

ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE COUNTRY

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ABSTRACT: This paper analyses the relationships between Indian economic development, women's social and economic empowerment in Rural India. As Mahatma Gandhi said that the position of women in society is an index of its civilization. "Train a man and you train an individual, Train a woman and you build a nation". Women's are an integral part of an economy. As we know that the theme for International Women's day 2016 was "Pledge for Parity". So to mobilize the theme we need to integrate our efforts towards the developing of women. If we help them to develop then they can become agents of their own development, they will able to make decisions and also will be strong enough to face challenges. As a result it will help in increasing the national growth and economy of the country.

Keywords: Women, gender, empowerment, education, female, economy

INTRODUCTION: In general terms, we can say that the status of women or the females in the society is still low as compared to men or the males. The big difference behind this discrimination is the gender inequality. Since ancient times these tradition was made and it is followed today also. The discrimination between males and females on the basis of sex has created various types of gender biases. Traditions, old customs and religions have a strong influence on women in guiding their lives from birth till death. Lack of security has become the greatest obstacle for the path of women. Child marriage, dowries are some of the old traditions that are still being followed in India. Every year 1000 of deaths are happening due to dowry system, rape, killings of women of backward classes. The most pervasive human rights violation in India today is the violation against women and girls. The violence against have created a terrible fear which affects the lives of most of the women. As terrorists have created fear among the people. Similarly gender inequality has created a terrorism fear among the women and girls.

INDIAN ECONOMIC STATUS:

If we see our everyday life, women's contribute their 90% efforts in agriculture and work in home. If is measured in number of tasks performed and the time spent it is greater than men. The women's not only perform more tasks but their work is also strenuous than men's. Working class women's is always invisible to the crowd of people. If all activities likewise inside and outside work are taken into account then 90% of the works are done by them. In the last few decades, we have seen that there are lot of revolutionary changes taking place. Due to vast population it has not been possible to bring an impact of scientific advantages on the life of people. It has been observed that science and technology are the most powerful weapons that can bring massive changes in the society.

SCHEMES FOR WOMEN

Women empowerment is the income and outcome of the process, by which women challenge gender based discrimination against in all the structures of society. The following schemes at present are aiming at women empowerment and gender equality in India:

1. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (1975)
2. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) (2010)
3. The Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers.
4. Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) (2009-10)
5. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

6. Dhanalakshmi (2008)
7. Short Stay Homes
8. Swadhar
9. Ujjawala (2007)
10. Scheme for Gender Budgeting (XI Plan)
11. National Mission for Empowerment of Women
12. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (1993)

We need women empowerment because for the following reasons:-

- **Gender Discrimination:** - Gender discrimination against female children is pervasive all over the world. It is seen in all the folk of society and open-and-shut in various forms. As per the literature, female child has been treated inferior to male child, which creates deep inscribe in the mind of the female child. Although the constitution of India has granted men and women equal rights, but still there is disparity among genders. Gender discrimination violates human rights.
- **Education for Women:** - Female education is the primary education, secondary education, tertiary education, and health education for girls and women. It includes areas of gender equality and access to education. It also involves the issues of single-sex education and religious education.
- **Female Infanticide:** - Female infanticide is the deliberate killing of newborn female children. Female infanticide is a major cause of concern in India. The dowry system in India is one of the main reasons for female infanticide; over a period of time spanning centuries it has become embedded within Indian culture. Although the government is taking steps to abolish the dowry system but still the practice persists and for poorer families in rural regions female infanticide and gender selective abortion is attributed to the fear of being unable to raise a suitable dowry and then being socially ostracized.
- **Dowry System:** - The Dowry system in India refers to the durable goods, cash, and real or movable property that the bride's family gives to the bridegroom, his parents, or his relatives as a condition of the marriage. It is essentially the nature of payment in cash or some kind of gifts offered to the bridegroom's family along with the bride and includes cash, jewellery, electrical appliances, furniture, bedding, crockery, utensils and other household items that help the newly wedded couple to set up their home.
- **Child Marriage:** - Child marriage is defined as a formal marriage of an individual before reaching the age of 18. Child marriage affects both boys and girls, though the overwhelming majority of those affected are girls, most of who are in poor socioeconomic situations.
- **Atrocities on women:** - The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few decades. With a decline in their status from the ancient to medieval times, to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful.

WOMEN EDUCATION: By educating women the economy of the country will increase. It has been observed that from the last few decades involvement of educated women in various activities helps the country to move towards economic and social development.

1. Female education also contributes towards health and well-being of the family.
2. By getting education, women also contribute to the national income of the country.
3. They can afford quality nutrition to their children.
4. Educated women are considered active in politics.
5. They know their rights and are able to defend themselves better.

CONCLUSION: Women represent almost half of the world's population and in this planet at every nation there is gender inequality. Until women are given the same opportunities as of men the

entire society will doom to perform below their true potentials. The greatest need of change at this particular hour is the change of social attitude to women. There is an emerging need to improve status of women which should start with economic empowerment of women. The most important is women's empowerment through self help groups. The empowerment of women will give benefit to individual women's as well as group of women's, and also to the families and communities. And lastly, the most important society should change the mentality towards the word "women".

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