

# Women Empowerment and Equality

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**Abstract**— Women Empowerment is a burning issue all over the World. ‘Women Empowerment’ and ‘Women Equality’ is an Universal issue. The present paper is dealt with the above issue and throws light upon the meaning, importance, various sayings and quotes and suggestions etc.

**Keywords**— *Women, Empowerment, equality, etc.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Women Empowerment refers to the creation of an environment for women where they can make decision of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society. Women Empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women to ensure equal rights to women and to make them confident enough to claim their rights such as freely live their life with a sense of self respect and dignity. Have complete control of their life both within and outside of their home and workplace. To make their own choices and decisions such as-

- Have equal rights to participate in social and economical justice.
- Determine financial and economical choices.
- Get equal opportunity without any gender biased.
- Get safe and comfortable working environment.

Paper deals with the Empowerment of Women. Empowerment generally means giving power but the question arises – why do we have to talk of Empowerment at all.

Today, the world is promoting the cause of gender justice by Internationalizing struggle for Equality by Women and other opposed groups. Suddenly women are everywhere. There is no chance for the welfare of the world. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.

Famous sayings are quoted here –

Swami Vivekanand said-

“Through centuries societies of the World over have been trying to fly on only wing denying women their rightful place.”

Lord Byron said :

“There is a tide in the affairs of women which taken at the flood, leads – God knows where.”

In the Victorian era, Tennyson observed – “Man for the field and woman for the hearth : Man for the sword and for the needle she : Man with the head and woman with the heart : Man to command the woman to obey; All else confusion”.

“Frailty, Any name is woman

The Earth waits for his Queen”.

Milton in literature wrote addressing Adam his wife, “Daughter of God and man, accomplished Eve”.

First Prime Minister of India Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru once said, woman of any Nation is the mirror of civilization, has reached is as old as the history of civilization.”

Half of the population of world exists of women. She is always worshipped as a Goddess of Culture, and considered as a symbol of peace, cooperation and humanism.

A light has been thrown upon History of Indian Women from Ancient period to Modern Period of till today.

Women in Ancient India –

In Ancient times Aryans were the main inhabitants of India, Women in that time had place even superior to men, Even no rituals of Hindu Brahmins was supposed without women. The process of choosing the life partner of own choice was known as “Swayamvar”. Women were also the part of rituals. Women were free whatever they wanted. This was the period of Ramayan and Mahabharata.

Vedic Era – The status of women of Vedic Era began to decline with time. Gender inequality degraded to such an extent that they were not given the freedom in a society. They were not given basic rights. Accessibility of Education was not possible for them.

Women in Medieval India –

This time was supposed to be ‘dark age’. For Muslims they were properties of their father, brother or husband and she also crept into the minds of Indian people that they also began polygamy and used to packed up any women they wanted. Indian women started using ‘Purdah’ (Veil) which covers body. This deteriorated their status. They were considered burden, a girl which needs extra care.

Women in this period were practising custom of ‘Sati’, the ritual of daying at the funeral pyre of the husband.

Child Marriage was also one of the social norms in Medieval India.

The condition of widow was subjected to a lot of restrictions.

They were not supposed to enter in any celebrations and in any good work. They were shaved down their hairs and were not allowed to remarry.

Purdah system was widely in practice to protect women from foreign rulers who invaded India in Medieval period.

Girls of Medieval India were only bound to do household duties and were debarred from education. Though these evils were present in Medieval Indian Society, they had easy access to education in Buddhism, Jainism & Christianity and were more liberal in their issues attaining salvation.

The status of women in Southern India was better than North India. One evil practice existed in South India i.e. 'Devdasis'. Indian literature abounds in reference to prostitution as an organised and established institution. Women were used in the form of celestial demi-gods acting as prostitutes.

Poet Guru Rabindra Nath Tagore wrote –  
'O Lord! why have you not given women to conquer her destiny ?

Why does she have to wait,

By the roadside, waiting with tired patience, Hoping for a miracle in the March.'

Though great thinker Plato used to open his doors in reign for the women as well as the men. He used to think that there should be no distinction between boys and girls. They should get same education.

Aristotle debarred women from rights of 'Citizenship'. He thought she is unable to do administration.

In 16<sup>th</sup> Century, Hobbes also neglected the importance of women totally. John Lock gave importance to women rights. But Mcivelli thought do not give any role to women free"

Rousson also said, "Man is born Hegal did not give any right to women. James Mill modern thinker only did favour about women. In India Kautilya also did not give full right to women.

