

Women empowerment and Gender Sensitization: Facts and Realities

Avinash Pratap Singh, Soma Joarder

Department of medieval and modern history Awadh University, Ayodhya
Department of Sociology, Assam University, Silchar

Abstract

From ancient times, India has taken a challenging task to reducing the poverty rate, and sensitizes the second gender of society. It was a hierarchical process since societal norms and rules were generated that women are subjugated by the men and they didn't have the right to do whatever they want. This research paper analyzes the present scenario, what constitution gives the right to women and what are the realities among them. In rural India most of the women are uneducated and they don't know about her right that is why these women are dominated by the men. So women empowerment is important in rural areas. This research paper is started with introduction of women empowerment and in middle part are deals with the laws and regulations passes by the government for women upliftment. The third part is concluding with some suggestions.

Keywords: women empowerment, gender sensitization, Indian society, gender inequality, constitution.

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I. INTRODUCTION

India has taken a challenging task to modernize the Indian society by reducing poverty rate and improving the life style of most of the population of country. Women have playing a vital role to improve the socio economic condition of any subcontinent. A growing country needs the good economic and social security, men and women both have to play equal role in the society. And in these process women empowerment is the most important factor in society. Indian constitution granted the equal rights for male and female both but if we saw the actual situation women are source of subjugation in the society. They are beaten by their husband; they don't have to right to education etc. Even in the modern world most of the girls are not going outside and they don't have even primary level education and married in the early age. Boys are living a better life in comparison to the girls and these differences created by their parents because of their old traditions. India is a developing country and any country should not be developed until women don't have equal participation in the economic growth.

Gender inequalities are still deep rooted problem in every society; they suffer lack of access to decent work. In many situations, women are denied to access to basic education and even in health care and the victims of violations in the Indian society. All the part of India even in contemporary time women not has right to basic education. They are not part of the political and decision making process in development.

Women empowerment refers women are becoming powerful and capable to take their basic commodities and decision own self. When women have equal power in society, it must be grow up very high. But not only Indian scenario even most of the part of world women have suffered from thousand years and treated as almost non-existent.

Almost the whole world, no matter how progressive they are, has a long history of the threatening of women. In India women empowerment and gender sensitization is needed more than the other countries because they are illiterate than the men and other part of society from long ago. Women are not safe in this country. They are harassed by their family, workplace and others because of the gender gap. There is various reasons:

- ❖ Danger of honor killing
- ❖ Unsupportive family behaviour
- ❖ Early marriages of girl's

Reformation in Indian society with special reference to gender differences is only possible through gender sensitization. It refers to the attitude, roles, activities and behaviour of men and women in the society. It is dynamic effects by society whereas the term 'sex' refers to biological and physiological characteristics of males and females. Sensitization means to change their prejudices and discriminative behaviour towards the downtrodden section of society such as women.

'Gender sensitization' refers to modifications of behaviour by raising awareness about gender equality concerns. But empowerment means moving from a weak position to a strong position to transit the power. This is surely a negative attitude against the natural characteristics of men and women. A recent survey highlighted that the fact if we asked to school student who should sacrifice meal, if it is short on the dinning table most of answered, the mother as the first choice followed by the sister or other female members living in family. Now the question comes that why male member are not sacrifices the meal and why they eat first on the dinning table. This is a sharp discrimination between men and women in terms of the strength and wage earning capacity etc. This type of gender discrimination happens women in their families regularly but they ignore. In general belief in society that female need protection and weaker section in society. These beliefs make a major gap among male and female in Indian society.

Status of women in India

There has been heavy transformation in the status of the women in comparison to ancient to modern period. In contemporary period women have a part of completely in areas such as politics, military sectors, economic, service, and technology sectors? Thus, women have occupied a dignified position in her own family and Indian society. However, ending crimes against women is still a challenge in n society. We can do it less by ensuring women autonomy, increasing participation and decision making process in the family and public life.

