



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

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Abstract

Women empowerment embraces the whole series of individual, social, economic, political and health empowerment. Women need to be empowered since she is depowered. Even though Vedas and puranas regard women as Goddess 'SAKTHI', She is made to sacrifice her dreams and wishes for the sake of others in the family. Right from birth girl child is not treated equally with boy and gender disparity exists. Boys are regarded as assets while girls are liability which needs to be passed on. To bring about enlightenment there need to be an improvement in physicality(health wise) mentally(change in attitude to touch high altitudes) monetarily(increasing money income) which will enrich quality of life increasing self-image, access opportunities giving freedom to decide her future.70% of women are poor.. There is Feminization of poverty. The more women is neglected the economy losses its development. The problem becomes worst as there is a decline in sex ratio, dropouts, no proper career, wage discrimination. This paper brings about some of leading issues in women empowerment and seeks to come to a conclusion that women need to be strong and vibrant and equal force for a nation to progress. The first and foremost issue is literacy. A educated women serves as a lamp which enlightens the full family. This paper highlights the importance of education.

Health is wealth. Malnutrition, high infant mortality rate are the result of illiterate and ignorant females.

Child marriage is rampant and evil of Dowry still exists. Social and economic problems deter progress of women. This paper discusses these issues.

$WE = IE + SE + EE + HE + PE$

$WE =$ WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

$IE =$ INDIVIDUAL EMPOWERMENT

$SE =$ SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

$HE =$ HEALTH EMPOWERMENT

$PE =$ POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

INTRODUCTION

Women constitute almost half of the population perform two thirds of work hours receive one tenth of worlds income. The women have many roles as daughters, wife, mother, teacher, employer, employee, consumers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, savers and investors. This chunk of human population is regarded as subordinates or inferior to men. Violence, ill-treatment, gender disparity ,dowry system reduces the joy and pride of parents if they have a girl baby.so sex selective curbing of babies are rampant in middle and upper middle class while the people who are poor think children as asset who can be sent to do some menial jobs to earn meager income. This mentality among people diminishes quality population and poverty illiteracy, ignorance, belief in fate conservatism with no modernized outlook, decline in sex ratio are the causes of women disempowerment. This paper uses secondary data from census, UNICEF, UNESCO, IMF, WORLD BANK, BUDGET to highlight the plight of women.

CAUSES OF WOMEN DISEMPOWERMENT

Poverty and gender inequality are chain of causes of women disempowerment. There is unequal division of labour, education and health facilities, limited voice in making decisions, employment and wage differences, increased violence. About 70% of those living in poverty are Women. There is Feminization of poverty; by gender equality we mean equality of boys and girls with respect to individual freedom, education, nutrition, health, access to economic assets, political opportunity. Women get little or no recognition. Her status is low. Female infanticide, dowry are present.70% of marriages are arranged in which girls parents need to pay a sum termed as dowry to bridegroom. This creates an atmosphere of inferiority among the people who gave birth to girl child. BOYS ARE ASSET while GIRLS ARE LIABILITY. The LANCET estimates 5lakhs female fetus is aborted in India.

UNICEF believe that 10 Million girls are killed by their parents in last 30 years. According to an estimate Women account for 2/3 of 1.4 billion people currently living in poverty and make up to 60% of working poor in the world.Research in sub Sahara Africa has revealed that Women are likely to live in poverty than men in 22 out of 25 countries in which data's are available. The high incidence of absolute poverty and crimes against women need to be done away with and she should be recognized as equal force with men for economic development of the Nation.

Women's working capacity is being wasted by doing all domestic chores for which there is use value but no exchange value. According to Marxian feminism. Women should be treated with dignity and not like objects which have no life.

NEED FOR STUDY

Women constitute the better half of men. If gender disparity, degradation of women persists, a Nation cannot achieve economic development. The problems of women at family and outside should thoroughly addressed to find out remedies.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- To state the existence of gender disparity which is the major cause of disempowerment
- To highlight the high rate of illiteracy which retards the efficiency of women
- To substantiate the need for individual empowerment.

METHODOLOGY

Secondary data's are used.

Women Empowerment encompasses all individual, social, political, social, cultural environments, access to resources, market participation, freedom in decision making. Women is being controlled and dominated by men. Much of important decisions are taken with view of her future that is marriage, education, employment are taken by others which paves the way for frustration and loss of development both physically and financially. If a Nation has 1/2 of its people as subordinates acting according to whims and fancies and dictated by men it cannot flourish. Empowering women to equally participate and contribute to economic activities is essential to achieve sustainability in development and to achieve our goals in plans. The twelfth Five year plan (2012-2017) envisages fast sustainable and inclusive growth for which gender equity and women empowerment are inevitable.

WAYS TO EMPOWER WOMEN

Educational Empowerment

Illiteracy is the main cause of all problems. Its effects are unemployment, early marriage, many children, lack of knowledge about medical facilities, infant mortality, and poverty. UNICEF has found that girls are likely to be married before 18 if they are poor or have low levels of education. In 2009 60 million women were married before 18 years old. The adult female literacy rate is low in India. A comparison between India (ranking second in population) and china (ranking first in population) will highlight the fact.

PLACE	1990	2000	2010	2015	This clearly shows Indian female literacy rate is low when compared to china.
CHINA	68.1	86.5	91.3	93.2	
INDIA	33.7	47.8	50.8	60.9	

	1990	2000	2010	2015
M	61.6	73.4	75.2	81.4
F	33.7	47.8	50.8	60.9

There is gender bias in education of Females even though the female literacy has increased over the years still it is less when compared to that of males.

According to census of India 2011 there has been an improvement in literacy rate over census 2001.

INDIA	64.83 (2001)	74.04(2011)
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But in when we divide India in to rural and urban 1/3 of rural population is illiterate. Rajasthan is the least literate state in India.



LITERACY RATE VARIATIONS BETWEEN STATES

STATE	LITERACY RATE
Kerala	93.91%
Lakshadweep	92.28%
Bihar	63.82%
Rajasthan	55%
Tamilnadu	80.33%

This table shows that Kerala tops literary chart while Rajasthan has much to do in literary front. The literacy rate is further down in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madyapradesh, Andrapradesh and West Bengal to 30%.

There is a positive correlation between education and health. According to International Monetary Fund if a women is educated and employed economic development is possible which reduces child mortality and malnutrition. If girls below the age of 15 marry and give birth, are more likely to die than children birth at 20 years of age.

Social awareness can be created and women can emphasis their rights by joining together, fighting all evils such as dowry, violence, child marriage. Empowering women by through education and employment will end poverty and promote prosperity. There can be positive attitude.

CONCLUSION

We Employment through Improvement in Education, Improvement in Employment, Improvement in Earnings , So 3E leads to an increase in saving, investment, capital formation, and overall economic development .EMPOWER WOMEN .FAMILY, Nation world.