

A Critical Analysis of Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment in India

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Abstract: *This paper attempts to analyze critically the status of Women Empowerment in India and highlights the Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment. Today the management of ladies has become one in all the foremost vital issues of twenty first century. But much girls management remains associate degree illusion of reality. We observe in our day to day life however girls become victimised by varied social evils. Women management is that the important instrument to expand women's ability to possess resources and to form strategic life decisions. Empowerment of ladies is actually the method of upliftment of economic, social and political standing of ladies, the historically poor ones, within the society. It is the method of guarding them against all sorts of violence. The study is based on purely from secondary sources. The study reveals that girls of Asian nation area unit comparatively disempowered and that they get pleasure from somewhat lower rank than that of men in spite of the many efforts undertaken by Government. It is found that acceptance of unequal gender norms by girls square measure still prevailing within the society. The study concludes by associate degree observation that access to Education, Employment and alter in system area unit solely the sanctioning factors to girls management.*

Key Words: Women Empowerment, Education, Health, Socio-Economic Status. Crimes against women, Policy implications.

Introduction

Women management refers to increasing the religious, political, social, instructional, gender or economic strength of people and communities of ladies. Women's management in Asian nation is heavily smitten by many alternative variables that embrace geographical location (urban / rural) instructional standing social rank (caste and class) and age. Policies on Women's management exist at the national, state and local (Panchayat) levels in many sectors, including health, education, economic opportunities, gender based violence and political participation. However there square measure vital gap between policy advancements and actual follow at the community level.

Empowerment of ladies is actually the method of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in the society. It is the method of guarding them against all kinds of violence. Women empowerment involves the building up of a society, a political environment, wherein women can breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension, discrimination and the general feeling of persecution which fits with being a lady in a very historically male dominated structure.

Women represent nearly five hundredth of the world's population however Asian nation has shown disproportionate sex quantitative relation whereby female's population has been relatively not up to males. As so much as their position thinks about, they are not treated as equal to men in all the places. In the Western societies, the women have got equal right and status with men in all walks of life. But gender disabilities and discriminations area unit found in Asian nation even these days. The inexplicable state of affairs has specified she was typically involved as immortal and at alternative times just as slave.

Review of Literature

H. Subrahmanyam (2011) compares girls education in Asian nation at the present and Past. Author highlighted that there features a sensible progress in overall registration of lady students in faculties. The term empower means that to relinquish lawful power or authority to act. It is the method of getting some activities of ladies.

M. Bhavani Sankara Rao (2011) has highlighted that health of women members of SHG have certainly taken a turn to better. It clearly shows that health of women members discuss among themselves about health related problems of other members and their children and make them aware of various Government provisions specially meant for them.

Doepke M. Tertilt M. (2011) Does Female Empowerment Promote Economic Development? This study is an empirical analysis suggesting that money in the hands of mothers benefits children. This study developed a series of non cooperative family dialogue models to grasp what reasonably frictions will produce to the determined empirical relationship.

Duflo E. (2011) Women's management and Economic Development, National Bureau of Economic Research Cambridge The study argues that the inter relationships of the Empowerment and Development are probably too weak to be autonomous which continuous policy commitment to equality for its own sake could also be required to achieve equality between men and girls.

Sethuraman K. (2008) The Role of Women's management and violence in kid Growth and underneath nutrition in a very social group and Rural Community in South Asian nation. This analysis paper explores the link between Women's management and violence, maternal organic process standing and also the organic process standing and growth over six months in kids aged vi to twenty four months in a rural and tribal community. This longitudinal observational study undertaken in rural Karnataka. India included tribal and rural subjects.

Venkata Ravi and Venkatraman (2005) centered on the consequences of SHG on girls participation and elbow grease management over deciding each in family matters and in cluster activities.

Objectives of the Study

1. To know the need of Women Empowerment.
2. To assess the Awareness of Women Empowerment in India.
3. To analyze the Factors influencing the Economic Empowerment of Women.
4. To study the Government Schemes For Women Empowerment.
5. To identify the Hindrances in the Path of Women Empowerment.
6. To offer useful Suggestions in the light of Findings.