Women in Modern India –

The Nineteenth and Twentieth Century shows a succession of movements first burning social issues like : Women's Education widow remarriage and freedom struggle etc. The status of a woman in modern India is sort of paradox. Still they have to travel on long way. Their path is full of their home and are now in the battlefield of life, fully armored with their talent to get their dues.

Mahatma Gandhi emerged on the Indian political scene in 1918. He was a champion of women's rights. He appreciated qualities of woman. He said, to call woman, the weaker sex, it is man's injustice.

In the mid seventees after a spate of activity in the Universities, women came together to form activities groups.

First women University was founded in 1916. Sarojini Naidu and Margaret cousins met with viceroy for women rights. Madras was the first province for giving voting-rights to women.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Aruna Asaf Ali, Sarojini Naidu, Kamla Devi Chattopadhyaya fascinated their own feminism.

## II. IMPORTANCE

Women have the rights to get their voice heard. Women population consists around 50% of their population. A large number of women around the world are unemployed.

1. The world economy suffers a lot because of the unequal opportunities for women at work places.

2. Equality competent and Intelligent – Women are equally competent. Now a days women are ahead of men in socio-economical activities.

3. Talented – Women are as talented as men. Previously women were not allowed higher education like men and hence then talents were wasted. But, now a days, they are allowed to go for higher studies and it encourages women to display their talents.

4. 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 is also help develop the society.

5. Economic benefits – Women Empowerment also leads to more economic benefits not to the individuals but to the society as well. Unlike earlier days when they stayed at home only and do only Kitchen work. Now a days, they roam outside and also earn money like to male members of the society. Women empowerment helps women to stand on their own legs, independent and also to earn for their family which grows country's economy.

6. Reduction in Domestic Violence – Women Empowerment leads to decrease in domestic violence.

7. Reduction in Corruption – Women Empowerment helps women to get educated and know their rights and duties and hence can stop corruption.

8. Reduction in Poverty – Sometimes the money earned by male members are not sufficient to meet the demands of family.

9. National Development process. They are making nation proud by their outstanding performance, engineering etc.

10. Irrespectable to some Sectors – Women are considered irrespectable to some sectors in certain jobs.

So, Women Empowerment is important regarding above points.

## III. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & EQUALITY

Is it a myth ? Can it become a reality ? Can Women Empowerment do the trick ? These are the questions which occupy the minds of feminists and social workers. Asking for literal equality in all areas is neither practical nor advisable. Men and women are equally important but they are not the same, women have their own strength and weaknesses. But men not have the same.

Women have greater stamina, sympathy and patience than men and men need the moral support of women.

Attitude towards women has not changed yet. Infact the things have indeed gone, had to be worked. Despite Law, such practices as female foeticids, female – infanticide and child marriages are still prevalent in many parts of the country. Dowry is a plague that attacks every family having marriageable daughter. Incidence of sexual harrassment, Rape, Eve-teasing are all on the rise in graph. In almost every sphere the female species is the most vulnerable.

In the coming millennium it is with a song in our heads and in our eyes, a new chapter in the history of mankind. But can be said same about the status of women ?

### Suggestion :

Perhaps the biggest challenging facing women today is access to State Power in order to effect change in practices

and social norms for the utilisation of their rights. There is a great need for “mass - mobilisation”, that we can create awareness among women, so that they can achieve their goals. There is no society in the world, where it is not believed that the primary role of women are which nature conferred upon them is child bearing and rearing.

What is required is the transformation of the Economists, Social, Religious, Political and Ideological structures that provide the very foundations of the degradation of women. The battle must continue against these barriers Religion, Markets, Mass-Media and the home which have contributed to the degradation of women.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

With all the social attitudes towards Women Empowerment is in far better position than a lay, unlettered and helpful women. Their empowerment has to cover the Political, Economic Social and Legal friends. Women themselves have to come towards to fight for their rightful place.

The Boys should be taught not only to respect their own mother and sisters but all other women too and be considerable to them.

Gender Equality demands that men should also learn to adjust, tolerate, compromise. Women will fully sensitized to the needs of men, like their ego-problems, their superiority complex and their male-chavism and tolerate every thing large heartedly if men were to learn even half the lessons. We would be very close to achieve gender justice, if not gender equality.

If the Nation has to do be great, women community as a whole should be awakened from the sleep of needless to combat atrocities committed on them quite often.

They have to be treated as equal partners in decision – making and implementation rather than as beneficiaries.

For the democratization of the empowerment the process needs to be done. It should not begin from top to reserving seats for women in parliament etc It should begin from the grass-roots the family.

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