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Contrast Between Women Empowerment and Hidden Issues of Women Folks in India

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Abstract

This paper tried to explore the contrast between empowerment and hidden issues of Indian women folks. We are all well aware that empowering women means providing all sorts of facilities in order to achieve in all fields equal to men folks. Both Central and State Governments have been implementing many more programmes to empower women in India. But rural illiterate women have already acquired some sort of managerial skills and leading happy and contented life. In the name of empowerment we are trying to expose women folks in India don't have ability to lead life comparing to the men. Educated women have been empowering with education and serving in all fields equal to men. Both of these are achieving a lot after facing many more problems. It is a myth that educated women are leading happy life and uneducated are facing problems because of empowerment. "Women empowerment can also be called gender empowerment. Women empowerment has five components: women's sense of self worth; their right to have and determine choices; their right to have opportunities and resources; their right to have the power to control their own lives both within and outside the house; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally" (UN's Guidelines to Women's Empowerment). Both have been facing problems even though they have capacity to lead independent life. Rural illiterate women folks have sharp managerial skills in domestic and workplace where ever they are working. Most of such women folks deprived with one or the other reasons but it does not mean that they are weak and unable to lead life. In the same way educated women are able to lead life with their education and facing many challenges in workplace. The managerial skills are sharp and good comparing to the men. It can be seen in coastal region and Karnataka and some parts of Kerala state where there is female dominated society. With the help of managerial skills women folks are showing their knowledge and intelligence in male dominated society and leading life. Empowered women folks are facing many emotional and physical problems but all these are invisible because they are more concentrating on their work. Such emotional and physical problems are intentionally hidden by them. It is some sort of sacrifice in male dominated

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society. She is ignoring tortures, coping with stress, hiding body ailments, family problems and moreover biological problems. Male dominated society is expecting quality service and uninterrupted work schedule. Coping with many problems women folks are showing their excellent performance, dedication, prompt service with smiling face. Is it not a contrast between empowerment and hidden issues related to women in India?

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Managerial skills, Contrast, Emotional, Challenges

Introduction

Women and her status much discussed in social point of view and depicted in literature. Women in almost all sectors proved themselves that they can handle any work at any time. It is not a competition to male dominated society but capability of women folk in India. From agriculture to technological fields women are serving better. Most of them are leading and feeding their family. At the same time they don't have security in male dominated society. Women depicted in literature are not myth but reality. Literature is nothing but reflection of our society. There are hidden issues like sexual harassment, eve teasing, ego, prejudice, anger, selfishness against women folks. Most of the times these female genders are suffering and coping up in all situations and deprived a lot. Hardly few women open their mouth stating that 'me too'. But ultimate result is negligible. Once again male dominated society will succeed to suppress their feelings and emotions. Writers like U.R. Ananthamurthy, M.K. Indira, Anupama Niranjana, Vaidehi, Shobha De are depicted in their writings and revealed hidden issues related to women folks.

Empowerment in its broadest sense is the "increase of freedom of choice and action" (Narayan, D.) The United Nations defines "empowerment as the processes by which women take control and possession of their lives through expansion of their choices." (Satarpura) "The essentials of empowerment have been defined as agency (the ability to define one's goals and act upon those), awareness of gender power structures, self-esteem, self-confidence and points out that a distinction has to be made about the type of choices, and the focus necessarily has to be on planned life choices i.e. choices that shape livelihoods or are critical for people to live the lives they want" (Kabeer).

Empowerment involves a process by which both men and women achieve self reliance to overcome any situations in life. Empowerment ensures self confidence, skill development, solving problems and ability in making decisions. It is not only a social problem but also an individual one. Empowerment is not merely a process but an end result. Empowerment is the phenomenon of the nineties and became most popular in the field of development, particularly with reference to women. Empowerment is a pivotal solution to many social problems like high population growth, environmental degradation and more so for the low status of women. It is defined as giving power to creating power within and enabling, which is a multi dimensional process that enables individuals and groups to become

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aware of their full identity and powers in all spheres of life. “Women are a great human resource and their role in the society is very important for its progress. The involvement and engagement of women in the present day Information Society, on an equal footing with men would directly contribute to improving the livelihood of people, making it more sustainable and thereby promoting the social economic development of societies”(Nirupama)

Conclusion

After listening to many voices of women folk most of the times present society is not ready to keep them near their circle in order to treat them as human beings. Because of this reason all sort of humiliation revealed in writings and television serials. Crossing these bars women folks have taken strong decision and dedicating a lot in many sectors of our society and leading a prestigious life. Such icons are role models to the both educated and uneducated women folks in India.

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