



Women Empowerment and Gender Equality in India,

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Abstract :

Gender equality is a fundamental human right of each person society. study Aims to understand gender inequalities in India Fundamental Freedom by women on equal basis with men in all spheres political, Economic, Social, Culture are and Civil Equal access to Participation and decision making of women in Social, Political and Economic life of the nation. empowerment is a Multidimensional Proceess. Which should enable the individuals or a group of individuals to realize their Full identify and power in all Spheres of life. Reduce Social issues poverty, unemployment both control, domestic to valence. Equar access to participation and decisionn making of women in social ,political and economic life of the nation. Gender equality is the state where all individuals, regardless of gender, enjoy equal rights, opportunities, responsibilities, and protections in all spheres of life, including work, politics, and the home. It means fair access to resources, freedom from discrimination, and the ability to live free from violence or harmful stereotypes.

Keywords : Women Empowerment, Gender Equality, Unequility.

Introduction :

Empowerment is a multidimensional process, which should enable the individuals or a group of individuals to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life. It refe. to improve the, Education, gender, Social, Economical, Political, Spiritual Strength of the women so that they can make their indecision or can understand about their rights and Freedom. They can live their life the may they—to live it. They world Feel Confidence and In depended in Society. At the beginning of 19th centre literacy rote of girls was 0.8%. In 2001 it In 2001 it has intil to 54.1 In year 2001 the women empowerment year was celebrated in India. In 2011 literacy railway 65%. Now in 2022 It has increase70.3%.

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian constitution in its preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive principles. The constitution not only grants equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. The Ministry women and child Development is implementing various schemes/programmes for empowerment of women and development of children across the country. The details of those schemes are as follows.



India has also ratified various international conventions and human right instruments committing to secure equal right of women. Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW) in 1993. The Mexico Plan of Action (1975). The Nairobi Forward looking strategies (1985), The Beijing Declaration as well as the platform for Action (1995) and the outcome document adopted by the UNGA session on Gender Equality and Development and peace for the 21st century titled “Further action and initiatives to implement the Beijing declaration and the platform for Action” The recent endorsement by India of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will further change the course of developments by addressing the key challenges such as poverty, inequality and violence against women. Which is critical for the global success of the goals as well.

Women empowerment means empowering women socially, economically and politically so that they can break away from male domination and claim equality with them. Its aim at increasing women's power in terms of their self reliance and internal strength to determine choices in life includes both controls over resources and over ideology. Women empowerment means not only greater external control but also growing inner capability as greater self confidence and inner transformation of one's consciousness that enable one to overcome external barriers to access resources and changing the traditional ideology for social, economic and political development of women. Empowerment is therefore clearly concerned with power and particularly with the power relations and the distribution of power between individuals and groups

Empowerment is a multidimensional process, which should enable the individuals or a group of individuals to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life. Despite the progress made by the Indian women, the life of average Indian women from birth through infancy, childhood, adolescence, marriage, motherhood is a long journey of battle against discrimination and deprivation that is due to socio-culture structure of the society that decides women's all round development. Hence the economic empowerment of women is essential for achievement gender equality in all spheres. The purpose of this paper is to identify the key links between education and women empowerment. Knowing the fact that education provides the critical foundation from which further empowerment flows, the main objectives of this study is to review the status of women in India in present scenario. This paper also evaluates the growth of sex-wise enrolment by stages in the different period. continued existence of disparities between women and men in access and control over resources, and the overt discrimination against women throughout history, are now seen as a clog in the wheel of national and international development agenda. Importantly, the achievement of gender equality is bound up with all other goals of sustainable development, such as good governance, human rights, environmental sustainability, poverty reduction, and inclusiveness in development planning and practice.

Some of the major problems women are still facing



1. Violence against women 2. Gender discrimination 3. Problems of female education 4. Problems related to unemployment 5. Boss intentionally 6. Unbearable condition 7. Increasing 8. Selective abortion and female infanticide 9. Sexual harassment 10. Dowry and bride burning 11. Disparity in education 12. Domestic violence 13. Child marriages 14. Inadequate nutrition 15. Low status in family 16. Women are considered as inferior to men 17. Status of widows

The roles of men and women in societies are not only treated differently, but are often given unequal weight and value. The age long restrictions placed on women's life choices and opportunities hinder not only their growth, but the development of nations. No wonder, countries with wide gender gaps are found to exhibit poor indicators of growth and wellbeing poor nutrition, high maternal mortality rate, high infant mortality rate, high poverty rate, low life expectancy, low level of education; high HIV/AIDS sero-prevalence rate, and are mostly agrarian society (low industrial growth) among others.

