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Organized**

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On



Indian Council of
Social Science Research

India in 21st Century

Sponsored by

Indian Council of Social Science Research, Mumbai

In Collaboration with

Ambedkarite History Association, Mumbai

(Date: 14 October, 2022 Time : 10.30am To 5.00pm)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that, Dr./Prof./Mr./Miss. Taterao Bapurao Nikalje of Sant Bhagwan Baba Kala Mahavidyalaya, Sindkhed Raja, Dist. Buldana actively participated & presented a paper entitled "A Study on Changing Trends on Women Empowerment In 21st Century" in One Day Interdisciplinary National Conference held on 14/10/2022 at Shri. Manohar Hari Khapane College of Arts & Commerce, Pachal-Raypatan.

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Founder President,
Ambedkarite History
Association, Mumbai

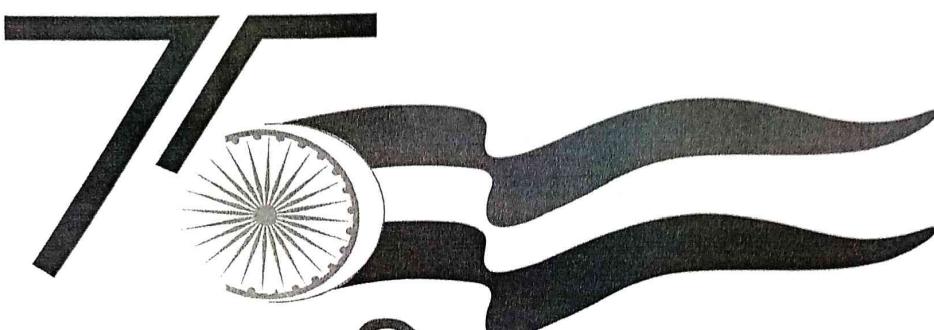
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A STUDY ON CHANGING TRENDS ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract :

The present study deals with changing trends with women empowerment in 21st century. The aims of this study are to find out women progress in freedom of expression, equality, education in precolonial, colonial and in modern India. India's state and central government should afford women the same opportunities as their male counterparts, as well as women rights, legal protection of women's in Indian constitution. For women empowerment, how education has helped women empowerment through the Government Schemes and programmes and Indian society is changing by women empowerment in the 21st century. Modern women make the right career choices that determine their future and as a result, they excel in every aspect of their lives. While rural women have made some progress, they still have long way to go than their urban counterparts. Rural women are not backwards by any means, upto the changes and transformations that urban women see happen much more slowly. This study shows that women empowerment refers to increasing and empowering the social, economic, political and legal strength & the women to ensure equal right to women and to make them confident enough to claim their rights. Women also could lead successful lives since families supported them. Besides that constitutional rights and advantages provided by various NGOs national agencies.

Keywords : Constitutional rights, education, women empowerment, freedom, equality.

Introduction :

In the 21st century, the women empowerment is the key to strengthen their participation in the decision making which is the most important key to socio-economic development. Now a days, women are completely transformed, in particular has transformed from a full time housemaker to a modern multitasker able to handle any responsibility with ease. The modern day women handles household chores, manages a career outside the home, nurtures her children and balance family life with her job. Education is the key factor for women empowerment prosperity development and welfare. Education is an essential means of empowering women with the knowledge, skill and self-confidence necessary to fully participate in the development process. Education of women is helpful in eradicating many social evils such as unemployment, dowry, early marriages of girls etc. If the women are uneducated, the future generation will be uneducated. Now a days, various constitutional and legal rights have been implemented by the government of India in order to dominate ill practice and gender discrimination against women various NGOs play important role for the women empowerment. In India women empowerment plays a very important role overall development of the country. Once the Napoleon Bonapart said, "Give me educated women, I shall give you number one nation in the world." That's why women empowerment is very an essential tool for the country in 21st century.



Women's empowerment in pre-colonial, colonial and modern era :

1) Women empowerment in pre-colonial era :

Women empowerment in ancient India had free access to education. In the earlier vedic and Upanishad time, girls were free to go through the 'Upanayana' ceremony. There was a very honorable and respectable status to women like Uopamudra, Visavara Sikata, Ghosha being the most notable scholarly women were there. Gargi was the spokesperson of philosophers in the king Janaka's court.

Empowerment of women in the religious and ethical aspects is absolute in the Buddhist ages. There was economic independence, social equality but in political arena and in household tasks the traditional conditions continued. As a whole, women in Buddhism enjoyed higher status, greater freedom, more equality and an enhanced liberal environment than in the preceding ages women were more empowered in the Buddhist period. Buddhism was the first ideology to make women empowered throughout the long span of the history of mankind of many millennia. All types of empowerment, social, political, economic, cultural, legal, ethical, religious and even spiritual were allotted to women by the compassionate and the enlightened Buddha. Lord Buddha is called the first originator or father of women's liberation and women's empowerment.

