



NATIONAL STEPS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT:

There are many problems of women in India. Women are crushing under burden of discrimination, illiteracy, exploitation and domestic violence. Government is trying to overcome the situation by giving empowerment, but proper implementation is not done yet. There should be proper awareness programme for women so that they should know their rights, Otherwise equality will be on paper only.

Key words: - Discrimination, exploitation, domestic violence, Right of women, traditional burden, awareness programme, fundamental rights, Reservation, National Plan of action, empowerment.

INTRODUCTION:

Almost 74 years after independence look at the condition of women around India. We still have great discrimination, illiteracy, exploitation, dowry deaths and offences of rapes. Do you dare to call them independent women of Independent India? From childhood we have been taught girls and boys are equal; same rights are allotted to both male and female. And what we see in our society and neighbourhood, picture is opposite. Who is the real culprit? After marriage ask to couple, what do you want, son or daughter? I confidently say, 90% of both husband and wife want male child. Why are we so fool about gender? If male want male child, it's alright to understand, but even if wife insists that she want a male child, then it is really beyond imagination. What is our responsibility and what is Govt's responsibility let's discuss.

Work distribution :

The empowerment is not short term process, it takes long time to bring change in behaviour and attitudes of men and women. Role of male and female is fixed by society. From ancient period we are told that :

“Man for the sword,

And women for needle” – Victorian era

Today also condition is not much changed. To do service and outside work, to earn money for

family is main role of males, and household works – washing, cooking, cleaning, nursing children is work of female. What I think, empowering women will bring about changes in decision making which will have direct impact on development.

Problems of women :

There are many problems of women especially in rural areas, such as illiteracy, child marriage, domestic violence, sexual harassment, no proper wages are given to women's works, gender discrimination and inadequate employment. It will better to find out roots of their backwardness. Illiteracy plays vital role in their backwardness. Due to this they are away from their awareness. They don't know what Govt. has done for them. They can not fight for their rights. Girls education in rural area is of name only. They suppose daughter as 'Laxmi' of other's house and son as "Deepak" of their own house, and here starts gender discrimination. Even the mentality of girls is made in same passion. If father or mother gives 100/- rs. to son and at same time 50/- rs. to daughter, there is no complaint of girl about this discrimination. She makes her mind that I'm girl and it's alright. Often father and mother are in haste to marry their daughter when she is 16 years old. 80% marriages of girls in rural area are

completed before girls age of 19. At the age of 19 or 20 she become mother. It is the age of freedom to play and flourish mental state and we are giving her physical and mental burden in early age. Thanks to central Govt. of India making the rule about age of Girl's marriage. Secondly domestic violences and sexual horrasement become everyday thing in India. Most of time woman does not open her mouth in public or outside, otherwise what happens inside 4 walls everybody knows. Here both male and female needs awareness programme. In urban and cities eve-teasers are increasing. No proper control of police dept. is there. Especially girls students face this problem harshly. There is very inadequate employment for women in India. Also no proper wages are given in private sector to women. It is their exploitation.

Empowerment :

Govt. has taken many steps to empower women but proper implementation is not done yet. Rural women are still under traditional burden. They still feel guilty because they are women. There is no women awareness programme held in rural areas. What are their rights-still they are unknown about it. Govt. should take care of it and such awareness programmes should be held among women. Secondly enough employment should be provided to them. If she goes out of house, automatically she will understand her rights. Just think little bit,

according to report 2011, India ranks 129 out of 187 countries in gender inequality. The constitution of India grants equality to women on all platforms. Fundamental rights prohibits discrimination against any citizen on ground of religion, race, caste or sex. Constitutional amendment acts was passed in 1992 by Parliament ensure one third of total seats for women in all elected offices in local bodies. National Plan of action was taken by Govt. for girl child (1991-2000) for protection and development to build up better future for girl child. National policy for empowerment of women is prepared in year 2001, for advancement, development and empowerment of women. Though this is true but still situation is different. If you really want to bring woman in flow, proper implementation of programme should be held all over country. If men and women are equal, just think, after 74 years of Independence how many woman prime minister got to India? How many woman president got to India? Equality should not be on paper.

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