



Women empowerment: Status and challenges (A study of Haryana State)

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Abstract

Women are an integral part of every society and play as much role in the survival and development of humanity and society as men do. But it is general tendency of the men folk to downplay their contribution and such a tendency has been prevalent in all societies and in all ages though the degree of such a tendency varies from time to time and from society to society. This tendency has resulted in variation in the status of men and women. In fact, women seldom enjoy the status in the society as the men do and often face discrimination. "Patriarchy in social organization has been the dominant reality to define the nature of gender relations in human society that rendered it male-dominated in most parts of the world since the dawn of human civilization." If one surveys the history, the attitudes and atmosphere of prejudice and neglect towards women have been there throughout the ages.

Keywords: higher education, women empowerment, issues, challenges, strategies

Introduction

The most conspicuous feature of the term 'empowerment' is that it contains the word 'power.' To sidestep philosophical dialogue, it should be broadly speaking outlined as management over material assets, intellectual resources and beliefs. The method of difficult existing power relations and of gaining bigger management over the sources of power is also termed as authorization. Authorization in its simplest kind suggests that the manifestation of distribution of power that challenges patriarchic ideology and also the male dominance.

While process authorization, Nelly Stromquist has same that it's "... a method to vary the distribution of power, each in social relations and in establishments throughout society." equally Australopithecus aphaeresis Lazo has outlined it (women empowerment) as "... a method of exploit, providing, bestowing the resources and also the means that or facultative the access to an impression over such means that and resources." Thus, authorization means that 'giving power to' or 'creating power at intervals.' it's a method that individuals bear, that eventually results in changes. It refers to passing on authority and responsibility. It happens once somebody United Nations agency did not have power earlier is given power and this power makes the one that is sceptered to expertise a way of possession and management.

Having outlined authorization, we are able to currently arrange to outline women authorization. Many students have tried to outline it and also the definitions forwarded by a number of them are reproduced here. In keeping with Palanithurai, "Empowering women's could be a loaded construct that connotes totally different meanings to different people... authorization of women's refers to the method by that women are exploit due recognition as men, to participate within the development method of the society through the political establishments as a partner with human dignity." Srilatha Balliwala has been of the read that the term women's authorization has return to be related to "women's struggle for

social justice and equality." in keeping with Kiran Devendra, "Empowerment of women's means that mobilization women to be economically freelance, independent, have a positive shallowness to alter them to face any troublesome state of affairs and that they ought to be able to participate in biological process activities and within the process of decision-making." Helen Keller and Mbewe outlined women's authorization because the "... method whereby women's become able to organize themselves increase their own independency, to claim their freelance right to form alternative and to regulate resources which can assist in difficult and eliminating their own subordination." Promila Kaput views women's authorization as a "... method during which bigger share of management over resources material, human and intellectual like data, data, ideas and monetary resources like cash and access to cash and management over call within the home, community, society and nation, and to achieve power.

Historical Context

During the independence movement, women were visible and active as nationalists, and as symbols of "Mother India". Gandhi, in particular, was instrumental in creating space for women through his non-violence (and some would argue feminized) mode of protest. 35 Gandhi's legendary salt march 36 initially excluded women, but due to demands from women nationalists he later realized the power of women organizers at the local level. His inclusion of women, however, was not located within a gender equality framework, but was a means to achieving a stronger and unified Indian state. The inclusion of women in the nationalist movement was also to debunk the British colonial assertion of "needing to save the poor, vulnerable women" of preindependence India. As in many nationalist movements, women in India took part in the struggle, in turn propelling a women's rights movement. And, as seen historically in many post-colonial countries, the nationalist women's movement in India was

confronted by the rebuilding of a patriarchal nationalist state. Women revolutionaries gave way to their male counterparts who (as a result of Partition politics) created a strong, male, and Hindu "New India". The first post-independence Lok Sabha (the People's Council or the Parliament) had 4.4% women. 37 The period between the early 1940's and late 1970's saw an emergence of the Indian women's movement, but it was not until the 1980s that the women's movement gained real momentum.

