

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

Women Empowerment means empowering a woman in certain ways. Women have been through various ups and downs in their history. Indian women have actively taken part in the reformation of society with an affirmative approach to show that women are not weak and helpless, instead they are the self dependent soul who are fighters, fighting for dignity, peace and respect. Women is the medium of human entry in this world, and the one who disrespects women is enemy of law. The dignity of a woman is must and needs to be maintained and protected.

INTRODUCTION

Women pass through various dilemmas during their lifetime. Surprisingly, even in a country like India, we talk about Women Empowerment. Now, why is it surprising?

India is a home to different religions and languages, but its history has always glorified the existence of women. Women have been always preached in India, but it is weird and sad to know that women were dragged down to a state which was worst than vulnerable. A prejudice was formed regarding women in Indian public by rulers in the late medieval period and modern era. Tragically, that custom practices went on, and women lost their essence in society.

It is the greatness of a woman that they were silent all the time. Women had to step out to show who they actually are, when their silence was misinterpreted as their weakness. It all began during 1980's when women started a campaign regarding their empowerment and the campaign began spreading. Women Empowerment means empowering women in all ways possible, This campaign was not limited to equal rights of a woman, but was against all the odds and practices followed to discriminate between women and men not only inside, but outside also. This was the journey of women from being dependent on others to being self dependent and proving their worth in every field.

HISTORY

The big question which arises now is, if women were always treated as equals in the past, then why are we unable to continue our rich legacy in our mind, thoughts and practice. The fact being that society in past 300 years has forgotten its history, specially people's mindset, faith and belief have been drastically overpowered for a long time by imposters. And, there was a time wherein imposters used to rule people's mind, and it was then, the spreading of hatred against girl child, and certain prejudices about women were established in such a way, that India is still striving hard to battle out these orthodox, rudimentary and backward thoughts.

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REAL STATUS

In the UN Human Development Report's (2016) Gender Inequality Index, India is at the bottom of the pile at 125th position, out of 159 countries. In Gender Gap index (World Economic Forum) 2017, its position is 108th out of 144 countries. It has slipped 21 places in one year compared to the 87th position last year in Gender Gap Index.²

In 2017, 51 per cent of women aged 14 to 49 were found to be suffering from anaemia in India (the highest in the world) which makes childbirth difficult and dangerous. It is one of the reasons why the maternal mortality rate is so high in India at 167 per 100,000 live births. We failed to meet the UN Millennium Development Goal in this category.

The recent Family Health Survey reveals that only one fifth of working women have the power to take important decisions in the family.

India is the fastest growing country in the world, but still we India is one of the most unsafe countries in the world. Why? Even today, cases being reported of harassment and rape are on rise. Why?

CONCLUSION

Today, women are independent and are given equal rights, however, even today there are many areas wherein women have been deprived of equal rights and independence. Education for women has been utmost priority for government as well and slogans such as "Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao" have boosted the movement. But, this is just a half battle won, as until and unless this nation becomes safe for women to carry out their work freely, this campaign would go onn.

Lack of sex education stands the primary cause for growing rape cases. Untill and unless we change their thinking, our moto stands defeated. Women Empowerment has received a great shout out by men in India which has been one of the major reasons of its success. Forthwith, if we are able to educate the uneducated, and are able to teach the greatness of women, we would no more be needing a campaign such as Women Empowerment. Women Empowerment Campaign being in India again and again reminds us of lacking values and culture, and it needs to be restored as soon as possible.

We still need reforms for a change. A women plays an important role in a humans life, she is a mother, a sister, a wife, a child. Women is a symbol of sacrifice. But she never shows it. Isnt't it a duty of every citizen to provide a safe environment to live in.

We must fulfil our duties and those who disrespect women should be severely punished. Our duty is not just to hold candle for candle march on cases such as Nirbhaya, Priyanka Reddy, etc. But

² <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/empowering-women-in-india-a-great-challenge-for-govt-as-well-as-society/>

our duty is to make this world a better place to live in for women, and always act as a support to them, if ever they are seen in trouble.

It is very truly said “**Not knowing, from where we learnt to hold a candle, because performing Mahabharata in honour of a woman has been our custom**”.