

“ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT”

Meenakshi. M. Research Scholar, Department of Studies and Research of Political Science ,
Tumkur University

Dr. Shripad Kulkarni, Assistant Professor in Political Science, University College of arts,
Tumkur University.

Abstract:

Women have been representing half of the entire population and one-third of the work force in all sectors, but they receive only one-tenth of the global income and less than one percent of world property. Still in modern era she has been suffering from violation of her rights. Such an approach provides the women with a constitutional platform to stand up to men, to raise their voice on issues concerning women oppression, exploitation, and related issues and thus in effect, providing them with an identity in an orthodox male dominated socio-political set up, in addition to providing a much needed forum to seek redressal of problems directly affecting them: the true essence of empowerment. The process of empowerment is multi-dimensional and it enables women to realise their full destiny and powers in all spheres of life. A woman's empowerment begins with consciousness—perceptions about herself and her rights, her capabilities and her potentials, awareness of how gender and socio-cultural and political forces affect her.

Key words: Women, Empowerment, Oppression, Socio-Cultural, Awareness.

1.Introduction

From the ages women had witnessed biasness, humiliation, discrimination, exploitation and other socio political issues. Though time to time many reformers, social workers did their efforts for their welfare, but there is a huge gap between what policies were planned and what actually has been implemented. Many times either the government was not supportive and even when things were planned for their betterment, the male dominated society acted as a barrier for their growth. There is a lot of scope for the betterment of them. Human Development Report, 1990 said that “The real wealth of a nation is its people. And the purpose of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. This simple but powerful truth is too often forgotten in the pursuit of material and financial wealth”.

1.1Empowerment:

Empowerment refers to the overall development of the concern people, it implies that the process of improving their conditions and upliftment of their status. Empowerment is not a technocratic goal—it is a political commitment of entire community. To achieve this lot of dedication, sacrifices, attentions, are needed, hence it has been becoming a long process .It also requires an entirely new way of thinking—in which the stereotyping of women and men no longer limits their choices, but gives way to a new philosophy that regards all people as essential agents of change that views development as a process of enlarging the choice of both sexes, just not one.

1.2 Women Empowerment:

Women Empowerment refers to increasing the Psychological, Economical, spiritual, political, social, educational, gender strength of Women community. The World bank says, ‘ Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes.’ Empowerment means women must exercise full

participation in decision-making process in all walks of life, and full participation with men in all walks of life, and fully participating with men in finding equitable and practical solutions to issues in family and in society. (Sama, n.d.) Women empowerment is a stage of acquiring power for women in order to understand her rights and to perform her responsibilities towards one self and others in a most effective way. Many well-known writers and researchers have provided wide ranging definitions of empowerment. Their definitions of empowerment in a broad sense cover aspects such as women's control over material and intellectual resources.

The very concept of empowerment of women which is based on equality between genders is a long drawn, conscious and continuous process comprising enhancement of skills, capacity building, gaining self-confidence and meaningful participation in decision-making. (Menaka, 2017) As the foremost precursor to development, empowerment of women comprehensively seeks to ensure an equitable division of resources and carve a clear role for them in decision-making. It helps them articulate theirs as well as others rights and participate actively in the democratic processes. Empowerment also wards off retrogressive practices like female infanticide and gender based violence. (Dabhi, n.d.) Empower means to make one powerful or to equip one with the power to face challenges of life, to overcome the disabilities, handicaps and inequalities. Empowerment is an active multidimensional process, which would enable women to realize their full identity and powers in all spheres of life.

1.3 Statement of the Problem:

The concept Women empowerment is familiar and it has been used by almost all the democratic countries, but still the problem has been continuing every where. Present study attempts to analyse the factors which have influenced the women empowerment in the Bangalore rural district. The study identified the different factors which have influenced the women empowerment in the different Taluks of the study area, the empirical study has conducted using questionnaires. In order to address the issues and challenges of women empowerment in Bangalore rural District, this paper analyzed the various existing literature on women empowerment.

2. Review of Literature:

Human Development Report, 1990 said that "The real wealth of a nation is its people. And the purpose of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. This simple but powerful truth is too often forgotten in the pursuit of material and financial wealth". The question is in development syndrome. (DR. NILESH B. GAJJAR)

Shiva, K.L.(N.A) explained the various socio political hindrances which have lagged behind the women empowerment in India such as gender bias, humiliation, dishonor etc.

