

CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Abstract

Women empowerment refers to the creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society. It refers to give them Equal opportunities , equal rights , higher education , skill , knowledge , freedom and confidence by which they can lead their life by their own .Women empowerment can help the women to face many problems ,it helps them to built a strong career .

Earlier women were facing lots of problems like child marriage, sati pratha , pardapratha , restriction to widow remarriage, widows' exploitation, devadasi system, etc. However, almost all the old traditional problems have been disappeared gradually from the society but given rise to other new issues. Women are continuously facing many problems even after having self-confidence, individuality, self-respect, personality, capacity, talent, and efficiency more than men. They are facing problems in their daily life even after they are given equal rights and opportunities like men by the Constitution of India. These problems are the challenges and barriers in women Empowerment like Poverty , unequal pay , lack of higher education , Gender discrimination etc .

This Paper contains Challenges of women empowerment, Barriers of women empowerment, Overcoming Challenges and role of education in women empowerment.

Introduction

Women empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women. To ensure equal right to women, to make them confident, freely live their life with self respect and self dignity. Empowerment aspect visualizes the full participation of people in the decision making process that shapes their lives. The goal of inclusive growth and human development cannot be achieved without the development and empowerment of women.

Women empowerment is empowering women to take their own decisions to achieve their goals but somewhere there are some challenges and barriers which becomes hurdle for the women for empowerment. Women empowerment can also be said as Promoting women's sense of self worth, their ability to determine their own choices and their rights to influence social change for themselves and others.

Concept of Empowerment

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 a construct that links individual strengths and competencies, natural helping systems, and proactive behaviors to social policy and social change.

Empowerment suggests that participation with others to achieve goals, efforts to gain access to resources, and some critical understandings of the sociopolitical environment are basic components of the construct. Applying this general framework to an organizational level of analysis suggests that empowerment includes organizational processes and structures that enhance member participation and improve goal achievement for the organization. At the community level, empowerment refers to collective action to improve the quality of life in a community and to the

connections among community organizations. Organizational and community empowerment, however, are not simply a collection of empowered individuals.

Challenges of women empowerment

Women are facing a lot of Problems and challenges in their lives . some of the challenges are given below

1. Poverty

Poverty is considered the biggest challenge for women empowerment . because of poverty women are unable to complete their higher education because of fees.or they are unable to go different cities to complete their education . so poverty is the biggest challenge for the women empowerment .

2. Lack of education

Because of so many reasons like child marriage , Poverty , lack of opportunities , patriarchy mindset for these reasons women are unable to complete their education which becomes a biggest hurdle for women empowerment .

3. Sex discrimination

Women empowerment is having a biggest aim to achieve equality between men and women, where as sex discrimination is the unfair treatment of people based on their gender.

4. Unequal pay

In so many areas women got less payment than men, some works are considered only for men not for women , here men got more preference than the women . India is a Agricultural country but in that agriculture women got 200 as payment of 1 day where s men got 350 for a day. That is nearly twice of women's payment. Which loses the confidence of women?

5. Family Responsibilities

After girls marriage she got more responsibilities. Or sometimes she may not get the enough support from her families.

6. Child marriage

In earlier days Child marriage was the biggest challenge for the women to build their career. Because of child marriage the girl cannot complete her education.

7. Work – life balance struggle

To balance work and life at the same time which becomes the biggest challenge for working women, to manage family, children, Responsibilities and work at the same time will be challenging for the women.

Barriers of women empowerment

1. Cultural and Social Barriers

Cultural and social barrier is one of the biggest barrier in women empowerment because cultural and social barriers significantly leads to gender inequality. Traditional norms often dictate the roles and responsibilities of women, limiting their opportunities. Addressing gender discrimination requires a multi-pronged approach targeting the root causes. These barriers are deeply ingrained in society, making change slow and difficult.

2. Economic Barrier

In the Patriarchy system , Economic disparities between men and women are stark. Women often have less access to resources, lower wages, and fewer job opportunities. This

economic gap makes it hard for women to achieve financial independence. To bridge this gap, targeted legislation and cultural shifts are essential.

3. Political Barrier

Women's political representation is still remains low. Despite some progress, women are still underrepresented in political offices. Increasing women's participation in politics is crucial for achieving gender equality. This requires not only policy changes but also a shift in societal attitudes towards women leaders.

4. Unequal opportunities

In our society as we are seeing women are having less opportunities where as men are getting more and more number of opportunities to build their career in every field . Men are considered as strong where as women are considered as weak to complete some work. This thought becomes the biggest barrier for women empowerment.

5. Lack of access to resources

Around the world, women are significantly less likely than men to have access to productive resources such as land, finance, and information.

Overcoming Challenges

1. Education and Awareness

Education is the biggest weapon so Promoting education and awareness is fundamental in challenging stereotypes and biases. Empowering women with knowledge and skills enhances their ability to navigate societal expectations and challenges.

2. Gender Equality

Women should get the equal opportunities , equal rights , equal respect and equal position like men .by which they can get their freedom .

3. Equal opportunities

Women should get the equal opportunities in every field and every area by which see can help herself and her family .equal opportunities can help women to feel free and confident .

4. Skill development

“ Women”-here “W” is stands for wonderful not for weak .so every women is a union of so many hidden skills .so we have to help her to find out that skill and develop that skill .

Role of education in women empowerment

Education is considered as a basic requirement and a fundamental right for the citizens of any nation. It is a powerful tool for reducing inequality as it can give people the ability to become independent. Education Plays a very big role in women empowerment , a educated and empowered women can change her life in the positive way , Education will helps women to become strong and confident and that confidence will helps her to lead her own life by her own decisions , it helps her to feel proud on herself . Education is the greatest solution for all problems of women, if women are educated they can educate our new generation . Education not only gives skill and knowledge but it shows the right path of life . women who contribute almost half of the population are empowered it will strengthen the national economy. Education is considered as a milestone for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their lives.

- Education increases awareness in women about their rights and opportunities which helps them to take the right decision on right time.

- Education helps women to get better jobs, earn high payment which support their families.
- Education helps women to develop critical thinking and creativity.
- It improves social, economic, and health status of the women.

Conclusion

Overall, women empowerment is the most important thing for every woman because it gives her freedom, independence, respect, choice and the most important is it gives the life which she wants. If we want to bring about women empowerment in the true sense, women need to be given equal opportunities for education and employment without any sense of discrimination. Unless there is attitudinal change in society towards women, merely arming them with legal and constitutional rights will be simply inadequate.

Reference

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