Women Empowerment And Social Development.

HARIPADA DHARA

Associate Professor in Education

Rabindra Mahavidyalaya

Champadanga, Hooghly

Abstract:

Women's empowerment is a crucial aspect of societal development, promoting gender equality and fostering a fair and inclusive society. Government schemes Indian government began programmes for women empowerment in 1954, but actual participation of women started in 1974. There are 34 government schemes for women empowerment in India presently operating under different ministries and departments. Women's empowerment is pivotal for societal development, as they constitute a substantial portion of the population. The diverse perspectives and contributions of empowered women enrich the cultural, social, and economic fabric of communities and nations, leading to enhanced well-being and progress.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Women Development, Social Development,

Introduction:

Women's empowerment is pivotal for societal development, as they constitute a substantial portion of the population. The diverse perspectives and contributions of empowered women enrich the cultural, social, and economic fabric of communities and nations, leading to enhanced well-being and progress. Women empowerment is a critical aspect to achieving gender equality, where both men and women have equal power and opportunities for education, healthcare, economic participation and personal development.

What is Women ?

Plural form of woman.

A **woman** is an adult female human. Before adulthood, a woman is referred to as a girl (a female child or adolescent).

The spelling of *woman* in English has progressed over the past millennium from *wīfmann* to *wīmmann* to *wumman*, and finally, the modern spelling *woman*. In Old English, *mann* had the gender-neutral meaning of 'human', akin to the Modern 'person' or 'someone'. The word for 'woman' was *wīf* or *wīfmann* (lit. 'woman-person')

whereas 'man' was *wer* or *wæpnedmann* (from *wæpn* 'weapon; penis'). However, following the Norman Conquest, *man* began to mean 'male human', and by the late 13th century it had largely replaced *wer*. The consonants /f/ and /m/ in *wīfmann* coalesced into the modern *woman*, while *wīf* narrowed into to specifically mean a married woman ('wife'). Wikipedia

What is Empowerment?

1.Authority or power given to someone to do something: "individuals are given empowerment to create their own dwellings."

Empowerment is the degree of <u>autonomy</u> and <u>self-determination</u> in people and in communities. This enables them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. It is the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's <u>rights</u>. Empowerment as action refers both to the process of self-empowerment and to professional support of people, which enables them to overcome their sense of powerlessness and lack of influence, and to recognize and use their <u>resources</u>. Wikipedia

What is Women Empowerment?

Women's empowerment (or female empowerment) may be defined in several ways, including accepting women's viewpoints, making an effort to seek them and raising the status of women through education, awareness, literacy, and training. Women's empowerment equips and allows women to make life-determining decisions through the different societal problems. They may have the opportunity to re-define gende... <u>Wikipedia</u>

What is Social?

1. Relating to society or its organization: "alcoholism is recognized as a major social problem."

2. An informal social gathering, especially one organized by the members of a particular club or group:" a church social"

Social organisms, including <u>human</u>(s), live collectively in interacting populations. This interaction is considered social whether they are aware of it or not, and whether the exchange is voluntary or not. Wikipedia

The word "social" derives from the Latin word *socii* ("allies"). It is particularly derived from the Italian *Socii* states, historical allies of the <u>Roman Republic</u> (although they rebelled against Rome in the <u>Social War of 91–87 BC</u>). Wikipedia

What is Development?

1. The process of developing or being developed:"she traces the development of the novel"

2. An event constituting a new stage in a changing situation:" I don't think there have been any new developments since yesterday"

<u>Adult development</u>, between adolescence and the end of life.

<u>Child development</u>, between birth and the end of adolescence.

<u>Development</u> (journal), an academic journal in developmental biology.

<u>Developmental biology</u>, the study of the process by which organisms grow and develop   <u>Developmental psychology</u>, the scientific study of how and why human beings change over the course of their life.

What is Social Development?

Social development theory attempts to explain qualitative changes in the structure and framework of society, that help the society to better realize aims and objectives. Development can be defined in a manner applicable to all societies at all historical periods as an upward ascending movement featuring greater levels of energy, efficiency, quality, productivity, complexity, comprehension, creativ... <u>Wikipedia</u>

Methodology:

To write this paper, mainly secondary data have been used from textbooks, reference books, websites etc.

Objectives:

1. Changing negative attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs of the public that they are the main barriers and making obstacles for women's peace, women's role and contribution in the political process, decision making, development, and women's participation in peacebuilding.

2. Increase the mass awareness and education on women's peace, peacebuilding process, women's Rights, women's roles, and contribution to peacebuilding.

3. Sharing of experience, exchanging of good practices, and mutual learning between local and International Actors, public authorities' representatives, activist women, and women's union executives,

4. Promoting the principle of anti-discrimination and gender equality concepts in governmental and organizations' practices.

