

Women Empowerment: A Key Factor to the National Development

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ABSTRACT

When the word women empowerment come to the mind it not only relates to the field of household only but also plays a much greater role in the field of sports, science, education, corporate etc. The women empowerment in the 21st century has taken up a boost because in today's scenario everyone is aware regarding the potential that a woman has. Various issues prevailing like-rapes, molestation, sexual harassment at the workplace or other social evils that put a deep impact on the growth of woman in the society but the woman not taking this in consideration growing rapidly. Government is also putting efforts for the empowerment of woman like:-In Companies Act,2013 there is a special provision regarding the appointment of a woman director Similarly in the Corporate Sector where a good governance and code of conduct is followed there exists reputed jobs for the woman in every field. In this context, the manuscript I am trying to highlight is the objectives, challenges, growth and what are the steps to be taken for the betterment in the empowerment of women in this society. The paper is based on secondary data which depicts the development in the women position.

I. INTRODUCTION

When the word women empowerment come to the mind it not only relates to the field of household only but also plays a much greater role in the field of sports, science, education, corporate etc. The women empowerment in the 21st century has taken up a boost because in today's scenario everyone is aware regarding the potential that a woman has.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT is a societal changing concept where the society has to give woman an equal opportunity to stand and prove themselves. The various issues prevailing under the ambit of women empowerment are:-

- Have equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities,
- Have equal social status in the society,
- Have equal rights for social and economic justice,
- Determine financial and economic choices,
- Get equal opportunity for education,
- Get equal employment opportunity without any gender bias,
- Get safe and comfortable working environment.

II. IMPORTANCE OF WOMAN EMPOWERMENT

1. Problem of Under and unemployed: Women population composed around 49.74% of the world population. A huge number of women around the world are unemployed. The world economy suffers a lot because of the unequal and low opportunity for women at workplaces.

2. Capable to be competent and intelligent equally: Women are equally competent in each and every field. Nowadays, women are even ahead of men in many socio-economic activities.

3. Skilled & Talented: Women are as talented as men. Previously, women were not allowed higher education like men and hence their talents were wasted. In the current scenario they are having support from families to go for higher studies and it encourages women to show their talents which will not only benefit her individually but to the whole world at whole.

4. Development of society: The main advantage of Women Empowerment is that there will be an overall development of the society at whole. The money that women earn does not only help them and or their family, but it also help develop the society. This will leads to change the narrow thinking of people.

5. Economic Aspect: In 21st century when the women empowerment takes a high important women of rural area working in Lizzat Pappad etc are the best example of economic contribution.

6. Low cases of domestic violence: Now women being independent can leads to a good status in the society thus Women Empowerment leads to decrease in domestic violence. Uneducated women are at higher risk for domestic violence than an educated women.

7. Less corruption: Women Empowerment is also advantageous in case of corruption. Women being competent for the duties will not allow corruption at any instance

8. Reduction in Poverty: The sources of income are limited in the ancient times when the male is considered to be the earner in the house but now the woman is also earning may it be urban or rural area.

9. National Development: Women are increasingly contributing to the national development because now women stands on their feets and by their earning they are capable to buy something of their choices, provide good education to their children etc.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1.To check the women status improvement in the society
- 2.To find out various initiatives taken by society and government in respect to women empowerment
- 3.To find out various challenges faced by women in the society
- 4.To find out various measures to remove the obstacles in the field of women empowerment.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Type of data collection :- Secondary Data.

Sources of material collected:- Through Government websites, Journals, Online Media etc.

V. VIEW OF DIFFERENT FIVE YEAR PLANS ON WOMEN

S.No.	Five Year Plans	Views on Women
1.	First Plan (1951-56)	Set up Central Social welfare board in 1953 to promote welfare through voluntary organizations, charitable trusts etc.
2.	Second Plan (1956-61)	Supported the Development of Mahila Mandals to work at the grassroots.
3.	Third, Fourth & Interim Plan	Had provisions for Women's Education, pre-natal and child health (1961- services, supplementary feeding for children, nursing and expectant.
4.	Fifth Plan (1974-78)	A major shift in the approach towards women from Welfare to Development
5.	Sixth Plan (1980-85)	Accepted women's Development as a separate Economic agenda. Took a multi-disciplinary approach with a three- pronged thrust on health, education and employment.
6.	Seventh Plan (1985-90)	Had the objective of bringing women into the mainstream of National Development.
7.	Eight Plan (1992- 97)	Saw the paradigm shift from development to Empowerment and benefits to women in the core sector of education, health and employment. Outlay for Women rose from Rs. 4 crore in the first plan to Rs. 2000 crore in the Eight.
8.	Ninth Plan (1997-02)	Had Empowerment of women as its Strategic Objective. Accepted the concept of a Women's component plan to assure that at least 30% of funds/benefits from all development sector flow to women.
9.	Tenth Plan (2002-07)	Suggests specific strategies, Policies and Programmes for Empowerment of Women.

