

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT TURNING A DECADES LESSONS

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I. INTRODUCTION

Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai famously quoted “I raise up my voice – not so I can shout , but so that those without a voice can be heard back.”¹ And this is the basic emotion that lies in the modern women. As we all know women form a very important segment in the world population. They contribute nearly 49% of the total world population according to 2011 census. Now there will be a significant rise in women population. India being an agriculture country more than 70% population depend on that do their daily needs. Out of which nearly 50% are women workers and that too with lots of gender inequalities .even in this 21st century we are living in a patriarchal societies. As said above though they contribute a very significant amount in total world population their basic rights such as right to education , right to vote ,freedom of speech and even showing their independent identity is denied . in this paper the author will be clearly explaining about the difficulties faced by women in different parts of India and will be discussing about different national and international organizations who took a forward step for empowering women . For example [Project Nanhi Kali](#), Ministry of Women and Child Development Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs² , 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development , apart from this different acts and statutes for the development of women and children which has been implemented most of the countries including India. In the paper the author will also be explaining about the importance of women empowerment and the need of women empowerment in this society. And will be explaining about different rules and regulations available in India and which is not implemented by the government. Apart from all this the author will be giving certain conclusion and suggestions for proper and sustainable development of women in this society.

¹Malala Yousafzai quotes

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/7064545.Malala_Yousafzai

² List of women organizations (Aug 6,2020,9:35 AM)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_women%27s_organizations

II. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women empowerment is mainly about giving them and power and control of their lives and anything that they want to become in this society. No where women are lower than men. But our present society portrays us a different picture of women to reality. We can see women who are homeless with poor health and no support to take care of them and their children in this culture. Mostly women from rural background are affected the most. They lack education, knowledge, social sense and so on. Women empowerment in a rural society can be done in three ways economic participation, political participation and power over resources in the economy. This is for the overall women population and not for any specific group or individual. Many studies have shown that women have to decide their future in and decision making power should be vested on their hands. As discussed before the three ways mentioned plays a major role in empowering women in the society. There are many organizations which took efforts for bring them to the society and providing them opportunity to contest and give opportunity for decision making. But many are not talking mark actively because of lack of knowledge and experience. In this paper the Author will be giving his suggestions for improving this complex in them and helping them to come out of that effectively.³

Here the author will be discussing about the three important ways for empowering women,

➤ **Economic participation of women:**

Participation of women in economy related activities is very less in India compared to other countries. Female labor percentage in India is lower than other emerging markets. The main cause of low level of involvement of women in economic participation is due to low paid jobs with any social benefits for workers and with large wage differences compared to other places. Only when they actively participate in such economic activities they can come out of this society which is making them inferior.⁴

³ Women's Empowerment in Rural India .Author's:FemidaHndy and Meenaz Hassan, published in the year 2004 at ISTR conference.

⁴ Raising female economic population(Aug 7,2020)
<https://voxeu.org/article/india-s-female-economic-participation>

➤ **Political participation of women:**

Political participation includes exercising the power of right to vote, contest in election, participate in public meetings, holding position in parties, and so on. The base of political participation rooted during 19th century when different reformists like Rajaram Mohan Roy, and others who took their efforts in empowerment of women in the society.

There is a very high difference in women participation in politics in late 19th and early 20th century. The main reforms such as voting rights, right to contest in election etc took place during this period.⁵

There are three main organizations which were established during this period they are :

- The women's Indian association (WIA): This organization mainly concentrates on education, politics, religion and philanthropy. Annie besant was the first president of WIA.⁶
- National council of women in India (NCWI): This organization was established in the year 1925 as a national branch of international council of women.⁷
- All India women's Conference (AIWC): This worked mainly for female education and was against the customs followed which restricted women from getting proper education and knowledge.⁸

III. NEED OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women are the group who occupy second position in society from time immemorial. They were not considered much though they contribute world's maximum population. During ancient period women were involved in different activities equal to men but when time passed many things made them dependent on men for food and protection.

