

## **IS WOMEN EMPOWERED, THEORY VS PRACTICE**

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### **Abstract**

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*Human rights is the most fundamental of all rights. Human rights have many provisions relating to women empowerment. Women empowerment is the process of treating the women with same status with that of men in all the fields of society. Our constitution provided several articles and implemented various programs for empowering women. Here we discussed about some views and thoughts related to the discrimination against women in our society. But still they are not empowered they need more awareness programs for empowerment.*

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## **Introduction**

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language and freedom that belong to every person in the world, from birth to death. Most fundamental guarantee of human right is the equality between men and women . For that in 1945 UN Charter adopted fundamental principle, “Equal rights of men and women” and protecting and promoting women’s human right is the responsibility of all states. In 1967 UN member states adopted the declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against women which states that discrimination against women is an offence against human dignity and calls on states to “abolish existing laws, customs, regulations and practices which are discriminatory against women and to establish adequate legal protection for equal rights for men and women”. In 1979 general assembly says that there are so many women protecting human rights with men. From this the main obligation of state is to eliminate discrimination against women in political, social, economic and cultural fields.

Achieving equality between men and women is an understanding that the women experience discrimination and are denied equality. In India in spite of several welfare scheme and poverty alleviation programs being implemented under the regime of development planning, the trickle down effectiveness not visible. Development planners and policy makers how often failed to consider women's need and their view points in designing the programmes for their development. Hence in this study we intended to find out whether the women are truly empowered in our society.

### **Need and Significance**

Women are the target of various types of violence and discriminatory practices done by men all over the world. India is a complex country . We have various type of costumes, traditions and practices. These costumes and traditions, good as well as bad have become a part of our societies collective consciousness. We worship female goddesses , and give great importance to our mothers, wives, daughters, sisters. But at the same time, Indians are also famous for treating their women badly both inside and outside their homes female foeticide and infanticide all the course our foot. In this context, we need to make the women empowered to respond to the cruelty against them.

Our Indian constitution provides equal right to both women and men , various articles in the constitution safeguard women's rights by putting them at par with men socially, politically and economically. Article 14, Article 15(1), Article 15(3), Article 16 – fundamental rights, Article 39(a), Article 39(d), Article 42 –directive principles of state policy, and Article 51(A)(e) Fundamental duties, these all are the articles for eliminate discrimination against women in political, social, economic and cultural fields. It covers civil and political rights especially right to vote, right to participate in public life, to acquire change or retain ones nationality, equality before law and freedom of movement and economic social and cultural rights (right to education, work, health and financial credit). Besides these in the 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> amendment of the constitution 33.33% reservation for women in all field of activity is included. And also some schemes and programs are implemented by government for empowering women such as kudumbasree, Beti Bachao Beti Badao, Women development cooperations(WDC), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh(RMK) etc.

Indian society is still largely male dominated and women are often look down upon. In most Indian house hold girl child is discriminated as ignored for basic nutrition, education and health care. Survival of girl or child is necessary for the existence of world, their education

ful rights equally important for her development. As such education employment opportunities are very essential for her development. Then only empowerment for happens.

Women empowerment means giving power to women to decide for their own lives or inculcating such abilities in them. So they able to find out rightful place in the society. Women empowerment is nothing but recognition of women basic human rights and creating an environment where there are treated as equal to men.

Now I would like to share some of our views and thoughts related to the discrimination against women in our society.

The system adopted for the calculation of national income is an example for the cruel ignorance of the role of woman. It is unfortunate that the household works done by the women of the country is not at all considered. The amount of work contributed by the house wives go beyond any work carried out by other people. They work from morning to mid night and virtually generate and unimaginable income. This ignorance can be considered as nothing but inequality.

Next thing is that the appointment of women teachers in private, unaided schools and college is another trap where they are exploited. The advertisements for such posts are really deceptive. It always says that women candidates get special preference. Actually this is not to serve the women folk .A women who works at a construction site earn ten times more than a lady teacher of an unaided college. At the same time women are generally relegated to household duties and cheap labour. Article 39 [d] of our Indian constitution ensures “Equal pay for equal work for both men and women” but they are discriminated in the work place and receiving less the wage than men. Even though they are forced to work

Again we would like to bring your attention to another situation. A recent decision by the central government to make a change in the ration card attracts special attention. Now the head of the family, as per the ration card is the senior women of the house. Actually this decision is taken to save women from the financial mischiefs committed by the men folk. But unfortunately the status of women continuous to be the same

We shall now consider another example there are many instants in the channel shows were women are degraded and men given undue high positions. For example, the programs like ‘enteveedu’ and ‘parppidam’ we usually see the men of the house stealing all the credits of the designing and architecture of the house. When it comes to the kitchen part, they say [almost in all episodes] that they have left the kitchen for the women of the house for designing because it is their portfolio. Though this narration seems to be a credit given to the women, it

actually degrades the women to be a maid or cook. Why don't the men folk share the credit of the plans and designs of the newly constructed house with their better halves too!!

We shall now consider another example where a gender discrimination is obvious. We all search Google many times a day for collecting various information. Have you ever noticed the result given by Google when we search for the words 'teacher' and 'professor'? When we search for the word 'teacher' we get the images mostly of ladies and the professor category shows the profiles mostly of men. This is clearly a gender discrimination because there are a lot of men teachers and lady professors.

### **Conclusion**

Women empowerment is a burning issue. Empowering women socially, economically, politically, educationally, is a complex task. It will not be easy for changing the deep rooted perception that women are inferior, dependent and dispensable. Time is needed to eradicate this perception. As future teachers we can take an effort to make the women empowered through proper guidance and make them aware about their duties and rights that will help them to spread their wings across the boundaries.