Women Empowerment

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Abstract

Women empowerment has now critical to human rights based approaches to development. Means where it stand the condition and position of Women on Nation. Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) which focuses on three variables that reflects Women’s participation in society-Political power or Decision-making, Education and Health. In short, Women Empowerment is the breaking of personal limitation. In terms of self- decision regarding education, participation, Mobility, Economic Independency, public speaking, awareness and exercise of rights, political participation and many more factors ensure women empowerment.

Empowering women aims to inspire women with the courage to break free from the chains of limiting belief patterns and societal or religious conditioning that have traditionally kept women suppressed and unable to see their true beauty and power. Gender equality and women's empowerment are human rights that lie at the heart of development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Despite the progress that has been made, six out of ten of world’s poorest people are still women and girls, less than 16 percent of the world’s parliamentarians are women, two thirds of all children shut outside the school gates are girls and, both in times of armed conflict and behind closed doors at home, women are still systematically subjected to violence.

Two thirds of the world’s illiterate are female. Millions of school age children’s are female. Rapidly spreading disease like HIV/AIDS, sexual transmitted diseases become the main target of girl’s child. Therefore, it is very necessary for the girl’s child to give awareness of all these dreadful diseases. At the mean time, we the people (Public) need to co-operate the Government to facilitate on this programmed. It is the co-operation from both side then an only we could think seriously how to eradicate this problems and issues. When women get supported and empowered all, its society benefits. Their families will be healthier, more child go to school, agricultural productivity improved and incomes increases. If income increases, the economy of the nation increases, then development of the Nation.

A clear vision in needed to remove the obstacles to the path of women’s emancipation both from the government and women themselves. Efforts should be directed towards all round development of every Indian woman by giving them their due share.

Keywords: Women Empowerment; Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD); Family Counseling Centre (FCC)

Women Empowerment

Introduction

Women Empowerment is the ability of women to exercise full control over one’s actions. In the past, women were treated as mere house-makers. They were expected to be bound to the house, while men when out and worked. This division of labor was still in a few parts of the country one of the major reason because of which certain evils took birth in our society child marriage, female infanticide, women trafficking.

In recent years many steps have been taken so as to increase the participation of women in the political system. The Women’s reservation policy bill is however a very sad story as it is repeatedly being scuttled in parliament. Further, there is the Panchayati Raj system, where women have been given representation as a sign of political empowerment. There are many elected women representatives at the village council level. However, their power is restricted, as the men wield all authority. Their decisions are often over-ruled by the government machinery.

Discussion

All these shows that the process of gender equality and women’s empowerment still has a long way to go and may even have become more difficult in the recent years. Empowerment would become more relevant when women are actually treated as equal to men. This division of labor that a woman is supposed to do only household chores and the men the only one who can earn a living for the family has to be removed.

Further, women should be better educated, better informed-only then can take rational decisions. It is also necessary to sensitize the other sex towards women. It is important for her to changes in the societal attitudes and perceptions with regard to the role of women in different spheres of life. Adjustments have to be made in traditional gender specific performance of task.

Meanwhile, a woman needs to be physically healthy in order to work equally. This is sadly lacking in a majority of women especially in the rural areas. They have unequal access to basic health resources and lack adequate counseling. The result is an increasing risk of unwanted and early pregnancies, HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases. There is no doubt that the status of women has improved a lot. Evil practices such as the orthodox family, child marriage and the like, have not been completely eradicated but have seen a downfall. Thus, a clear vision is needed to remove the obstacles to the path of women’s emancipation both from the government and women themselves. Efforts should be directed toward all round development of each and every section of Indian women by giving them their due share.

There many ways which we need to change our human mind:

1. It all about Gender Discrimination. It is issues for all the women to “wake up call” because women cannot be protected from discrimination.

2. It is necessary to understand all the people of our country, about women needs and gaps. If the Government is taking up so many plan to uplift women empowerment. Then, why it is still violence against women.

3. Where it stand the position of women in this 21st. century from being slave for men?

4. Why women have little decision-making power even though their contribution is as equal to man in the family. All this is because of generation gaps of perception, thinking and attitude in every family, society and culture.

5. In spite of giving social support, the media TV, etc. show discrimination channel. Even though the new generation movie makers, new director has made challenging story line on women. But still every house has the same attitude about women. Because their mind sets are dominating country.

6. Empowering women as key change agents. Women bear almost all responsibility for meeting basic needs of the family. Freedom of action is needed to fulfill their responsibility. Then, and only our nation will grow up to certain level.
How to eradicate the current issues

First steps/points:

1. **Decisions making**: Women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision making, including decision making in political process at all levels will be achievement of goals of empowerment.

