

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: THE DARKER SIDE

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ABSTRACT

“Women empowerment” and “female empowerment” is a universal issue. Women’s empowerment has gained an integral part in the development and economics today. The present paper is an attempt to critically analyze the dark side of women empowerment in India. The study reveals that women of India to a greater extent today have started to misuse the benefit provided to them by way of blooming concept for female empowerment. The law has been positively biased towards women, in various spheres ranging from constitutional laws to legal rules and regulations. In metros, there may be complete trains only for the ladies, “only women coaches” in trains, special reservations for women and biased laws for women when it comes to cases of molestation and divorces are just a few instances for the same. Women have taken a wrong advantage of the laws made for their empowerment as an outcome the rate of false allegations after the fallout of a marriage by women are continuously on the rise in India, fake cases of eve-teasing, dowry complaints and harassments have hiked in recent times. Statistics in the study reveal that number of Indian married men commit more suicide than women. The study concludes by an observation that it is a high time to understand the basic concept of humanity and gender equality. The empowerment need not to be for a gender but for unprivileged.

KEYWORDS: *Women Empowerment, Female Empowerment, Fake Allegations, Molestation, Darker Side.*

Introduction

No doubt women were kept in ‘subjugation’ in the past, perhaps mainly because a man was the bread earner and the woman was dependent on him. However, the system was fine with the majority of women, whereas, was felt as discrimination by others. Majorly women were happy and were raising healthy and wise children. But now the times have changed the empowerment has changed to dominance, usefulness has changed to misuse and the boon to females has somehow becoming the bane to males. The concept of women empowerment is not to outrage men by women and dominate them but the prime concept for this is to develop women and let them enjoy their own rights. The study will elaborate the various erroneous uses of women empowerment.

Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to unveil the lesser popular darker side of women empowerment and discussing various positively biased laws towards women.

Research Methodology

The research paper is descriptive in nature. In this paper attempt has been taken to analyze the importance of higher education for women. The data used in this is purely from secondary sources according to the need of the study. The research technique adopted in the study is exploratory technique using secondary data for our findings and have explored all possibilities to gain knowledge on this topic.

Review of Literature

- **Fatima Sadiqui (Extremism and the Dark Side of Women’s Empowerment, 2016):** The discussion mainly focused on the darker phase of women empowerment and agreed that young girls may be as susceptible to the lure of extremist ideology as are young boys.

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- **Sidney Ruth Schuler, Farzana Islam, and Elisabeth Rottach (Women's empowerment revisited: a case study from Bangladesh, 2010)**- The article explores the changing dimensions of women's empowerment over time in three Bangladesh villages where one of the authors has been conducting research since 1991. The article discussed theoretical issues related to the measurement of women's empowerment and describes findings from a recent study in the villages exploring the current salience of indicators developed for a 1992 survey.
- **Rupajita Roul (The darker side of women empowerment, 2016)**: The paper primarily concentrated on the changing side of female empowerment and shared various instances where men face humiliated and helpless situations due to misuse of rights given to women in the name of women empowerment.
- **LalitaNijhawan (Rise wake and stop not- Abuse of law by women: The law is a playground for extortion, 2017)**–The study discussed various laws and instances where the laws were positively biased towards women.
- **Monica Pham (Women against Feminism: An Analysis of Anti-Feminist, 2015)**-The study primarily deals with the very evolution of feminism and the related description of the concept.

