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Literature and Women's Empowerment

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Abstract

In Literature the word Empowerment first came into the scene with regards to civil rights. The idea of women's empowerment has been accepted as a legitimate goal of most of the politics concerning women. The Empowerment of women is a multi dimensional view point that request for dynamic participation of different partner in a developing nation like India. Empowerment is a wide ranging concept that covers a wider set of action beyond the provision of educational, social and economic opportunities. Essentially it is aimed at uncovering the inner strength of women. It brings out the benefits of connection women to literature with the propose of their collective empowerment.

Keywords : Empowerment, Literature, Social, educational, economic, justice.

1. Introduction :

It has been seen the status of women in India has been presented to assortment changes in the course of resent years, for equivalent status with the men and due to the several movements for women's equality and rights, as also the due to the spread of awareness about issues relationg to women amoung the masses, the theme of gender justice and women's empowerment have assumed salience in all fields of study during the last couple of centuries. Indian women have been pushed to the margins. They have been deprived of their rights and treated inhumanly inspite of strict laws and rights quaranteed by the constitution. They are still victims of domestic violence, cruelty, honour killing, female foeticide, torture and so on. Despite decades of consciousness concerning womens empowerment and efforts of government and activists, in many of the communities and societies, women are able to contributes little to the decision making processes. Hence efforts addressed to gender equality and justice still need to be accelerated. Law alone can not change the situation real empowerment can come only with awareness, education financial independence and change in attitude. Empowerment needs to be viewed as a highly contextualized, multi - dimensional process of which women themselves have differing perspectives. Hence it is important to understand subjectivities and the respective influencing factors in specific contexts, as well as how they interlink.

2. Roll of Literature in women's Empowerment :-

In India Women Empowerment was a challenging task and one needs to acknowledge that gender based discrimination and due to this social malice was prevalent for many years. The framewok of women's empowerment focuses on the individual freedom to do and achieve the desired goals. Feminism has developed from some prominent Indian women writers writing in English are - Kamala Markandya, Anita Desai, Shoba De, Nayantara Sahgal, Manju Kapoor, Shashi Despande, Bharati Mukharjee, ect. These new female voices have featured the inside scene liberated women sensibility and her mental realism. The focus in the writing of all these women writers is on the 'Women Question' and playing a Vital Role in formulating and moulding contemporary social consciousness. Feminist writers have recognized the present status of women and the need for empowerment and are projecting their struggle for power in their writings.

Toru Datt was the Indian Women poet who wrote in English, her poems painted prime examples of womanhood e.g. Sita and Sawitri, displaying enduring of the women's for ordinary fantasies and generous roales in a patriotic manner. Another well known poet Das composed a strong and overwhelming confessional poetry, in which she explores the woman relationship as a significant



theme of her poetry. Her Poems were concealment women's suppression by man, through the string of relationship. Life of single woman delineated in such a way, that drew out of thoughtful mentality in the reader, and along the created tenderness in her poems.

The barriers for woman in the creative and cultural spheres are not different from those that are observed in other spheres. Even today, women rarely find convenient space that help her to develop her creative and critical abilities. This condition results in to the suppression of her inherent creative potential and exercise of the right to self expression. Women's literature provides us with an awareness of the role and expectations of women in society. Literature can become a site for women's empowerment in some ways like – expression in the form of literary writing is one of the most effective way of learning about the socio – psychological realm of women and their expectation from society. Self- discovery the main aim of the writer's to project in their writing as they experienced freedom from self dependency. Women's purposive engagement with literature would help enrich and transform the spiritual and intellectual domain of their existence and expand their consciousness.

Today a woman is aware of the fact that she is not a commodity or dumb animal or sale. In R.W. Desai's Novel 'Frailty Thy Name is Woman', the central protagonist Rupika Presents a stark reality of an age old tradition. Feminist writers have recognized the present status of women and the projecting their struggle for power in their writings. The second generation of Indian woman novelists like Shoba De's novel – 'Sultry Days', 'Starry Nights, Sisters, Surviving Men, all show the power game now being played by woman who are as thirsty for power and social recognition as men. Shashi Deshpande's novels women revolt against the rigid social and family set up, Saru in 'The Dark Holds No Terror' is insulted by her husband because she is superior to him mentally and socially. Kamala Markandaya Present strong woman in her novels who do not lose their identity and strength of mind. Rukmini, the heroine of Nectar in a Sieve is faced by economic upheaval husband's infidelity and children's disobedience but she remains unbroken and intact. She does not escape or withdraw. She faces life with remarkable strength and Mira in 'Some Inner Fury', is liberated woman and emotionally strong. Anita Desai's women whether it is Maya in 'Cry the Peacock' or Nanda Kaul in 'Fire on the Mountain' or Monisha in ' Voices in the city', are all liberated, mentally advanced, with independent identity. In Manju Kapoor's of Virmati in 'Difficult Daughters' is perhaps exhorting woman to be more vocal in their fight against male chauvinism. Virmati searches for self identity and desires to assert her right. Writing can become a silent but powerful form the activism for woman. It provides them with an opportunity to think critically about issues of gender and sexuality in the context of interpersonal and social relation, through literature, woman can transmit their views, desires and self discovery which metamorphizes them into strong, independent, expeditious woman willing to encounter the onslaughts of life and being powerful sustaining force to the wider society. Literature, helps women's experiences in a historical, Psychological and social context. In this sense empower women by giving new visions for their progress.

Conclusion :

Literature's close connection to a woman's identity and their empowerment makes it a potent instrument for both speaking to and listening in her inner world. Women empowerment can only be possible if the women come together and decide to self empower themselves. A movement for women's empowerment needs to gain momentum which makes a woman a strong being instead of being the s. Simone de Beauvoir.



emancipation of woman can be a success at different levels. The people in the society need to accept the truth that there is a discrepancy in the ideology and the practical implication of the same.

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