Research Methodology

This paper is largely descriptive and analytical in nature. In this paper a trial has been taken to research the management of in Asian nation. The data employed in it's strictly from secondary sources consistent with the necessity of this study.

Crime Against Women

The crimes against ladies fly directly against orchestrating ladies management in Bharat. A report on the crimes against Women by the National Crime Records Bureau comes up with alarming statistics. The Crime Head Wise details of rumored crimes throughout the year 2009 to 2013 at the side of share variation square measure conferred in Table 1;

Table 1: Crime Head - Wise Incidents of Crime Against Women During 2009-2013 and Percentage Variation in 2013 over 2012

Sl. No.	Crime Head	Year					Percentage Variation in 2013 over 2012
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
1.	Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)	21,397	22,172	24,206	24,923	33,707	35.2
2.	Kidnapping and abduction (Sec. 363 to 373 IPC)	25,741	29,795	35,565	38,262	51,881	35.6
3.	Dowry Death (Sec. 302 / 304 IPC)	8,383	8,391	8,618	8,233	8,083	-1.8
4.	Cruelty by husband or his relatives (Sec. 498-A IPC)	89,546	94,041	99,135	1,06,527	1,18,866	11.6
5.	Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (Sec. 354 IPC)	38,711	40,613	42,968	45,351	70,739	56.0
6.	Insult to the modesty of women (Sec. 509 IPC)	11,009	9,961	8,570	9,173	12,589	37.2
7.	Importation of girl from foreign country (Sec. 366-B IPC)	48	36	80	59	31	-47.4
A.	Total IPC crime against Women	1,94,832	2,05,009	2,19,142	2,32,528	2,95,896	27.3
8.	Commission of Sati Prevention Act, 1987	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
9.	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956	2,474	2,499	2,435	2,563	2,579	0.6
10.	Indecent Representation of Women (P) Act, 1986	845	895	453	141	362	156.7
11.	The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	5,650	5,182	6,619	9,038	10,709	17.9
B.	Total SLL crime against Women	8,969	8,576	9,507	11,742	13,650	16.2
	Total (A+B)	2,03,804	2,13,585	2,28,649	2,44,270	3,09,546	26.7

Source: Crime in India-2013

A total of 2,44,270 Incidents of Crime against Women (both under IPC and SLL) were reported in the country during the year 2012 as compared to 2,28,649 in the year 2011 recording a rise of half dozen.4% throughout the year 2012. These crimes have endlessly raised throughout 2008-2012 with one,95,856 cases within the year 2008. 2,03,804 cases in 2009 and a couple of,13,585 cases in 2010 and a couple of,28,650 case in 2011 and a couple of,44,270 cases within the year 2012.

The proportion of IPC crimes committed against ladies towards total IPC crimes has raised throughout the last five years from nine.2% within the year 2009 to eleven.2% throughout the year 2013. variation are presented in table 2;

Table 2: Proportion of Crime Against Women (IPC) Towards Total IPC Crimes

Sl. No.	Year	Total Crimes	IPC Crime Against Women (IPC) Cases	Percentage to Total IPC Crimes
1.	2009	21,21,345	2,03,804	9.2
2.	2010	22,24,831	2,13,585	9.6
3.	2011	23,25,575	2,28,649	9.4
4.	2012	23,87,188	2,44,270	10.2
5.	2013	26,47,722	3,09,546	11.2

Source: Crime in India-2013

Present Situation of Women

New Delhi: Being adequate their male counterparts continues to be a way need Indian ladies. Not only are they marginal as public figures an average Indian women can hardly call the shots at home or outside. In 2012, ladies occupied solely eight out of seventy four ministerial positions within the union council of ministers. There were only 2 women judges out of 26 judges in the Supreme Court and there were only 54 women judges out of 634 judges in various high courts.

Shocking Facts:

According to 2013,UNDP report on Human Development Indicators, all south Asian Countries except Afghanistan, were ranked better for women than India It predicts: an Indian girl child aged 1-5 years is seventy fifth a lot of possible to die than the boy kid. A women is raped once in every 20 min and 10% of all crimes are reported. Women kind forty eighth of India's Population, only 29% of the National workforce, only 26% women have access to formal credit.