The Evolution of Women Empowerment as an Integral Part of Society

- **Earliest Signals:** The concept of women empowerment has gained a considerable importance today. The concept has not only reached the area of educated youth but also many significant rural and urban areas. The movement of women empowerment or gender equality has been around for years. The evolution of the concept has not been easy for the feminists. Their hard work has been consistent since decades. The early signals of the women empowerment movement were seen in the 1908 strike of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. The earliest Women's Day observance was held on 28 February 1909 in New York, organized by the Socialist Party of America. Then an International Women's conference was organized in August 1910. A German socialist named LuiseZietz proposed the foundation of an International Woman's Day with the motive to promote equal rights and women's suffrage. On March 19, 1911, IWD was first celebrated in Denmark, Germany, Austria and Switzerland by over a million people. The initial demands of the female protestors included right to vote and sex discrimination in employment.
- **Russian Revolution:** The first observance of IWD on March 8 was in 1914. Sylvia Pankhurst a British suffragette leader was arrested in front of Charring Cross Station, she wanted to hold a march from Bow in support of right to vote. Three years later, in Saint Petersburg the February Revolution was initiated. Russian women went on the strike on IWD for "bread and peace" along with the demand to end of the war. This was a crucial phase in the start of the women empowerment revolution.
- **Modern Convention:** The modern era has given a greater importance to women empowerment. It has become a global movement both in the developed and struggling countries. The theme for 2015 was "make it happen". The social media has gained a crucial role in all aspects of women empowerment. The latest campaigns called "# me too" and "# times up" gained impetus in the late 2017-2018 for the women to come out with their lesser known sexual harassment stories. The campaign gave them the confidence to voice their sexual harassment stories. The modern times has given a distinct tangent to the women empowerment revolution.

A Critic on various Studies on Women Empowerment

Women empowerment in the present scenario is the most chart-topping and popular subject dealt by people today. While women raise the battle for empowerment and struggle with gender equality, a new concept has come into force of gender neutrality. Men are taking refuge in that concept. The law has provided major laws for women that indirectly many times offend men. The women have started to take undue advantages of the biased laws. For instance, the reserved seats in buses for women, separate ticket counters for ladies, 'women-only' coaches in trains and metros prove to be just a few examples for as how women empowerment has become a danger to gender equality. The increased pivot of women empowerment has led to the newer trouble for men.

Statistics reveal that more number of Indian married men commit suicide than women. The prime reasons for the same are the prolonged divorce proceedings resulting in mental agony and the loss of mental peace, problems to their parents and the expenditure involved. In most of the divorce cases, the wives get custody of the children and also get the order for their and child maintenance and share in the movable and immovable properties resulting, in the considerable cut in husband's property

and income. When we come to gender equality it signifies equal rights to men and women. But when it comes to Indian Constitution it is far from reality. And in these cases, the victim is man and not woman:

- **Under the Special Marriage Act, only the wife can claim permanent alimony and maintenance:** Under the Hindu Marriage Act, both the man and woman can claim permanent alimony and maintenance, but under Section 37 of the Special Marriage Act of 1954, it isn't so.
- **If a woman is treated with physical or mental cruelty by her husband and his family, she can throw them behind bars:** The law to provide the advantage to women that the women need not provide any evidence for the same.
- **Only the man is prosecuted for adultery:** According to Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code, if the husband commits adultery with the wife of another man, he can be prosecuted for the same. But if a woman commits adultery with the husband of another woman, she cannot be prosecuted.
- **According to Indian law, a man serves up to 3 years jail or a fine for sexual harassment but what about a woman:** According to Section 354 A of the Indian Penal Code, a man can serve up to 3 years of imprisonment for sexually harassing a woman, but there is no such law made for women.

These laws were undoubtedly made for equality for women but these laws more than uplifting the women and their rights have provided them with the undue advantage and led to men's downfall instead. In India, the statistics reveal that amongst total 48.7% total never married population, major share is of men. The major reasons for this are unemployment amongst men and dominance of women by taking undue advantage by them in the name of women empowerment. Not only this, the women have taken the path of women empowerment to a different side, rather than enjoying their own rights with dignity people rather misunderstand the concept with when women will exceed men in various spheres, then they will be empowered. Proving the fact, among the total population of pan masala takers 10.8% constitutes women and also the percentage of alcohol drinkers and smokers amongst women has risen. As per NCRB out of the 14,953 cases under the Dowry Prohibition Act that the police investigated in 2015, 361 cases were found to be false. Due to these cases of inappropriate advantages taken by women, has caused the men to lose faith in the law.

