

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN INDIA

Dr. Manisha Gupta*

ABSTRACT

As the term of women's Economic Empowerment is comparatively new, in spite of great importance of the term in women's lives also as in the nation's economy, no effort has been given to estimate economic empowerment of women with an appropriate definition of it in any literature in whole India. However, it is expected that the extent of economic empowerment of women of a state and nation will rightfully reflect the status of women of the identical. The governments of varied countries are undertaking women centric policies since years to create overall empowerment of women. In India also, efforts had been started since the primary Five Year decide to achieve empowerment of women's intellectually, socially, economically and politically. The women centric schemes are going to be successful to guide economic empowerment of women's on condition that the problems addressed by these schemes show the way for economic empowerment. Besides, the schemes should match with the particular needs of women of the region, where it's being implemented. This is often the strategic requirement partly of the schemes to be effective for economic empowerment. Moreover, in some cases the authority introduces schemes at different points of time with different names but with the identical content like "old wine in a very new bottle". Where, it seems that new scheme is introduced without analysing the impact of the sooner schemes. The impact evaluation of the schemes reveals their areas of strengths and weaknesses, which may be an efficient base for the formulation of latest schemes. However, the study of impact evaluation of women's centric schemes in India is missing. In the present study, the attempt has been made to assess the amount of economic empowerment of women's in India.

Keywords: Empowerment, Economic, Strategic, Contribution, Distribution, International, Agenda.

Introduction

Economic empowerment ensures overall empowerment of women. It offers women the sense of personality and equality with men and offers more control over their own lives. Funmi Soetan also stated in the same line that, "in all discussions of empowerment, women's access to critical resources and their control over such resources are considered pre requisites for the enhancement of their political participation. Women's economic empowerment is thus a place to begin of women's empowerment in other areas" The goal of economic empowerment of women not only exists in the agenda of presidency of India but also in international organisations. International organisations like UN agency, global

* Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, Gyandee PG Mahavidhalaya, Goner Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

organization, and ICRW are working consistently to attain the goal of women economic empowerment. In spite of that economic empowerment of women has been remained a far cry. This study is anticipated to produce a vivid picture of the status of women's of India with regard to economic empowerment vis-a-vis the remainder of India. It can expect that the result of this study will provide an insight to search out the effectiveness further because the merits and limitations of the available policies of central and state authorities to achieve economic empowerment in the state. It'll be helpful for the researchers and policy makers in the future to formulate effective policies towards economic empowerment of women.

Empowerment and Economic Empowerment

The term empowerment isn't a brand new one now, world has been at home with this since years ago. Although, persistently it's wont to refer many interchangeable meanings like egos, self-worth, self power, self reliance, own choice, freedom, living life in accordance with one's values, capacity to fight for own rights, own higher cognitive process, being free, having awareness, capability etc in not a awfully conscious manner. However, by the time, an unlimited literature has been created on problems with empowerment and variety of definitions has also begun. A number of those are as follows: "Empowerment refers broadly to the expansion of freedom of choice and action to shape one's life. It's known that people's freedom is threatened by the powerlessness and voicelessness inflicted upon them by the encircling unequal institutional arrangements. Thus, empowerment denotes being in power from a state of powerlessness. Hence, it implies control over both resources and decisions by marginalized peoples, like women and therefore the poor. Women are almost half the entire population of the globe. The role of women's in human society is different from that of men particularly in family life and this difference triggers all the way down to the economic, political and social life. Women are remained the second sex in family in addition as in society. In the societal level, the roles defined for women's are subordinated to those defined for men and women's rights and participations are more limiting than those of men are. Due to this substandard nature of women folk, the problem of ensuring empowerment of women or the increase of the facility or capacity of women's is of much concern in today's world. Conferences, seminars claiming women's rights are being organised increasingly in last number of years altogether over the planet. Like the word empowerment, another word called economic empowerment is usually used now-a-days in the literature in an exceedingly loose manner denoting economic independence, economically autonomous, income earning, being employed and per se a pair of interchangeable meanings. From the very beginning, the term women empowerment has encompassed an economic dimension. However, the term economic empowerment has come much later. The Millennium Development Goals on gender equality and women's empowerment adopted a rise in women's share of non-agricultural employment united of its indicators of women's empowerment. "Full and productive employment and decent work for all including for women and young people" were later added as a target in regard to poverty alleviation. The Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women also argued for "equal access to opportunities through employment or self-employment.

