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## MISMANAGEMENT OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN MODERN INDIA

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**Abstract:** *Mostly all international organizations and as well the national authorities for women development have been attempting to protect the status of women through various conventions, agreements and laws. Particularly, in India government is always trying to empower the women community through many social, economic and educational programmes. However, the community is almost deprived due to differences in socio economic, political and cultural factors. Further, they are always facing problems from all corners of the society, when they are in the process of occupying the developmental activities. Most of the time due to mismanagement in family, workplaces and also in educational institutions, the community is under all privileges. In this paper, the researcher emphasized the analogy of negligence on women community and adverse behaviour of the society which is causing ill welfare of the gender by the support of prevailed theory.*

**Key Words:** *Women Empowerment, Violence, Discrimination, Exploitation, Inequality, Human Rights etc.*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Today, women in free India have no remarkable change in their position where a great divergence arises between constitutional position and stark reality of deprivation and degradation. However the aroma of emancipation has blown in India which enjoyed by the urban women but the rural women are still untouched by the wind of changes. They still have been living in miserable conditions, steeped in poverty, ignorance, superstition and slavery. There exists a wide hollow between the goals enunciated in the constitution, legislations, policies, plans, programmes and so called mechanisms on one hand and the situational reality on other for the status of women in India. The human rights scenario in the country continues to be dismal and depressing. Women are being brutalized, abused, materialized and subjected to inhuman exploitation and discrimination (Bhuyan, 2006).

Further, the scene have been changed to rapid developments in every segments where the nation emerges as a global power but half of its population, the women across the nation still struggling for their survival with dignity continues. Women, irrespective of their social class, caste and educational status are not in safe and sound. Since, long time women have been neglected physically, mentally, socially and economically. However the mismanagement of women is not of recent origin as it was traced in the history of ancient India as they are facing discrimination throughout their life, being a mother, sister or wife.

In their study, it revealed that a girl child being killed by its family members and prayers being made that the same child will be reborn in the next year as a male child which was just one scene from a Indian serial Na Aana Iss Des Lado (Do Not Come into this Land Dear Daughter) in India all about the women negligence, who immersed in a bowl of milk. It looks as the social evil which rampant in some rural as well as urban parts of India. However the scene is not only limited to the TV serials or movies but it has realty as a whole (Das et al., 2012).

It is evident that declining of sex ratio across the nation amply portrays the discrimination towards women since birth. Further they are victims of rape, kidnapping and abduction, dowry related crimes, molestation, sexual harassment, eve teasing etc. According to the reports, India positioned 132 out of 187 countries on the gender inequality index which is lower than Pakistan (123) (Warsi, 2013). The United Nations Development Program's (Human Development Report, 2013) revealed that among all countries of South Asia were

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much better places for women than India. Here we have many constitutional and legal rights but in practice it's just like an empty boat without navigator.

Articles 23-24 of our constitution enumerate a list of rights that prohibits exploitation, human trafficking and trafficking of women. Particularly the directive principle of state policy as well the equality in status on women became a debate everywhere (Das and Saibabu, 2014). Everyday there are some incident across the nation about the women trafficking which could be found in all newspaper and television media. The question arises by many people whether the government is responsible or else the society as a whole for the molestation or harassment on women community.

### **REVIEWS ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

Women empowerment is an expression in the vocabulary of gender literature. It has two broad senses i.e. general and specific. The general sense refers to empowering women to be self-dependent by providing them access to all the freedoms and opportunities, which they were denied in the past because of their being women. In specific sense, women empowerment refers to enhancing their position in the power structure of the society. The word women empowerment essentially means that the women have the power or capacity to regulate their day- to- day lives in the social, political and economic terms, which enables them to move from the periphery to the centre stage (Bhuyan, 2006).

According to Dyson and Moore (1983), women empowerment is the capacity to obtain information and make decision about one's private concern and those of one's intimates. Further women empowerment is the degree to manage over material and social resources within the family (Miller, 1978). Hence it considered as a process of gaining and managing material and intellectual resources which could support women to develop their self sufficiency and enable them to achieve their independent rights, challenging the ideology of patriarchy and speaking for the gender based discrimination. These capabilities facilitate women to organize themselves to acquire authority to make decisions and ultimately eliminating their own subordination (Batliwala, 1994).

### **MISMANAGEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY**

In practice gender equality and the women empowerment are precondition to conquer the barriers for growth. Yet, the progress became sluggish in all segments like education, politics



and economy. According to Millennium Development Goal report, there are significant inequalities among gender and also in class, caste and region etc. which are hindering the process of growth. Particularly the persistent inequalities, ineffective delivery of public services, poor accountability systems and gap in the implementation of poor policies are further barriers to progress in this regard (Millennium Development Goal report, 2010). Hence to overcome these problems some experts recommended towards the devolution of power to local governments in rural areas, streamline of funds flow and use of information technology as well.