Position of Women in India

Like several other questions, the iConcept of Empowerment Empowerment is a multi-dimensional process, which should enable women or group of women to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life (Surekharao and Rajamanamma, 1999). It consists of greater access to knowledge and resources, greater autonomy in decision making to enable them to have greater ability to plan their lives, or to have greater control over the circumstances that influence their lives and free from shocks imposed on them by custom, belief and practice. Generally development with justice is expected to generate the forces that lead to empowerment of various sections of population in a country and to raise their status specially in case of women. "Empowerment comes from Women's groups who seek to empower themselves through greater self-reliance. They have right to determine their own choices in life. They also seek to gain control and access to resources". Empowerment is process, which helps people to gain control of their lives through raising awareness, taking action and working in order to exercise greater control. Empowerment is the feeling that activates the psychological energy to accomplish one's goals (Indiresan, 1999). Issue 'what was the position of the women in primitive society?' could not be answered so far. This is because the historians have not been able to produce any concrete evidence in this regard so far and "... to tap the traces of the happenings and operations during that period." The only sources that we have are the scriptures, which may only be prescriptive rather than representing the true position of the women in that age.

Women Empowerment — Challenges Perspective

The most widespread and dehumanising discriminations against women are on the basis of the biased perspective. The discrimination against the girl child begins from the birth itself. Boys are preferred over girls; hence, female infanticide is a common practice in India. The ordeal that an Indian girl faces at birth is only the beginning of a lifelong struggle to be seen and heard.

Political spirit

Women should have admittance to resources, rights and entitlements. They should be given decision-making powers and due position in governance. Thus, the Women Reservation Bill should be passed as soon as possible to increase the effective participation of women in the politics of India

Lack of Political determination

The still- pending Women's Reservation Bill underscores the lack of political will to empower women politically. The male dominance prevails in the politics of India and women are forced to remain mute spectators.

Loopholes in the legal construction

Although there are a number of laws to protect women against all sorts of violence yet there has been the significant increase in the episodes of rapes, extortions, acid, attacks etc. This is due to delay in legal procedures and the presence of several loopholes in the functioning of a judicial system.

Performance Gaps

Through all these years, the attention is only on developing and devising new schemes, policies and programmes and have paid less attention to the proper monitoring system and implementation short-sightedness, for e.g. despite the presence of The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technologies Act and various health programmes like Janani Suraksha Yojana and National Rural Health Mission (NHRM), our country has a skewed sex ratio and a high maternal mortality. rate (MMR).

Replacing 'Patriarchy' with Parity

A strong patriarchate society with deep- rooted socio-cultural values continues to affect women's empowerment. The need of the hour is an egalitarian society, where there is no place for superiority. The Government should identify and eliminate such forces that work to keep alive the tradition of male dominance over its female counterpart by issuing inhumane and unlawful diktats.

Education is the most important and indispensable tool for women empowerment. It makes women aware of their rights and responsibilities. Educational achievements of a woman can have ripple effects for the family and across generations. Most of the girls drop out of schools due to the unavailability of separate toilets for them. The recently launched 'Swachh Bharat Mission' focusing on improving sanitation facilities in schools and every rural household by 2019, can prove to be very significant in bringing down the rate of girls dropping out of school.

Review of Literature

H. Subrahmanyam (2011) compares women education in India at present and Past. Author highlighted that there has a good progress in overall enrolment of girl students in schools. The term empower mean to give lawful power or authority to act. It is the process of acquiring some activities of women. M. Bhavani Sankara Rao (2011) has highlighted that health of women members of SHG have certainly taken a turn to better. It clearly shows that health of women members discuss among themselves about health relate problems of other members and their children and make them aware of various Government provisions specially meant for them. Doepke M. Tertilt M. (2011) Does Female Empowerment Promote Economic Development? This study is an empirical analysis suggesting that money in the hands of mothers benefits children. This study developed a series of non-cooperative family bargaining models to understand what kind of frictions can give rise to the observed empirical relationship. Parkin (1972) argued that

'sex' could not be regarded as an 'important' dimension of stratification, since the disabilities attaching to female status did not override those of class. The analysis of class was based almost entirely on studies of men's location within the class structure. Feminists have made it clear that class is not the only significant form of stratification. Hence it is necessary to consider how women and men are differentially placed in the class system. Beteille (1969, 2000) inspired by Weber and Marx has considered 'Caste, Class and Power' as the basis of stratification in agrarian society. Gender however, has not been considered a basis of social stratification. Acker (1973) addressed the absence of women in stratification studies and explained it in terms of the major assumptions in stratification literature about the social position of women. She suggested that feminist reconceptualization of stratification studies would lead to a better understanding of social structure. A number of criticisms of the content and methods of the discipline were put forth (Oakley, 1972; Smith 1978; Stanley and Wise, 1983). Even when women were included in the research, they were often presented in a sexist manner. Sex and gender were seldom seen as explanatory variables. The explanatory theoretical paradigms often naturalized women's subordination on biological grounds (Millet, 1974).

