

CONTRIBUTION OF CONSTITUTION IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract:

In modern time women in India were give freedom and right such as freedom of expression and equality as well as the right to be educated. "If you educate a man you educate an individual however, if you educated women you educate a whole family".

Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their role and change their life. Education of women is the most effective tool to change position and image in the society. Education reduces the inequalities in gender perspective. Women empowerment is essential for inclusive growth. The concept of empowerment flows from the power. It is vesting where is does not exist. Empowerment of women mean equipping women to be economically independent, self-reliant, have positive esteem to enable them to face any difficult situation and they should be able to participate in development activities. In the concept of empowerment is related to gender equality.

Constitutional provisions for women in India are safeguards within the constitution design o ensure gender equality and empower women. These provisions aim to protect women from discrimination, promote their wellbeing, and ensure their equal participation in all aspects of life.

The paper attempts to analyse the contribution of constitution in women empowerment in India.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Education, Fundamental rights, the constitutional provisions for women

Introduction:

The term women empowerment refers to the increasing of their spiritual, social, political and economic strength of all women. For empowering women it is important that have given an opportunity to receive better and higher education. Education is an effective tool for women empowerment. Empowering women in directly lead to growing demand for education for women and enhancing their participation in informal and alternative education system. With the spread of education among women, exploitation and operation will be reduced.

Education is an instrument of social change. It enhances knowledge, wisdom as well as skill. Education holds the key to all round development of once personality would education system produces and nurtures socially sensitive, progressive and forward looking citizen. Women empowerment is a global issue and discussion of women political rights are at the four front of many formal and informal campaigns worldwide. The concept of women

empowerment was introduced at the international women conference at NAROIBI in 1985. Today, the present situation positively administrators are well through of our society.

Scope of the Study:

The Indian constitution has recorded significant growth, development and impressive performance. This study aims at identifying and analysing the impact of constitution for women empowerment in India.

Objective of Study:

The study covers the following objectives

1. To study the contribution of Constitution in Women Empowerment in India.
2. To study the changing stages of women empowerment

Hypothesis:

The study has been taken up for the following hypothesis

- The Indian constitution has a positive impact on women empowerment of India.

Research Methodology:

- This study is based on secondary data. The required data have been collected from Internet, Reference material, Newspapers, Magazine, Articles etc.

Review of Literature:

1. Mukhtarun Nisa, (1992): Emphasizes that the improvements in the socio-economic status of women would remain to a large extent dependent on the social changes in the values, attitudes and social structure prevailing in the country.
2. Dr. M. Parunan, (2007): Visualized that the need of the hours to empower women folk is to provide necessary political education and proper orientation.
3. Vasanthi Raman. (2002): the researcher in this research paper explores effects of the implementation of reservation for women both in the wider historical and contemporary context of reservation for the historically disadvantaged groups in India. The paper also examines the contemporary experience of one-third reservation for the women in the society.

Concept of women empowerment:

Women empowerment is an active process of enabling women to realise their identity, potentially and power in all spheres of their lives. Empowerment of women also means equal status to women. Women empowerment includes higher literacy level and education for women, better healthcare for women and children, equal ownership of productive resources, increased participation in economic and commercial sector, awareness of their rights and responsibilities, improved standards of living and acquiring self-reliance, self-esteem and self-confidence.

Women empowerment in India is the most effective tool for development as these days; women across the world are actively working as a leader and surpassing others in all the spheres

of life. Women are known for delivering multiple roles effortlessly per day, and thus, they are considered the backbone of every society. Living in male dominating societies, women play a wide range of roles, such as caring mother, loving daughters, and capable colleagues. The best part is that they fit the bill perfectly in every role.

Need of Women Empowerment :

Empowerment is probably the totality of the following or similar capabilities:

- Having decision-making power of their own
- Having access to information and resources for taking proper decision
- Having a range of options from which you can make choices (not just yes/no, either/or.)
- Ability to exercise assertiveness in collective decision making
- Having positive thinking on the ability to make change
- Ability to learn skills for improving one's personal or group power
- Ability to change others' perceptions by democratic means
- Involving in the growth process and changes that is never ending and self-initiated
- Increasing one's positive self-image and overcoming stigma

Relationship between Higher Education and Women :

Empowerment Higher education definitely raises women's status whether she contribute in the income of the family or not. She can be at par with men. Majority of the women in our country are uneducated that is why they are suppressed. It is the duty of school teachers to tell them that becoming a wife is not their ultimate goal. Their standing up on their feet and being something is important. Education can bring phenomenal change in women's life resulting in social transformation in the long run by inculcating following attributes among them:

1. Enhancing their confidence
2. Raising their status in the family and society
3. Bring awareness about their rights
4. Boosting their self esteem
5. Increasing their self-efficacy
6. Reducing their dependency
7. Better upbringing of their children
8. Enhancing their mobility
9. Opening career opportunities

Increased knowledge, self-confidence and awareness of gender equity are indicators of empowerment process. There is evidence that these components are usually developed during and as a result of higher education. Women, who are educated and earning, are in much better position in our society as compared to uneducated women worker.