Why Economic Empowerment is Necessary

Economic empowerment is crucial to poverty reduction, economic process and human development. Economic empowerment of women's shows the way for the event of their children with better nutrition, better health and better education than before which successively ends up in human development. Moreover, participation of women's in economically productive activities increases national production and resultant economic process. Investments in gender equality yield the very best returns of all development investments. It's evident from the experience of a spread of nations that if the women's share in the household income increases then the way of paying also changes which becomes beneficial to children. evidence shows that women's access to employment and education opportunities not only reduces the likelihood of household poverty but resources in women's hands show the way for a variety of positive attributes for human assets and caliber in household women's. Goal of women's economic empowerment in development programs because it is one in all the foremost powerful routes for women's to realize their potential and advance their rights. Thus, since majority of the world's poor are women, to fulfill poverty-reduction goals, it requires addressing women and their economic empowerment. Besides, they argue that women's who are economically empowered contribute more to their families, societies and national economies because it has revealed that women's invest extra income in their children, providing a route to sustainable development. Studies prove that economic empowerment initiates the empowerment of women's furthermore because it could be a factor of economic process and human development. Nevertheless, women are experiencing inequality in terms of their economic possessions than their male counterpart everywhere the globe.

Government Policies for Women Empowerment

Various Plans and strategy for women's was adopted with more concentrate on empowerment of women's comprising the problems of economic empowerment especially targeting women in agriculture and on the consequences of globalisation, social empowerment and engendering social change; political empowerment; creating and strengthening institutional mechanisms for effective implementation of women-related programmes. Under economic empowerment, the problems of concentration of women's in unorganised sector employment, male-female wage differential, and women's large-scale engagement in survival activities, casual workers or home workers were considered. The main focus area under 11th plan was to strengthen women's engagement on agriculture related activities to make sure the land rights for women's to empower them economically moreover to enhance their ability to challenge social and political inequities got the importance. Empowerment is achieved only if together with the conditions of women's, their positions improve and their freedoms and choices get enlarged altogether the fields of society, economy and politics.. The thrust areas under 12th plan are economic empowerment of women; social empowerment of women; gender based violence; women in governance, target vulnerable women, gender responsive budgeting, institutional arrangements. It stresses on enhancing women's access to and control over resources, which shows the way for economic empowerment of women's. It endeavors to target increasing women's workforce participation particularly in secondary and tertiary sectors; ensuring decent work for them, addressing the women's in agriculture, financial inclusion; increasing women's asset base and valuing their work. A number of the Schemes out of above are as below

- Two schemes namely ICDS and JSY that address reproductive health of women's are the highest funded schemes among the women's centric schemes introduced by Government of India.
- Government of India has been introducing an oversized number of schemes that aim at the capacity building and income generation; however, it's found that the majority of those schemes are discontinued after some years of operation. These schemes contribute to economic empowerment of women's giving them training on vocational skills, providing education to them, making the provisions of credit for them and inspiring their saving habit.
- One distinct nature of most of the schemes is to think about the group creation among women as a crucial mechanism to convey them a platform to participate and interact together and successively to guide the method of empowerment.
- 'Swadhar Greh' and 'Ujjawalla' two schemes that aim at rescue and rehabilitation of vulnerable women.
- The schemes that are introduced in India to strengthen the status of women's initiating changes in the provisions of constitution, law, budget and government in favour of women's are National Commission for women's, National Policy for Empowerment of women's, Gender Budgeting, National Mission for Empowerment of women's etc.
- Assessment of the implementation of the women's centric schemes sponsored by central government in India in terms of the standards of 'region-wise share of funds released for the schemes' and 'region-wise share of beneficiaries of the schemes' reveal few states that stand at the upper positions compared to most of the opposite states and union territories of India in terms of fund extension and beneficiary coverage likewise.

