

Empowering Women from Sati to Manushi Chhillar: Part of New India Mission@2022

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Abstract: Empowerment of women is not a new term. It is there in all countries whether developed or developing. It demands for improving the economic, political and social strength of women. In India women has gone through the various evils of society but standing today, shoulder to shoulder with men removing all those shackles which humiliate them. Women in our country have proved that they are not less than men by bringing laurels at international sports and other competitions. P.V.Sindhu, Manushi chillar, Jhulan Goswami, Mary kom and Sushma Swaraj are some of the examples who highlight the India's women growth story. This paper tries to analyze the various steps taken by government to uplift the Women and the various suggestions which need to be taken care of, if the new India mission of women empowerment has to be achieved.

Keywords: women development, women empowerment and gender equality.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Women in India have gone through various stages of transformation. Women in ancient times have high position but changes to low position when evils like dowry, sati system, sexual harassment, domestic violence and child marriages entered their lives. Further in today's scenario women are coming back to high position and this time holding it with firm grip. It will be not wrong to say that India which is emerging as a largest developing economy is due to one of the reason because of equally talented and brilliant women. Today the names of eminent Indian women personalities are taken with full pride at international levels. And the brighter side is that women with limited resources, no political education and social support have overcome the challenges while taking part in public and political spheres. The women had fought and raised voices to claim their basic human rights for decades.

2. EMPOWERMENT:

The **World Bank defines empowerment** as "Empowerment is the expansion of assets and capabilities of poor people to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control, and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives".

Four Elements of Empowerment

- Access to information
- Inclusion and participation
- Accountability
- Local organizational capacity.

3. Need For Women Empowerment

- Population of any country includes around **50% as women** but as Hillary Clinton has said "Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world" meaning women strength is not counted but having great potential and because of this reason they become unemployed and deprived.
- For **Sustainable Development** women need to be empowered about the various social, political and economical aspects of life. Empowerment of women holds the key in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure gender equality.
- It is very important that women can live without any fear and hesitation. She should know all her rights and privileges. Therefore empowerment through individual rights is very important. Today, it is our duty to ensure the participation of women in every field of life, be it social or economic life, it is our fundamental duty as We are part of a tradition where men were identified due to women-**Yashoda-Nandan, Kaushalya-Nandan, Gandhari-Putra**, these were identities of a son.
- For moving towards **Women-led-development** from women development.
- According to a report by the United Nations, about 51 percent of the women do not get monetary compensation for their work. Many women lose their jobs or give up good career opportunities to run a household. The **marriage market** many a times puts a full-stop to the personal growth of women According to **IMF** (International monetary fund) raising women's participation in the workforce to the level of men can boost Indian economy by 27 per cent.

4. Some Landmark Developments for Women Empowerment

- Right to equality (Article 14)
- 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment under which 1/3rd seats is reserved for women.
- The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987
- Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION and REDRESSAL) Act, 2013
- THE WOMEN (EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE) BILL, 2017: to establish a Women Empowerment and Welfare Authority to provide for monthly incentive schemes for girl Children to delay marriage until age of twenty one years.

5. Major schemes government for Women Empowerment

- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme: it is a scheme which aims to create awareness for welfare of girls. It also aims to tackle the declining sex ratio in the country.
- Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP) for Women: To create a noteworthy impact on women by promoting their skills. The end group includes the marginalized asset less rural women and urban poor it provides support for supplementary civilizing training and service conditions of women.
- One Stop Centre Scheme: any women facing domestic violence or any other crime against women get support and provided with specialized services.
- Mahila E-Haat: To support financial inclusion of Women Entrepreneurs in the financial system by providing continues sustenance and maintain their creativeness.
- Swadhar Greh Scheme: It provides provisional accommodation, safeguarding and rehabilitative services to women and girls rendered homeless due to family dispute, offense, violent behavior, psychological stress.
- Women Helpline Scheme: All women and minors, who may find themselves in any dangerous situation, can call the number 1090/1091 to register their complaints.
- UJJAWALA : A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Working Women Hostel: These hostels are well-known to give food, shelter and other services together with safety to the working women who are away from their families on sum of charges approved by the Government.
- Digital Gender Atlas For Advancing Girl's Education In India: It Help to categorize near to the ground performing geographic pockets for girls, mainly from marginalized groups such as scheduled castes, schedule tribes and Muslim minorities, it also Helps to spot and focus on helpless girls, together with girls with disabilities.
- Gender Budgeting Scheme: It aims to achieve gender mainstreaming so as to make sure that benefits of growth reach women as much as men.
- National Mission For Empowerment Of Women (Nmew)/ Mission Poorna Shakti: To ensure financial empowerment of women, violent behavior against women is eliminated increasingly and collective empowerment of women with prominence of health and education.
- Sukanya Samruddhi Yojana : To inspire parents to open an bank account in the name of a girl child and for her benefit to place highest of their savings upto the agreed limits so to meet the requirement of higher education expenditure.
- Janani Suraksha Yojana: It aims at reducing maternal and infant mortality by promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women.