Why Need of Women Empowerment?

Reflecting into the " Vedas Purana" of Indian culture, women is being worshiped such as LAXMI MAA, goddess of wealth; SARSWATI MAA, for wisdom; DURGA MAA for power. The standing {of ladies|of girls|of ladies} in Bharat significantly in rural areas must address the problem of empowering women. About 66% of the female population in rural area is unutilized. This is mainly due to existing social customs. In agriculture and Animal care the ladies contribute ninetieth of the overall men. Women constitute almost half of the population, perform nearly 2/3 of its work hours, receive 1/10th of the world's income and own less than 1/ 100th the world property. Among the world's 900 million illiterate people, women out number men two to one. 70% of people living in poverty are women. Lower sex ratio i.e. 933, The existing studies show that the women are relatively less healthy than men though belong to same class. They constitute less than 1/7th of the administrators and managers in developing countries. Only 100% seats in World Parliament and 6 June 1944 in National cupboard square measure control by ladies.

Hindrances of Women Empowerment:

The main Problems that were faced by women in past days and still today up to some extent:

Gender discrimination Lack of Education Female Infanticide Financial	Absence of ambition for the achievement Social status Dowry Marriage in same caste and child marriage (still existing) Atrocities on Women (Raped, Kicked, Killed, Subdued, humiliated almost daily.)
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Constraints Family Responsibility Low Mobility Low ability to bear Risk Low need for achievement	
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Need for Women Empowerment : Women are deprived of

Decision Making Power	Access to
Freedom of Movement	Employment
Access to Education	Exposure to Media
	Domestic Violence

Ways to Empower Women

- Changes in women's quality and social interaction Changes in women's labour patterns
- Changes in women's access to and control over resources and Changes in women's control over Decision making Providing education
- Self employment and Self help group
- Providing minimum needs like Nutrition, Health, Sanitation, Housing
- Other than this society ought to amend the mentality towards the word ladies Encouraging ladies to develop in their fields they're sensible at and create a career

Government Schemes For Women Empowerment

The Government programmes for girls development began as early as 1954 in Bharat however the particular participation began solely in 1974. At present, the govt of Bharat has over thirty four schemes for girls operated by completely different department and ministries. Some of these are as follows;

1. Rastria Mahila Kosh (RMK) 1992-1993
2. Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) October,1993.
3. Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) 1995.
4. Women Entrepreneur Development programme given top priority in 1997-98.
5. Mahila Samakhya being implemented in about 9000 villages.
6. Swayasjdha.
7. Swa Shakti Group.
8. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women(STEP).
9. Swalamban.
10. Crèches/ Day care centre for the children of working and ailing mother.
11. Hostels for working women.
12. Swadhar.
13. National Mission for Empowerment of Women.
14. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (1975),
15. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescence Girls (RGSEAG) (2010).
16. The Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers.
17. Integrated Child Protection scheme (ICPS) (2009-2010).
18. Dhanalakahmi (2008).
19. Short Stay Homes.
20. Ujjawala (2007).
21. Scheme for Gender Budgeting (XI Plan).
22. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).
23. Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM).
24. Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY).

25. Women's Development Corporation Scheme (WDCS).
26. Working Women's Forum.
27. Indira Mahila Kendra.
28. Mahila Samiti Yojana.
29. Khadi and Village Industries Commission.
30. Indira Priyadarahini Yojana.
31. SBI's Sree Shaki Scheme.
32. SIDBI's Mahila Udyam Nidhi Mahila Vikas Nidhi.
33. NGO's Credit Schemes.
34. National Banks for Agriculture and Rural Development's Schemes

The efforts of state AND its completely different agencies square measure with competence supplemented by nongovernmental organizations that square measure enjoying an equally vital role in facilitating ladies management. Despite cooperative efforts of governments and NGOs there square measure sure gaps. Of course we've got return an extended approach in empowering ladies nonetheless the long run journey is tough and exacting.

