



“ज्ञान, विज्ञान आणि सुसंस्कार यासाठी शिक्षण प्रसार”

-शिक्षणमहर्षी डॉ. बापूजी साळुंखे



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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Abstract:

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian constitution in its preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The constitution not only grants equality to women's, but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women.

INTRODUCTION:

Empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individual and communities

METHODOLOGY:

Present research paper is based on secondary data which is collected from the books, journals, newspapers, and internet

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio whereby female's population has been comparatively lower than males. As far as their social status is concerned, 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 are found in India even today. The paradoxical situation has such that she was sometimes concerned as Goddess and at other times merely as slave.

The status of Women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennium. In early Vedic period Women enjoyed equal status with men. Rigved & Upanishads mention several names of women sages and seers notably Gargi & Maitrey. However later the status of women began to deteriorate approximately from 500 B.C., the situation worsened with invasion of Mughals and later on by European invaders. Some reformatory movements by Guru Nanak, Jainism, Rajaram Mohan Rai, Ishwarchandra Vidya Sagar, Pandita Rama Bai and others did give some relief. It is not that Britishers didn't do anything for improving the condition of women. Some laws were enacted such as "Abolition of practice of Sati", Widow Remarriage Act 1856 etc. The real change came after independence. Constitution of India guarantees equality to women (Article 14). There are other articles too which ensure rights of women e.g. no discrimination by the state [article 15 (1)] equality of opportunity (Article 16) etc. Feminist activism picked up momentum in India during later 1970's. Later on many groups and NGO's have been working for the Empowerment of women. We are proud that in India Women got voting right much before USA and some other European countries. Education is a powerful tool of social transformation. Hence, education for Women has to be paid special attention. Greater access for women to education must be ensured in the true

The term empower, is relative to weakness, disabilities, advantages and deprivations based on sex, age, population (minority). 'Empower' means make one powerful or equip one with power to face the challenge of life's , to overcome the disabilities, handicaps and inequalities. Empowerment is an active multi-dimensional process, which should enable women to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life. It would consist in providing greater access to knowledge and resources, greater autonomy in decision-making, greater ability to plan their lives and freedom for shackles imposed on them by custom, belief and practice (Sapru 1989). According to Karl (1995) Empowerment is process of awareness and capacity building, leading to greater participation, to greater decision-making powers and control and transformative action. According to Boraian (2003), Empowerment is the process of challenging existing power equations and of gaining greater control over the sources of power. The goals of women's empowerment are to challenge patriarchal ideology, to transform the structures and institutions that reinforces and perpetrate gender discrimination and social inequality, and to enable poor women to gain access to and control over both material and informational resources.

Women's empowerment, ideally speaking, means claiming and sharing equality with men. However, since men have certain natural advantages over women, men are lightly to dominate women in many spheres of life. Therefore, empowerment should be understood in relative and not women's empowerment in India principally aims at enhancing their social functioning by a quantitative and qualitative change, particularly in the field of education, health and employment. Redistribution of social power and changes in the control of resources in favor of women in any society is not possible unless women are healthy, educated and provided with gainful employment opportunities (Pamecha and Khatke, 2005; more 2002).

It should be observed that women's empowerment is not the sole responsibility of women. Indeed it is a social responsibility of the family, society and nation.

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN :

The 73rd and 74th Amendments of constitution of India in 1993 are landmarks to ensure to political empowerment of women. These provisions surely ensure of protection of women's political rights. It provides reservation of seats for women at political podium. After utilizing this benefits and after getting elected in at any election. They are made rubber stamp by their husband one of the reason is the rigid patriarchal structure of Indian society.

EDUCATION :

Equal access to education to women and girls will be ensured special measures will be taken to eliminate discrimination and to uplift women by providing education eradicating illiteracy completely by gender sensitive education system by increasing and retention rates of girls and by improving the quality of education of facilitating lifelong learning as well development of occupation, vacation, technical skills as women.

Though a rough parity in enrolment has been achieve for girls and boys at primary level. Girls continue to be denied quality education.

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN:

Social empowerment women is gradual and complicated process it involves changing the way of thinking of whole society from long time it has been stamped on the minds of the people that women's are inferior to men. It is not easy to change the stubborn attitude of people. Women have inadequate access to education, health facilities, and nutrition social empowerment can be determined as.

HEALTH:

Women's health is affected by many factors. Including biological differences and social conditions. Discriminations and lack of access to and inadequate health care and other services. Lack of food deficiency housing and inadequate access to safe drinking water pose threat to rural and other women's health morbidity and mortality rate of women due to inadequate attention to reproductive health are high.

POVERTY:

Women bear a disproportionate share of the growing poverty in the world today especially in the

developing countries and fast Europe. This has been a result of uncertain global economic climate, persistent external debt problems and structural adjustment programs and civil strife in many parts of the world. Extra burden on women stems from the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy and ownership and inheritance education and support services and their minimal participation in decision making.

Violence:

Violence against women is a global problem. Historically, men have dominated over women, discriminated against them.

Legal empowerment of women:

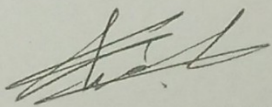
There are various legislations that have been passed in India. With a view to curb the imbalance in the imbalance in gender hierarchy and aid in women's empowerment. The constitution of India guarantees various rights for women in this regard. The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the constitution of India, where by the constitution upholds and grants the equality to women and which means that courts any law enforcement agency should not discriminate between a man and a woman. Article 14 guarantees the right against discrimination, article 15 talks about the special protection for women. Article 16 provides the right to equal opportunity in terms.

CONCLUSION

The Empowerment of women has become one of the most important concerns of 21st century not only at national level but also at the international level. Efforts by the Govt. are on to ensure Gender equality but Government initiatives alone would not be sufficient to achieve this goal. Society must take initiative to create a climate in which there is no gender discrimination and Women have full opportunities of Self decision making and participating in the Social, Political and Economic life of the Country with a sense of equality.

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