

CHALLENGES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND ROLE OF EDUCATION

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Abstract

Empowerment which means "becoming powerful" is a process through which individuals, groups, societies, communities are able to take control of their circumstances and achieve their goals. Power is the key word of the term 'empowerment', which means having control over material assets like land and finance, intellectual resources like knowledge, information and ideas and to generate, sustain and propagates an ideology. Empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps human beings to gain control over their own lives. Empowerment as a concept encompasses their social upliftment, political decision-making and economic independence. Empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building to greater participation and decision making. Empowerment is not only a process; however, it can also be thought of as the life and outlook-changing outcome of such a process for individuals, organizations, and whole communities. The present conceptual paper discusses the concept, meaning challenges as well as various Government Schemes of Women Empowerment and Role of Education for Women Empowerment.

Keywords: *Challenges of Women Empowerment, Role of Education, Women Empowerment*



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Introduction:

Empowerment is a process, which helps people to gain control of their lives through raising awareness, taking action and working in order to exercise greater control. Empowerment is the feeling that activates the psychological energy to accomplish one's goals (Indiresan, 1999). The term 'empowerment' has till-date not been very explicitly defined.

However, in context of women, empowerment essentially refers to a feeling of awareness of one's own situation backed up with the knowledge, skills and information which could enable women to gain higher self-esteem and facilitate their role as decision makers in the current patriarchal society where women have always been subordinate to men. Empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic strength of

individuals and communities. It often involves the empowered developing confidence in their own capacities.

Women's Empowerment begins with the awareness about their rights and capabilities and the understanding as to how the socio-economic and political forces affect them. Women empowerment is a common word in Indian context. Women are the world's largest excluded group and the first oppressed group in the history of mankind. Women's oppression is the widest form of oppression in the world. The process of empowerment of women enables them to realize their full potential and empowers them in all spheres of life. The issue of empowerment of women moved center-stage with the global paradigm shift from a growth-oriented issue to a human development approach. The very issue of Women empowerment arises because of the stark reality that even today a large section of women are marginalized and sidelined from the mainstream of the society.

Meaning and Concept of Women Empowerment:

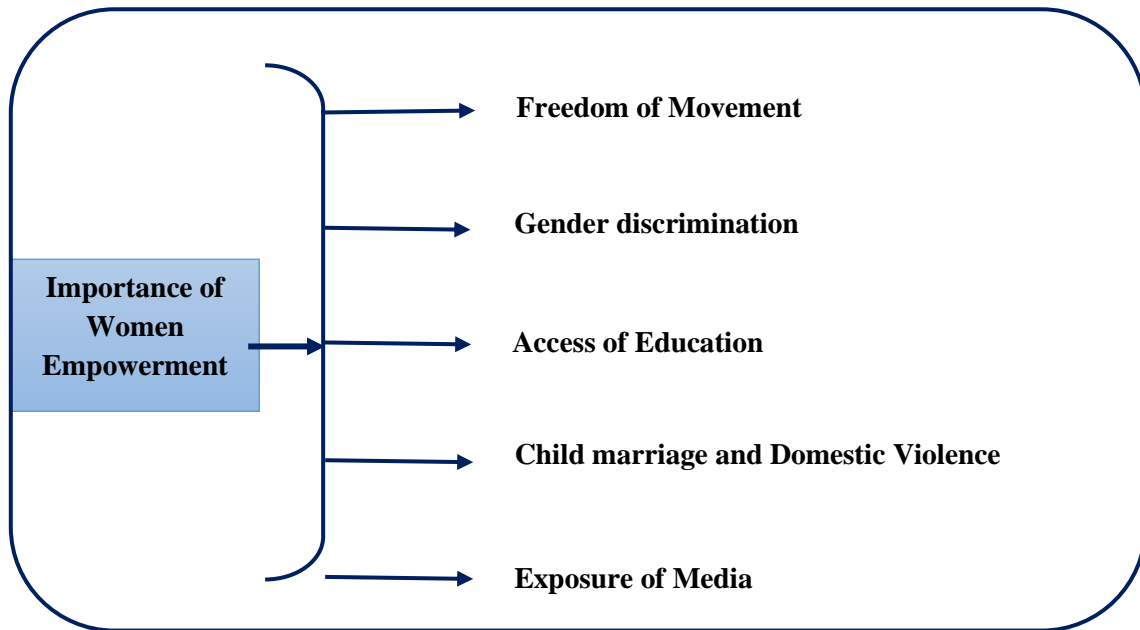
Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Empowerment is a process. Through the process, an individual becomes an agent of change. More simply put, it's the "can-do" factor, going from "I can't" to "I can." – Huff Post. Women's Empowerment can be defined to promoting women's sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices, and their right to influence social change for themselves and others.