Mishara, A. D.(2006). Analyzed as Empowerment is not a technocratic goal—it is a political commitment of entire community. To achieve this lot of dedication, scarifications, attentions, are needed, hence it has been becoming a long process anywhere.

Leela, Menon, analyzed the various issues faced by women leaders such as being neglected in decision makings in panchayats, family influences over women, gender biasness etc.

Sachidananda, A.N. Explained the different forms of challenges how effecting the women role in family and politics, author also explained the self-conscious of women only can boost her abilities and make her as psychologically strong.

3. Objective of the Study

My study has focused over certain objectives such as :

- To understand women empowerment
- To understand the requirement of women empowerment
- To understand the Status of women empowerment in Bangalore rural District
- To specify the issues and challenges faced by Women in Bangalore rural District

4. Research Methodology:

This paper is Empirical and Discriptive in nature and is based on primary and secondary data. I have tried to analyze the concept of women empowerment from the details collected from newspapers, journals, magazines, internet, books, previous conducted research etc. And the article also attempt to analyses the issues and challenges which have faced by women in Bangalore rural district based on the primary source which has collected from 25 samples of Hosakote and Devanahalli taluks. A semi structured interview with open ended discussions were held in the Kannada language, which is the regional language of Karnataka. The discussions with common women, college girls, working women and politicians led research to identify the specific issues and challenges of women empowerment faced by women in Bangalore rural district.

Socio –economic characteristics of the respondents.

Socio –economic characteristics	Category	Total No of samples.
Gender	Female	25
Age	Age under 30 Years	5
	20-25 Years	08
	35-40 Years	07
	40-50 Years	03
	50 and above age	02
Education	High School level	02
	Pre university college level	10
	Under graduation level	08
	Professional courses	05
Monthly Income	Under 500 R.S	01
	500-1000	15
	1000-2000	08
	Above 2000 R.S	01
Status of the Family	Married with having Children	18
	Married with having Children	02
	Widow	00
	Unmarried	05
Employment	Employed	07
	Unemployed	18

Table-1 Socio –economic characteristics of the respondents

The above mentioned table 1 shows that the socio economic characteristics of respondents, the majority of the respondents belongs to the age group of 20-25 years, the majority of the respondents are having PUC as their educational qualification, majority respondents have 1000-2000 rupees monthly income. The table also shows that majority respondents are married and have children, table also showed that majority respondents not having employment.

5. Findings of the study:

To identify the issues and challenges faced by the women leaders, this paper attempts to analyse empirically on the basis of interview with 05 women Panchayath leaders, 07 college girls, 05 housewives, 08 working women

As mentioned in the Table 2 this paper explores different issues and challenges faced by the respondents, such as Illiteracy, girl infanticide, Health issues i.e.; anaemia, malnutrition, work-life balance, economic barriers, gender bias, cultural norms, the requirement of having party affiliation etc.

Table:2 Issues of Women empowerment:

Variables	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
Illiteracy	18 (60%)	8 (26.66)	1 (3.33%)	2 (6.66%)	1 (3.33%)	30 (100%)
Health problems	11 (36.66%)	13 (43.33%)	3 (10%)	1 (3.33%)	2 (6.66%)	30 (100%)
Girl infanticide	12 (40%)	11 (36.66%)	3 (10%)	2 (6.66%)	2 (6.66%)	30 (100%)
Perception of freedom	15 (50%)	7 (23.33%)	2 (6.66%)	5 (16.66%)	1 (3.33%)	30 (100%)
Child marriage	18 (60%)	11 (36.66)	1 (3.33%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	30 (100%)
Low Girl child higher education rates	20 (66.66%)	6 (20%)	3 (10%)	1 (3.33%)	0 (0%)	30 (100%)
Cultural and Social norms	16 (53%)	11 (36.66%)	3 (10%)	0 (0%)	20 (0%)	30 (100%)