Mismanagement of powers among both the gender is responsible for creating and maintaining gender inequality in society due to negative impact on Indian economy. Further it reduces participation of women from social, political and economic activities that could be disadvantageous for men, as well as for women. For a woman, it is discrimination that emerges as the major stumbling block in the path of progress, in every walk of life starting from the foetus. The term glass ceiling is used to describe an invisible barrier where women are deprived of opportunities at all levels of employment and are discriminated only because they are women. On the other hand the empowerment of women is identified within the agenda of gender equality and is increasingly being taken in the agendas of international development organizations, perhaps more as a means to achieve gender equality than as an end in itself.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- (i) To study the mismanagement of gender inequalities in all sector where the women are unprivileged in the society.
- (ii) To understand the relationship between discrimination against women and women empowerment.
- (iii) To suggest some measures to overcome the barriers for necessary developments.

## **WOMEN EXPLOITATION AND IMPROPER MANAGEMENT**

Exploitation of women is various forms. It include crimes involving sexual exploitation such as prostitution and trafficking, adultery, abduction, rape, wrongful confinement and murder etc. on one hand and crimes related to women's property are dishonest misappropriation, criminal breach of trust, domestic violence, dowry extortion and outraging the modesty of



women etc. on the other. These crimes are not only injurious and immoral for the women community but for the society as a whole. These are the various kinds of exploitation faced by the women in the present society are:

- (i) **Female Infanticide and Feticide:** It has a significant role in lop sided sex ratio in India. Poor families in certain regions of the country sometimes resort to killing baby girls at birth, to avoid an unwanted burden on family resources. Sex selective abortion has also been common in the country. It's dangerous to abort the foetus after 18 weeks of pregnancy and quiet harmful for mother too at such a late stage.
- (ii) **Domestic Resentment:** In India the man is the master and women is the inferior and subordinate partner in a family due to societal pressure to maintain this status quo. In general wife is beating by husband and it is viewed as a general problem of domestic discord.
- (iii) **Dowry:** The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 results the first attempt by the government of India to recognize dowry as a social evil. Again the act was modified with the Dowry Prohibition Amendment Act, 1984 and Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1986. Women's organization have played key role in this process of change. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 defined that the practice of offering and receiving dowry is a criminal offence. So dowry is one of those social evils that no educated woman will own up with pride; still many are adhering to it. Practices of dowry tend to subordination of women in the society.
- (iv) **Rape:** Rape is the fastest growing crime in India compared to murder, robbery and kidnapping. According to the report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), every 60 minutes, two women are raped in this country. Each day a new rape we are reading from newspapers. One of the recent news of Gang Rape, in which one Munirka, 23 years old medical student was raped by 6 accused in a moving bus in New Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. The girl was taken to Singapore for advanced Treatment by Indian Government, but she died and became a permanent scar of the most brutal victimization of our society (The Hindu daily, 2012).
- (v) **Eve Teasing:** There are also the countless cases of eve teasing, indecent gazes, pinching, brushes and comments that infringe upon the rights of women, especially in overcrowded spaces, public transport etc. Mostly, these kinds of aggression are not



reported. Poor investigations, harsh cross examination of victims, senseless adjournment of cases and faulty assessment of evidence and furnishing of evidence by victims in presence of culprits are the reasons for not reporting and not dared to knock the doors of legal mechanism. Women cannot spare time, money, energy etc., to approach legal forum. There is no simple and inexpensive method of legal procedures to stop this kind of violence. Domestic and employment burden and cultural restrictions to resist them from taking legal actions (Nagindrappa, 2013).

In most of the cases the violence against women is a human rights violation. This unequal status of women is being offensive to human dignity. Human rights are derived from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person, and when these human rights are violated, this result the eradication of dignity and worth of the person which in turn results in lowering down the status accorded in family and society. Hence we know the low status of a person is the main cause of disempowerment.

Further the violation against women and women empowerment are the buzz issues being studied and become the prominent issue being discussed in seminars, symposiums, workshops and conferences etc. Authorities have made lot of efforts by making new polices and strategies to eradicate violence and to achieve women empowerment. On the perusal of government record, it is clear that the trend of violence against women is on increase from the year 2012. They are as follows:

- (i) In 2013, 35 per cent increase in rape case as compared to previous year.
- (ii) In 2013, 36 per cent of increase in kidnapping and abduction.
- (iii) Dowry deaths show decrease as compared to previous year.
- (iv) Cruelty by husband and relatives show 12 per cent of increase.
- (v) Assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty has increased by 56 per cent (National Crime Records Bureau, 2013).