Review:

Boserup's (1970) pioneering book *Woman's Role in Economic Development* and the first World Conference on Women, organized in 1975 in Mexico City, are often considered the beginning of the field of women in development. Boserup's argument that the invisibility of women's contribution to the economy resulted in imbalances in development policies led to strong advocacy for counting women's economic contributions that persists to date (Zinsser 2002). The emergence of fiscal crises in the 1980s resulted in World Bank– and International Monetary Fund–mandated structural adjustment programs that were perceived to have negative gender consequences (Elson 1990, Sparr 1994). Concern about the relationship between a global capitalist system and the undervaluation of women's labor (Enloe 1990, Mies 1981, Sen 1985) led to research and data collection to measure women's work in both formal and informal sectors (Benería 2001, Short et al. 2002).

Literature following the Mexico City conference in 1975 often focused on women's subordination within the structures of international dependency and class inequality and directed our attention to women's participation in the informal sector and home-based work (Mies 1981). The subsequent decade, falling between the Copenhagen conference in 1985 and the third United Nations Conference in Beijing in 1995 saw the field become what we now call gender and development, in which women's labor in both production and reproduction received considerable attention (Kabeer 1994).

In a related but separate development, feminist scholars within the field of economics increasingly became dissatisfied (Folbre 1986) with the Beckerian model of the household as a unit led by a benign dictator (Becker 1993). Consequently, researchers began to direct attention to gender inequalities within households that shape power dynamics (Presser 1998) as well as differences in men's and women's preferences (Dwyer & Bruce 1988). Strategies for measuring differences in preferences and factors that affect how these differences are resolved became the domain of demographers who invested extensively in measuring women's status as a determinant of demographic outcomes, particularly fertility and child health (Mason 1986). Research supported by the Rockefeller Foundation's program on women's status and fertility (Jejeebhoy & Sathar 2001, Mason & Smith 2000) led to investments in the study of cross-nationally comparable indicators of women's status that in later years formed the core of gender-related questions included in Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) (Kishor 2005a).

Factors Affecting Women's Empowerment in India.
Given below are the factors affecting women's empowerment-

- **Gender Discrimination must be Checked-** The problem of gender discrimination has affected the pace of women empowerment in India. Gender discrimination in all realms of action must be checked. Women must be furnished with a resort to take an active part in decision making at every level and direction procedures to attain the motive of empowering women. They need to get due admiration and prominence, which they rightfully earn on merit basis in society to accomplish their fate.

- **Educational Factor-** Education is the most vibrant factor of advancement and growth. It is the only significant tool for anticipating women empowerment in India & human resource development. It gives light to the possibilities for access to employment and making a livelihood, which in twirl revivify economic empowerment to women. In order to join the community of developed countries, people should understand the value and importance of women's education and, thereby, put combined efforts to make India on the progressive track. Education makes the individual conscientious, enabling them to comprehend, interpret, criticize, and eventually transform their atmosphere. It results in the accession of abundances of skills that heighten a person's enthusiasm and her proficiency to shape life in a better form.

Education is the initial line of defense for women who withstand life-imperiling circumstances that traditional lifestyle perpetuates. It motivates a sense of supervision over personal fortune. In addition to this, it unlocks the door to preferences that are not confined by tradition. With a meaningful education, the women's status strides beyond the restrictions of motherliness. Advancement of education of women and girls allots to the postponement of their marriage timing and the ensuing constriction in the volume of their families.

Priority should be plopped on enrolment along with retention of the girl child in basic formal schooling and non-formal education via incentive methods like a supply of textbooks free of cost, midday meals, school bags, science kits, uniform, scholarship, residential and hostel facilities as well as the expulsion of gender

discrimination in the curriculum. Education will go an extended way in making women familiar with their legal and personal rights and make them battle for their privileges, which will direct to protecting their rights mentioned in the Constitution.

- **Mass Media is Bringing the Transformation-** The mass media is responsible for playing a significant function to project and propagate associated issues, most specifically about women empowerment in India. The numerous programmes pertaining to women's prestige revealed the mass media enable her husband to behave toward her wife with loads of honor and respect. He can remake his attitude and assist her in the domestic domain to reduce stress and anxiety. The mass media performs a crucial role in repairing the attitude and way of conversation of husband and other family members towards women.

- **Steps Regarding Implementation of Women Development Programme along with Numerous Acts-** Training programme based on action at the village or in rural parts of India along with vocational programmes and the growth-oriented entrepreneurship development programmes must be organized to make women self-reliant after becoming self-employed by enhancing their efficiency and capacities in making prompt decisions. It's extremely important to check cases related to female feticide & infanticide by prohibiting the sex determination of child that is yet to take birth via the Regulation & Prevention of Misuse Act 1994 as well as PNT ACT (Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act) other rulings correlating to marriage, succession, divorce, adoption, dowry and moral safety or protection against sexual harassment needs to be implemented for serving the goal of women empowerment in India.