Status of Women Empowerment

The standing of ladies authorisation can't be pictured with single dimension rather third-dimensional assessment in terms of varied elements of women's life and their standing would bring a transparent conception. So, this paper tries to administer a basic plan regarding the condition and standing of ladies in terms of employment, education, health and social status. Before progressing to elaborate singly allow us to have a fast read of the standing of ladies in terms of gender gap index ready by World Economic Forum in 2012.

Table 3: Details of Gender Gap Index – 2012 (Out of 135 Countries)

Gender Gap sub-Indices	India		Sri Lanka	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Economic Participation and Opportunity	123	0.4588	105	0.5596
Educational Attainment	121	0.8525	108	0.9946
Health and Survival	134	0.9612	1	0.9796
Political Empowerment	17	0.3343	22	0.3151
Overall Index	105	0.6442	39	0.7122

Source: World Economic Forum (2012) Global Gender Gap Index – 2012

The higher than table clearly depicts the standing of low level of attainment of ladies within the varied field of their attainment. The ranking and scores for India amply proves that it is found in the lower rank even compared to Sri Lanka in all sub-indexes of gender equality. India gained eight places (from 113 rank in 2011 to one zero five rank in 2012) as a results of improvement within the academic attainments and political authorisation. Keeping aside the Political authorisation, the other three indices is all above the rank of 100. The Political authorisation ranks quite high is also because of the 73rd and 74th Constitution amendments of Bharat providing bigger chance to ladies to require half in active politics.

Reasons For The Empowerment of Women

Today we have noticed different Acts and Schemes of the central Government as well as state Government to empower the women of India. But in Bharat ladies area unit discriminated and marginalized at each level of the society whether or not it's social participation, political participation, economic participation, access to education, and also reproductive healthcare. Women area unit found to be economically terribly poor everywhere the Bharat. A few ladies area unit engaged in services and different activities. So, they need economic power to stand on their own legs on per with men. Other hand, it's been discovered

that girls area unit found to be less literate than men.

According to 2001 census, rate of skill among men in Bharat is found to be seventy six whereas it's solely fifty four among ladies. Thus, increasing education among ladies is of important in empowering them. It has additionally detected that a number of ladies area unit too weak to figure. They consume less food but work more. Therefore, from the health purpose of read, females WHO area unit to be weaker area unit to be created stronger. Another problem is that workplace harassment of women. There are so many cases of rape, kidnapping of girl, dowry harassment, and so on. For these reasons, they need authorisation of every kind so as to shield themselves and to secure their purity and dignity. To sum up, ladies authorisation can't be doable unless ladies escort and facilitate to self-empower themselves. There is a requirement to formulate reducing feminized poorness, promoting education of women, and prevention and elimination of violence against women.

Challenges

There area unit many constraints that check the method of ladies authorisation in Bharat. Social norms and family structure in developing countries like Bharat, manifests and perpetuate the subordinate status of women. One of the norms is the continuing preference for a son over the birth of a girl child which in present in almost all societies and communities. The society is more biased in favor of male child in respect of education, nutrition and other opportunities. The root reason behind this sort of angle lies within the belief that child inherits the tribe in Bharat with Associate in Nursing exception of Meghalaya. Women often internalize the traditional concept of their role as natural thus inflicting an injustice upon them. Poverty is that the reality of life for the overwhelming majority ladies in Bharat. It is the another issue that poses challenge in realizing women's authorisation.

There are several challenges that are plaguing the issues of women's right in India. Targeting these problems can directly profit the authorisation of ladies in Bharat

Education: whereas the country has adult from leaps and bounds since independence wherever education cares. the gap between women and men is severe. While 82.14% of adult men area unit educated, only 65.46% of adult women are known to be literate in India. The gender bias is in higher education, specialized professional trainings which hit women very hard in employment and attaining top leadership in any field.

Poverty: poorness is taken into account the best threat to peace within the world, and eradication of poverty should be a national goal as important as the eradication of illiteracy. Due to this, women are exploited as domestic helps.

Health and Safety: The health and safety issues of ladies area unit dominant for the welfare of a rustic and is a crucial consider gauging the authorisation of ladies in a country. However there are alarming concerns where maternal healthcare is concerned.

