

WOMEN-IMPORTANT RESOURCE IN THE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Women have a distinct rôle to Play in the développent of the nation in the rôle of mother ,women shapes the personality and character of her children and hence the character of nation as a house wife, she maintains the productivity of human capital within the house hold through proper management of home. Apart from this,a women herself represents a unity of human capital and is therefore capable of making contribution to the economy of the nation for a country like INDIA people both male and female are the only abundant asset women constitute nearly half of the population. There cannot be true development or growth of a nation with half of its population living in ignorance, withdrawn from the main stream unrecognized ,and unaccounted for. In this back ground, women rank is very important resource in the nations development.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Women's Component, Plans, Upliftment, Nation Development, Political Right.

INTRODUCTION

Power in the social contest implies a process of governance, regulation, direction and influence for the sake of protection and upliftment of people both individually and collectively in symbiotic manner .Empowerment is consider a little more than delegation: some see it simply as an element of some other change in existing program .

Empowering of women presupposes a drastic, dynamic and democratic change in the perception of and expectation from women in our society. To help women to attain economy independence is the first priority for such a change .When a women attain economic independence she naturally becomes the mistress of her own body and author of her own decision. Even she can make free choices in her sex life and no one can force her to use her for their pleasure and benefit.

Five Years Plans and Women's Development

Women s development began mainly as a welfare oriented program in first five year plan 1951-1956.The central social welfare board set up in 1953,undertook a number of welfare measures through voluntary sector .The second five years plan 1956-1961 organized women

into mahila mandals to act as focal points at the grass root level for the development of women. The third fourth and other entering plans 1961-1974 accorded high priority to education of women and introduce the measures to improve internal and child health services including supplement feeding for children and nursing mothers etc. The fifth plan 1974-1978 saw a shift in the approach for women's development from 'welfare' to 'development' to cope with several problem of the family and the role of the women. the new approach aimed at an integration of welfare with development services. A landmark in the history of women's development to place, during the sixth five year plan 1980-1985,by including a separate chapter and adopting a multi disciplinary approach with ponged trust on health ,education and employment in the seventh plan measure objective of raising their economic and social status to bring them into the main stream of national development. The eight five year plan which was launched in 1992,mark a shift from development to empowerment in approached to women development skin it promised to "ensure that the benefits of the development from different sector do not bypass women" and women must be enabled to function as equal partner and participant in development process in the ninth five year plan 1997-2002 two measure steps towards gender justice have been taken for the first time in the history of planning the fist is the listing of empowerment of women as a measure plan objective. the other is to prose inclusion of women's component plan in the plan of all central ministers and state government.

Women Empowerment

The key instrument of strategy for women's development both as beneficiary and a participant is, therefore grass root level organization of women for learning and productive activity which would help:-

- To draw them into the main stream of development:
- Promotes self-reliance and collective action:
- Strengthen their participation and voice in the development process:
- Assist them to achieve economic viability as well as knowledge for their personal growth:
- Provide forums to enable women especially from the poorer sections to participates freely and fully in decisions that affect their lives and that of community;
- Enable them to acquire full access to development resources and services: and
- Enable them to function as instrument of social change:

The process of empowerment is multi dimensional and it enables women to realize their full destiny and powers in all spheres of life as women empowerment begins with consciousness-perception about herself and her rights, her capabilities and her potential, awareness of how gender and socio cultural and political forces affect her. political empowerment, economic development and social upliftment of women is necessary and desirable to fight myriad forms of patriarchal domination, and discrimination at every stage. In fact, women's empowerment is central to the achievement of the triple goals of equality, development and social justice, and for that political participation is needed. in a democratic system women participation may be viewed at two levels:

- Awareness and assertion of women's political rides and
- Acquisition and exercise of power

The participation of women in the pries is considered essential not only for insuring political participation in democratic process but also for realizing the developmental gold's for women's, participation of women in pries involves:

- Women as candidates:
- Women as elected members of pris taking part in decision-making, planning, implementation and evaluation: and
- Women as a members of mahila mandal and their association with voluntary organizations

Although participation in economic production is the base to improve the lot of women, it is not enough by itself. Women must be involved as in main in the struggle against poverty and in justice. Without such involvement, poverty may be overcome, but exploitation and operations of women would remain unchanged. In addition it is important for women to participant in political decision making as it as politics which determines the direction and pace of most development plans.

Changing Scenario

Almost three decades passed since then and women seem to have crossed over the "mother child syndrome" of policy makers. It seems more and more obvious to policy planners now that grass-root agricultural economics, which employ 70% of working population of which 84% of women cannot continue with those growth oriented policies which marginalize women.

Today, the Indian state has accepted women's empowerment as its measure policies goal, it has also accepted women as active agents, participating in and guiding their own development happily in ninth plan draft, as mentioned above there is a variable sea change in plan perspectives. until then women's development to quote the document, was primarily "welfare oriented". the focus was always on health, nutrition, education, in the early 90's on training for employment. The approach of The ninth plan directs both the center and the states to adopt the "women's component plan" through which no less than 30% of funds and benefits are year marked to the women-related sector there is no doubt that women's development is directly related to nation development. the effective management and development of women's resources that is their abilities, interest, skills, and other potentialities are of paramount importance for the mobilization and development of human resources.

The 73rd constitution act empowers them to take part in decision making in decentralize governance in decision making in decentralize governance and development women have been trying there best to make themselves assertive in local governance but the ground realities such as literacy, poverty unemployment and ignorance inhibit them from assertion.

Emerging Realities

The experiences gathered about women's participation in panchayat show that they have been projected as somebody's mother or wife or sister or widow and not as people's representative on the other hand there are cases where women played a leading role in local development, their lives have been affected positively. The reason why those who were earlier shy even in attending meetings, had later on become assertive was that they were given opportunity of participation the basic disabilities before rural women are literacy, assetlessness and ignorance. If these disabilities are removed they could perform their role no less effectively than their counterparts.

CONCLUSION

If women are in a state of economic, social, political and knowledge disempowerment, the imperative is to reverse this process instead of merely adding a gender agenda to a development plan drawn up by the gender incentives, The goal should be to redraw it by mainstreaming women's perspectives. It is the empowerment strategies which has emerged as INDIA'S response to the challenges of equalities, development and peace. For women to be truly empowered it is necessary to provide an expanding network of services so that they are freed from some of their gender related shackles of a practical nature and are also enabled to aspire to the actualization of their strategic gender needs.

Effective participation of all women in development as intellectual policy makers and decision-makers, planners, contributors and beneficiaries should strengthen according to specific problems of women in different regions and the need of different categories of women in them, that commitment on the part of policy-makers should guide the formulation and implementation of policies, plans, programs and projects: with awareness that development prospects will be improved and society advanced through the full and effective participation of women.

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