State Government Sponsored Schemes for Girl Child in India

Apart from the central government, the Indian State governments also actively offer several schemes that benefit girl children. Some of these include:

- Rajshri Yojna - Rajasthan
- Girl child protection scheme - Andhra Pradesh
- Sivagami Ammaiyar Memorial girl child protection scheme - Tamil Nadu.
- Ladli- Laxmi Yojana- Madhya Pradesh.
- Ladli - Delhi & Haryana
- Mukhyamantri Laadli Yojna - Uttar Pradesh
- Mukhyamantri Kanya Suraksha Yojna - Bihar
- Ladli scheme - Haryana
- Kishori Shakti Yojana - Odisha
- MAMTA scheme for girl child-Goa
- Saraswati Bicycle Scheme - Chhattisgarh.
- West Bengal Kanyashree Prakalpa - West Bengal
- Bhagyalaxmi scheme - Karnataka

Women empowerment :

• **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).** [erstwhile Maternity Benefit Programme] has been contributing towards better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.



- **Scheme for Adolescent Girls aims.** at girls in the age group 11-18, to empower and improve their social status through nutrition, life skills, home skills and vocational training
- **Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme, promote community participation through involvement of Student Volunteers for empowerment of rural women.**
- **National Creche Scheme .** to provide day care facilities to children of age group of 6 months to 6 years of working women who are employed.
- **Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK).** to provide micro-credit to poor women for various livelihood support and income generating activities at concessional terms in a client-friendly procedure to bring about their socio-economic development.
- **Swadhargreh.** to provide relief and rehabilitation to destitute women and women in distress.
- **Ujjawala.** a Comprehensive Scheme for prevention of trafficking and for rescue, rehabilitation, re-integration and repatriation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
- **Working Women Hostels.** for ensuring safe accommodation for women working away from their place of residence. Under this scheme, 2 new proposals have been received and 2 sanctioned in Himachal Pradesh during last three years.
- **Schemes of One Stop Centre (OSC).** and Women Helpline (WH) are being implemented to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid case management, psychosocial counseling and temporary support services to women affected by violence.
- **Gender Budgeting Scheme.** is being implemented as a tool for mainstreaming gender perspective at various stages of planning, budgeting, implementation, impact assessment and revisiting of policy/programme objectives and allocations. The Scheme helps in strengthening of institutional mechanisms and training of various stakeholders so as to mainstream gender concerns in Central and State Governments.

Conclusion :

Gender equality is a fundamental human right of each person in society and forms a vital foundation for a peaceful and sustainable world. This study aims to understand gender inequalities in India, with the objective of facilitating societies towards sustainable equality. There is an endeavour to strengthen women empowerment through recommended strategies that can be implemented in societies globally. A systematic literature review is carried out via a thorough literature search. Results have indicated that although there has been progression over



the last few years including more females acquiring education through attending schools, less forced and early marriages, more females being appointed in leadership positions, there is still a requirement to eradicate gender inequalities further.

Challenges highlighted within India include social norms and cultural biases, violence, education, and underrepresentation of women in positions of power. This study has deduced that there is a need for

India the Prime Minister Narendra Modi signed the Sustainable Development UN as the Asian leader. He has been successfully progressing societies and pursued "Mach of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals Our national plans are ambitious and purposeful, Sustainable development of one-sixth of

humanity will be of great consequence to the world and our beautiful planet" (Modi, 2017). India is the second most populous country in the world after China, and it has the most rapid growing global economy. PM Modi has situated India in a unique position enabling the delivery of what has been committed, pertaining to sustainable development and inclusivity. Through his leadership, India has been pivotal in shaping the SDGs and ensuring balance between the economy, social standings, and the environment Challenges resulting from financial implications in India. Therefore, PM Modi is ensuring collaboration between a diverse range of stakeholders who share their knowledge and skills for the future development of the country and attaining SDGs. Two levels of government are working together to create change. The central government is supporting employment schemes, providing education, building roads between cities and villages and building houses creating opportunities for women from lower socio-economic backgrounds to have the same chances as the men Women Simultaneously, several Chief Minister sub-groups are providing invaluable advice on skill development, digital payments, and implementation of the Clean India Campaign Swachha Bharat Abhiyaan. Due to the rapid progression of the SDGs illustrated within India, it is expected that by the end of 2024 India will be totally cashless due to the establishment of a complete digital economy part of circular economy. It is also estimated thus by the end of 2027 all students will be following a single curriculum within schools globally, ensuring that there is access to education for all an initiative commenced by UP UN. This ensures that even students residing in remote villages will have the same quality standard of education as overseas students, despite of gender Shri PM Modi has transformed tribalism to globalism creating a solid foundation for sustainable growth and



positively angacting future generations. Hence, it is vital for societies to work together to ensure achievements of SDGs we can do this indovidially. Incally, normonally, and areernationally Thersigh this information, individuals are impoved to and this initiative, act ac role models, and facilitate the world towards gender spudity and sustainability. Violence Gender equality according to the Indian constitution is a women's basic right and it has a vision of Empoweand documented children with full opportunities for growth and development in a safe and protective event (against women persists at unacceptably high levels and has been unified by the covid-19 pandemic worldwide, 736 million women even before the pandemic, have experience physical or sexual violence at least once in lime from the age of 15years old, mostly by an intine partner. Violence against women and girls is a (WHO, 2021). During the pandemic, data and reports from front line workers house shows that different women and girls, particularly domestic violence, has inensified (Women, 2022) Up to 10alling marriage over the next decade because of covsd-19 This is inition to the 100 millions that were oтне сти with well lencecenes their life

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