⁵ Political participation of women in India (Aug 7, 2020)

<https://www.gktoday.in/gk/political-participation-of-women-in-india/>

⁶ Women's Indian Association: (Aug 7, 2020)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/international/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/womens-indian-association>

⁷ National council of women in India: (Aug 7, 2020)

https://www.indianetzone.com/50/national_council_women_india.htm

⁸ All India Women's conference: (Aug 7, 2020)

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/All-India-Womens-Conference>

Later on patriarchy family became dominant in society as a result women became a subordinate role in a family. But now we can see women achieving in many Fields like teaching, medicine, architecture and so on. But still there is a need for women empowerment in this challenging environment.

The status of women should be redefined and the need of women empowerment should be bought among the rural section of the society. Rural women's are least bothered in the eyes of government but it should be changed. Our constitution has several legislation for supporting both rural and urban women. Our constitution give women a status which is equal to men and give power to get it back if it is restricted by the state. Women empowerment generally means their active participation in different Fields and independent decision making capacity in political, social and economic aspects of a country⁹.

IV. ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SUPPORT WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

There are many organizations around the world which support the development of women .here the author will be explaining some of the organizations which support rural women in achieving their dreams.¹⁰

➤ .Young Female Entrepreneur

This organization supports women in their early age to attain job and provide opportunities to express their ideas into the world. Many rural women having efficient ideas have been benefited through this organization .¹¹

➤ **National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)**

This is a national African-American women's organization which protect , educate and advocate rural women in African regions. They also provide help for supporting their family and community.¹²

⁹ Need of women empowerment ;(Aug 7,2020)

<http://www.azadindia.org/social-issues/need-for-women-empowerment.html>

¹⁰ Organizations that support women (Aug 8,2020)

<https://www.hrzone.com/community/blogs/jenniferlachs/5-amazing-organisations-supporting-women-and-girls-in-tech>

¹¹Young Female Entrepreneur(Aug 8,2020)

<https://femaleentrepreneurassociation.com/>

¹²,National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)(Aug 8,2020)

<http://ncnw.org/>

➤ **National Organization for Women (NOW)**

This is a largest feminist organization in US which functions only for the development of women society. At present this organization has nearly 500,000 contributing members worldwide.¹³

V. WOMEN'S RIGHTS UNDER INDIAN CONSTITUTION

India constitution itself incorporate several grounds for gender equality among citizens of India . Such as fundamental rights, directive principles of state policies , fundamental duties work together not only for empowering women but also for the protection of women.¹⁴

Following are certain articles under Indian constitution which provides fundamental rights for women:

➤ **Article 21:**

Any person including women can seek protection and equality according to law . This article is considered to be the heart of Indian constitution. When any bodies personal rights or liberty is infringed by state then they can claim under article 21. ¹⁵

➤ **Article 14:**

This articles deals with right to equality , state shall not deny their right within the territory of India on grounds of gender, caste, religion ,race or place of birth.¹⁶

➤ **Article 19:**

This article provide right to freedom , right to move to any part of India freely ,freedom of speech etc.. for all the citizens of India , which includes Male, Female, Third gender.¹⁷

¹³National Organization for Women (NOW)(Aug 8,2020)

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/National-Organization-for-Women>

¹⁴ Women's rights are human rights , Indian constitution (Aug 6,2020)

<https://sheroes.com/articles/women-rights-india>

¹⁵ Article 21-"No person shall be deprived of his rights or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law " (Aug6,2020)

<https://lawnn.com/article-21-indian-constitution-right-life-indian-constitution/>

¹⁶ Article 14-"The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth." (Aug6,2020)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights-act/article-14-protection-discrimination>

¹⁷Article 19(1)(a) provides right to freedom of speech and expression:

➤ **Article 32:**

This articles gives a citizen the right to constitutional remedies through supreme court if their fundamental right is infringed. And this is achieved through writ petitions .This is applied to all citizens of India which includes Male, Female and Third gender.¹⁸

VI. OTHER STATUTES WHICH PROTCT THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN:

➤ **Right to equal pay:**

According to provisions mentioned under Equal Remuneration Act ,a person cannot be discriminated on the basis of sex when it comes in the case of providing salary. This ensures equal salary distribution to both male and female.

➤ **Right to dignity and decency:**

Due to some action if any women got arrested , procedures relating to medical examination should be done in the presence of another women authorized .

