



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH AWARENESS OF LEGAL PROCESSES AND PROGRAMS

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ABSTRACT

Women play a key role in shaping and constituting of the society, but what they should get back in return is on a pending track. This paper tends to highlight the major issues which the women are facing in the contemporary world that are creating hindrances in the upliftment as well as their empowerment. Some of the prevailing problems which the women are facing in their daily life are domestic violence, rape, women trafficking, acid attacks etc. The dominant causes which are overshadowing women empowerment is the lack of implementation programs, and women themselves are not aware of their basic fundamental and legal rights which should be done from the grass root level. Many international organizations and agencies are working consistently for the upgradation of the women. This review paper also tries to give suggestions for the implementation of programs which can facilitate the apotheosis of women.

INTRODUCTION

Before discussing about the topic in depth, let us discuss first what women empowerment is all about. Women empowerment refers to the creation of the environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal and professional benefits as well as for the society.

Women are the permanent part of our society who play a variety of roles from their birth till death. Even after playing all their roles and jobs in an efficient way, in the modern time, she is allotted a place in the weaker section and is always put beneath the toes of the opposite gender. In India women are considered as the Goddess from the ancient time although they are never treated as one.

In primitive era, women were still in a lot better condition as they were given the respect and were treated equally. But thereafter the invasions that took place, made lives of the women hell and even worst than that. Since that time crime against women took birth. Crimes like harassment, trafficking, rapes, acid attacks, domestic violence etc. are increasing day by day. Women are seen as the sex toy and are also confined behind the walls of their so called house.

In present day, even though women have broken the walls of such houses but still they are unsuccessful in breaking the chains of our stereotypical and conservative minded society who does not want women to step equally with men.

Despite of prevailing laws and upliftment programs for the women we still lack behind in exercising them substantially. This is because people are unaware and misguided and those who are aware they are afraid of implementing them because the so called society does not permits them to do so. For example: if a woman is suffering from domestic violence, she is still forced to adjust in those situations by the people in fact her own parents as according to them only a woman is responsible for shaping, supporting and adjusting a household setting not men, hence women see suicide as an ultimate solution to these problems. These clinches are not letting women to empower and leaving them in the devastated position in society.

FACTORS AFFECTING THE DEGRADATION OF WOMEN

It is not the work of the single factor but a combination of various factors have been constantly, pulling women down to a lower position in society and making condition worst for them to survive.

ILLITERACY

One of the responsible factor is illiteracy. Illiteracy can be explain as one of the core reasons for the negligence and degradation of women. Women face problems in the society because they lack education and they are not aware of doing something constructive with their lives rather than staying dependent on others. This barricades them to move along with society and develop themselves to fight against wrong done to



them. This also promotes superstitious and orthodoxial thinking thus, confining them behind the doors of the houses.

In India the literacy rate among women is 65.46% according to Census 2011. Seeing the per capita population of India this rate does not matches with the aspirational, educational and economical growth of the nation. It is also one of the care reasons for the degradation of morale, adjustment and resilience power among women. Illiteracy can be considered as founder of many such issues like unemployment, poverty, female foeticide, prostitution and many more. It is a factor which hinders India in becoming superpower nation.

Among women if we talk about illiteracy, it is more common in rural areas. The Census 2011 clearly indicate that only 58.75% females are literate against 78.57% males. So we have point is that why the women are lagging. The key reason behind this is that women or girls are still considered as a burden on their parents. For example: a farmer who hardly manages to get his meal twice a day will either get his daughter married or will spend all his savings on her education. In most of the cases the farmer will choose the former option.

CHILD MARRIAGE

Illiteracy is giving rise to another factor, as discussed above, that deteriorates the future of the girl is child marriage. It is the orthodoxial belief of many parents that as soon as they get their daughter married the better for them. Even if we look at ancient times they were used to settle the disputes among the rulers of various regions. They were presented as the emoluments for the peace treaties.

Now the time has come to change this scenario. We need to give the women their due respect of share. Since 2001 the child marriage in India have gone down by 46%. This motivates us to go further since the target is yet to be completed.

DOWRY SYSTEM

Another factor which can be attributed to this issue is dowry system, which is very prevalent in our nation. Dowry in its simplest words can be said as the goods, whether in form of cash or property which is given by the girl's family. This system is the curse to the society because it clearly distinguishes her a living being from another living being. In some cases dowry leads to the physical and mental abuse and in extreme cases, it leads even to death.

According to official data, one women dies every hour due to dowry, in which a steady rise was seen between 2007 and 2011. According to National Crime Records Bureau, in the year 2012 there were 8,233 dowry deaths reported from various states of India. In the words of additional deputy commissioner of Delhi Police (Special Unit for Women and Children); Suman Nalwa; the problem of dowry is not limited to the lower and middle class. Higher socio-economic strata are equally involved in such practices. Further she adds that even the highly educated class of our society does not say no to dowry. It runs deep in our social system. (Times of India, September 1, 2013, New Delhi)

According to The Indian Express; published on July 31, 2015 in New Delhi; a total of 24,771 dowry deaths have been reported in the country in past three years with maximum of them.

