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Gender Justice and Women Empowerment

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Abstract

In 21st century when India is heading towards being a develop Nation still it is facing the problem of gender injustice. Before independence the majority of women in India had low status and their activities were generally confined within household. It is a paradox of Globalisation or modernity that women wield power and hold positions in various sectors but the reality is that women are among the most underprivileged section and majority of women are still suffer from injustice and inequalities. Empowerment of women has started changing gender inequality and change seems to be in the direction of gender equality, though a lot of efforts are needed to narrow the gap. This paper analyses the empowerment, status and justice towards women in contemporary scenario.

Keywords: *Gender, Empowerment, Justice, Globalization*

Introduction

The struggle for gender justice has been going on for centuries but still women are on the unpropitious side in terms of perception, treatment rights opportunities as well as challenges and liabilities. There must be sharing of rights, duties and responsibilities in all spheres of life. Women must occupy positions of power and authority. The term of gender justice since women constitute almost half the population they must be a part of the Bureaucracy accordingly moreover it is essential that there is active representation along with passive representation. Active representation will provide the real power to frame policies and programs through the gender lens and lead to concrete changes in terms of equality and equity.

Article 14 of the constitution mandate that the states and cannot deny to any person equality before law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. But somewhere such constitutional guarantee of formal equality for women has not been able to achieve substantive equality. Gender inequality is an acute and persistent problem specially in developing country. Gender discrimination is the complete exclusions of females from the labour market or the exclusion of females from managerial position. Gender discrimination takes many forms. Many social practices seen as normal from a religious or cultural point of you leave women out of the economic mainstream. The cycle of the disadvantage starts before birth and continues from neglect of female children through to widowhood. The problem is exacerbated further when gender disadvantage is compounded by class caste and religious discrimination.(Wazir 2000)

In her book The Second Sex (1949) Simone de Beauvoir presented the idea of" woman as other" and also focused on how control of women sexuality and reproduction has historically subjugated them to men. She argues that gender was not

an essential characteristics of people but rather something that one becomes through socialization. She wrote "one is not born but becomes a woman". And if this is the case when the women has created by a society then how can it be independent it has to remain under the control of its creator that is society. The women is born in chains and she always in chains. And whenever it comes to women's freedom then it is taken from bizarre sense. Betty Friedan in her book "Feminine Mystique" explain the fact that in almost every professional field in business and in the arts and sciences women are still treated as second class citizens. In today's world population of women is nearly half of the total population India has continuously made efforts in deepening the it's democracy and achieved a significant level of women empowerment through participation in all sphere of life.

Empowerment literally means making someone powerful facilitating the weak to attain strength to increase one self-esteem to help someone to be assertive or self-confident to enable someone to confront injustice and oppression and to support someone to fight for his rights. Thus women's empowerment would mean in nursing the choices and productivity levels of individual women and the collective contribution of women groups. Women empowerment is interpreted in development agenda as participation in decision making, increased access to productive resources, expanded choices, rights and control over her body and life.

The axes of class, Gender and community are contingent on each other for they are constructed and experience simultaneously, and does create overlapping and mutually reinforcing forms of disadvantage and deprivation. We have to examines the gender knowledge, gender segregation in social network, utilisation of women social capital and waves and means of being women Social capital. In general Indian society is organised around with deep rooted norms as well as accelerating institutional and ideological changes. There are many lenses to view the status of women, discrimination and violence they regularly experience in their life. The neglect of female children with regard to access their health Services, nutrition and sexual abuse are having many manifestation of a deep rooted patriarchal bias against women in Indian society. Indian women are and have always been versatile. If in the past they were force to adopt a circumscribed role limiting them to unmitigated domesticity, they have when occasion arrows shown that they were capable of other powers. 20th century has at least to some extent freed women from her traditional work. Women continue who have fewer rights, lower education and health status less income and less access to resources and decision making than man. Women as a categories are still marginalised social groups means totally exclusion for women which needs to develop a dynamic motion of power and empowerment that is both able to link empowerment in the daily lives with inclusion on the public Arena but also to link the inclusion of women with the inclusion of marginalised social group.

In the first decade after independence gender equality was recognised as a significant problem in the greater amount of effort went into assuring that exploitation of women would be identified and responded to with proper measures. After independence several laws were design to bring out equality to women. Prior to enactment of these laws, professionals and politicians were extremely reluctant to identify the necessary legal measures needed to boost equality of the sexes. But after India became a Republic, power holders came to believe that women's equality was no longer a family matter but also a social problem. Several state laws were therefore drafted with the aim to treat women on par with men. But social laws have not been fully implemented. Women's Corporation with the law is extremely necessary. Organised women's group or voluntary organisations have to help women seeking protection through legal measures. Social remedies include women welfare services increasing the establishment of voluntary organisations and legal literacy of women through mass media.