➤ **Right against harassment at workplace:**

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act gives a women right to complaint against sexual harassment in workplace. This can be initiated by registering a written complaint at Internal

Article 19(1)(b) provides right to assemble peaceably and without arms:

Article 19(1)(c) right to form associations or unions or co-operative societies:

Article 19(1)(d) right to move freely throughout the territory of India:

Article 19(1)(e) right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India

Article 19(1)(g) Right to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupations, trade or business(Aug6,2020)

<http://lawbaba.in/article-19-constitution-india/>

¹⁸ Remedies for enforcement of rights conferred by this Part

(1) The right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the rights conferred by this Part is guaranteed.

(2) The Supreme Court shall have power to issue directions or orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari, whichever may be appropriate, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by this Part(Aug6,2020)
<https://indiankanon.org/doc/981147/>

Complaints committee (ICC) within 3 months of the act and later on the complaint will be taken up by Local Complaints Committee (LCC) and further procedures will be initiated.¹⁹

➤ **Right against Domestic Violence:**

This act primarily protects a women who is living in a family as wife, mother or sister who is working from any male live in partner or husband or his relatives. A complaint can be filed on behalf of that women by any family member.

Sec 498 A of IPC clearly mentions the punishment for cruelty against wife by husband or its relatives.²⁰

➤ **The provision of “ZERO FIR”**

According to supreme court verdict a women who is a victim can file zero FIR at any police station irrespective of jurisdiction where the course of action occur. Once it is files the investigation will be done by the magistrate of that jurisdiction and later it will be transferred to the police station of respective jurisdiction.²¹

Right against being stalked

Sec 354D of IPC clearly explains us about staking a women and punishment has been mentioned in subsequent sections.²²

VII. SUGGESTIONS FOR WOMEN EMPOERMENT

Women are empowered in many ways already in the modern world. They have standing in the legal system. They can acquire property. They can initiate divorce. They can get custody of

¹⁹ Sexual Harassment act :(Aug6,2020)

<https://mylegalwork.com/guides/sexual-harassment>

²⁰498A of IPC, HUSBAND OR RELATIVE OF HUSBAND OF A WOMAN SUBJECTING HER TO CRUELTY: Whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.:(Aug7,2020)

<https://ipc498a.files.wordpress.com/2007/11/what-is-section-498a-of-the-indian-penal-code.pdf>

²¹ Zero FIR- (Aug7,2020)

<https://legallhandforyou.wordpress.com/2013/12/16/concept-of-zero-fir-you-can-file-an-fir-anywhere/>

²² Sec 354 D of IPC(Aug7,2020)

Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty.—Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.(Aug7,2020)

<https://www.kaanoon.com/indian-law/ipc-354D/>

children. But in rural part it is completely different. Women empowerment in rural area can be achieved only through proper awareness programs . People over there are totally unaware of different legal benefits that are provided by the government and which are not reached to people and women effectively. Empowerment of a women is empowerment of a country. Women population should play major role in political, social and economic aspects of a society. The starting stage that should be taken for achieving this is to provides camps and legal aids for rural women .most of the rural places do not even have basic medical and transportation facilities. Further social and political effects include better birth control practices and general health of women and better political representation for women as they attain political positions. Many women has several ideas and knowledge for a business but due to lack of empowerment everything I'd going in vein .This empowerment is not just restricted to women who become fighter pilots or scientists. Sexual freedom for women is actually an area I think requires a lot of work, especially in India.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Women empowerment is very much important so that there is no gender discrimination in the society. More restrictions on Sex determination test and criminals who are indulged in this crime needs to be punished immediately so that other person should be afraid of before indulging themselves in this crime. Women empowerment is not just a simple reform, it's a huge revolution so yes we need women empowerment. Women empowerment is all about making women stronger, showing to the world that even women can do a lot of things rather than just sit and home and do the household work. We do deserve recognition and we are no less compared to men. In this paper the author has clearly explained different concepts regarding rural development and empowering of women and also different organizations which support women for their development. Also the author have clearly explained about different sections an articles which support the development and protection of people especially women. And lastly the author would like to register that A real man is a an evil no treats women well and respects her that's what makes him a gentleman and trust me the world will become a better place if all the women in the world are respected and loved for whoever they are and treated equally by men all over the world.