Objective of the Study

The specific objectives of the present study are following:

- The research paper the lay district regional disparities in sex quantitative relation, accomplishment rate and feminine work participation in Haryana.
- To understand the requirement of women's empowerment.
- To assess the attention of women's empowerment in India.

Research Methodology

This paper is essentially descriptive and analytical in nature. during this paper a shot has been taken to research the management of in India. The information utilized in it's strictly from secondary sources in keeping with the necessity of this study.

District Wise Sex percentage of Haryana

Sex ratio is an important social indicator to analysis the condition of women in society. Determinants of changes in sex ratio vary from sex differentials in mortality, sex selective migration, sex ratio at birth, and at times, sex differentials in population enumeration. However, the high incidence of induced abortions and sharp decline in the child sex ratio in the last decade clearly proves the practice of female feticides. The increasing incidence of female feticides has led to a drastic decrease in the number of girls to boys in India in the 0- 6 age group. The practice of eliminating female fetuses is believed to be one of the main reasons for the adverse child sex ratio. Pre-birth elimination of females (PBEF) seems to be more prevalent in urban areas than in rural areas, but the gap is rapidly decreasing because of easy availability of sex determination tests in the society. The situation is reached at the place where the registration of pregnancy is compulsory under a proposed law. The registration will be made mandatory with in the first three month of pregnancy. The declining sex ratio is a matter of great concern, as it will lead

to serious demographic imbalances in female population in Haryana. The following table shows the district wise disparities in sex ratio in Haryana.

Table 1: District Sex percentage in Haryana from 1991 to 2011

Districts	1991	2001	2011
Ambala	903	868	885
Pnachkula	839	823	973
Yamunanagar	883	862	877
Kurukshetra	879	866	889
Kaithal	853	853	881
Karnal	864	865	887
Panipat	852	829	864
Sonipat	840	839	856
Rohtak	849	847	867
Jhajjar	861	847	862
Faridabad	828	836	873
Palwal	N.A	N.A.	880
Gurgaon	871	850	854
Mewat	N.A	893	907
Rewari	927	899	898
Mahendergarh	910	918	895
Bhiwani	878	879	886
Jind	838	852	871
Hisar	853	851	872
Fatehabad	877	884	902
Sirsa	885	882	897
Total	865	861	877

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 2011

The issue of declining sex magnitude relation in Haryana has become a study in distinction with no risk of inbound at the conclusion. The grim image of unfavorable sex magnitude relation prevents at district level. The table (1) shows that none of the district within the state features a sex magnitude relation is above the national average. As a matter of reality the district with the very best sex magnitude relation is Mahendergarh (910) in 1991 however currently the district has rock bottom 895 sex magnitude relation in 2011 and Rewari district has 927 in 1991 and 898 in 2011. The sex magnitude relation decline in these districts apace and indicated the grim image and unfavorable condition of feminine in Haryana. currently the actual fact shows that Rewari is that the solely district in Haryana recorded sex magnitude relation but 800 females and neighboring district Mahendergrah is placed second with 819 females. The afraid at a depressing magnitude relation of 776 feminine against one thousand male in Rewari district (The Tribune). On the opposite hand sex magnitude relation had improved in some districts, in Mewat the sex magnitude relationis 907 in 2011 and in Fatehabad district it's 877 in 1991 and 902 in 2011 that is that the above average sex ratio of Haryana throughout 2011. The state of affairs is equally appalling at district level with some districts showing a positive image of sex magnitude relation.

Female Literacy Percentage in Haryana

Literacy is the second key indicators of social development in the analysis. Progress of any state or region reflects with literacy status of the population. It is constitute a necessary condition for development of society, economic progress and

transformation of the state. The gap between male and female literacy is a sensitive indicator of social discrimination. But on the other hand gender gap in education occurs when there are systematic differences in schooling levels between men and women. It is a useful measure for providing evidence of the disparities exists between the genders in terms of access to school. The disparities in literacy existing among male-female are most drastic in nature and are results of our countries old discriminatory social ideas. According to the census 2011, in Haryana, the literacy rate has increased 67.91% (2001) to 76.64% in 2011. There is significant improvement in female literacy but there are disparities in the level of literacy, today situation of women and girl's education is one of the critical areas of concern in Haryana. The following table shows the district wise variation in educational status of female literacy rates.