Women's empowerment is the process of empowering women. It may be defined in several ways, including accepting women's viewpoints or making an effort to seek them, raising the status of women through education, awareness, literacy, and training. Women's empowerment equips and allows women to make life-determining decisions through the different problems in society.

Importance of Women Empowerment:

Women's empowerment is really needed for the societies. It's so important for women self-esteem and also for societies.

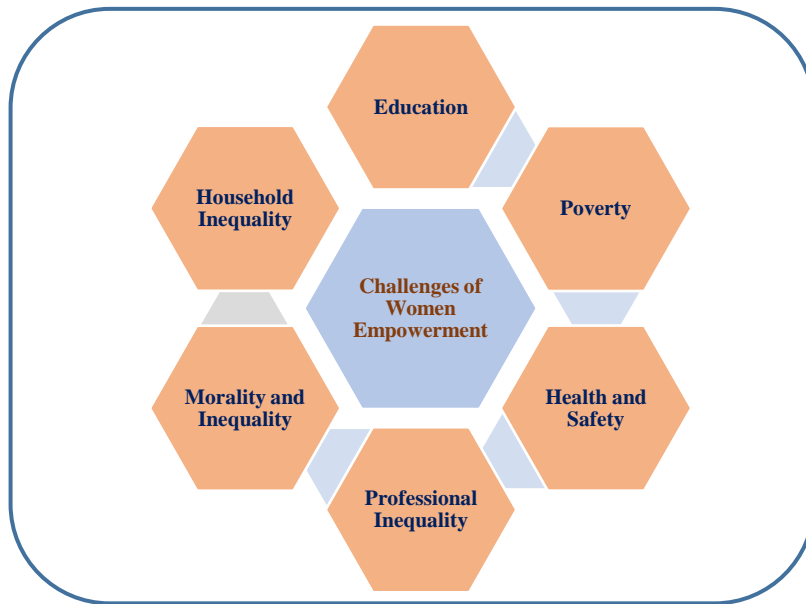
- ✓ Empowering women and making them independent needs to be done for humankind to progress.
- ✓ Women should have equal rights and opportunities to participate in education, economics, and politics.
- ✓ Women must understand the value of self-worth.
- ✓ They should influence each other and boost the economic growth of the country.



Women empowerment refer to increasing the spiritual, social, political, educational, economic strength of individuals and communities of women.

Challenges of Women Empowerment:

There are several constraints that check the process of women empowerment in India. Social morals and family structure in developing countries like India, manifests and immortalize the inferior status of women. One of the morals is the continuing preference for a son over the birth of a girl child present in nearly all societies and communities. The society is more prejudiced in favor of male child in respect of education, nutrition and other openings. With the exception of Meghalaya, the idea that male children inherit the clan in India is the primary source of this type of situation. Women frequently absorb the old view of their role as natural, which causes them to suffer injustice. For the vast majority of mature women in India, poverty is a fact of life. It is the element that makes achieving women's emancipation difficult. There are several challenges that are plaguing the issues of women's right in India. Targeting these issues will directly benefit the empowerment of women in India.



Education:

While the country has grown from hops and bounds since independence where education is concerned. The gap between women and men is severe. While 82.14 of adult men are educated, only 65.46 of adult women are known to be knowledgeable in India. The gender bias is in advanced education, specialized professional trainings which hit women veritably hard in employment and attaining top leadership in any field.

Poverty:

Poverty is considered the topmost trouble to peace in the world, and eradication of poverty should be a public thing as important as the eradication of ignorance. Due to this, women are exploited as domestic helps.

Health and Safety:

The health and safety enterprises of women are consummate for the good of a country and is an important factor in gauging the commission of women in a country. Still there are intimidating enterprises where motherly healthcare is concerned.

Professional Inequality:

This discrimination is seen in both employment and advancement. In environments that are male oriented and controlled in government offices and private businesses, women suffer numerous disadvantages.

Morality and Inequality:

Due to discrimination against women in nutrition and health, there is a very high morality rate among women, which further decreases their population, notably in Asia, Africa, and China.

Household Inequality:

This inequality is rehearsed in employment beach elevations. Women face innumerable debits in male customized and dominated environs in Government services and Private enterprises.

