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Women Empowerment in India: Problems and Solutions

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ABSTRACT: Women empowerment means that women have the right to make decisions regarding their life and work and provide them personal, social, economic, political and legal rights, development of potential as well as opportunities to exploit potential. Through women empowerment, women become aware of their powers, capabilities, abilities, rights and responsibilities, which helps in making the society and the world a better place to live in and move forward on the path of inclusive participation. Just as a person needs oxygen to live life, similarly if a country has to develop, then it is very important for the women there to be educated. Despite being educated, women are still unable to make decisions in their own affairs, family, society and even today. His mental capacity remains questionable even today, the decision is taken only by the man and the woman executes it. Even if he does not mentally agree with the decision. Because of their decision-making inability, how many women all over the world are becoming victims of atrocities, rape, exploitation and injustice every day. Whenever the time comes to make a decision, the woman becomes dependent on the man; simply because she does not consider herself mentally capable.

KEYWORDS; Women Empowerment, Social, Economic, Political, Legal Rights, Capacity Development, Inclusive Participation, Atrocities, Rape, Exploitation, Injustice.

I.MAIN ARTICLE

Today there is a revolutionary situation regarding the freedom and autonomy of women due to the effect of higher education, technology and technical training of women, women's movements and culture flourishing from western influence. Not only established her existence, but the woman prepared herself to face any challenge to justify her. In the twenty-first century, women all over the world have become financially independent and empowered,¹ but it is unfortunate that the graph of atrocities and harassment on women is also increasing equally fast. Exploitation, atrocities, harassment, discrimination etc. are also victims. Many acts and rules were made to improve the status of women. There are, but by these acts and rules, crimes can be reduced only by punishment but not eliminated, because the mentality of the society cannot be changed by these acts.²

Following are the hindrances in the way of women empowerment-

1. It is often seen that Indian women are not allowed to make decisions in family and social matters, sometimes even in families where women earn more than men, they do not have the right to make decisions.
2. Media also has an important contribution in women empowerment. It is a matter of great regret that Indian women have not yet been able to connect with the media 100 percent.
3. Domestic violence is the biggest obstacle in the way of women empowerment. According to an estimate, in India, two out of every five women are victims of domestic violence.
4. Even today in Indian society, especially in middle class families, girls are not given the freedom to go out of the house alone.
5. Even today, very few girls are able to go to school as compared to boys, among those girls who have been able to go to school, very few girls are able to study more than tenth standard.³
6. In India, very few women are able to work as compared to men. The reason why some women are able to work is because of the poor economic condition of the family. It is also true that there is a negative relationship between marriage and employment of women. After marriage, women are not allowed to do jobs,

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women who somehow find work. Most of them work in the agriculture sector, in which they work with their husbands, fathers or brothers.

In view of all these problems, many acts have been passed to free women from the evils and bad practices prevalent in India at different times, some of which are as follows-

1. Minimum Wages Act (1948) – This Act does not allow discrimination between men and women employees in compulsion or discrimination in the minimum wages they get.⁴
2. The Mines Act (1952) and the Factories Act (1948) – both these Acts have provision that women should be allowed to work till 7.P.M. from 6.A.M. cannot be employed in between and at the same time it is necessary to take care of their safety and welfare during work,
3. Hindu Marriage Act (1955) - Under this, there is a provision to have only one husband or wife at a time. In this both men and women have been given equal rights in relation to divorce and marriage.
4. Hindu Succession Act (1956) – Under this, equal rights have been given to women as well as men in the property of parents, that is, if the girl wishes, she can share the rights in her father's property.
5. Immoral Prostitution (Prevention) Act (1956) – It has provisions for prevention of trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation. In other words, this act is designed to prevent trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of prostitution.⁵
6. Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) - By this act both taking and giving dowry from women before or after marriage comes under the category of crime.
7. Maternity Benefit Act (1961) - This act provides women with paid leave for 13 weeks before the birth of the child and 13 weeks after the birth so that she can take adequate care of the child, under this, the woman is out of employment during this pregnancy. Withdrawal is a legal offense
8. Pregnancy Act (1971) – This Act states that equal remuneration shall be provided to both men and women workers for doing the same work or work of a similar nature and no discrimination shall be made on the basis of sex with women in the recruitment process. Prohibits discrimination.
9. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 – This Act: Prohibits indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publication, writing, painting or in any other way.
10. Sati (Prevention) Act (1987) - This act declares the practice of sati practice in any part of the country or its glorification as a crime, no woman can be forced to be sati.
11. National Commission for Women Act (1990) – The government constituted this commission to study and monitor all matters relating to constitutional and legal rights and other safeguards for women.
12. Pre-Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994 to prevent sex determination Pre-Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994 was created to prevent sex determination with the aim of female feticide in pregnancy itself. Provision has been made for a fine of ₹ 10-15 thousand and punishment of up to 3-5 years for those who do not follow it.⁶
13. Domestic Violence Act (2005) - By this provision has been made for protection of women from all types of domestic violence (physical, sexual, mental, verbal or emotional violence). This also includes those women who have been victims of abuse or are living with the abuser.
14. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (2013) - This Act provides protection to women from sexual harassment at all workplaces, both in public and private, organized or unorganized sectors.
15. Apart from the following, other laws also include certain rights and safeguards for women-
 - Employees' State Insurance Act (1948)
 - Plantation Labor Act (1951)
 - Bondage Labor System (Abolition) Act (1976)
 - Legal Practitioners (Women) Act (1923)
 - Indian Succession Act (1925)
 - Indian Divorce Act (1896)
 - Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act (1936)
 - Special Marriage Act (1954))
 - Foreign Marriage Act (1969)

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- Indian Evidence Act (1872)
- Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (1956)⁷

Despite all these laws, the condition of women in India is pathetic as compared to developed countries, the main reason for this is a lot of female illiteracy, economic subordination and knowledge about women rights. In the guise of that they have been misbehaved. Women are respected in every religion, but there are many evils and practices due to which women are being harassed. The need for women empowerment has arisen due to the domination and discrimination done by men on women, domestic violence etc. Hundreds of women have become the target of discriminatory behavior by men all over the world. India is no different, India is a complex country, where goddesses are worshiped, daughters, mothers and sisters are given importance.

