

Women Empowerment and Gender Justice

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Abstract

This paper addresses the global problem of "Women's Empowerment." Women's empowerment and equality with men are universal issues. It refers to the formation of an atmosphere in which women can make their own decisions for their personal and societal good. It also refers to increasing and improving women's social, economic, political, and legal strength in order to ensure equal rights for women and to give them the confidence to assert their rights, such as the freedom to live their lives with a sense of self-worth, respect, and dignity, to have complete control over their lives, both inside and outside of their homes and workplaces, to make their own choices and decisions, and to have equal rights to participate in social, religious, and political activities. Women who are empowered should have the opportunity to participate in decision-making. This study seeks to examine the position of women in India as well as the required efforts done to prevent crime against women and improve their situation.

Introduction

Law and Governance play a very important role in social change having a direct impact on society. This present paper analyses the laws, focusing on the most essential areas – Constitutional Law, Family Law, and Criminal Law – and puts them to the test from the standpoint of gender justice. Unlike some other contentious issues, this one has nothing to debate but plenty to discuss. It is commonly understood that women's empowerment and gender justice must be implemented into society in order to secure the country's growth and development.

Women's empowerment can be described in a variety of ways, including respecting women's perspectives or making an effort to seek them out, and elevating women's status through education, awareness, literacy, and training.⁹³ Women's empowerment empowers and encourages women to make life-changing decisions in the face of societal issues. They may be able to reinterpret gender expectations or other similar roles, which may provide them more right to explore desired goals.⁹⁵

Women's empowerment has emerged as a critical issue in development and economics. Women's economic empowerment enables them to control and profit from assets, investments, and income. It also improves women's well-being and their ability to manage risk. It can result in approaches to support trivialized genders in a particular political or social context. While often interchangeably used, the more comprehensive concept of gender empowerment concerns people of any gender, stressing the distinction between biological and gender as a role. Women empowerment helps in boosting the status of women through literacy, education, training and awareness creation. Furthermore, women's empowerment refers to women's ability to make strategic life choices which had been previously denied them.⁹⁶

The implementation of initiatives and policies based on the concept of female empowerment may benefit nations, corporations, communities, and groups. Women's empowerment improves the quality and quantity of human resources accessible for development. When it comes to human rights and development, empowerment is one of the most important procedural concerns. Women's empowerment and gender justice are important and beneficial components of improving the status of women. In truth, the concept of women's empowerment involves the empowering of women and girls to assert their rights, independence, and participation in all aspects of life

⁹³ Kabeer, Naila. "Gender equality and women's empowerment: A critical analysis of the third millennium development goal 1." *Gender & Development* 13.1 (2005): 13-24.

⁹⁴ Mosedale, Sarah (2005-03-01). "Assessing women's empowerment: towards a conceptual framework". *Journal of International Development*. 17 (2): 243–257

⁹⁵ Ibid 3

⁹⁶ 2009 *International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)*.

decision-making. Gender justice, on the other hand, is concerned with reforming laws, practices, organizations, and other important agents of society in order to eliminate disparities. Overall, bridging the existing gender gap is about having the right to live a productive, worthwhile life with self-direction, without the addition of sex. Without a doubt, communities established on justice and equality are critical for the world's long-term development, security, and prosperity.

The empowerment of women is a vital component of improving the status of women. It include boosting a woman's self-esteem, decision-making authority, access to resources and opportunities, authority and influence over her own life both inside and beyond the house, and ability to impact change. Gender difficulties, however, are not limited to women, but also to the relationship between men and women in society. Men and boys' actions and attitudes are critical to establishing gender equality. Women have the right to express themselves. Women make up roughly half of the world's population. Unemployment affects a large number of women worldwide. The global economy suffers severely as a result of unequal working prospects for women. Women have equal abilities. Women now outnumber males in numerous socioeconomic tasks. Domestic violence is reduced as a result of women's empowerment. Domestic violence is more common among uneducated women than among educated ones.

Women Empowerment in India

Women's empowerment in India is incomparable to that in other regions of the world. Women were held in high regard during the Vedic period. The emphasis on women's education was never lost. The term 'sahadharmini' dates back to Vedic times. Sahadharmini translates as "equal partner." It is clear that women in ancient India were treated with respect, education, and reverence. Over time, the conservative Middle Eastern and British cultures infiltrated Indian culture. As a result, women's power and respect were diminished. Women gradually regained their lost power after independence.

Women are everywhere nowadays. The country had its first female Prime Minister as well as President, it has many

outstanding female athletes such as Saina Nehwal and P.T Usha, and it has gifted women scientists such as A. Chatterjee and B Vijayalakshmi. In India, women are connecting the armed forces without giving it a second thought. Notwithstanding, countless women in India are indeed struggling to break free from patriarchy, particularly in rural areas. The empowered women should indeed encourage these women to speak up, protest, and seek assistance from the authorities.

