

# Women Empowerment: A need for National Development

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**Abstract—** Women empowerment means facilitating women to make a choice of living on their own and not dominated by men. In all over the world women are facing lots of burdens to lead their life. They were ill-treated by domestically, physically, and psychologically by the society. Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skill and self-confidence. Education plays a vital role in the lives of women, without the knowledge of education they may face lack of security. They need to give education at a right time. As a society they need to give them chance to equipping themselves and need to take a decision by their own self. Male dominance exists in every door step whether they are educated or uneducated. The Indian constitution has embodied within itself grounds for gender equality. The fundamental rights and duties, and gender equality, together works for shaping policies and draft safeguard measures for women empowerment in India.

**Index Terms—** Women, Women empowerment, Women in India

## I. INTRODUCTION

Women empowerment means empowering themselves by taking some decisions which is meaningful to their personal development. Women's are the back bone of our society, so we need to make them empower to become quality of necessary to do or achieve something in the society. Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skill and self-confidence. Education plays a vital role in the lives of women, without the knowledge of education they may face lack of security. Most of the illiterate women in India are covered by women.

Women rights are the fundamental rights that were enshrined by United Nation for every human being on the planet nearly 70 years ago. Women are expected to live a peace and harmony but after they get married they were ill-treated not only by their husbands but also by their families.

“Article (39) - The citizen, men & women equally have the right to an adequate means of livelihood”

Women Empowerment is a process of an Individual character to equipping their knowledge in all the fields and able to face different problems in society. Education plays an important role in the lives of women, if they educated they may

aware of the society and the people. But the situation is, parents gave much important to the male child. In those days they gave education only to the male child and the female child did the household work. Women were previously restricted to come out of the home, after the globalization they have got a chance to come out of the home, If they gave education to the female child they can empowering themselves from all the problems. Sometimes the girl child dropped their schooling because of their financial background.

“Act 2005 stating that women get equal share in the ancestral property or the equal remuneration.”

“One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world.” - Malala Yousafzai

There are various ways to empower women. Empowering women is equal to empowering the whole community. In those days they couldn't allowed a girl to get educate because they are married off early too the men, so they couldn't give their earnings to their family so that they gave education only to the male child. For everything the government announced the scheme called Education for all, so that they can equip themselves. Women's were being equal in each & every field. The society they need to give some power and they need to respect women in the society. But now day's women's are more powerful than men. If they came out of the four walls they may know about the society and the people. As a women they need utilize their knowledge everywhere they goes, empowering women is not only in society or in men's but also in the hands of women. If they get a chance to out of the home they need to collect some information about what was happening in and around the world.

In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issues in determining the status of women. The National Commission for women set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The status of women should be improve by empowering their skills and knowledge

“We were mostly busy doing household activities before... We now can travel outside of the village alone, (earn income) in our family, and participate in decisions related to our children's education.”

## II. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT-RURAL VERSUS URBAN

Women in rural areas they are the back bone of their family, and they spend their whole life to their family. Their parents had not educated their children because they didn't know about the value of education or were not able to afford. Instead of sending their children to schools they had sent their children to work for daily wages. They were engaged in works

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like carrying wood, household work, agriculture and etc. A large portion of uneducated women are in rural areas. Even though few of them had been admitted to school, many were not able to continue their education because of their financial status. It's not their mistake, because of poor status, low skilled, less paid and etc. Women are working at par with men, but still are paid less. In rural areas women are working without security, because of their family situation they are forced to work. For all these the issues, provision of proper education to women and children are the foremost solution. Rural women face the challenge of access to opportunities. When compared, the life of rural women is much more burdened than urban women.

Women in urban areas are exposed to plenty of opportunities to equip themselves. The life of urban people is very interesting because they could gain access to education, shelter, food and everything more easily than those in rural areas. Urban women are thus more informed, knowledgeable and exposed than those from rural areas. Thus, they are more capable of deciding about their own life.

### III. CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN RURAL INDIA

Men and women are equal in the society, but in the contemporary society domestic violence against women is vital problem in India. Women are being victimized both physically and mentally. Violence against women are increasing day by day, many women have gone to work in order to lead their lives. In their work place they are being ill-treated and abused by their bosses, for that they gave money to the victims to suppress the truth. Due family, culture and traditional values they couldn't reveal the truth to anyone.

Victimization included sexual harassment, abuse, professional misconduct, child abuse and many more. As a result, women are scared to continue their work and many preferred ending their life by committing suicide. This is the pathetic scene of women in this society. It is also reported that young girls commit suicide because they were not able to afford the large amount of money as dowry for their marriage. In those days, parents killed their girl child, when they were in their mother's womb. It is called foeticide. In India abortion of a female foetus is still outside the ambit of legal mechanism.

Today, women are emerging as leaders in every field such as lawyers, teachers, doctors, police officers, scientists, political leaders and etc...They are equipping themselves through education, awareness and thirst to lead their lives, more independently.

Swami Vivekananda said, "There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the situation of women is improved."

Female foeticide – "A gender- selective abortion where a female foetus is illegally terminated solely based on the reason that the foetus is girl"

According to the International Labour organization (ILO), sexual harassment is a clear form of gender discrimination, a manifestation of unequal power relation between men and women.

Women are being underestimated by the society as incapable, weak and similar traits. According to the law, the

society should treat both men and women equal.

### IV. INDIA'S REFORMATORY INITIATIVES

#### Dowry Prohibition Act 1961

Dowry means offering money or its worth in terms of goods or property by parents to their girl child, when the girl is getting married. This was more systematic and was happened in India since ages. Parents gave everything to their girl child so as to make her live happily in the new family. On the other hand, the groom's family took undue advantage and stated demanding more and more from the girl's family. Cases have been reported that the whole family of the groom tortured the girl demanding for more money or goods from her parents. Many such victims have come back to their family to get something from their parents so as to satisfy the groom's family, but most of them were frustrated and not able to reveal anything to their parents and they had ended their lives by committed suicide. Even though the government had established the act, it is yet to be valued and followed so as to safeguard the interest of the girl and her family.

#### Indian Divorce Act 1969

Both men and women are getting married with their wish and willingness. After few years they are separated due to an action or inaction of either of them. Further, there are cases of such separations where reasons are not explicitly revealed. From silly misunderstanding between the husband and wife to physical assault, there are different actions of varying magnitude that provokes for seeking for a divorce. Later the couple appears in the court for divorce. The couple thinks only about both their lives and not their dependents, let be children or parents. Therefore, the dependents lives are in question. The worst part is the future of their children (if any). The cases of divorce are remarkably increasing in recent years.

#### The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006

Child marriage happened among both male and female children in the past. Parents were not able to up bring their children, so they married their children to a bride or bride groom at a very young age. As a result, the children were not capable of leading a married life. This was mainly because of their physical or mental status they had then. Above all they did not know the meaning of marriage at that point of time. The government of India established the minimum marriageable age for a girl as 18 years and boy 21 years. Thus, the child marriage events were legally put to an end.

### V. CONCLUSION

Empowering women is equal to empowering the whole community. Education is a milestone which changed the personality, life style and other traits of every individual, and no exception to women. Education continues to play a very significant role in everyone's life. Exposure of women to information, events, urbanization, inclusive growth, expectations and similar factors further empowerment and build confidence. Biologically women are reported to be biologically stronger than men; they have the stamina for multi-tasking. Women need independency while leading their

lives. The Indian Constitution provides equal rights to men and women under the law of the land, and we must value it and follow with conscience. Mahatma Gandhi very aptly said “If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate an entire family”. With this note, let us hope to see an empowered women community in near future.

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