Women empowerment is the process of empowering women by instilling confidence in them at all levels, material or spiritual, physical or mental. In this direction, many countries in the world have taken many important measures since a long time ago. In India also some constructive steps are being taken in this direction. Some of the articles made in the Indian constitution to give equal rights to women in all fields like men are as follows-

- According to Article 14, no person in the territory of India shall be denied equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws.
- Article 15 According to this, the state shall not make any discrimination between citizens on the basis of religion, origin, race, caste, sex, place of birth, Article 15 (3) has special provision for women.
- Equality of opportunity without discrimination in public services in Article-16 (1).
- Article-19 Women have been given the right to freedom, under this, they can freely move, reside and do business in the territory of India.
- In Article-21, both women and men should not be deprived of life and bodily liberty.
- In Article-23, both men and women have equal rights against exploitation⁸
- By Article 24, considering exploitation against women as not appropriate for women's dignity, procuring women, forcing them for prostitution, begging etc. have been considered punishable.
- In Article-25-28 both get religious freedom equally.
- Article 29-30 the cultural and educational rights of women are arranged in these articles.
- Right to Constitutional Remedies in Article-32
- Provision of reservation for women in the Lok Sabha through the proposed 84th Constitutional Amendment in Article-33(a)
- Article 39 (a) certain policy to be followed by the State- under the Directive Principles, the achievement of adequate means of livelihood for all citizens, equal pay for women for equal work, protection of women from exploitation etc. Inspires to live. In order to provide economic justice, in Article 39 (a), a woman has the right to get adequate means of livelihood.
- In Article-39 (d) both men and women have the right to equal pay for equal work⁹
- Article-42 Arrangement for getting maternity assistance for women The Maternity Benefit Act was passed in 1961 to adapt Article 42 of the Constitution, special arrangement for leave for the health benefits of women working in various institutions. Due to this, 135 days leave has started.
- Article 46 calls upon the state to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
- In Article-51 (a) (d) all people in India should give up such practices, which are against the respect of women.
- Article 243 (d) in this, certain places have been reserved for women under Panchayats. 1/3rd of the seats of the chairpersons shall be reserved for women.
- According to Article 325, both women and men have been given the right to be included in the electoral roll equally, by Article 325, the constitution makers have tried to show that equal voting rights have been given to men and women in India. .
- Through the proposed 84th amendment in Article-332 (a), there is a provision for reservation for women in the state assemblies.¹⁰

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One million women are being empowered in India under the 'Disha' project of the United Nations Development Program and the IKEA Foundation. In this, women-led enterprises are being promoted by forming a team of mentors. The psycho-social support provided as part of this project not only included skill training to start their own enterprise but also empowered them to question and fight against gender stereotypes at home and in the community. India has also ratified various international • conventions and human rights instruments committed to protect equal rights of women. Among these are the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in the year 1993. Mexico Plan of Action (1975), Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies (1985), Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the 21st Century adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Session on Gender Equality and Development and Peace Further proceedings for and the former have been fully endorsed by India for appropriate follow up action. The women's movement and a wide network of non-governmental organizations, which have a strong grassroots presence and deep understanding of women's concerns, contributed to early initiatives for women's empowerment.¹¹

III.OTHER EFFORTS

In order to improve the condition of women, the Government of India established the Department of Women and Child Development in 1985 and the National Commission for Women in 1992. And International Women's Day started being celebrated in the country. The year 2001 was also declared as Women Empowerment Year by the Government of India. Similarly, the implementation of various schemes and programs has also been done by the government from time to time.

IV.SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

The condition of women is deplorable even after the authority given to women and the acts made for them, there is enough act to stop the atrocities on women, since independence till present various acts like-Hindu Marriage Act, Special Marriage Act, Divorce of Marriage Major reforms like Divorce Act, Prostitution Abolition Act, medical recognition of abortion have made a substantial difference in the social status of women, yet there are many shortcomings, due to which women are not able to take advantage of these laws. If we look at the availability of employment opportunities, the participation of women is only 29 percent as compared to men, which is very less than 83 percent of men, the main reason behind this is the lack of safety skills of women at the workplace, dominance of men etc. In order to eliminate this inequality, we have to implement the 'Vishaka GuideLine' directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and establish a Grievance Redressal Committee in concrete form for redressal of grievances related to women. Women under the Indian Constitution and | Equal rights have been made for both men, but due to illiteracy and domestic and Indian religious traditions, women are deprived of them. All the rights are not fully utilized. Apart from this, gender discrimination, domestic violence, and increasing crimes against women have always been an obstacle in their progress.¹⁰ Despite this, Indian women have achieved success in every field. Today Indian women are working in every field. So we come to the conclusion that Indian women are moving forward in every field after so many years of independence. We cannot say that the condition of women has completely changed, but there has been a lot of progress in this field as compared to earlier. In today's competitive era, women are more conscious about their rights than before. Women are now very much aware about their professional life (social, political, economic).¹¹

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