

Women Empowerment: Because Society Does Not Mean Man

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Abstract

We are living in a country, where women are given status of Goddess. Women were given a high place in our society and our history proves it. There is a saying in Sanskrit “yatra naryaste pujayante, ramante tatra Devta”, which means in short “Heaven is there, where women is worshiped”. But this is an irony that status of women has lost its shine in today’s world. This article, primarily based on secondary data tries to highlight the steps taken by Society and State, to help women regain their Status.

Key Words: Women empowerment, Infant mortality, Gender budgeting.

Introduction

In our Indian society, being a girl is an abuse. From the birth, they have to face discrimination on different grounds be it Fooding, School Education, Participating in school event or social activity. Women in India have been oppressed culturally, socially, economically and politically for centuries. They are exploited at home, in the families, in the society and in the country. In the Multi ethnic and multi cultural society like that exists in India, such exploitation takes various Forms. The core of the problem is that they shoulder a number of responsibilities, but they are not given adequate participatory or decision making power in the family or elsewhere. Principle of Survival of fittest by Charles Darwin, proposes that only she can survive in this society and world that is capable to adopt her as per the changing requirement of the nature. Definitely Indian women were never short of compatibility but either they were lacking in some other qualities were set back. The chariot of Society cannot move only one wheel as male; it requires other wheel, women to be as powerful as they are. “Khudi ko kar buland itna”, yes despite of several adversities , many women has made it a mark. They are inspirational for many of women. There are number of names appearing on the horizon and they are termed as “LAXMI” of India by BBC, Arundhati Rai Bhattacharya (CMD SBI), Naina Lal Kidwai (Country Head, HSBC) , Shikha Sharma (MD/CEO Axis Bank) , Chanda Kocchar (MD ICICI Bank), Archana Bhargav (MD United Bank). According to report issued

by DGCA , India has good number of women pilots as compared to other countries, out of a total 5050 pilots , 600 are females , which is 11.6 %. In Lok Sabha, there are 61 females out of 543.

International Day for Elimination of Violence against women

25th Nov. is celebrated as international day for eradication of violence against women, by United Nations, to make a check on increasing number of violence against women. Despite after a decade and half, the incidences are not limiting. Now half of population has decided to change its fate on its own, and is giving fight to the males neck to neck in every walk of life.

International Day for women

8th March. is celebrated as international day for women in different regions. The focus of the celebrations ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political, and social achievements. Started as a Socialist political event, the holiday blended in the culture of many countries, primarily in Europe, including Russia.

Backwardness of U.P. Women compared to All Indian as per Census Data Population

The female population in the country increased from 330.78 million in 1981 to 407.09 million in 1991 registering an increase of 77 million over the decade. In Uttar Pradesh the increase is about 13 million during this period.

Literacy

The female literacy rate in the country jumped from 24.8 percent in 1981 to 39.29 in 1991

percent registering an increase of about 15 percent. This achievement by any standard is not very small. In case of Uttar Pradesh the female literacy stands at 25.31 percent, which is much less than the national literacy rate signifying the definite backwardness of the state in this regard.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality in the country is 74 per thousand children while it stands 93 per thousand children in the state. The higher death and infant rates in the state depict the poor medical services.

Employment

The economic development of females depends upon the type of employment, which they are able to procure. The total female workers in the state stood at 4.85 million in 1991 which shows a clear increase of more than 2 million over 1981. This simply shows the awareness of the females to their economic independence.

Some Statistics at National Level Participation in Politics

We are at 113th position in a report on, participation of women in politics, prepared by Inter Parliament Union among a list of 189 countries, and the extreme is the countries like Rwanda, Bolivia, and Cuba are ranked higher than us

Women industrialist

Percentage of women industrialist is 32.82%, as per report of CMIE 2011, with U.P on top and Bihar at the bottom.

Crime against Women

According to Annual report of National Crime Bureau, 33707 cases of Rape, 8083 cases of Dowry, were registered in 2013 in country. The total number of incidence reported were 3, 09,546. It is 11.7% of total crime registered under IPC.