## **CONSEQUENCE OF VIOLENCE**

There are multiple consequences of violence, having immediate and short-term to inter-generational effects. The consequences and costs of violence have impacts at the individual level (for survivors, perpetrators and others affected by violence), as well as within the family, community and wider society, which translate into costs at the national level. According to a study in India, a woman loses an average of at least 5 paid work days for each



incident of intimate partner violence. The differences between women and men, especially as reflected in social, political, intellectual, cultural, or economic attainments or attitudes. Further the gender inequality and discrimination are root causes of violence against women, influenced by the historical and structural power imbalances between women and men which exist in varying degrees across all communities in the world. Violence against women and girls is related to their lack of power and control, as well as to the social norms that prescribe men and women's roles in society and condone abuse. Inequalities between men and women cut across public and private spheres of life, and across social, economic, cultural, and political rights; and are manifested in restrictions and limitations on women's freedoms, choices and opportunities.

Battered women have tendency to remain quiet, agonized and emotionally disturbed after the occurrence of the torment. A psychological set back and trauma because of domestic violence affects women's productivity in all forms of life. The suicide case of such victimized women is also a deadly consequence and the number of such cases is increasing. A working Indian woman may drop out from work place because of the ill-treatment at home or office, she may lose her efficiency in work. Her health may deteriorate if she is not well physically and mentally. Some women leave their home immediately after first few atrocious attacks and try to become self-dependent. Their survival becomes difficult and painful when they have to work hard for earning two meals a day. Some of them who leave their homes are forcefully involved in women trafficking and pornography. This results in acquiring a higher risk of becoming a drug addict and suffering from HIV/AIDS. In cases of intimate partner does violence against women it leads her to maintain a distance from their partner. Their sexual life is affected adversely. Many of them seek for divorce and separation, which again affects the life of children. Some continue to be exploited in lack of proper awareness of human rights and other legal rights.

Women are terrified by these threats of violence and this essentially has an impact on their lives that they are impeded to exercise their human rights, for instance, the fear for contribution to the development of their communities socially, economically and politically. Apart from that, the causes that trigger violence against women or gender-based violence can go beyond just the issue of gender and into the issues of age, class, culture, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and specific geographical area of their origins.



## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

Women empowerment is the pathway because Women Empowerment is the ability of women to exercise full control over their actions. This means control over material assets, intellectual resources and even over their ideologies. It involves, at the psychological level, women's ability to assert them which has, so far, been constricted by the gender roles assigned to them especially in a culture. According to Pandya (2008) empowerment has become the key solution to many social problems. Empowerment of women is empowerment of family/household and in turn development of a nation of a country. Empowerment of women leads to benefit not only to the individual woman and to women groups, but also to the families and community as a whole through collective action for development. Women empowerment face several challenges that are plaguing the issues of women's right in India, such as low literacy rate among women's, Poverty, Mortality Inequality, Professional Inequality, Health and Safety, Household Inequality etc. these issues are directly violating the human rights of women. Hence we can say that gender violation and women empowerment are the two faces of same coin and affect each other very strongly.

### **CONCLUSION**

Violence against women has become problematic discourse of women life, even the steps has been taken by utilizing monetary and intellect power at macro and micro level by many agencies. But the result from these agencies shows less progress. This issue of inequality and discrimination are being equalized by two integrated approaches one is framing laws pertaining to prevent women from violence and discrimination and secondly by making women empowered. Violence against women and women empowerment are very close concepts and are affecting each other very much. It is clear that women who are suffering by violence cannot make herself active participant in the developmental activities. In India some proposition of women population breaking their family and community culture achieving any status and role i.e education and employment. While performing the role they are facing violation from their partners within and outside institution by utilizing the role power in this way it effects her active & free participation in developmental work. This



alienation makes them mentally stressed and they remain unable to handle the situation and majority of them don't know how to handle the situation on these occasions. This is vary acute social condition of women, which needs an immediate action, to solve this problem ,whole society particularly the opposite gender and government authority have to change their attitude & behavior towards women.

Both genders should be given moral education which will help to understand human values and to bring change in the attitudes of people. Proxy made by the implementing agency is one of the other reason in which law implementing & other authority themselves are indulging in wrong full activities taking advantage of situation, so it should be eradicated. Inefficient delivery of programs, as a whole society we have become lustful, where the rule of might is right are being practiced. We become more materialist and have lost human values, which is evident in the slow progress report of programes, so all the programes launched for the empowerment of women should be delivered objectively at ground reality by making deliverers accountable before higher authority. Deviation in Cultural changes is the need of time because culture affects the human behavior strongly.

In India we are practicing western culture without changing our ideology, which results in the deviation in the real culture that in turn affects our attitude. Patriarchy rule in our society, patriarchy has snatched the freedom of women and has engulfed women's right and power, resulted her subordination in the society. So the desired change is needed in the institution of our family. Inequality is considered a critical element in achieving social and institutional changes, so these inequalities should be neutralized to overcome by this problem. Education and economic empowerment of women can further act as shield for women to get rid of violence against women which will make them participate in the development and national building activities. There is a need of simple mechanism to take legal action, even a phone call or a letter is enough to inquire and take action against the wrong doers. Recently, sexual harassment at work place act in 2013 has been enacted, which has several simple methods of inquiry and dealing of women problems at work place. Government and civil society organizations should create enough awareness to utilize these legal supports.

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