



A Conceptual Study on Women's Empowerment and their Empowering Schemes Implementation in Chhattisgarh

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ABSTRACT

Women are the carriers of social progress. Socialists have given different views on the process of empowerment. There is a problem of gender inequality in India which is mainly due to the patriarchal social system. In India, gender inequality has been created in society through social norms, customs and reforms and superstitions. Even at this time, women do not have their own freedom in society, which they can do with the permission of men. In order for India to reach the top of the world court, it is necessary to take steps to eliminate inequality between men and women. In any country, the social status, economic and political rights of women are the main indicators of the development of that country. The education rate of women in India and the state of Chhattisgarh, job opportunities, social, economic, political and cultural position shed light on the progress of the state. Education is a major component of women's dignity. Special need for women's empowerment is social reform. Chhattisgarh has undertaken various Scheme for the betterment of the state which will make a significant contribution to the development of the state in the future. Secondary sources have been used to create this study. Secondary sources for this study are books, journal articles, histories, criticisms, reviews, commentaries, textbooks.

Keywords: Empowerment, Education, Socio Economic Status, Development, Government Scheme

Introduction:

Women are the main architects of society. All countries of the world have different rules and regulations to establish social and economic justice and equality. Deprivation in the establishment of social, economic and political rights in different countries of the world is also noticeable, that is, racial discrimination, gender inequality, religious inequality in particular hinders the proper development of human society. Social solidarity means creating opportunities for all human beings to participate in social, cultural, economic and political life through rights, justice and dignity (Chakraborty, 2019). Social movements have been seen in different countries of the world to give equal status to every citizen of the society, India is no exception. Education is a special need to build human society in the right way. A special role can be observed in building a goodwill through education, interest, curiosity, love, history and Sanskrit lessons. Man is a socialized being, man unites through the formation of society and plays a special role in moving society forward. Through education, people become socialized and as a result, things like self-activation and values develop in people (Chattopadhyay, 2019). Empowerment in general means to give power. Empowerment is a process in which a person takes control of his or her own life, which leads to the development of respect, love, social values, etc. Empowerment in terms of sociology is the process of empowering the people of those sections of the society who make their own decisions in social, economic and political aspects. Due to the patriarchal nature of Indian society, the position of women in society is not promising socially, economically and politically and culturally. India and the world move the country's economy forward through the participation of women in the economic field. What is especially needed for all kinds of development in a country is the equal rights of men and women. A special focus on women's empowerment in India shows that there is a significant social, economic, political and cultural gap between rural and urban women. Articles 14 and 15 of the Indian Constitution pay special attention to the equal rights of men and women. In order to increase the political power of women in India, the Government of India further enhanced the political rights of rural and urban women through the 63rd and 64th Amendments to the Constitution in 1992, which saw the empowerment of women. In various states of India, various programs have been undertaken to increase women's empowerment through which women's education has increased, they have become economically self-sufficient and their political rights have increased. The state of Chhattisgarh in India has undertaken various programs for the empowerment of women, which has resulted in increasing the education rate of rural and urban women, increasing employment opportunities, increasing social status, and promoting cultural expansion. The Chhattisgarh government has taken some special Scheme - Sakhi one stop center, Saksam Scheme, Swavlamban Scheme etc.

Objective of the study:

The main purpose of this study is-

1. To understand women's empowerment condition in Study Area.

2. To study the Scheme of Chhattisgarh government in the field of women empowerment.
3. Analyze the factors that influence the social, economic, political and cultural power of women.
4. To provide advice for proper implementation of government Scheme.

The need for women's Empowerment: In a developing country like India, women's empowerment strengthens the country's social, economic and political fears. An analysis of Indian geography reveals that in every state and union territory of the country, inequality can be seen mainly in rural and urban education, employment opportunities, business participation and political participation (Chakraborty, 2019). Due to the patriarchal nature of Indian society, the participation of women in domestic work is low in the country, resulting in Indian women participating in domestic work and economic and political participation is lower than in other countries. If we look at the Indian social system, we can see that deprivation and inequality towards women can be noticed in basic issues like education, health, child rearing, financial decisions, entertainment, and clothing. In India, women's education and self-reliance, women's social, economic and political rights must be ensured through independence, which is good for the country's society.

Research Methodology:

This research paper is mainly descriptive and analytical in nature. This research method seeks to analyze women's empowerment in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh. Secondary sources have been used to create this research paper and secondary sources have been collected from books, journal articles, histories, criticisms, reviews, commentaries, encyclopedias, and textbooks. Although the Indian society recognizes equal rights for men and women due to its patriarchal system, data from the 2011 census and data provided by the N.S.S.O (Education Rate, Employment Opportunities, Business Participation, and Political Representation) address gender inequality.

Women Empowerment Process:

The processes that make a significant contribution to the empowerment of women are-

1. **Education:** The main element of building a society is education. The issue of women's empowerment through the expansion of women's education in India and the state of Chhattisgarh took a special place. Girls in societies that are still deprived of access to schooling should be given access to education under the Right to Education Act. In addition, at present, education should be given technology-based and job-oriented education so that all women get employment opportunities at the end of education.
2. **Social Reform:** The first need to build women's empowerment is a society free from social prejudices. Through which women can enjoy their freedom. At present, women are being deprived of basic needs like education, health, employment through child marriage. Social reform is a special need for women's empowerment.
3. **Economic Self-Reliance:** Due to the patriarchal nature of Indian society, women have been deprived of opportunities to participate in economic activities. In order to increase the power of women in India and the state of Chhattisgarh, there is a special need to make women economically self-sufficient. At present, the role of self-help groups in women's empowerment is particularly significant.
4. **Own freedom:** The main element of women's empowerment is one's own freedom. Women cannot take their own freedom due to the deprivation and discrimination of the society. Such as - freedom of speech, dress, freedom of expression. If women are to be properly empowered, the first thing that needs to be done is to create opportunities for independence through which values will develop.
5. **Values:** A special element of women's empowerment is values, through which consciousness and values are created in a person so that the issue of women's empowerment can be seen to flow properly in the society.