Professional Inequality: This difference is practiced engaged sand promotions. Women face unnumerable handicaps in male made-to-order and dominated environment in Government Offices and personal enterprises.

Morality and Inequality: because of gender bias in health and nutrition there's unco high morality rate in ladies reducing their population more particularly in Asia, Africa and china.

Household Inequality: menage relations show gender bias in infinitesimally little however vital manners all across the world, more so, in India e.g. sharing burden of housekeeping, child care and menial works by thus referred to as division of labor.

Constitutional Provisions For Empowering Women In India

Equality before law for all persons (Article-14).

Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of faith, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article —15(I)). However, special provisions is also created by the state in favors of ladies and

youngsters Article 15(3).

Equality of opportunity for all citizens relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state (Article 16).

State policy to be directed to securing for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood (Article 39(a); (v) equal pay for equal work for both men and women (Article 39(d).

Provisions to be created by the state for securing simply and humane conditions of labor and maternity relief (Article 42).

Promotion of harmony by every citizen of India and renouncement of such practices which are derogatory to the dignity of women Article 51A(e).

Reservation of not less than one-third of total seats for women in direct election to local bodies, viz; Panchayats and Municipalities (Articles 343(d) and 343 (T).

Findings of The Study

1. Globalization, Liberalization and other Socio - Economic forces have given some respite to a large proportion of the population. However, there are still quite a few areas where women empowerment in India is largely lacking.
2. There needs to be a sea – change in the mind set of the people in the country. Not just the women themselves, but the men have to wake up to a world that is moving towards equality and equity. It is higher that this can be embraced previous later for our own smart.
3. There are several Government programmes and NGOs in the Country, there is still a wide gap that exists between those under protection and those not.
4. Poverty and illiteracy add to these complications, The Empowerment of Women begins with a guarantee of their health and safety.
5. Empowerment of Women could only be achieved if their economic and social status is improved. This could be attainable solely by adopting definite social and economic policies with a read of total development of ladies and to form them notice that they need the potential to be strong human beings.
6. In order to create a sustainable world, we must begin to Empower Women.

Suggestions

1. The first and foremost priority should be given to the education of women, which is the grassroots problem. Hence, education for girls needs to be paid special attention.
2. Awareness programmes need to be organized for creating awareness among women especially belonging to weaker sections about their rights.
3. Women should be allowed to work and should be provided enough safety and support to work. They should be given correct wages and work par with men so their standing are often elevated within the society.
4. Strict implementation of Programmes and Acts should be there to curb the mal-practices prevalent in the society.

Conclusion

Thus, the attainment in the field of income / employment and in educational front, the scenario of women empowerment seems to be comparatively poor. The need of the hour is to spot those loopholes or limitations that area unit observant the belief of authorisation of ladies and this initiative should be started from the women folk itself moreover as additional significantly policy initiative taken by the state and society. Let us take the oath that we want an egalitarian society where everybody whether men or women get the equal opportunity to express and uplift one's well being and well being of the society as whole.

Women's authorisation isn't a Northern thought ladies everywhere the planet, including countries in South, have been challenging and changing gender inequalities since the beginning of the history. These

struggles have additionally been supported by several men WHO are incensed at injustice

against ladies. Women represent [*fr1] the world's population and gender difference exists in each nation on the earth. Until women are given the same opportunities that men are, entire societies will be destined to perform below their true potentials. The greatest would like of the hour is modification of social perspective to ladies.

“When ladies move forward the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves”. It is essential as their thought and their worth systems lead the event of a decent family, good society and ultimately a good nation. The best way of empowerment is perhaps through inducting women in the mainstream of development. Women authorisation are going to be real and effective only they're invested with financial gain and property so they'll stand on their feet and build up their identity in the society.

The authorisation of ladies has become one in every of the foremost necessary considerations of twenty first century not solely at national level however additionally at the international level. Government initiatives alone wouldn't be ample to realize this goal. Society should take initiative to make a climate during which there's no gender discrimination and ladies have full opportunities of self higher cognitive process and taking part in social, political and economic lifetime of the country with a way of equality.

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