Feminism refers to an ideology having both theoretical and practical implication. It is mostly concern with oppression and subordination of women as a category of the human race to men. Feminism aims to liberate women from male supermacy and exploitation. Gender as a concept in current uses reject the idea of biological determinism which would imply differentiation based on biological factors. Instead the focus is own identifying the social qualities of the distinction based on sex. Historians have used to distinct categories of approaches for analysing the concept of gender(Scott:1988). The first category is essentially descriptive in nature mostly describing the existence of the phenomena or realities without interpreting, explaining or attributing casualty. The second uses is Causal: it not only points out to the nature of the phenomena but also seeks and understanding of the reason for such occurrences. In the most elementary sense gender refers to the structural and ideological aspects of relations between the sexes. The relationship between the sexes is seen in terms of power. This fact is perhaps the most significant factor for the rise of feminism as an ideology against the patriarchal order -generalized across societies and conceptualized to the slogan of universal sisterhood. As an analytical category, gender issues have been treated under the banner of two basic ideological concepts- Marxist and Liberal approach. The Marxist approach places the inequality issue between sexes at contentious treating the relationship between the two social categories as confliction. This strand of feminism has been labelled as the radical feminist approach. The liberal approach calls for the coexistence of both the social categories but on placing women at power with man on the social hierarchy status.

Gail Omvedt (1978), women's activist working in India has offered a two fold classification of women's movement firstly women's equality movement- the kind that may not directly challenge the existing economic or family structure but works toward attaining and equal status within it or at abolishing the remnants of the feudal patriarchal structure. This kinds of moments can be classified under the liberal approach. Secondly womens Liberation movements the kind that may directly challenged the sexual division of labour itself, this approaches came to the Marxist one. Omvedt suggest that both kinds of ideological approaches has been in vogue in India. Women are socialized to accept male dominance in grounds of in capability thurst on them. The long standing feudal structure awaits the strong social changes to materialise for feminism to gain ground. There is no ideological transmission to mobilize women towards health consciousness or confidence building for the growth of stronger feminine personalities.

The world becomes more integrated through new technology's bluring away distinction on the basis of individuality it becomes clearly evident that women are increasingly becoming an integral part of the global society.(kwong:2005). While the impacts of women differ immensely from reason to reason sector to Sector and culture to culture there is wide spirit controversy about the process and impact of globalisation the phenomena that is largely viewed as responsible for these changes. In relation to globalisation and its effect on women there are two thought groups, first being the proponents describe globalisation as a Process with generates positive opportunities for women. They opine that when anything will go global it will help globally. The other group that is the opponents or anti globalists worry that globalisation act somewhat like cancer that harms people particularly women by shifting resources and opportunities to those who can most afford them. They believe globalization represents exploitation of the world's poor by large.

Gender justice and Empowerment

Gender justice includes sharing a power and responsibility between man and women in every field of life like at home workplace among communities despite various advancement in society women are still not treated equally. They are still kept at the peripheries of economic, political, social and cultural rights. Many steps have been taken in various sectors of life to bring the gap

between man and women to bring them at the same level but women are always discriminated in many terms like education, health, economics such as ways gap, credit lending property ownership politics etc. Gender justice is an idea which has bloomed in present Times. Society shape gender roles from a very early age and gender inequality become more pronounced as a child grow into an adolescent years. The reason for gender injustice can be attributed to have different power equation in gender relation. Patriarchal society considering women household work as economically in significant male child preference in society lack legal awareness etc. Aggravated the differential status to the disadvantage of women. Gender equality means that men and women have equal power and equal opportunities for financial independence, education, and personal development. Be it men women or third genders the term gender justices provide equal freedom for personal choices without the limitation of rigid gender role, stereotype and other political prejudices. As human rights are something which shall not only be drafted in the paper but has to have been in practice for the development of society. By valuing different aspirations and treating them with great respect, NGOs, media and public representatives together can transform the society with awareness. It provides a place where men and women can be treated as a human fully with the justified balance of social relation. Because of our social circumstances, male and female are really two cultures and their life experiences are utterly different—and this is crucial. According to Bina Aggarwal (1994) though the state can be retrogressive in consolidating gendered biases and norms, yet in its essence it may not just be an essentially monolithic power structure. The state is a site of multiple contestations and struggles and feminist engagement with it may force it to concede more participatory grounds for women at large.