Obstacles to Women's Empowerment:

In India as well as in the world, women face various obstacles. Obstacles to women's empowerment are:

1. **Lack of Education:** The rate of female education in India is lower than that of men. According to the 2011 census, India's female literacy rate is 65.46%, which is lower than the male literacy rate.
2. **Child marriage:** The rate of child marriage is high in India. The number of child marriages has increased during covid-19 which is higher than other times. The main reasons for child marriage are lack of education of parents, economic problems, social problems etc.
3. **Inadequate nutrition:** Due to social and economic inequality in India, all people are deprived of proper nutrition.
4. **Female infanticide:** Gender determination has become a common problem in India. Fetal abortion is done in a woman's womb after gender selection.
5. **Domestic violence:** Domestic violence is on the rise in India. As a result, society is deteriorating.
6. **Dowry:** The most horrible practice in Indian society is Dowry, which is witnessing the death of women in India.
7. **Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment of women is increasing day by day in India. These incidents are being noticed by family members, friends, and neighbors, on the streets and in public places, transport offices and colleges.

Legal Arrangements for the Protection of Indian Women:

The framers of the Indian Constitution have taken various steps to build India as a benevolent state. The Government of India and the State Government have enacted various legal measures for the neglected and deprived women, Dalits, Adivasis and persons with disabilities in the Indian society. The legal system is-

1. The Special Marriage Act, 1954
2. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
3. The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956
4. The Suppression of Immoral Traffic of Women and Girls Act, 1956
5. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
6. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971
7. The Family Court Act, 1984
8. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986
9. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
10. The Child Rights Act, 2005
11. The Domestic Violence Act, 2005
12. The Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
13. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013(<https://pib.gov.in/>)

Initiatives taken by the Government of India and the State Government for the safety of women-

1. The government has taken various welfare measures by setting up a "Nirbhaya Fund" for women. As a result, women are being facilitated in various welfare activities.
2. The government has launched a "National Database on Sexual Offenders" online to investigate sexual crimes, which facilitates timely investigations.
3. Introduced emergency number (112) in 2018-2019. In addition, by launching the emergency response system, it is being facilitated to send field resources to the disaster area.
4. The Home Minister of the Government of India has set up a Cyber Crime Forensic Lab in 2008 to facilitate investigations into crimes against women and children.
5. The Ministry of Women and Children has adopted a one stop center and women volunteer recruitment scheme to assist women and children.
6. Government of India Ministry of Culture Measures have been taken to promote violence against women through organizing cultural programs, seminars, trainings and workshops and advertisements. (<https://pib.gov.in/>)

Empowering Schemes taken by Chhattisgarh Government for Women Empowerment:

1. **Sakhi- One Stop Center:** This Scheme provides necessary assistance to women in case of emergency and non-urgency such as- medical, legal system, psychology assistance, counseling, workplace assistance.
2. **Saksham Scheme:** This scheme provides loans of Rs. 1 lakh to unmarried women, poor widows and divorced women through which they can improve their finances.
3. **Women Help Line- 181:** The main objective of this Scheme is to provide 24 hours assistance to women to prevent violence through which women in the state feel safe.
4. **Swavlamban Scheme:** This scheme provides various types of training to unmarried women, poor widows and divorced women as a result of which women get financial benefits.
5. **Village Convergence and Facilitation Center:** This Scheme conducts awareness campaign on government projects in rural areas. As a result, women get support for all projects.
6. **NababihanScheme:** This Scheme provides protection to women against domestic violence, medical treatment and legal aid.
7. **MahilaJagrutiShivir:** This Scheme helps women in law enforcement at panchayat and block level and district level and reaches out to suitable women for government projects.
8. **MukhaMantriKanyaVivahYojana:** This scheme provides financial assistance at the time of marriage to women from poor and BPL families. This project has a special role in preventing child marriage.
9. **DishaFarshanBhraman:** Through this Scheme, women become self-reliant. Through this project, Self Help Group provides support to women, business support, training and various sources of income.
10. **MahilaShaktri Kendra:** This Scheme provides assistance to women in rural areas in digital literacy, nutrition awareness, empowerment, employment.
11. **Noni SurakhaYojana:** This Scheme provides financial assistance for the education of daughters of poor and BPL families.
12. **KanyaSakshartaprotahanYojana:** This scheme provides financial assistance to prevent drop out at school level. (www.bihan.gov.in)

Advice for Implementation of Government Projects:

1. Gathering information on the correct social, economic and political issues of women in the state through the latest census and NSSO, public and private reports.
2. Identify backward rural areas.
3. To study the issues of women in the state which need to be implemented first.
4. To prepare proper outline for implementation of government projects.
5. Use government employees as well as private enterprises.
6. Allocate appropriate funds for the project during the government budget each year.
7. Take proper care of the project.

8. To provide education that is conducive to women's action.
9. Providing loans for self-reliance.
10. Collect project feedback from the public.
11. Arranging Monitoring and Transparency.

Conclusion:

In order to transform India from a developing country to a developed one, it is necessary to take steps to establish equal rights for men and women in society, with a special emphasis on the elimination of gender inequality, protection of social status, establishment of economic and political rights and independence. In order to empower women in India and Chhattisgarh, government Scheme need to be properly implemented and monitored to increase the rate of education of women from rural to urban, economic and work culture management. Facilitating the social, economic, political and cultural path of the country, which has resulted in the development of the states as well as the welfare of the country.

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