A recent case popularly known as "**The Rampur Case**" where a 'hapless' woman in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, tries to file a gang rape case and is turned away by the police, forcing her to seek help from a court. She files a private complaint with the court, but instead of taking action on her complaint, the police officer in charge of the case demands **sexual favors** from her. She records her conversation with him and submits a CD as proof to higher police officials. "**Rape victim asked for a sexual favor by police**", headlines scream out loud, shaking up the entire police administration in Uttar Pradesh. And the case turned out to be **false**. The alleged rape survivor turned out to be a con, had framed the cop because he was about to file a final report in a false gang rape case filed by her.

Another recent case **Zaira Wasim molestation case**: The 17-year-old actress accused a fellow middle-aged passenger; sitting behind her on a Delhi-Mumbai Vistara flight molested her mid-air. And accused was without any further inquiry was arrested and was defamed on social media. But further, it was seen that the actress had some misunderstanding and the case was not the same. This case clarifies that the females are trusted blindly in the molestation cases and males do not have any significant rights to defend themselves and even if provided are believed the least.

The Jaipur police have found that 4,206 fake cases were reported in Jaipur Between 2015-16. In most cases, a false complaint was filed with an aim to extort money or defame a person to settle personal scores. According to a senior police officer, these fake cases included allegations of harassment for dowry, molestation, cheating, and rape. Various statistics and data are given by National Crime Records Bureau Delhi, India during the year 2015-2016 prove the facts:

- Women jailed due to false DV/ Dowry cases: 5, 00,000+ (5 lacs+).
- Senior citizens & children (below age of 15 years including boys & girls) jailed due to false DV/ Dowry cases: 2, 00,000+ (2 lacs+).
- Men jailed due to false DV/ Dowry cases: 11, 00,000+ (11 lacs+).
- Male suicides due to DV & DOWRY CASES: 85,000+ every year.
- Male suicides due to FALSE Rape CASES: 10,000+ every year.
- Male suicides due to FALSE MOLESTATION CASES: 3,500+ every year.
- 9000 men are attacked by acid every year by his wife or wife's boyfriend.

- 60% sexual child abuse cases are reported are the male child and done by some women above the age of 40.
- 74% Male go for child labor to support his family compared to 14% female child.
- India reports maximum male suicides 1 man/8minutes compared to 1 woman/28 minutes.

These frightful statistics have shown the dreadful cases when the rights of women are used in a very wrong manner by women. The social media has become an extremely popular type of media in today's world. It has provided a major advantage to people in view to share their thoughts and opinions about varied things. From the same source of media the growing issue of gender biasness and inequality has emerged on the part of males. This media type has played a crucial role to bring up the emerging issue of gender biasness and male empowerment as a whole new concept. Popular and prevalent sites as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tumblr and various other social media handles proved to be a vital source for this concept to make an appearance. As such our society needs to save the genders equally and not defame one to uplift another. To focus on the point that if ever we need emancipation, we need it for the unprivileged, we need it for differently able and we need it for hundreds and thousands of children whose childhood is lost working for hours, bereft of the basic need of education and not for gender. Thus, if the same phase continues, soon will be the time when the nation will need to take up men empowerment.

"The more I have spoken about feminism, the more I have realized that fighting for women's rights has too often become synonymous with man hating."
— Emma Watson

Conclusion

The study concludes that:

- The cases of fake allegations, false dowry cases, and false molestation cases have significantly hiked in the recent years.
- Women have increasingly used undue advantages of their rights resulting in erosion of trust on the law of men.
- The suicides among the Indian men have significantly increased among men s compared to men due to the mental agony that leads to depression because of fake allegations imposed on them.
- The fake cases lodged not only included the common man but also the state and their servants with a view to demoralize and personally affect them.
- The major cases were the result of private grudges and personal motive to take revenge on them by humiliating them.
- The crimes against men by women has hyped whereas no significant laws are made for their protection.

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