According to Menka Gandhi; Ministry of Women and Child Development ; 8,233 cases in year 2012, 8,083 cases in year 2013 and 8,455 in year 2014 cases were registered under Section 304b of the Indian Penal Code (Dowry Death) in the country.



TABLE-1
CRIME HEAD WISE INCIDENTS OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN DURING 2006-2010 AND PERCENTAGE VARIATION IN 2010 OVER 2009

SI. No.	CRIME HEAD	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	% OF VARIATION IN 2010 OVER 2009
1	RAPE (SEC. 376 IPC)	19348	20737	21467	21397	22172	3.6
2	KIDNAPPING & ABDUCTION (SEC. 363 TO 373 IPC)	17414	20416	22939	25741	29795	15.7
3	DOWRY DEATH (SEC. 302/304 IPC)	7618	8093	8172	8383	8391	0.1
4	TORTURE (SEC. 498-A IPC)	63128	75930	81344	89546	94041	5
5	MOLESTATION (SEC. 354 IPC)	36617	38734	40413	38711	40613	4.9
6	SEXUAL HARASSMENT (SEC. 509 IPC)	9966	10950	12214	11009	9961	-9.5
7	IMPORTATION OF GIRLS (SEC. 366B IPC)	67	61	67	48	36	-25
8	SATI PREVENTION ACT 1987	0	0	1	0	0	-
9	IMMORAL TRAFFICKING (PREVENTION) ACT, 1956	4541	3568	2659	2474	2499	1
10	INCIDENT PRESENTATION OF WOMEN (PROHIBITION) ACT, 1986	1562	1200	1025	845	895	5.9
11	DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT, 1961	4504	5623	5555	5650	5182	-8.3
	TOTAL	164765	185312	195856	203804	213585	4.8

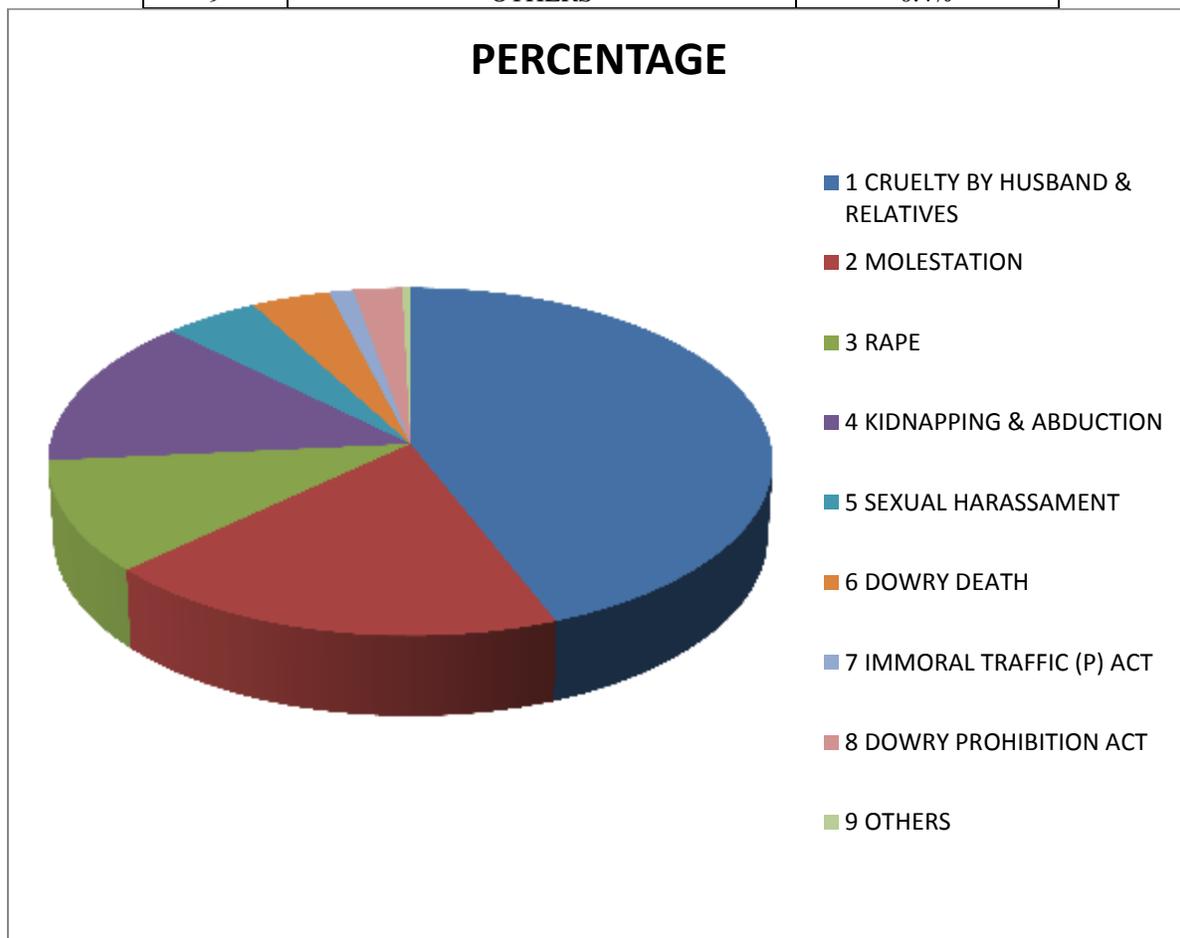
TABLE-2
PROPORTION OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN (IPC) TOWARDS TOTAL IPC CRIMES

