From housewives to CEOs, the transition can be seen in the society.. Modernization and the advent of the latest technology have widened hope and opportunities for them. They have established themselves socially, politically and economically in almost every field. Women are no longer considered unfit or weak for military or for other defense forces. The different roles are performed by women in different Areas:

As Caretaker: women are the Caretaker of the family and children of every country. They are the primary initiator and plays an important role in change in the family life.

As Educator: The mother is the first teacher of her child. If the mother is educated then whole family is educated. It is rightly said that if we educate a man we educate only one person but if we educate a woman we can educate the whole family.

As Global Volunteer: Global Volunteer's community development work in host country world wide strengthen the women's and children's health capacity and sustained their development. Under the guidance of local leaders the funds are provided to the women for their health and education.

CONCLUSION:

However, India and many of the other countries try to achieve the gender equality and the role and status of the Women is also changed from past years but in middle class society there are many of the women who are struggling for their rights and freedom. While in educated, urban middle class women right continue to improve, there remain the strong bias against the gender equality.

Women constitute almost half of the part of total population. So the equal participation of women is necessary for the sustainable development of the country. The situation of women on economic front is no better and men still enjoy a larger share of the cake. The work burden on women is extreme. Indian women work for 69 hours a week while men work only 59 hours per week. Hence women's contribution to national development is crucial and their emancipation is essential for the economic development and social progress of the Nation. If the condition of the Women is not improved than the social welfare and development of the country is almost impossible. Recently the NDA government launched the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme which aims to educate the girls and making them independent both socially as well as financially. It will help in creating the awareness and improving the efficiency. From 'women to development' its time to shift and focus on 'women in development', with the cooperation of men through group management.

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