Essential Definitions

Gender: describes the socially-constructed roles and responsibilities that societies consider appropriate for men and women⁹⁷. Gender equality means that men and women have equal financial independence, knowledge, and personal development possibilities.

Gender justice: Women's social, political, and economic equality is critical to achieving all Millennium Development Goals. Gender justice thus means eliminating inequities between men and women that are created and reinforced through the home, society, market, and state.

Empowerment is seen as a "new" management approach for businesses in order to encourage new career ambitions. It assists in framing a worker's expectations and setting goals in order to achieve the main aim of their work. It will allow workers to take control of their job and apply skills they had no idea they possessed.

The purpose of women's empowerment:

Women's empowerment improves women's status through literacy, education, training, and awareness-raising. Furthermore, women's empowerment refers to women's ability to make strategic life decisions that were previously unavailable to them. The main importance of gender justice is that the Gender equality is crucial in the context of population and development programmes because it allows women and men to make decisions that benefit their own sexual and reproductive health as well as the health of their spouses and children.

Current status of women empowerment in India

Many social, economic, and political provisions in the Indian Constitution were based on ideas strongly supported

⁹⁷ <https://www.peacecorps.gov/>

by our founding fathers for women's empowerment. Women are now involved in aspects such as education, sport activities, world affairs, communications, art and culture, the service sector, and scientific and technological in India. However, because of the deeply ingrained patriarchal mentality in Indian society, women continue to be victimised, humiliated, tortured, and exploited. Even after nearly seven decades of independence, women continue to face discrimination in social, economic, and educational settings. According to the Gender Inequality Index, India is ranked 29th out of 146 countries worldwide.

Let us focus at some major factors that can aid in women's empowerment: Innovator and Education, political, economic etc.

- ***Economic Empowerment*** : In India, more women than males are impoverished. Economic gaps remain in part because women shoulder the burden of unpaid labour within individuals and communities, and they suffer socioeconomic discrimination.
- ***Educational Empowerment***: In India, over two-thirds of illiterate adults are female. People with high literacy for women are closely linked to decreased infant fertility and mortality, as well as higher education levels and livelihood opportunities for their descendants.

Role of Education also plays the very important role in empower the women:

People participate in public discussion and make government requests for medical services, social security, and other rights. Education, in particular, empowers women to make decisions that improve their children's safety, well-being, and chances of obtaining survival skills. Education informs people about illness prevention and control. Such education helps women to make decisions that benefit their well-being, such as marrying later in life and having fewer children. Education can raise women's awareness and understanding, promote their self-esteem, and allow them to assert their rights.

- ***Political Empowerment***: Women's equality in basic legal and human rights, access to or property rights or other resources, occupation and income, and political and social participation are still not guaranteed by

social and legal institutions. Domestic abuse laws are frequently not implemented on behalf of women.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Gender equality refers to a society in which men and women have equal opportunities, results, rights, and responsibilities in all aspects of life. Equality exists between men and women when both genders are willing to exchange uniformly in the distribution of influence and power; have positive impact on economic independence through work or commercial establishment; and have equal educational opportunities and the ability to improve personal ambitions. Women's empowerment is an important part of advancing gender equality, with a focus on detecting and redressing power disparities and allowing women more responsibility to govern their own lives.⁹⁸

Women's empowerment is critical to long-term development and the fulfilment of all human rights. Where women's status is poor, family size is huge, making it harder for families to survive. Demographic and advancement, as well as reproductive rights, are more effective when they target women's educational opportunities, status, and empowerment. When women are empowered, entire families gain, and these gains can have impacts for future generations. Men and women's roles in society are not purely genetic; rather, they are socially defined, dynamic, and adaptable. Even though they might be explained as cultural or religious requirements, these responsibilities vary greatly by location and evolve throughout time.

Conclusions

The preceding debate clearly demonstrated that women's rights is critical to achieving the objective of women's empowerment. Women in India have been exposed to various forms of prejudice and restrictions in obtaining development benefits as a result of disempowerment. As a result, achieving gender equality may pave the way for women's empowerment. The following measures can be

⁹⁸ Sunder: "Gender Equality and Women Empowerment", *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. ISSN 2250-3226 Volume 7, Number 1 (2017), pp. 7-21

explored to improve gender equality in employment generation.

To really empower women, our country and the rest of the globe must work harder to meet the Sustainable Development Goal of gender equality by 2030. Gender equality, gender justice, women's empowerment, and women's safety all begin at home and in the community. Establishing behavioural change in their communities for girls and women, sensitized boys as they grow up towards females, and fostering fairness between a girl and a boy kid are the starting points for making the world a more liveable environment for women.

Gender equality is not just a basic human right, but also a requirement for a peaceful, affluent, and sustainable planet. Researchers can reach the conclusion that no nation can achieve advancement unless women are empowered.

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