

Women Power to be Empowered, Now!

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Introduction:

Gender equality is a fundamental human right, and it is also required for the existence of a peaceful and productive society on the planet today. Gender prejudice persists in cultures, economies, politics and social institutions worldwide. Gender equality demands women's empowerment, focusing on identifying and redressing power imbalances and giving women more autonomy to manage their own lives. When women are empowered, the whole family benefit, thus benefiting the society as a whole, and these benefits often have a ripple effect on future generations (Dr. T. Ramadevi, 2017). Despite the government's efforts, women in India are generally disempowered and have a lower status than men. There is a gender gap in access to school and work. It has been discovered that women's acceptance of unequal gender standards is still prevalent in Indian society. The subject of women's empowerment has become a burning issue worldwide, including in India, for the last few decades (Meena Murali, 2015). Access to education and work enable empowerment; it also heavily depends on people's attitudes toward gender equality. Given that women make up about half of India's population, significant economic improvement is out of the question without their participation and empowerment. Women's empowerment is critical for truly inclusive economic prosperity. It is critical for achieving long-term economic development in our country and beyond.

What is Women's Empowerment?

Women's empowerment refers to the enhancement of women's and women's communities' spiritual, political, social, educational, gender, and economic strength. Women's empowerment in India is highly influenced by various factors, including geographical location (urban/rural), educational status, social standing (caste and class), and age. Women's empowerment policies exist at the national, state, and municipal (Panchayat) levels in a variety of sectors, including health, education, economic opportunity, gender-based violence, and political engagement. However, there is a substantial gap between policy developments and actual community practice (Prof. Seema Singh and Dr. Antra Singh, 2020).

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Women's Empowerment refers to forming an atmosphere where women can make their own decisions for their personal and societal benefit. Women empowerment is the process of enhancing and strengthening women's social, economic, political, and legal strength to achieve equal rights for women and to instill in them the confidence to claim their rights, such as the ability to freely live their lives with a sense of self-respect and dignity, and to have complete control over their lives both inside and outside of their home, to make their own choices and decisions, to have equal rights to participate in social, religious, and public activities, to have an equal social position in society, to have equal rights to social and economic justice, and to determine financial and economic conditions obtain equal educational and job opportunities without regard to gender.

Women's empowerment is an issue that has to be addressed in India, particularly in rural areas. Due to prevailing social traditions, approximately 66% of the female population in rural areas is underutilized. In agriculture and Animal care, women contribute 90% of the total workforce. Women constitute almost half of the population, perform nearly 2/3 of its work hours, receive 1/10th of the world's income and own less than 1/ 100th of the world property. Women outweigh men two to one among the world's 900 million illiterate individuals. Lower sex ratio, i.e., 933, the existing studies show that women are relatively less healthy than men though they belong to the same class. They constitute less than 1/7th of the administrators and managers in developing countries. Only 10% of seats in World Parliament and 6% in National Cabinet are held by women (Dr. Smt.) Rajeshwari M. Shettar, 2015).

Why need Women's Empowerment?

Women are known for effortlessly juggling multiple roles throughout the day, and as a result, they are regarded as the backbone of any society. Women fill various roles in a male-dominated society, including caring moms, loving daughters, and capable coworkers. The best part is that they are appropriate for any role. Nonetheless, they have been a marginalized social group in many parts, including India. As a result, women have borne the brunt of inequity, lack of financial trustworthiness, oppression, and other social ills. Women have been enslaved for generations, preventing them from reaching professional and personal pinnacles.

Women and girls confront unacceptable levels of discrimination and abuse, which is unethical and stops them from fully participating in society and decision-making. Girls and women continue to confront major challenges worldwide. Women are generally underrepresented in positions of authority and decision-making. They are paid unequally for equal effort, and they regularly meet legal and other impediments that impede their capacity to

advance in their jobs. In the developing world, girls and women are frequently seen as less valued than their male counterparts. Instead of being sent to school, they are commonly compelled to perform domestic chores at home or are married off for a dowry before they reach the age of majority in their nation.

The road map for women's emancipation is in place, but we still have a long way to go on this empowerment route. Swami Vivekanand stated it correctly. The Best thermometer to the proceed of a nation is its treatment of women. As a result, giving them proper recognition in society and increasing their involvement in socioeconomic and political concerns becomes even more crucial. Everyone should step forward to ensure women's equality in all aspects of life.