Empowerment of women place an important role for the social development of a region and ultimately for the nation. They also need equal share in all shades of life.

The issue of women empowerment is conceptually related to motions of identity and freedom. In feminist discourse the gender identity is a social contract. This gender is negligible and yet play significant role. In most reasons of the world Women receive less formal education than men and at the same time women's own knowledge abilities and mechanism often go unrecognized. Achieving changes requires policy and program actions that will improve women's access to secure livelihoods and economic resources. Women's empowerment is a critical aspect of achieving gender equality. It includes increasing a woman's sense of self-worth, her decision-making power, her access to opportunities and resources, her power and control over her own life inside and outside the home, and her ability to effect change. Improving the status of women also announces their decision making capacity at all levels in all spheres of life, specially in the area of sexually reproduction. As patriarchy enforces a temperamental imbalance of personality traits between the sexes, its educational institutions, segregated or co-educational, accept a cultural programing toward the generally operative division between "masculine" and "feminine" subject matter, assigning the humanities and certain social sciences (at least in their lower or marginal branches) to the female—and science and technology, the professions, business and engineering to the male. (Millett:2016)

Conclusion

Development programmes are most effective when steps have simultaneously been taken to improve the status of women. The rational is that such a Bureaucracy will have better understanding of and sensitivity towards the problems of the vulnerable section of society. Gender equality has to be promoted in the national interest. We must understand that women are agents of positive change in the social economic development. Gender inequality is a violence of human rights the constitution of India as a Foundation document and Supreme law can play an instrumental role in bringing gender equality in India. Without the participation of women any society cannot

achieve development. If gender discrimination eliminate women will deliver all the potential skills knowledge to develop the family the nation and the whole world. The preamble of constitution clearly states that equality should be given to all citizen. Article 15(1) prohibits gender discrimination article 16 provides equality of opportunity in case of public employment, article 23 prohibits traffics in human being, article 39d direct the state to secure equal pay for equal work article, 39e directs the state not to abuse the health and distant of workers, article 42 direct the state to make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work, article 51A(e) impose the duty of every citizen of India to renounce from practices which are derogatory to the dignity of women, article 243d and 243T(3) provide reservations of seats for women indirect elections in Panchayat and municipality. Today not only the position and status of women have improved quite significantly, there have been an increasing number of women in almost all the field due to liberty and space provided for women in the democratic framework of electoral politics. Justice to women has to be recognised publicly so that human service professionals could respond with proper action. Education and awareness programs will help in taking in justice to them seriously and seeking the help of social workers and womens organisation in Getting their due rights. Development and attaining the goal of Gender Empowerment should be worked out considering issues prevalent in the Indian society and their contextual references rather than depending on concept/ models provided and sometimes imposed by the Western intelligentsia. The Hindu social structure the cast factor religious sentiment of various communities, joint family structure, class variations and above all the colonial legacy and its impact on the Indian society are important factors to be considered while analysing the concept of gender. With the barriers blurring down in global society such as trade rules and tariff, geographical barriers, Technological barriers, cultural barriers such a traditional Taboo on women operating the market place or any other mechanism that interferes with peoples ability to engage in exchange the barriers discriminating sexes have also blurred. Although modern democratic institution grant equality of opportunity to all citizens irrespective of caste, class and gender, the cultural discriminatory practices limit women from exercising their rights to avail themselves of the opportunities provided by the state. Not withstanding the granting of equality by the constitution of India, it has not drastically altered the practices associated with gender inequality.(Beteille:2002)

One of the universal lessons learned of gender inequality is that this is a societal issue not simply a women's issue. To protect this vital resource, attention to the needs of women and mobilizing resources to meet these needs should be done through general responsive National Development plans policies and programming. As gender issues have become Central to the development dialogue the linkage is between human rights Gender and development have become undisputable .By publicly resounding an issue,largely ignored in many societies, these initiative provide an opportunity in galvanizing new political will and sour new partnerships for action between governments civil society and the private sector to end the scourge of gender based discrimination. It is necessary to identify the aspects of gender in equality in the traditional societies. Where the Global approach is concern Women May not suffer from any discrimination. Progress towards eliminating gender inequality in the future depends on finding and embracing the occasions mostly in the social, political and legal realm. The processes of democratization and development not only questioned the traditional hierarchical system but also pushed the marginal up in the ladder of social empowerment. The collapse of traditional theories, the developmental debate and unprecedented changes brought by information technology brought the women issue affront in the agenda. Nationalist aspirations for popular sovereignty might stimulate an extension of citizenship rights, clearly benefiting women and so the modern state can serve, in this sense, to facilitate progressive gender politics. (Steans 2013)

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