Many of these schemes are not just policies, but actual on-ground movements that are active across the country, like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and the 'Ujwala Yojna' that directly benefits women. 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' has been one of the most powerful and effective movements in India in recent times. It has made families take pride in their daughters and is helping us build a women-empowered India.

6. Other Recent Developments

The **Supreme Court's judgement on triple talaq** was a "milestone" for women empowerment and will strengthen the secular foundation of the country. The court by a majority verdict has set aside the practice of divorce through triple talaq among Muslims, saying it was void, illegal and unconstitutional.

Special space in Economic Survey: Pink is the colour of the Economic Survey 2017-18, signifying the support and promotion of the growing movement to target and end violence against women and to promote women's rights. The preface of the Survey talks about addressing the deep, ingrained societal issues of gender inequality and how this

reflects in the education and reproductive, as well as the economic agency of women in the country. The annual document looked at advancing the gender equality agenda.

#SelfieWithDaughter campaign: It aimed at increasing knowledge about female foeticide and sex choice. Under it mobile application was launched to take photographs with their daughters and help make the campaign a success.

At the international level the "#Me Too" movement which spread virally in October 2017 is used on social media to help demonstrate the widespread prevalence of sexual assault and harassment, especially in the workplace

7. SUGGESTIONS:

- Women's security is another big issue in our society. The Nirbhaya Fund was developed as an idea to create a capital that could be utilized to work on women's security and safety. India has a federal structure, and for any scheme to do better, we need a partnership between the central and the state governments. Recently, the Centre had asked authorities from eight metros across the country to conduct a study to examine the gaps in the safety apparatus for women and seek aid under the **Nirbhaya Fund**. We need more such initiatives at the federal level, especially in rural areas.
- In order to change the scenario, what we need is more than legislation, we need to change the perspective. We have to raise our generation with the **concept of inclusiveness** and our boys more than our girls need to learn that there is no distinction between the jobs and capabilities of a man and a woman.
- Any discrimination based on the lines of gender must be brought forward and not buried and neglected as something that is so widespread that we learn to turn a blind eye towards it.
- There is an immediate need to introduce firm laws to safeguard women against discrimination at the workplace, the various processes and stages of recruitment, growth and retirement-related aspects.
- India must bring reforms which focus on broad-based and true inclusion of women in its economy.
- There are only nine percent women are members of legislative assemblies (MLAs) amongst 4,118 members across the country. This means that women do not have equal opportunities for political participation, and the government should be committed to strengthening the agency dimensions of women for their empowerment and for the overall objective of building a **just, democratic and progressive society**.
- Gender equality should be achieved through new laws, strengthening the existing ones, creating programmers to eradicate violence against women and encouraging women participation in decision making.

8. CONCLUSION:

The dream of a New India@2022 and the dream of making our country a world leader is directly proportional to the level of safety a woman feels in her country. Woman power has shown inner fortitude and self-confidence, has made her self-reliant. Not only has she advanced herself but has carried forward the country and society to newer heights. Our Prime Minister himself has so many times reiterated the need for women-centric development and these shows in our commitment to spend much more on health and education in the near future.

Thus, creating awareness and working together for our nation from a platform that recognizes, respects and promotes gender equality is the need of hour.

"There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved, it is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing" - **Swami Vivekanand**

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