

THE IMPACT OF RELIGION ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: AN OVERVIEW

Samreen Sadaf*
Md. Mokhtar Alam**

Abstract

The word "women empowerment" is to prove of this fact that women need to be empowered. Women are always considered as a weaker sex who always needs support and a shoulder of men. In the male dominating society where women are perceived weaker is not the weakness of feminine gender but the perception of society who perceive women as a weaker. Who is responsible to make the women weak? Society so we need to empower the society not the women we need to empower the mentality of people not women. The numerous of government initiated reformative acts, programme for equality legal framework, regulatory mechanisms, and judicial actions are not solutions to the major issues of gender injustice by themselves. Unless they change the mindsets, attitudes and behaviors of people in Indian society, especially among men, none of them is worth anything. This paper is an attempt to highlights the role of religion in liberating women. Religion is a social institution that is associated with spiritual well being of citizens. It is closely attached with our culture civilization so it is fruitful to understand the value & worth of women in the light of religion or in Devine light.

Keywords: Women, Women Empowerment, Religion, Gender Injustice, Self-sacrificing, Social Institution.

Introduction

Empowerment of women help in overall development by uplifting economic political as well social condition of women facilitates for sustainable rural development by the uplifting the economic, social and political status of women in India. The empowerment of women is one of the central issues in the process of progress development of countries all over the world, not just India. The role of women has changed drastically in last 3 to 4 decades. No doubt the economical growth development in last few decades in our country was phenomenal but these developments not seen in social justice. One of the fastest developing nation of the world is still very behind in the concept of equality. Whenever we talk about the women empowerment empowering women, concept of equality then we consider and keep in mind the value worth and importance of women but when the same principle of equality we have to apply in our life as a father as a brother as a husband then we forget all the oath and pledge of equality. Actually the problem lies in the system in the conception and in the

"To call woman the weaker sex is a libel; it is man's injustice to woman. If by strength is meant brute strength, then, indeed, is woman less brute than man. If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man's superior. Has she not greater intuition, is she not more self-sacrificing, has she not greater powers of endurance, has she not greater courage? Without her, man could not be. If nonviolence is the law of our being, the future is with woman. Who can make a more effective appeal to the heart than woman?"

— Mahatma Gandhi

* Research Scholar, Department of Commerce & Business Management, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand.

** Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce & Business Management, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand.