An Analytical Study of Agrarian Crisis and Women Empowerment: Essential Aspects, Barriers & Schemes

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The main objectives of the paper are to explore the essential aspects, challenges and schemes of Women Empowerment. Women Empowerment means to growing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strengths of the women so that she may be able to get the equal-right, confident enough and claim their rights in society. There are various aspects of women empowerment such as freely live their life, a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity. Complete control of their life, both within and outside of their home and workplace. She may be able to make their own choices and decisions, equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities, equal social status in the society. She may be able to have equal rights for social and economic justice. Besides these aspects she may be able to get equal opportunity for education, employment opportunity without any gender bias, safe and comfortable working environment. The Government of India has started the various schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Women Helpline Scheme, UIJAWALA Yojna, SWADHAR Greh, NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR, Stree Shakti Puruskar, Nari Shakti Puruskar, Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman, Mahila police Volunteers, Mahila E-Haat and Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK). There are various barriers in the empowerment such as illiteracy, poverty, decline of household industries, competition from factories and technological changes. So, there is a great need to remove the barriers and challenges in front of the empowerment.

[Keywords: Women Empowerment, Empowerment Schemes, Barriers in Women Empowerment, Women Rights]
1. Introduction

The agrarian crisis engulfing the country is bankrupting the farming communities. It began with the green revolution, making India self-sufficient in food grains and increasing the incomes of farmers across the board, was eroded within a matter of decades, so plunging the agrarian economy into deep gloom. Facing low yields, spiraling costs of cultivation, a near stagnant technology and dipping incomes, farmers are now struggling for survival. Their heavy borrowing to meet their day-to-day expenditure on subsistence and farming, coupled with their inability to repay back loans, have brought them to a stage where they are choosing death rather than debt.

The state’s efforts, and the failure of institutions to provide adequate, timely and cheap credit, has aggravated the problem. Punjab’s economy is no exception. If we find main factors responsible for decline in income for agriculture are due increasing cost of capital equipment such as tractors, thresher etc. For daily expensive like kids fees, medical expensive, etc. they need money so to cover this problem two solution. 1 they diversified their agricultural crops and 2 is to empower the farmer’s wives (women empowerment).

The main objectives of the paper are to explore the essential aspects, challenges and schemes of Women Empowerment. A strong patriarchal society with deep-rooted socio-cultural values continues to affect the progress of women’s empowerment in the country. The need of the hour is an egalitarian society, where there should be no place for gender superiority. According to Nabanita Dutta, Kaushik Bhakta (2017) concluded that empowerment of women involves the building up of a society wherein in may breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation, a la apprehension and discrimination. Paula Kantor (2013) examined the extent to which home based production serves to empower its female participants. The study highlights why access to resources may not lead so directly to improvements in women’s position in the household in the Indian context. It was found that understanding of the potential of home based work to offer women in urban India a source of economic activity. D. Srinivasa, Y. S. Siddegowda (2015) explained that empowerment of women is a multi-dimensional aspect. The term women empowerment consists of educational empowerment, physical empowerment, social empowerment, economic empowerment, legal empowerment, political empowerment and the spiritual empowerment of women. Dhruba Hazarika (2011) explained that the women empowerment is a debatable subject. At earlier time they were getting equal status with men.

After independence of India, the constitutional makers and national leaders strongly demand equal social position of women with men yet they have not absolutely free from some discrimination and harassment of the society. A few numbers of women have been able to establish their potentialities. P. Suresh (2017) explained that empowerment of women is essentially the process of upliftment of
economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in the society. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. Ram S. Samant (2015) explained that the government as well as non-government organization should strive hard to bring some positive change in the women who indeed really need the help, the downtrodden section of our society.

2. Meaning & Aspects of Women Empowerment

Women Empowerment means to growing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strengths of the women so that she may be able to get the equal-right, confident enough and claim their rights in society. Women Empowerment refers to the creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society. There are various aspects of Women Empowerment such as social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure equal-right to women, and to make them confident enough to claim their rights. There are various aspects of women empowerment such as freely live their life, a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity. Complete control of their life, both within and outside of their home and workplace. She may be able to make their own choices and decisions, equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities, equal social status in the society. She may be able to have equal rights for social and economic justice. Besides these aspects she may be able to get equal opportunity for education, employment opportunity without any gender bias, safe and comfortable working environment. Women empowerment in its actuality is synonymous with complete development of the society. An educated woman, with knowledge about health, hygiene, cleanliness is capable of creating a better disease-free environment for her family. A self employed woman is capable of contributing not only to her family’s finances, but also contributes towards increment of the country’s overall GDP. A shared source of income is much more likely to uplift the quality of life than a single income household and more often than not helps the family come out of poverty trap. Women aware of their legal rights are less likely to be victims of domestic violence or other forms of exploitations. Their inherent aptitude towards organization and well-rounded maintenance of home makes them uniquely suited for political and civil leadership roles. Participation of women in political and social positions of power has seen marked reduction in corruption in those specific areas which adds another advantageous point in favor of women empowerment.

3. Objectives of the Study

Main objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To know the need of Women Empowerment.
2. To explore the essential aspects, challenges and schemes of Women Empowerment.
3. To analyze the Factors influencing the Economic Empowerment of Women.
4. To study the Government Schemes For Women Empowerment.
5. To identify the Hindrances in the Path of Women Empowerment.
6. To explore Women empowerment in its actuality is synonymous with complete development.

4. **Research Methodology**

The present paper is designed as descriptive and analytical study in area of concern. In this paper an attempt has been made to analyze the women empowerment program of in India.