10.	Eleventh plan(2007-12)	End various discrimination faced by woman and children with the help of National policy for woman 2001
11	Twelfth plan (2012-17)	To set up women's police station, family court, mahila court, legal aid centre etc.

VI. WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP : A PAVE TO THE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Entrepreneurship is the capacity of an individual to innovate. It is usually involves attitude and ability to meet unforeseen and adverse conditions. An entrepreneur is a decision maker who performs various functions to run the enterprise or to settle an entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs assemble resources including innovations, finance and business acumen in an effort to transform innovations into economic goods. This may result in new organizations or may be part of revitalizing mature organizations in response to a perceived opportunity. The most obvious form of entrepreneurship is that of starting new businesses: when entrepreneurship is describing activities within a firm or large organization it is referred to as entrepreneurship and may include corporate venturing, when large entities start spin-off organizations. So, in nutshell, the following qualities are required to be an entrepreneur:

- Innovative thinking and farsightedness.
- Quick and effective decision making skill.
- Ability to mobilize and marshal resources.
- Strong determination and self confidence.
- Preparedness to take risks.
- Accepting changes in right time.
- Access and alertness to latest scientific and technological information.

Historically, entrepreneurship has been a male-dominated pursuit, but many of today's most memorable and inspirational entrepreneurs are women. Women sector occupies nearly 45% of the Indian population. The current digital economy has increases opportunities for women entrepreneurs. While women entrepreneurs have demonstrated their potential, the fact remains that they are capable of contributing much more than what they already are. In order to harness their potential and for their continued growth and development, it is necessary to formulate appropriate strategies for stimulating, supporting and sustaining their efforts in his direction. Such a strategy need to be in congruence with field realities, and should especially take cognizance of the problems women entrepreneurs face with in the current system.

VII. WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Women entrepreneurship is the process where women or group of women initiate, organize and run business enterprise and provide employment opportunities to others. The Government of India has defined women enterprise 'as an industrial unit where one or more entrepreneurs have not less than 51 per cent of financial holding'. A woman as entrepreneur is economically more powerful than a mere worker. Women's active participation in economic activities leads to their economic development. Participation of women in entrepreneurship will provide a change to utilize their free time, rather than being employed outside their business in some other job. Emergence of women entrepreneurs in the economy is an indicator of women's economic independence and their social status.

VIII. NEED FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Women entrepreneurs should not be considered as a separate category. But in the male-dominated traditionally orthodox Indian society, economic independence of women did not have a social sanction. The entry of women in the field of industry and business is a recent development. To facilitate women to take up more challenging entrepreneurial careers, to equip them with essential support system and strengthen them in the struggle to establish themselves economically, socially and culturally at par with men in the initial stages, additional motivation, guidance, support and opportunity is necessary. The quest for economic independence and better social status and sometimes the sheer need for the family's survival force women into self employment and entrepreneurship. Motivational factors behind the entry of women in entrepreneurial careers are:

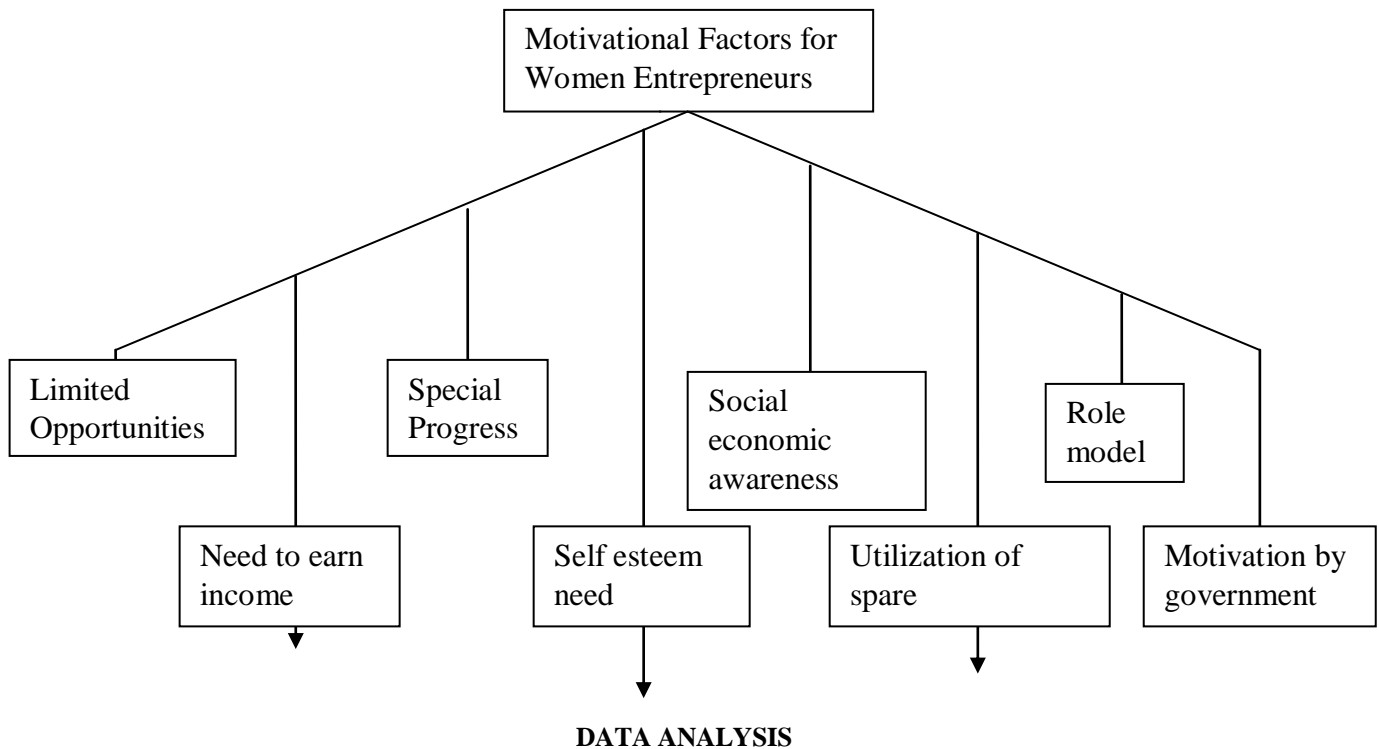


FIGURE 1: Literacy Rates in Post Independent India

Year	Rural			Urban			Combined		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
1951	4.87	19.02	12.1	22.33	45.6	34.59	8.86	27.15	18.32
1961	10.1	34.3	22.5	40.5	66	54.4	15.35	40.4	28.31
1971	15.5	48.6	27.9	48.8	69.8	60.2	21.97	45.96	34.45
1981	21.7	49.6	36	56.3	76.7	67.2	29.76	56.38	43.57
1991	30.17	56.96	36	64.05	81.09	67.2	39.29	64.13	52.21
2001	46.7	71.4	59.4	73.2	86.7	80.3	53.67	75.26	64.83
2011	58.75	78.57	67.8	79.92	89.67	84.1	65.46	82.14	74.04
% Increase in 2011 over 2001	26%	10%	14%	9%	3%	5%	22%	9%	14%

Source: Census of India, Office of Registrar General, India.

INTERPRETATION:- From the above table it can be rightly said that literacy rate in women has increased at lot. The figures of 1951 and 2011 shows a drastic change because government has taken step in order to improve the literacy rate but still there is a greater need to focus upon the better ways that would lead to more effective results. In rural area (1951) the % women educated are 4.87% as of now in 2011 it became 58.75%. The information is taken from the Census of India, Office of registrar General, India.

