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Women Empowerment

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Abstract- Throughout the history of mankind, women have been treated as subordinate beings in comparison to their male counterparts. Right from the childhood days women are patterned to live in a way which would benefit the men and accept the hegemony of men in the society. To come out of this misery women first need to generate a feeling within themselves that they are not born to remain as a puppet in the hands of men, they have their own identity, their own goals and desires to fulfill. This can only happen through female education and awareness which would generate a sense of developing their identity in the society. In the 21st century undoubtedly women throughout the world have covered a lot of ground in a way towards their upliftment and growing their independent voice in the society. But still there is a lot to go in the process of empowering women to be at par with men. Woman Empowerment should not be contextualized in a country specific way. Women irrespective of their Nationality, form a world community as their problems and interests are common in a lot of way.

Keywords: empowerment, hegemony, feminism.

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WOMENEMPOWERMENT

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Women Empowerment

Pratik Bose

Abstract- Throughout the history of mankind, women have been treated as subordinate beings in comparison to their male counterparts. Right from the childhood days women are patterned to live in a way which would benefit the men and accept the hegemony of men in the society. To come out of this misery women first need to generate a feeling within themselves that they are not born to remain as a puppet in the hands of men, they have their own identity, their own goals and desires to fulfill. This can only happen through female education and awareness which would generate a sense of developing their identity in the society. In the 21st century undoubtedly women throughout the world have covered a lot of ground in a way towards their upliftment and growing their independent voice in the society. But still there is a lot to go in the process of empowering women to be at par with men. Woman Empowerment should not be contextualized in a country specific way. Women irrespective of their Nationality, form a world community as their problems and interests are common in a lot of way. Though country specific problems do exist due to the cultural and religious diversities as well as the difference in the levels of literacy and economic conditions of people which vary amongst different countries and requires to be addressed individually. The basic essence of empowerment is equality and individuality, which would make women become coterminous with the men and in a way this would lead to a healthy human society where both men and women would work and contribute equally to make the world a better place to live!

Keywords: *empowerment, hegemony, feminism.*

I. Introduction

The term "Empowerment" means to have the authority or the entitlement to do a particular thing as per ones own desire and without depending on anyone. When we add this term in the context of 'Women' it means the fulfillment of every women's right to have their own voice, own identity and self reliance in the society. Women Empowerment if achieved fully means the end of "Patriarchy" and also the withering away of the male dominated society. In this text an attempt has been made to show how a society patterned my men affects the lives of women and how a woman faces them and the progress of woman empowerment throughout the world.

II. Related Study

Recently the term Women Empowerment has become extremely popular and several scholars have given their views and expressions over it. Duflo (2012) suggests that women empowerment and economic development of women are directly related to each other. Dr. Sundaram, Dr. Sekar and Dr. Subburaj (2014) have explained that Women Empowerment can only be achieved if women have the awareness and will power to achieve it and this can only happen if women acquire the proper spirit of education. It is the most effective tool for uplifting women. KC Mandal (2013) have expressed that Women Empowerment has many dimensions and it does not depend on one factor. It has many factors like Social, Educational, Political, Economic and Psychological. If women can uplift themselves in all these areas then only can women empowerment happen in its fullest extent. Goel and Gupta (2019) interestingly says that the growth of technology especially the dependency on smart phones have empowered women whether working or housewife especially in India to connect with the outside world which in a way contributed to their empowerment. Dr. Moon (2011) observed that the Indian Government's programme to link Self Help Groups with Banks have helped women to have access over their savings as well as control over their credit and income. Felix and Ojo (2006) found that distance education helped the women in Africa to gain access to education which contributed towards empowering them in the African society. Arum (2010) have stressed on the role of NGO's in creating awareness over Women Empowerment in Nigeria. Sethuraman, Lansdown and Keith (2006) have said that eradication of Malnutrition level in rural areas amongst women can contribute to their empowerment. The gap still noticed is the failure to implement equal pay and the studies have not highlighted on involving women in the defence sector giving them equal responsibility and power which men enjoy can also lead to women empowerment.

III. Obstructions Towards Women Empowerment

All around the world there are several obstructions towards women empowerment. In many societies in Asia, Africa women still are looked down upon if they try to become working women or seek higher education. These societies are still dominated by 'Misogyny' and there the women themselves are patterned to believe that men are superior than them. This Patriarchal hegemony is still prevalent in many societies. These sort of societies act as an impediment towards female upliftment. These can be only eradicated if women unite themselves against these false narratives and work collectively towards their empowerment.

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IV. Women in Defense Services

A serious way of achieving women empowerment is to allow women to have equal share in the Defense services with their male colleagues. In many countries women still are bared from joining the Armed forces or going to combat areas but slowly this narrative that women cannot fight for their Nation is turning into a Myth. The recent Supreme Court verdict in India has allowed Women to get themselves enrolled in the National Defence Academy and also to seek permanent commission in the Army. Women today are becoming pilots of Fighter Planes which was unimaginable a few years back. So women empowerment is gaining a lot of grounds in this 21st century.

V. Conclusion

Women empowerment can be achieved in letter and in spirit if women irrespective of Religion, Race, Caste, Creed and Nationality join hands and make way for their own development in every sphere of their lives. They must have the feeling of "One for All and All for One". The world community like the U.N. should continuously monitor the needs and interest of women throughout the world. The Feminist Movement towards achieving Equality is gaining popularity throughout the world and their voice towards wrongdoings over women is gaining strength like the "Me Too Campaign". The Governments of different countries should also promote the essence of equality and ensure equal participation of women in every sphere of life. Only then Women Empowerment can be achieved in full vigour and vitality.

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