5. **Why Women Empowerment?**

In general women is considered as a weak part of the social life in modern times, but it is not true and it will reflected in our ancient literature. Indian culture is based on Vedas and puranas. it is due to the agricultural base of Indian society. It reflects our ethos and practices towards the management of society by women only.

Reflecting into the “Vedas Purana” of Indian culture, women is being worshiped such as LAXMI MAA, goddess of wealth; SARSWATI MAA, for wisdom; DURGA MAA for power. The status of women in India particularly in rural areas needs to address the issue of empowering women. About 66% of the female population in rural area is unutilized. This is mainly due to existing social customs. In agriculture and Animal care the women contribute 90% of the total workforce. Women constitute almost half of the population, perform nearly 2/3 of its work hours, receive 1/10th of the world’s income and own less than 1/100th the world property. Among the world’s 900 million illiterate people, women out number men two to one. 70% of people living in poverty are women. Lower sex ratio i.e. 933, The existing studies show that the women are relatively less healthy than men though belong to same class. They constitute less than 1/7th of the administrators and mangers in developing countries. Only 10% seats in World Parliament and 6% in National Cabinet are held by women.

6. **Ways to Empower Women**

» Changes in women’s mobility and social interaction.
» Changes in women’s labour patterns.
» Changes in women’s access to and control over resources and changes in women’s control over decision making.
» Providing education.
» Self employment and self help group.
Providing minimum needs like Nutrition, Health, Sanitation, Housing.

Other than these, society should change the mentality towards the world women.

Encouraging women to develop in their fields they are good at and make a carrier.

7. Schemes for Women Empowerment

The Government of India has started the various schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Women Helpline Scheme, UJJAWALA Yojna, SWADHAR Greh, NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR, Stree Shakti Puruskar, Nari Shakti Puruskar, Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman, Mahila police Volunteers, Mahila E-Haat and Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK). The name of some important schemes is as follow:

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme One Stop Centre Scheme.
- Women Helpline Scheme Working Women Hostel.
- SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances).
- Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP).
- NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR.
- Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman.
- Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK).

8. Barriers and Challenges in Women Empowerment

The main Problems that were faced by women in past days and still today up to some extent. There are various barriers in the empowerment such as Illiteracy, Poverty, Decline of household industries, Competition from factories and Technological changes. So, there is a great need to remove the barriers and challenges in front of the empowerment. There are some barriers and challenges in women empowerment as follows:

1. **Under-employed and unemployed**: Women population constitutes around 50% of the world population. A large number of women around the world are unemployed. The world economy suffers a lot because of the unequal opportunity for women at workplaces. (Also read: Paragraph on Women Employment).

2. **Equally competent and intelligent**: Women are equally competent. Now-a-days, women are even ahead of men in many socio-economic activities. Education: While the country has grown from leaps and bounds since independence where education is concerned. the gap between women and men is severe. While 82.14% of adult men are educated, only 65.46% of adult
women are known to be literate in India. The gender bias is in higher education, specialized professional trainings which hit women very hard in employment and attaining top leadership in any field.

3. **Poverty**: Poverty is considered the greatest threat to peace in the world, and eradication of poverty should be a national goal as important as the eradication of illiteracy. Due to this, women are exploited as domestic helps.

4. **Health and Safety**: The health and safety concerns of women are paramount for the well-being of a country and is an important factor in gauging the empowerment of women in a country. However there are alarming concerns where maternal healthcare is concerned.

5. **Talented**: Women are as talented as men. Previously, women were not allowed higher education like men and hence their talents were wasted. But nowadays, they are also allowed to go for higher studies and it encourages women to show their talents which will not only benefit her individually but to the whole world at large.

6. **Overall development of society**: The main advantage of Women Empowerment is that there will be an overall development of the society. The money that women earn does not only help them and or their family, but it also help develop the society.

7. **Reduction in domestic violence**: Women Empowerment leads to decrease in domestic violence. Uneducated women are at higher risk for domestic violence than educated women.

9. **Findings of the Study**

1. Globalization, Liberalization and other socio-economic forces have given some respite to a large proportion of the population. However, there are still quite a few areas where women empowerment in India is largely lacking.

2. There needs to be a sea-change in the mind set of the people in the country. Not just the women themselves, but the men have to wake up to wake up to a world that is moving towards equality and equity. It is better that this is embraced earlier than later for our own good.

3. There are several Government programmes and NGOs in the Country, there is still a wide gap that exists between those under protection and those not.

4. Poverty and illiteracy add to these complications, The Empowerment of Women begins with a guarantee of their health and safety.

5. Empowerment of Women could only be achieved if their economic and social status is improved. This could be possible only by adopting definite social and economic policies with a view of total development of women and to make them realize that they have the potential to be strong human beings.

6. In order to create a sustainable world, we must begin to Empower Women.
10. Conclusion

In conclusion it can be said that empowering women socially, economically, educationally, politically and legally is going to be a Herculean task. It will not be easy changing the deep-rooted perception that women are inferior, dependent and dispensable, resulting in a culture of disregard for women in Indian society. But it does not mean that change is implausible. Time is needed to eradicate the perception. But with the push towards the right direction and a lot of effort directed, this task might just be achievable. All we need is an organized approach from the Government and law enforcement agencies of the country focused in the right direction that would rest only with the liberation of women from all forms of evil.

11. Suggestions

1. The first and foremost priority should be given to the education of women, which is the grassroots problem. Hence, education for women has to be paid special attention.

2. Awareness programmes need to be organized for creating awareness among women especially belonging to weaker sections about their rights.

3. Women should be allowed to work and should be provided enough safety and support to work. They should be provided with proper wages and work at par with men so that their status can be elevated in the society.

4. Strict implementation of Programmes and Acts should be there to curb the mal-practices prevalent in the society.

References


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