FIGURE:-2 State-wise Literacy Rates in Last 3 Decades

State/Union Territory	1991			2001			2011		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
A & N Islands	65.5	79.0	73.0	75.2	86.3	81.3	82.4	90.3	86.6
Andhra Pradesh	32.7	55.1	44.1	50.4	70.3	60.5	59.1	74.9	67.0
Arunachal Pradesh	29.7	51.5	41.6	43.5	63.8	54.3	57.7	72.6	65.4
Assam	43.0	61.9	52.9	54.6	71.3	63.3	66.3	77.8	72.2
Bihar	22.0	51.4	37.5	33.1	59.7	47.0	51.5	71.2	61.8
Chandigarh	72.3	82.0	77.8	76.5	86.1	81.9	81.2	90.0	86.0
Chhattisgarh	27.5	58.1	42.9	51.9	77.4	64.7	60.2	80.3	70.3
D & N Haveli	27.0	53.6	40.7	43.0	73.3	60.0	64.3	85.2	76.2
Daman & Diu	59.4	82.7	71.2	70.4	88.4	81.1	79.5	91.5	87.1
Delhi	67.0	82.0	75.3	74.7	87.3	81.7	80.8	90.9	86.2
Goa	67.1	83.6	75.5	75.4	88.4	82.0	84.7	92.6	88.7
Gujarat	48.6	73.1	61.3	58.6	80.5	70.0	69.7	85.8	78.0
Haryana	40.5	69.1	55.9	45.7	78.5	67.9	65.9	84.1	75.6
Himachal Pradesh	52.1	75.4	63.9	67.4	85.4	76.5	75.9	89.5	82.8
Jammu & Kashmir	NA	NA	NA	43.0	66.6	55.5	56.4	76.8	67.2
Jharkhand	-	-	-	38.9	67.3	53.6	55.4	76.8	66.4
Karnataka	44.3	67.3	56.0	56.9	76.1	66.6	68.1	82.5	75.4
Kerala	86.1	93.6	89.8	87.9	94.2	90.9	92.1	96.1	94.0
Lakshadweep	72.9	90.2	81.8	80.5	92.5	86.7	87.9	95.6	91.8
Madhya Pradesh	29.4	58.5	44.7	50.3	76.1	63.7	59.2	78.7	69.3
Maharashtra	52.3	76.6	64.9	67.0	86.0	76.9	75.9	88.4	82.3
Manipur	47.6	71.6	59.9	60.5	80.3	70.5	72.4	86.1	79.2
Meghalaya	44.9	53.1	49.1	59.6	65.4	62.6	72.9	76.0	74.4
Mizoram	78.6	85.6		86.8	90.7	88.8	89.3	93.3	91.3
Nagaland	54.8	67.6	61.7	61.5	71.2	66.6	76.1	82.8	79.6
Odisha	34.7	63.1	49.1	50.5	75.4	63.1	64.0	81.6	72.9
Puducherry	65.6	83.7	74.7	73.9	88.6	81.2	80.7	91.3	85.8
Punjab	50.4	65.7	58.5	63.4	75.2	69.7	70.7	80.4	75.8
Rajasthan	20.4	55.0	38.6	43.9	75.7	60.4	52.1	79.2	66.1
Sikkim	46.7	65.7	56.9	60.4	76.0	68.8	75.6	86.6	81.4
Tamil Nadu	51.3	73.8	62.7	64.4	82.4	73.5	73.4	86.8	80.1
Tripura	49.7	70.6	60.4	64.9	81.0	73.2	82.7	91.5	87.2
Uttar Pradesh	24.4	54.8	40.7	42.2	68.8	56.3	57.2	77.3	67.7
Uttarakhand	41.6	72.8	57.8	59.6	83.3	71.6	70.0	87.4	78.8
West Bengal	46.6	67.8	57.7	59.6	77.0	68.6	70.5	81.7	76.3
India	39.3	64.1	52.2	53.7	75.3	64.8	65.5	82.1	74.0

Source: Office of Registrar General, India.

Notes: 1. Literacy rates pertain to the population aged 7 years and above.

2. Literacy rates for 1991 exclude Jammu & Kashmir and for 2001 and 2011 exclude Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul Sub-divisions of Senapat district of Manipur.

INTERPRETATION:- As we have taken Punjab as a target to interpret the results because there are a lot of states but in a nutshell we can easily explain Punjab and overall India. In Punjab where women literacy rate is upgraded approximately 20.3% and if we take India then it will see a change of about 26.2%. But this improvement is not upto the mark due to the state emergencies, war etc. But nowadays government has taken steps in order to improve literacy rate by launching BETI PADHAO BETI BACHAO scheme etc.

IX. CONCLUSION

In the above context the Women Empowerment is a social phenomenon which still needs a greater reform. Till now the companies are paying their attention to the women development at an initial stage. In the field of business CEO like Chanda Kochar (ICICI), Indira Nooyi, Neeta Ambani etc are the famous examples. In other fields Deepa Karmarkar, Sakshi Malik, Kaplana Chawla etc. are the live examples. Government of India has to take up a definite measure so that the obstacle like Rapes, Molestation, Harassment at workplace need to be removed and strict punishment must be imposed so that any person will not become a nightmare in the development of women.

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