In the Muslim period, education was theoretically. The Muslim girls, in general had little time or opportunity to receive education. The education of Muslim women were restricted. Even though Sultana Razia, Gulbadan Begum, Nur Jahan, Hamida Banu Begum were educated women.

2) Women empowerment in Colonial Period :

It was only after 1882 that girls were allowed to go for higher education. All Indian Women's Conference took up issues of women's education,

since then the women have continuously been in progress in education. Women literacy rate seemingly rose in the modern days and the Govt. of India has taken various actions to improve girl's education. Women made some progress during the British period, especially in education, employment, social & political rights. Education has been identified as the most effective instrument to raise women's social status. Some women's organization such as Bharat Mahila Parishad (1904), Women's Indian Association (1917), National Council of Women India (1925) and All India Women's Conference (1927) took up issues like women's education, abolition & social evils. Mahatma Jyotiba Fule, who has worked hard to abolish untouchability and the caste system, as well as to emancipate women. Jyotiba Fule is the India's pioneer of women's education. On August 1848 in Budhwar Peth Pune, in the house of Shri Bhide, he opened his first girl's school. Between 1848 to 1852 the Fule couple opened 18 schools in and around Pune.

3) Women empowerment in Modern period :

Recent years have been a gradual change in the situation of women. In all essential fields of endeavor, women have seen a slow and steady rise. In the present days, the government of India takes measures to provide education to all Indian Women. Today women have to step outside their comfort zones to create their own identities outside the home and not just cook and take care of their households. Women are actively participating in political programmes which is quite more impressive in enhancing their status. In the modern period, there are different types of women empowerment like Economic empowerment increases women's access to economic resources and opportunities including Property, Job, Productive assets, and Skill development. Women's economic empowerment is a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Educational empowerment means fully development process in knowledge, self-



confidence, skill development, prosperity, welfare. Education is a potent tool in the emancipation and empowerment of women and change their lives.

Political empowerment means equal participation's and equitable represent action at all levels of all political process and public life. Equal participation of women in decision-making process in all spheres of life. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar introduced Hindu Code Bill in 1948 in the parliament but unfortunately the opposition was strong against the bill. The bill by pointing out the constitutional principles of equality, liberty and fraternity for the social change in which women have equally in a legal frame system and the oppression of women since women are deprived of equality and a legal frame work is necessary for a social change in which women have equal right with men. Constitution of India contains various provisions, which provide for equal rights and opportunities for both men & women. The salient features are :

1. Article 14 guarantees equal protection of the law.
2. 15(1) prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the ground of sex.
3. Article 15(3) empowers the state to make positive discrimination in favour of women & children.
4. Article 16(2) : No citizen shall be discrimination against or be ineligible for any empowerment or office under the state on the ground of sex.
5. Article 39 (a) & (d) enjoins the state to provide equal means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work.
6. Article 51 A (e) :- It shall be duty of every citizen of India to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.
7. Article 243-D (3) :- Number of seats to be filled by direct election in every panchayat shall be reserved for women.

The Govt. Schemes and programmes for Women Empowerment for the Ministry of Women and Child development (MWCD) and the central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) are implementing various welfare schemes and programmes for Indian women. These schemes and programmes are listed below.

1. Rajiv Gandhi scheme for empowerment of Adolescent Girls – Sabala. (CSWB)
2. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY).
3. Support to training & employment programme for women (STEP).
4. Working women hostel. (WWH)
5. Women empowerment and Livelihood Programme is Mid-Gangetic Plain (Priyadarshini)
6. Swadhan Scheme for Women in difficult Circumstances.
7. Scheme for combating Trafficking.
8. Family counseling centers. (FCCS).
9. Short Stay Home Programme.
10. Awareness Generation Programme. (AGP)
11. National Commission for women.
12. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme.
13. One stop center scheme.
14. Gender Budgeting Scheme. (GBS)
15. Condensed Course of Education for Adult Women (CCE).
16. Women Helpline Scheme.

Many Programmes have been implemented and run by the government such as 'International Women's Day', 'Mother's Day' etc.

Conclusion :

A study on changing trends on women Empowerment shows that 21st Century, the Indian Women have been changing because growing women Empowerment. Women Empowerment has the power to change many things in the society and country. Both women and men education is necessary in the century for women empowerment. There is greater representative now in the legislative



executive and judiciary. India is one of the few countries in the world, which has had a women Ministers. A woman judge in the Supreme Court and in High Courts, has become the norm. Reservation Bill to provide 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislature is now a under consideration. NGOs, imparting of formal and informal and informal education through the media etc. Women have to participate in decision making that effect will on their lives and improving their social status. Eventhough today men are more understanding of women being harassed. That's why, Government should give more emphasis on female education to increase empowerment level of women and create more opportunities for them.

In all essential fields of endeavor women have seen a slow and steady rise. Women today have to step outside their comfort zones to create their own identities outside the home and not just cook and take care of their households.

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