India have half of the population related to females. In Indian constitution laws and schemes are made without any discrimination. As a result many women have enjoyed high position in our society. Women empowerment and gender inequality is essential for any society to achieve the goal of sustainable development in our country. As a result women have participated in various activities with men. They serve different type of role such as MLA, MP, IAS, IPS, Governor etc. In modern India many example written in history like Indira Gandhi, pratibha Devisingh Patil, lata mangeshkar, sushma swaraj etc. Most of the female are also going in the field of art, science and technology.

In general the actual status of women in India is far below, they are burning, torturing for failure of payment of dowry as the people are demanded to girl side in all over part of the India. Indian constitution gives the many rights to save the glory of women and rules against dowry but in actual it's not possible at ground level. The literacy rate of women is also lower in comparison to men. There status shows that the actual status of women in India is not satisfactory.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions for women empowerment in India

Indian constitution constitutes the equal rights for women in all the way such as fundamental rights, directive principles. The constitutions of India not only granted equal rights but it will also talks about empower the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in the favour of women. The constitution speaks the developmental policies, plans and programmes have are the women empowerment in different forms.

Constitutional provisions

Fundamental rights granted a free environment among others to ensure the gender equality before the law and protection of women. Discrimination against any citizen of India on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and equal opportunity to all. Article 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 42 etc. Of Indian constitution are specific importances on the regard to women empowerment.

- Equality before law for women (14)
- The state should not discriminate to any citizen on the basis of their religion, race, caste, sex and place of birth. Article 15 (1)
- Some special provisions for women and children. Article 15 (3)
- Equal opportunity for all citizen. Article 16
- To promote justice, on the basis of equal opportunity and Legal aid. Article 39 (a)
- To save the dignity of women. (Article 51 (a) e)
- One third seats reserved for women in panchayats. Article 243 (3)

Legal Provisions

Women may be victims of any of the crimes like murder, robbery, cheating, etc. The crimes directed against wen are characterized as ' Crime against women's. These crimes are two types.

The crime under Indian Penal Code

- Rape (sec 376IPC)
- Kidnapping and abduction for different purpose (sec 363-373)
- Homicide for Dowry, Dowry deaths or their attempts (sec 302/304-b IPC)
- Molestation (sec 354 IPC)
- Torture (mental and physical) (sec 498-A IPC)

- Sexual harassment (sec 509 IPC)
- Importation of Girls (up to 21 years)

The crime under special law

- The employees State insurance act, 1948
- The family courts act, 1954
- The special marriage act
- The Hindu marriage act , 1955
- The Hindu succession act, 1956 with amendment in 2005.
- The maternity benefit act, 1961
- Dowry prohibition act, 1961
- The medical termination of pregnancy act, 1971
- The prohibition of child marriage act, 2006
- Indecent representation of women (prohibition) act, 1986
- Commission of Sati prevention act, 1987
- The protection of women from domestic violence act, 2005

Special initiatives for women

- ✓ National commission for women - Jan1992
- ✓ Reservation for women in local self government, 1992
- ✓ The national plan of action for the girl child (1991-2000)
- ✓ National policy for the empowerment of women 2001

The provisions initiated by the government of India is working in the local areas but what is the Realities among all these policies and amendments. If we are going in villages areas there are numbers of dowry cases happened but authorities can not do anything because most of women not questioning their parents on this subject that why should they dowry to boy side. Some of the murder, girls burning etc. Happened but there is no any cases of this because of their pride and social practices.

Stages for women empowerment and gender sensitization

1. Empowering women

Firstly the people living around women have changed their mindset for women. The government and other institution initiated many schemes such as equality for women in all sectors like job opportunities, admissions etc. In the present society the empowerment of women can be completed through only given the equality and empower themselves. It is fundamental right for any citizen of India to choice anything what they want without any violence and freedom to participate more and more in social gathering. Gender sensitization is playing key role attempt to empower the women.