Women as enablers of change:

Women must be allowed to realize their rights to autonomy in all aspects of their lives to grow and develop properly. Female birth attendants represent the nation's future, and they are the only ones who can help improve the nation's future through healthy child growth and development practices. Women must be empowered rather than treated as helpless victims of male chauvinism, historically the case. Women's emancipation means granting them financial independence. Winning the right to vote involves liberating women from all social and familial constraints in all parts of their lives, including their minds and thoughts, rights, and decisions. It seeks equality for both men and women to foster gender equality in all aspects of society. Women must be allowed to succeed to build the family, society, and country. Women deserve a better and more capable environment to make sound decisions for themselves, their families, society, and the country.

One of the essential methods to foster peace and stability is to give women economic possibilities. Research has demonstrated that economic partnerships between the public and private sectors that enable women to participate in a nation's expanding economy have a ripple effect against poverty that will reach beyond families and societies. The goal of empowerment is to shift people from oppressed powerlessness to positions of power. Women's participation in decision-making is critical for the health and socio-economic development of families, communities, and countries. Women's potential can be realized when they live safely, are happy, and participate in constructive activities. They can contribute to the labor force while raising happier and healthier children. They can also contribute to sustainable economies while benefiting societies and humanity.

Education is a critical component of the empowering process. Educating girls in STEM and IT will enable more women and girls to seek careers in these industries. Developing countries will speed their economic and social

development by encouraging women to engage in growth possibilities. Working women return 90% of their wages to their families, resulting in better health and education for their children. This, in turn, generates a circle that sustainably alleviates poverty. Women can transform disadvantaged communities by providing confidence, knowledge, and skills. Technology offers enormous potential for bridging the gender divide and empowering women in undeveloped countries. Girls who get an education can do meaningful work and contribute to their country's economy later in life. They are also four times less likely to marry young when they have eight years of schooling, implying that they and their families are healthier due to their education. Healthy, educated, and empowered women and girls are change agents in their communities. Women and girls have greater opportunities to speak out for their rights and the rights of their families and communities when they are supported. They can also advance in social standing, passing on to their future generations.

It is absurd to understand and analyze women's lives by looking at them. One can predict their level of intellect by seeing how they approach challenges and discover solutions. Women in the modern period are well-versed in resolving technical issues. In these circumstances, women's empowerment is critical. Without women's empowerment in India, it will be impossible to determine and comprehend women's intelligence. As a result, generating a living through labor is especially vital and advantageous.

Most women in society are impoverished and illiterate due to their inability to achieve significant levels of economic power. For the empowerment, women must be taught about their rights and benefits in modern society. Only when they are conscious of their social standing will they fully benefit from the concessions made available to them as a remedial action. Women's empowerment must start with their active engagement. Women cannot be empowered unless they break free from the constraints that limit their talent, skill, and spirit via education and economic self-sufficiency. Unless they are given the authority to play a decisive role in the country's social, political, and economic life, its development would be lopsided. Because of strongly ingrained social standards, women and girls worldwide are deprived of social authority and self-determination. Women's empowerment and gender equality can affect food, economic security, and health while encouraging environmentally friendly decision-making. When women are empowered, they can shape their own lives while also helping the future of our world. Every move toward greater gender equality benefits women and the entire human race. A single day cannot reduce the significance of women's empowerment to a single day. Every day should be a women's day to end all forms of discrimination and attain gender equality and women's freedom.

Conclusion

There is an urgent need of reassessing India's affirmative action's, giving fresh impetus on empowering girls and women not only through conventional education but also hand-holding for skill acquisition and providing them with an equitable economic opportunity with providing them with fitting medical and healthcare (Prof. Seema Singh and Dr. Antra Singh, 2020). The necessity of the hour is to identify the gaps or limits that impede the achievement of women's empowerment. This initiative must begin with the women themselves and, more crucially, policy initiatives done by the state and society. Women's Empowerment has emerged as one of the most pressing issues of the twenty-first century, not only on a national but also on an international scale. Government actions would not be adequate to attain this goal on their own. Society must take the initiative to create a climate where there is no gender discrimination and women have full chances for self-determination and equal participation in the country's social, political, and economic life. Women's empowerment is more than a catchphrase; it is a requirement for the optimal ability for comprehensive growth of a family, society, nation, and a sustainable planet.

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