Table 2: Female Literacy percentage in Haryana from 1991 to 2011

Districts	1991	2001	2011
Ambala	56.78	68.48	75.51
Pnachkula	56.17	68.98	75.98
Yamunanagar	50.16	64.04	71.38
Kurukshetra	46.56	60.76	68.84
Kaithal	28.78	47.60	59.24
Karnal	41.92	58.42	66.82
Panipat	42.78	58.48	67.10
Sonipat	45.74	61.65	69.81
Rohtak	48.25	63.19	71.71
Jhajjar	46.12	59.88	70.72
Faridabad	42.12	56.80	73.84
Palwal	N.A	N.A	54.23
Gurgaon	34.94	48.29	77.98
Mewat	N.A	N.A	36.61
Rewari	46.34	61.25	69.57
Mahendergarh	36.75	54.61	64.57
Bhiwani	35.07	53.50	49.24
Jind	29.86	48.97	60.76
Hisar	33.94	52.09	62.25
Fatehabad	29.77	46.40	58.87
Sirsa	34.94	50.31	60.40
Total	40.47	56.31	65.94

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana, 2011.

The table (2) indicates the lowest literacy rate was observed in Kaithal (28.78), Jind (29.86), Fatehabad (29.77) and Sirsa (34.02) whereas the highest literacy rate was observed in Ambala (56.78), Rohtak (48.25), Sonipat (45.74), Rewari(46.34) and Faridabad (42.12) during 1991. The census data of 2011 indicated that the lowest female literacy rate was observed in Mewat (6.6), Palwal (54.23), Bhiwani (49.24), Fatehabad (58.87) and Sirsa (60.4) and highest in Rewari (69.57), Mahendergarh (64.57), Faridabad (73.84), Gurgaon (77.98), Rohtak (71.72) and Ambala (75.5). The literacy rate of female increase in 1991 to 2011 but not yet. The overall female literacy rate is (40.47) in 1991, (56.31) in 2001 and (65.94) percent during 2011. This percentage was less than male literacy in Haryana. On the other hand, it is observed that sex ratio and literacy are negatively correlated to each other. This reveal in the recent figures published in "The Tribune". In all conditions poor sex ratio is often blamed on illiteracy but this does not seem hold true in Haryana. In the state the

district with poor literacy, levels have indicated the highest sex ratio as per 2011 census. Mewat district has worst in literacy rate of (36.6) percent but has the highest sex ratio of 907 female per 1000 males in Haryana. The sex ratio is a way above the overall figure of 877 for the state. The districts Fatehabad, Palwal and Sirsa have the lowest literacy rate but their sex ratio is highest in the state. While Fatehabad has the lowest female literacy rate (58.87) percent and sex ratio is 902 females and Palwal which has poor literacy rate of (54.3) percent has 880 sex ratio per thousand males in 2011. This indicted the situation of disparities in declining sex ratio and low literacy status of female in the state.

Conclusion

The paper concludes that while not the advance in social condition of the women country can't get success. The primary step to urge success there is required to form awareness to create girls Empowerment. Currently during this time of globalization development in every sector has been happen however, the condition of girls is same because it was within the past. The result indicated that there are giant disparities showed in sex quantitative relation, attainment rate and work participation compression to male. Within the state incessantly declining kid sex quantitative relation, reveal the imbalance and adverse social causes and consequences within the society. Folks have to be compelled to perceive that the son and daughters have equal within the society and stop son preferences. For this, there is have to be compelled to increase the academic standing and work conditions for feminine. High level of attainment and academic action results in equal standing of male, feminine, and this create the women Economic Empowerment. The government has been implementing varied schemes for the socio-economic advancement and development of woman's within the state to eliminate every type of discrimination against women and the girl kid and guarantee direction and gender justice for them. Therefore, effective policy and programmers were started by the government to encourage them to folks leave the negative angle towards women and perceive their worth. Disparities in rank of girls could be a matter of deep shame and reason for nice concern, we tend to let work to get rid of this menace from society and balanced demographic structure inside the country might be achieved otherwise the distortion are seen in close to future.

We can conclude women direction could be a method within which women gain management over their own lives by knowing and claiming their rights in the slightest degree levels of society viz., international, national, native and house. It's nothing however a spiritual, cultural and legal struggle against oppression, injustice and discrimination. In alternative words, it is the flexibility to organize and mobilize for modification and alter the individual cluster to direct their own life and reach a stage wherever they are additional doubtless to achieve no matter they arrange to do. it's associate in progress method associated not an finish by itself. In short, women direction could be a method of awareness and capability building resulting in larger participation, to larger decision-making power and management, and to transformative action.

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