SI No.	YEAR	TOTAL IPC CRIMES	CRIME AGAINST WOMEN (IPC CASES)	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL IPC CRIMES
1	2006	1878293	154158	8.2
2	2007	1989673	174921	8.8
3	2008	2093379	186617	8.9
4	2009	2121345	203804	9.2
5	2010	2224831	213585	9.6



TABLE-3
CRIME AGAINST WOMEN PERCENTAGE DURING DISTRIBUTION 2010

SI No.	CRIMES	PERCENTAGE
1	CRUELTY BY HUSBAND & RELATIVES	44%
2	MOLESTATION	19%
3	RAPE	10.4%
4	KIDNAPPING & ABDUCTION	13.9%
5	SEXUAL HARASSAMENT	4.7%
6	DOWRY DEATH	3.9%
7	IMMORAL TRAFFIC (P) ACT	1.2%
8	DOWRY PROHIBITION ACT	2.4%
9	OTHERS	0.4%



Thus, we can see that the laws are there but their implementation is not there at grass root levels. So, we need to spread awareness for the implementation of these laws among all the sections of the society.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation can be more clearly explained as a process to apply the existing plan and legal programs into use for the

benefit of our citizen and also to progressively run our society eradicate cynical mindsets as well as pessimism from our society.

Women empowerment is necessary because it leads to the overall development of the society, and for any nation to progress in any socio-economic activity, the overall development is a must factor. Several laws are provided by our Constitution to women to safeguard their integrity and dignity.



Yet each single day we witness crime against women. So what is that 'X' factor that leads to such courage among the perpetrators? The answer to this is "Lack of implementation of such women friendly laws". Until and unless they are not put into aged, they would not be able to serve the desired function for which they are made. It is same like that we have key but we are not fixing into the lock to open up the door. As the data clearly shows the worsen condition about the women, for which there was a need for reformation in the existing laws and hence few of them recently put into action by Government of India are stated below:

- 1) **Juvenile Justice Act:** The most common in news currently was the Juvenile Justice Act which allows children aged between 16-18 years to be tried as adults in case of hierarchy offences. This law if purposefully implemented can give a big relief to women. This is so because since the past four years the crimes committed by the juvenile were increasing sharply such as in the year 2011 the number of case were 4,775; in 2012 the number of cases were 4,507; in 2013 the cases were 5,708; in 2014 the number of cases were 5,175 and in 2015 the number of cases were 5,482. So such type of law was desperately demanded by the society and in contemporary time, many juveniles have been convicted with the help of such laws.
- 2) **Dowry Prohibition Act 1961:** This also a very lethal weapon used by the women against dowry. If used properly this can curb this crime down. But again this is not implemented throughout the country and learning a lesson from the North Eastern states like Nagaland and Sikkim where the crime against the women are low because of the proper implementation of such laws. We need to apply this throughout the nation.

Some other sections under IPC (Indian Penal Code) that protect women are as follows:-

- Section 376 for Rape
- Section 363-373 for Kidnapping and Abduction
- Section 302/304b for Dowry and Dowry Deaths
- Section 307 for Abetment to Suicide
- Section 354 for Molestation
- Section 509 or 294 for Sexual Harassment/Eve Teasing
- Section 366B for Importation of Girls upto 21 years of age

When there will be proper implementation of these laws to the grass root levels then only there will be women empowerment in a proper way, which will not only lead to the development of the society but also the nation too. For the progress of the nation women also have their own share which is clearly shown by them in Rio Olympics 2016, Deepa Karmakar, Sakshi Malik (Bronze medalist in Wrestling), P.V. Sindhu (Silver medalist in Badminton). Also Deepa Malik, a Silver Girl, the first Indian woman to win at Paralympics in shotput. This clearly shows that if proper upliftment, exposure, empowerment and opportunities

are given to the women they not only prove themselves but also improve.

CONCLUSION

Women's empowerment is not just a catchphrase; it is a requirement for the best potential for the growth of a family, society, country, and a sustainable planet. The periodical has covered a wide range of topics, from the Indian constitution to development in recent years, including affirmative laws, initiatives, and programmes launched by the government, NGOs, and corporate sector through their CSR. Gender parity in educational attainment has improved, political engagement has improved, but there is a worsening tendency in economic participation and opportunity, as well as in the health and survival segment. Even among SAARC nations, it is worse in terms of health and survival. The government must place more emphasis on these two sectors in order to attain gender parity given that we have ten years to complete the SDGs. There is an urgent need to reevaluate India's affirmative action policies, bringing new energy to the empowerment of girls and women through conventional education as well as support for skill development, equitable economic opportunity, and provision of appropriate medical and healthcare. So at last we conclude that a society that seeks growth, development and Power need to empower their women and secure their future.

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