This is a commonly understood view about the role of education in transforming women.

Dimensions of Women's empowerment :

- Socio-Cultural Empowerment
- Economic Empowerment
- Political Empowerment
- Educational Empowerment
- Legal Empowerment

Women empowerment through education :

Education is a milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges to confront their traditional role and change their life so that we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment. India is poised to become superpower a developed country by 2020. This can become reality only when the women of this nation become empowered. India presently account for the largest number of illiterate in the world.

Percentage of male, female education in India:

Year	Male	Female
1901	9.8	0.7
1911	10.6	1.1
1921	12.2	1.8
1931	15.6	2.9
1941	24.9	7.3
1951	24.9	7.3
1961	34.4	13.0
1971	39.5	18.7
1981	46.9	24.8
1991	63.9	39.2
2001	76.0	54.0
2011	82.14	65.46
2021	90.11	78.41

Source: Census of India 2011

From the above table it is observed that in the year 2021 male literacy rate was 90.11% and Female rate was only 78.41%. It can be easily inferred that the rate of female education compared to men is very low in India but the percent of female was increase 0.7% to 78.41%.

In India, female enrolment in higher education has been steadily increasing. The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22 reported a 32% increase in female enrolment since 2014-15, reaching 2.07 corer students. This growth is particularly notable in STEM fields, with a 23% increase in female enrolment iin these areas.

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Role of Constitution in Women Empowerment:

Constitutional provisions for women in India are a series of safeguards embedded within the Indian Constitution aimed at ensuring gender equality and empowering women across various facts of life. These provisions are designed to protect women against discrimination, promote their well-being and ensure their equal participation in the political, economic, and social spheres.

1. **(Article 14) Equality before law for women :** According to Article 14, the state shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.
2. **(Article 15) Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, cast, sex or place of birth.** (Article 15 (1)) the state shall not discrimination against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, casts, sex, or place of birth or any of them. (Article 15(3)) The state to make any special provision in favour of women and children.
3. **(Article 16) Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment :** (Article 16 (1)) their shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state.
4. **(Article 19) Freedom of Speech and Expression :** Article 19(1) (a)) states that, all citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression.
5. **(Article 21) Protection of life and personal liberty :** No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.
6. **(Article 39) Directive principles of State Policy :**
Article 39(a)) the state to direct its policy towards securing for men and women equally the rights to an adequate means of livelihood.
Article 39(d)) directs the state to secure equal pay for equal work for the both men and women.
Article 39 (A)) To promote justice, on a basis of equal opportunity and to provide free

legal aid by suitable legislation or scheme or in any other way to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

7. **Article 42** of the constitution incorporates a very important provision for the benefit of women. It directs the state to make provision for securing just and humane conditions of the work and for maternity relief.
8. **Article 51 (A) (e)** is related to women. It states that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religion, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities: to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.
9. **Article 243 D: Reservation of seats.**
Article 243 D (1) seats shall be reserved SC
 - (a) The Scheduled Casts; and
 - (b) The Scheduled Tribes,

(Article 243 D (3), 243 T (3) & 243 R (4) not less than one third of the total number of seats reserved under clause (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the scheduled casts or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.

In this way Dr. B.R. Ambedkar has brought about several constitutional provisions for establishing social equality. The constitution not only grant equality but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women.

Conclusions:

Women empowerment in India is the most effective tool for development as these days; women across the world are actively working as a leader and surpassing others in all the spheres of life. The constitutional provisions for women in India are a reflection of the nation's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Fundamental rights like Article 14, 15 and 16 establish the right to equality and prohibit discrimination based on gender, enabling women to live with dignity and have equal opportunities. Directive principles, including Article 39, 42, 43, advocate for economic justice, equal pay and support during maternity. Moreover, Article 51 A (e) emphasises the moral duty to renounce practices derogatory to women's dignity.

It is imperative for the state, civil society and individuals to work collaboratively to realise the constitutional vision of a society where women can live with dignity, equality and freedom.

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