2. Importance of Gender Equality

Gender Equality ensures the equal opportunities, rights for women in every sphere of life. This also speaks equality in their opinion, financial independence, business, equal access in all facilities.

3. Shifting of Roles

The roles played by women in society are now changing. In present scenario women are seems equal in all social activities. The role played by men's in past times now it play by the women also.

4. Identification of their needs

The roles played by female in society need to determine. This is governed by the age factor, urban/rural orientation social status and educational attainment also. Women have common interests, the choices that have vary by region by region.

5. Compulsory education for every girl child

In the Indian constitution the basic education is mandatory for all and it's very necessary in the development for society. All over the world have now investing the lots of money for the education and betterment of girls and it's playing a big role in the reduction of poverty. Educated girls marry later and earn money for the survival of their families. They are more aware about her health care and better caretakers than the uneducated women.

Needs of Gender Sensitization

Women are playing multi role in society but they discriminated not only the womb of their mother and childhood but also every stages of their life. They played an impressive role in the development of society as well as for their country. In spite of all these numbers of problems faced by them in their day to day life. In race of many challenges they have potential to personal growth and live a better life for the survival in society.

In Indian context women faced many challenges such as domestic violence, literacy rate etc. The Indian society is patriarchal society and female have facing hard rules to survive in the society. They have forced marriage in early ages , dowry practices is one of the worst tradition coming from ancient to present. Which have a big cause of female suicide, burning by their family members etc? All the challenges faced by them related to gender opinion and equality are the result of 'gender ideology'. There is several other causes of the gender issues in the Indian society:

- **Individual-** lack of awareness, degradation of values and ethics.
- **Education-** literacy rate among female are very low.
- **Employment-** women faced time management problem and this is the cause of they do not go for work place.
- **Political-** lack of participation of women in political activities and decision making.

Based upon the above mentioned various causes women's must be open minded, rational and sensitive to overcome in gender equality. The need of the sensitize the women in the all part of globe.

Strategies to promote Gender Sensitization in India

Providing the equal opportunities to women in educational, business sector etc. In general it granted by the constitution but when we come in realities it not same as written in papers. UGC and others bodies also promote the women studies and established women center in many pioneering educational bodies.

- The teacher must be give equality in their teaching I'm classroom, decision making and choices.
- By encouraging educational activities in basic and elementary level.
- Feeling of safety measure in environment.
- Style of treatment by the family and elders.
- Seminar, conferences, workshop organized by the educational bodies to debate on women empowerment and gender sensitization.
- Equality in human rights and justice.
- To stop gender based violence's in society.
- In the remote areas training centers organized by the governing bodies.

In the present time the condition of women is absolutely improve than previous time but there are much needs to development in further areas. India have patriarchal system and it's difficult to change the mind set of people and set a equal mind set using for male and female both. The society where female burned for the some pieces of paper (money) by their family members, where they living in fear of abuses, it very easy to cultivate and change the mind set of this family but many provisions granted by the government it's changing now. They have survive from the brutal situations and living a peaceful environment in everyday life.

II. CONCLUSION

Our predominant patriarchal system does not provide equal opportunities for women to come in higher education ever if they have wish. Girls should be motivated through higher education by the gender sensitization. Mahatma Gandhi stated, "If we educate a man you educate an individual but if you educate a women you educate entire family". The statement is true because a man only living in his family but a girl educated her father families as well as her husband families too.

It is concluded that the constitution launched many rules, laws for the empowerment of women to improving their fortune and glory by developmental schemes but the problem facing by women in India is still need to desired. The top priorities of government to improving female literacy rate, creating skills and capability to stand their own feet. The grass root problem of Indian society is to given the equal opportunity in educational sector. As Swami Vivekananda said- "that nation which does not respect women will never became great now and not will even in future". In the process of making India in the list of great nation let us work towards giving women their deserved status.

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