Thus, Government of India has always been keeping the goal of upgrading of the status of women's among its one amongst the important agendas from the primary five-year conceive to present NITI Aayog's annual plan. On the identical line, an oversized number of policies even have been undertaken under different ministries addressing various issues associated with women during this era. The current study aims to spot the government-funded women centric schemes implemented in India and analyse the problems addressed by these schemes. The attempt has been made on exploring the areas, where the women's centric schemes have given the priorities emphasizing the problem of economic empowerment of women's.

Recommendations

The immediate policy implication of the study is that more programmes like STEP have to introduce. The policies, which may enable women to participate efficiently in the labour market by training, education, are needed during this context. Similarly, schemes that provide poor women the fund necessary for kicking off business activities on own must be initiated by government. Besides, during introduction of the schemes the authority must be tuned in to the strategies of the schemes. Strategically

schemes should be specified facilitate space for participation and interaction of women's providing them the platform of community level institutions. in the same way, the requirement is to prioritise the prevailing capacity building and income generation schemes. The prioritisation is done through extending more funds so it is implemented everywhere India, not like now, being existed insignificantly in some small areas with very limited number of beneficiaries. The study finds that in spite of being available to any or all by criterion, the schemes like JSY and ICDS don't seem to be being accessed by all concerned. Therefore, the need is to seek out the lacunae just in case of implementation mechanism. except these, state Governments should introduce such programmes, which might fulfill the wants of women's not covered by central government. Moreover, the mainstream development programmes also should percolate the advantages of development evenly across the genders. The functioning of gender budgeting must be effective and government must give adequate attention. it's necessary to observe by the government that whether women are having the ability to exercise their rights regarding education, property, work etc. or not. Realisation of those entire can only make the goal of economic empowerment of women's feasible. Thus, this study will certainly be proved a guide to government, researchers to explore the status of women's in India over time and to seek out the critical areas to figure on.

Conclusion

Empowerment and economic empowerment of women's are two frequently discussed topics of women's related literature. Economic empowerment of women's isn't only required from the angle of right and equity, but also it's necessary for economic process and human development of a nation. Women of India reside a disadvantaged position regarding their control over economic dimensions as compared to men. However, when at the national level the interest lies in bringing about gender equality, women of rural areas are still struggling to attain equality in the same gender, with their counterparts in remainder of India. Women of rural areas stand at a really distressing stage in terms of economic empowerment. The substandard status of women's in India is found throughout all the scale of economic empowerment. The appearance of globalisation during 90s pushed women of whole India into the grasp of unemployment. Globalisation reduced the role of household economy with the characteristics of low skill, labour intensive and feminine dominated sector. With the introduction of latest policy, restrictions on trade of products and services were abolished, multinational companies entered into India and as a result the indigenous industries got destroyed gradually in the emergence capital intensive, better quality production equipped with newer technologies. The low value of Women's Access to High Paying Reputed Job Index and also the fact of finding one woman with teaching job and no more women in commission sector clearly indicate India's women's poor access to equal paid jobs. Such unsatisfactory position of women's refers to the actual fact that the mainstream interventions don't seem to be enough to upgrade the standing of women's in India and raises the requirement for implementation of women's centric policies. It's known that women's centric schemes are implemented by central government and authorities since way back. If we judge the schemes supported the problems addressed, it'd be said that central government has addressed the fundamental needs of women's by prioritising the schemes that address motherhood, the health of adolescent women's and rescue and rehabilitation of distressed women.

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