2. **Economic empowerment of women**: First we have to study and identify the areas which community is in basic and secondary needs of the women. Which type of support should be given in particular areas?

3. **Globalization**: It’s a globalization issue. Not only in developing countries like India, China etc. Underdeveloped countries also have the same issues. Given the opportunity for employment and quality of employment. It will be benefit of the growing economy.

4. **Women and Agriculture**: Programmed for training women in soil conservation, social, forestry, diary development, horticulture, live stock including animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries etc. They should be given all facilities to utilize their energy for the development of the country.

Support services

5. **Education**: One of the most important things to eradicate illiteracy is to free education up to a certain age. To educate themselves and make them understand how important one’s life is in our society. They will be well aware, information and knowledge of day to day life activities, life-long learning facilities occupation/vocational skill.

6. **Health and Nutrition**: They can take care of their own health. What is the nutrition needed right from the infancy to childhood, adolescent up to reproductive phase. Whether the child is getting sufficient diets in order to have active life cycle. Malnutrition children’s become problem in eyes sight, brain development, weak in physical growth.

7. **Environment**: Housing, Shelter, Drinking, Sanitation, Science and Technology, Violence against women, Rights of the girl child.

8. **Psychological support**: Everyone in this society has different problems and issues regarding family, children, marriage, poverty etc., whether it is developing or developing country. So, every issue has to be tackle in a very sensitive way. Specially, girl children in India were targeted for sexual harassment, minor girls keeping for household work, raping, delinquent etc. These children are not normal either mentally or physically in developing their mind with other normal child. They should be given proper counseling session in order to come out in a positive way.

So, it is necessary to empower the rural poor women and adolescent girls, support by sustainable and improved livelihood opportunities and strengthening of local institutions that relate to livelihood development, in line with Government of India's 11th Plan and Millennium Development Goals. Hence, the purpose of this paper is to strengthened community level institutions of social and economic empowerment and enable the target groups to access productive resources, social services and to build a sustainable livelihood base integrated with the wider economy [1-7].

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Conclusion

The Ministry for Minority Affairs (MoMA) had launched a new scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women. This scheme has now been revised. Implementation of the scheme needs to be undertaken in the XII Five Year Plan. The XII Plan should also introduce measures to ensure that the character of all mainstream schools is made secular. This can be done through training and sensitization of teachers on secularism and diverse cultures and enhanced participation of girls from different communities in mainstream education. It also recommends that Muslim girls be given an additional support for education. These are experiences which show that provision of collective transportation facilities (not limited to cycles) can largely improved the enrolment and attendance of Muslim girls. For improving accessibility to health services, coverage of Minority dominated blocks under NRHM should be specifically reviewed. Provision of Sanitation and health facilities along with social education should be provided for in religious educational institutions.

Members of artisan and service-providing communities from religious minorities, who desire occupational diversification, especially woman and those belonging to the younger generation, should be given alternative training. Additional financial and technical support needs to be provided for artisans from religious minorities.

Recommendation

(a) **Condensed courses of Education for woman (CSWB):** There should be a scheme for initiated for providing education to adolescent girls/women who are school drop outs, who did not have opportunity of joining a formal system of education (primary/middle/matrik level) or those who did not receive skill development training. The scheme of Condensed Courses of Education implemented by the CSWB complements the programmes of Ministry of Human Resource Development in imparting literacy to women and girls. The scheme provides certification for the primary/middle/martic level courses, thereby increasing the employability of beneficiaries.

(b) **Awareness Generation Projects for Rural and Poor Women (CSWB):** The scheme has been formulated for awareness generation and advocacy on issues and concerns of rural and poor women. Under the scheme, camps are organized in the community to generate awareness on issues relating to status, legal rights, problems of women and other social issues; to create an enabling environment for effective participation of women in decision making processes; and for asserting their social, economic and political rights. An evaluation of the scheme is proposed to be undertaken, and based on the recommendations, the scheme would be revised.

(c) **Family Counseling Centres (CSWB) L**: The scheme of Family Counseling Centres (FCC) was introduced in 1983 with a view to provide counseling, referral and rehabilitative services to women and children who are victims of atrocities, family maladjustment, social ostracism, natural disasters, etc.

Family Counseling Centre’s have been recognized as service providers under the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act in several States. In view of its continuing relevance, the scheme is proposed to be continued in the XII Plan. The scheme, which has 787 FCC’s at present, is yet to cover all districts. Children in the age group 0-6 years constitute around 16% of the population of India. These children are the future human resource of the country. Ministry of Women and Child Development of implementing various scheme for welfare, development and protection of children.

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