Methodology:

The study is based on the secondary data sources. The necessary information about the women Empowerment Schemes in India and its various components are collected from various books, journals, internet source of related topics.

Role of Education in Women Empowerment:

Empowerment would become more relevant if women are educated, well informed and can take part in decision making effectively. Women empowerment will not translate in reality till girl's education is given predominance because only an educated mother can build an educated nation. Education is empowerment, "education is a fundamental right for all people, women and men throughout the world". Education is the key to establish and reinforce democracy to development. Everyone is benefited from educational opportunities. Education is the light that annihilates the darkness of ignorance. The need of the hour is to improve female literacy as education holds the key to development. Education is essential for ameliorating the present condition of women of India. In spite of the different steps taken by the govt. for promoting the girl's education today, the situation is still far from satisfactory. It has also been felt that empowerment of women can contribute immensely to the success of universalization of elementary education. Such empowerment not only promotes girl's education but also boosts their morale through liberty and equality of sex. Education is a milestone for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to opportunities, to challenge their traditional roles and to change their lives. It was accepted that education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. Educating women benefits the whole society. It has a more significant impact on poverty and development than men's education. It is also one of the most influential factors in improving child health and reducing infant mortality. Educated women can be of immense help in different ways for her family. It is true that a woman has to play a significant role in the development of family life. Women can also contribute significantly to the social and economic reconstruction of the country.

Government Schemes for Women Empowerment:

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India have come up with various schemes, programs, social welfare schemes, Health and Nutrition, scholarship for women empowerment, Girl Child pregnant women, mothers, ward members, Anganwadi Workers, Women Health Volunteers, the women living in the rural & tribal areas, ex-servicemen, physically handicapped, nursing women, Lactating mother, widows/destitute, Old age women, women self-help group (SHG), Women Entrepreneurs and Adolescent Girls'. Also, it helps to the women and child belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe(ST), Other Backward Classes(OBC), Socially and Educationally Backward Classes(SEBC) Minority Category, below poverty line(BPL) and also for General Category. These schemes provide assistance for Education, Training, Financial assistance/Cash, Subsidy on the loans, Scholarship, Nutrition, self-employment and other facilities. The prime goal is for empowerment, development, protection and welfare of Women & Child are....

- ✓ Rastria Mahila Kosh (RMK) 1992-1993
- ✓ Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) October,1993.
- ✓ Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) 1995.
- ✓ Women Entrepreneur Development programme given top priority in 1997-98.
- ✓ Mahila Samakhya being implemented in about 9000 villages.
- ✓ Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women(STEP).
- ✓ Crèches/ Day care centre for the children of working and ailing mother.
- ✓ Hostels for working women.
- ✓ National Mission for Empowerment of Women.
- ✓ Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (1975),
- ✓ Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescence Girls (RGSEAG) (2010).
- ✓ The Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers.
- ✓ Integrated Child Protection scheme (ICPS) (2009-2010).
- ✓ Dhanalakahmi (2008).
- ✓ Ujjawala (2007).
- ✓ Scheme for Gender Budgeting (XI Plan).
- ✓ Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).
- ✓ Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM).
- ✓ Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY).
- ✓ Women's Development Corporation Scheme (WDCS).

- ✓ Working Women's Forum.
- ✓ Indira Mahila Kendra.
- ✓ Mahila Samiti Yojana.
- ✓ Khadi and Village Industries Commission.
- ✓ Indira Priyadarahini Yojana.
- ✓ SBI's Stree Shakti Scheme.
- ✓ SIDBI's Mahila Udyam Nidhi Mahila Vikas Nidhi.
- ✓ NGO's Credit Schemes.
- ✓ National Banks for Agriculture and Rural Development's Schemes

The efforts of government and its different agencies are ably supplemented by nongovernmental organizations that are playing an equally important role in facilitating women empowerment. There are some gaps despite the governments and NGOs working together. Certainly, we have made progress toward empowering women, but there is still a long and challenging road ahead.

Conclusion:

For every nation, Women Empowerment is very important for the sustainable development and gender equality. There is lot of obstacles in front of the women education; it's the duty of the state and responsibility of the society to provide space and opportunity for girls' education. Maximum mobilization of human and material resources for qualitative and quantitative development of women's education through formal and non-formal approach will go a long way in women empowerment. The speech of "Gender mainstreaming" is meaningless without empowering women, so, in this education plays a very important role. Without education of women, we can't raise social and educational standard in the country.

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