Entrepreneurial Organizations by Rural Women Mahila Gramodyog Sansthan

Established in the year 1995, “Mahila Gramodyog Sansthan”, is acknowledged as a coveted processor and supplier of Squashes & Syrups, Canned Items and Zaika Papads. Their products are processed using excellent quality ingredients that are procured from the reliable vendors. The quality of these products is tested at various stages of the processing process, right from the procurement of ingredients till the

products are delivered to the clients. These products are widely appreciated for their rich aroma, excellent flavors, long shelf life and adulterant-free composition. Under the valuable guidance of our mentor, '**Radha Singh**', we have been able to gain the trust and confidence of our clients. His constant motivation, managerial and business skills have enabled us to attain credibility in the market.

Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad

Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad, popularly known as **Lijjat**, is an Indian women's cooperative involved in manufacturing of various fast moving consumer goods. The organisation's main objective is empowerment of women by providing them employment opportunities. Started in the year 1959 with a seed capital of Rs. 80, Lijjat has an annual turnover of around Rs. 6.50 billion (over 100 million USD) in2010, with Rs. 290 million in exports It provides employment to around 42,000 people. Lijjat is headquartered in Mumbai and has 67 branches and 35 divisions all over India. Lijjat is primarily a cottage industry, urban by its origin; hat has spread to the rural areas. It is considered as one of the most remarkable entrepreneurial initiatives by women that are identified with female empowerment in India.

Sanitary Napkin Unit at Panchayat Udyog Kendra in Srinagar

Two IAS Officers posted at Mahoba, not only worked towards reducing illiteracy but also showed ways for Women Empowerment, through their positive approach and better thinking. DM. Dr. Kajal while inspection at a primary school, developed a thought of self employment as a response to an answer from a girl child. She asked a girl child about menstrual cleanness, and surprised over answer, she developed a thought with regards to menstrual cleanness by starting a unit at the village itself, to manufacture low cost sanitary napkins. Dr. Kajal donated a cheque of 3 lacs to order for machines but soon she was transferred, and the unit was inaugurated by the replacing DM, Mr. Anuj Kumar Jha. Today there are 28 women and 1 man earns their bread and butter by working 5 hrs. a day. So Education about menstrual cleanness and entrepreneurship is going side by side. Whereas sanitary pads of different

companies are available at Rs.25 while one manufactured at Srinagar cost only Rs. 13 Some programs initiated by government to raise the Status of Girl Child.

Salient features of (Sukanya Smaridhi Yojana)

1. Saving account can be opened in post office between 0-10 years of age
2. Only available for 1st, 2 girl child, if 2nd issue is sibling, available to all three girl child.
3. Min 1000 RS. For opening of account
4. Min. deposit in a year 1000 and max. 1.5 lacs
5. Deposit to be made for 14 years
6. 50rs penalty for min amount not deposited.
7. Maturity only after 21 years of opening of account.
8. 50% amount can be withdrawn after girl attaining age 18 years.

Salient Features of (Beti Bachao, Beti Pado Yojana)

1. This plan was started by honorable prime minister Mr. Narendra Modi on 22nd Jan 2015 at Panipat district of Haryana, to check on decreasing sex ratio.
2. Aim of this plan is to bring the change in mentality towards birth of girl child.
3. Initially it is to be launched in 100 districts of the country.
4. Mobile application by the name "HIMMAT", started by Delhi police which can be uploaded in Android phone.
5. 33% reservation for women in State police service at Gujarat.
6. Representation of women in central armed police forces (CAPF) to be increased to 5% from existing 1.5%.

Gender budgeting

Gender Budgeting is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that benefits of development reach women as much as men. It is not an accounting exercise but an ongoing process of keeping a gender perspective in policy/ program me formulation, its implementation and review. GB entails dissection of the Government budgets to establish its gender differential impacts and to ensure that gender commitments are translated in to budgetary commitments. The rationale for gender budgeting arises from recognition of the

fact that national budgets impact men and women differently through the pattern of resource allocation. Women, constitute 48% of India's population, but they lag behind men on many social indicators like health, education, economic opportunities, etc. Hence, they warrant special attention due to their vulnerability and lack of access to resources. The way Government budgets allocate resources, has the potential to transform these gender inequalities. In view of this, Gender Budgeting, as a tool for achieving gender mainstreaming, has been propagated.

Conclusion

When we talk about women empowerment, which is a multidimensional aspect, we have to assure empowerment is taking place at each stage. Empowerment should start right from the birth of girl child, and her birth should be welcomed. Next stage of empowerment comes when she starts to go to school, she should be given independence, openness and acceptance as is given to a boy. Third stage of empowerment should be her life after marriage and change in the customs followed during marriage and rest of her life.

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