- **Changes in Women's Attitude-** Women should empower themselves by becoming to be aware of their oppression, indicating initiative, and confiscating chances to bring a shift in their status. Empowerment must come from within the soul. Women need to empower themselves by bringing a major change in their attitude.

Women must know that opportunities will not reach their laps. They would have to determine ways to create them. They should fight back to rebuild their prominent position in Indian communities and societies. They must flourish hard to carry out their rights and maintain justice & equality in society. They need to work vigorously for the entire elimination of poverty, dowry-ills, illiteracy, and productive implementation of all programmes and laws related to women.

Women's empowerment is valuable for the development and advancement of the family, community as well as the nation. Hence, it must be a leading concern of the Indian Government to bring women into the fore of the development strategy by empowering them via numerous development-oriented schemes.

- **Organization for Awareness Programmes-** State and National level commissions for women, Non-Governmental Organisations, ICDS Programmes, must undertake e- awareness, the Taskforce for women & children Development DWACRA (Concerning Development of Women & Child in Rural Areas), women's rights, human rights, a campaign about legal rights, education about saving schemes, population education, environmental education, rehabilitation programmes with all integrity and solemnity.

Importance of Women Empowerment

In recent times, everyone is pointing on the empowerment of women. It's right to say that women's empowerment has become the necessity of the time. Women should possess liberty, faith, and self-worth to opt for their needs and demands. Discrimination based on gender is useless and is having zero worth by looking at the growth of women in the last few decades. Women are paid less and are treated as a cook and slave in families, and their real potential fails to get highlighted. Women empowerment in India is required to overcome situations of such types and to provide them with their independent role in Indian society. Empowering women is a necessary right of women. They should have proportional rights to contribute to society, economics, education, and politics. They are approved to gain higher education and receive a similar treatment as men are receiving.

1. Ensures Holistic Development of Society

Women empowerment in India is one of the principal terms for society's overall development. There is nothing erroneous in participating in the development of society. In the world of corporates, women are playing numerous roles in meadows such as medical, engineering, and so on. Apart from taking part in the sphere of technology, they are energetically partaking in security services such as police, navy, military, etc. All these before-mentioned services are taking the community to another level.

2. Determine their Intelligence Level

Over the preceding decades, there has been a uniform increase in women's empowerment. Women must possess self-worth, confidence, and freedom to choose their needs and requirements. Classifying the people based on gender is unreasonable, and it has no worth. Still, women are paid less, expected to cook, and restricted by their family members. To overcome these situations and to have an independent role in society, women's empowerment is needed.

Empowering women is the fundamental right of women. They can have equal rights to participate in education, society, economics, and politics. They are allowed to have higher education and treated in the way like men. In this article, you will know about the importance of women's empowerment. So make a halt on this page and read the following content.

3. Able to solve unemployment

Unemployment is one of the common problems that can be seen in the developing society. The research says that half of the population consists of women. The unemployment of women and unequal opportunities in the workplace can be eradicated with the help of women empowerment in India. Whenever women are facing unemployment, their true potential is left without any use. To make use of the strength and potential of the women, they must be provided with equal opportunities. You can motivate them by providing any special gifts. The best time to honor women is women's day. You can honor them with women's day gifts.

4. Know about their intelligence

It is unthinkable to understand and analyze the way of living of women by peeking at them. You can foresee their level of intelligence by way of moving toward the problems and in the solution-finding. In the contemporary era, women are nicely versed in unraveling technical troubles. Women's empowerment plays a vital role in these cases. Without women empowerment in India, you won't be able to determine and understand the intelligence of women. Therefore, making existence in work is particularly important and an advantageous one. You can present any gift to give recognition to their work.

5. Capable Enough to Solve the Issues of Unemployment

Unemployment is one of the widespread problems that can be glimpsed in societies in the developing stage. The study says that around half of the population comprises women. The unemployment of women & unbalanced opportunities in the working place can be eliminated with the assistance of women empowerment in India. Whenever women are confronting unemployment issues, their true capability is left without any intention. To make use of the courage and capacity of the women, they should be empowered with an equal number of opportunities.

Criticism:

Several factors contribute to women's empowerment. Including Education, employment and political participation. These factors are interrelated and reinforce each other, certain a virtuous cycle of empowerment. However, there are several hurdles to women's equality including -

1. Lack of women in leadership.

2. Poverty and lack of economic opportunities.

3. Workplace discrimination and inequalities.

4. An imbalance in unpaid care work.

5. Social norms and cultural practices.

6. Inadequate access to education and health care.

7. Food insecurity and violence against women and girls.

Conclusion:

Women's empowerment is pivotal for societal development, as they constitute a substantial portion of the population. The diverse perspectives and contributions of empowered women enrich the cultural, social, and economic fabric of communities and nations, leading to enhanced well-being and progress. Women empowerment is a critical aspect to achieving gender equality, where both men and women have equal power and opportunities for education, healthcare, economic participation and personal development. So we can say that Women development means Social development and Social development means Individual's development and Country development and so on.

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