The above Table-2 shows that **18(60%)** respondents Strongly agreed that Illiteracy is the major issues of women empowerment. **8(26.66)** are shown their agreement to this statement. Only **1(3.33%)** remained as neutral for this statement, **1(3.33%)** respondents expressed their Strongly disagreement response towards the statement. **11(36.66%)** Respondents shown their strongly agree towards the statement that, Health problems hindering the women empowerment. **13(43.33%)** also shown their agreement to this statement. The another statement that, Girl infanticide also became as challenge to achieve women empowerment. **12(40%)** respondents responded as strongly agree, and **11(36.66%)** Respondents also responded as agree towards this statement. The next variable that, Perception of freedom as an issue towards women empowerment related **15(50%)** respondents accepted as strongly agree, **7 (23.33%)** also responded as agree. Regarding Child marriage as an issues of women empowerment statement, **18(60%)** respondents Strongly agreed. **11(36.66)** are

shown their agreement to this statement. **20(66.66%)** respondents Strongly agreed that Low Girl child higher education rates is the major issues of women empowerment. **6(20%)** are shown their agreement to this statement. **16(53%)** respondents Strongly agreed that Cultural and Social norms is the major issues of women empowerment. **11(36.66%)** are shown their agreement to this statement.

Table-3-Illiteracy :

SL NO	Year	Taluk	Male	Female
1	2011	Devanahalli	83.84%	69.24%
2	2011	Doddaballapura	85.18	70.44%
3	2011	Hosakote	84.45	71.01%
4	2011	Nelamangala	85.76	71.79

Table-3 Source-HRD Bangalore rural district

Even in this developing era the girl illiteracy rates have been remained low, comparatively men now also girls illiteracy rates have been continued as low in 4 taluks of Bangalore rural District.

Table 3 explains the girl illiteracy rates based on existing literature of HRD Bangalore rural district official website, while discussing with respondents about issues and challenges all respondents agree that Illiteracy is a most important barrier for them to be active in society. Girl education rates have been considerably low compare to male education, amongst the four taluks of Bangalore rural district Doddaballapura has lower girl education rates compare to other taluks.

Table-4-Health issues:

Table 4 explains how the common women has been suffering from health related issues such as mall nutrition, pregnant women anaemia etc.

SL NO	Year	Taluk	Pregnant women anemia %
1	2011	Devanahalli	1.87
2	2011	Doddaballapura	0.36
3	2011	Hosakote	50
4	2011	Nelamangala	16.20

Table-4 Source-HRD Bangalore rural district

Above table reveals that common women have been suffering from health issues, amongst the 4 taluks of Bangalore rural district, Hosakte taluk has 50% anemia Pregnant women patients compare to other districts.

6. Other issues and challenges for women empowerment

6.1 Economic backwardness:

In Bangalore rural district women and men also have been facing economic problems, majority of the people depended on agriculture sector and here agriculture is not considerable source of income for them, loans ,debts are very common in this region, due to economic barriers women always working as daily wage labour with low wages

6.2 Gender Bias

Most of the interviewees said that ,always gender discrimination is there in education,job opportunities, politics, and continuous prejudice towards women abilities is the biggest task which is faced by the ages from women leaders.

6.3 Political party affiliation:

Most of the time women kept away from the various leadership positions majority of the women leaders agreed that being a member of political party they should involve in many social and human rights related activities ,those additional party responsibilities affects the women's leadership.

7. Findings of the study:

- 7.1 There is a inadequate literacy rate in four taluks of Bangalore rural district.
- 7.2 Doddaballapura taluk has low illetracy rate compare to other 3 taluks.
- 7.3 Economic backwardness is lagging behind the women empowerment.
- 7.4 Majority respondents having agriculture as there source of income therefore they are not having major income source for there improvement.
- 7.5 Hosakote taluk has been failed to manage women health management in a well manner.
- 7.6 Women empowerment is lagging behind in Bangalore rural district due to socio, political economic related issues.
- 7.7 Gender bias is still existed in the society and it is still challenging the women empowerment.
- 7.8 Majority women respondents responded that political parties have been denied to give higher positions to women and practicing gender bias.

8. Suggestions:

- 8.1 There is a need of conduct social welfare initiatives in Bangalore rural district.
- 8.2 There is a urgent requirement to bring girl child educational policies in the Bangalore rural district
- 8.3 Local Governments should consider Economic issues which have faced by women and they should provide micro finances to needy people.
- 8.4 There is a need of medical assistance for Hosakote taluk to provide good health services to women.
- 8.5 Rural Women have to generate other sources of income with Agriculture as a major income of them.

Conclusion:

A Vital need of the current age is to reform the social values and status of women. Society without women consider as body without heart. By providing same opportunities and importance then only gender equality maintained .Thus we see that the status of women all over the world and especially in context to India is still under-privileged. Women have been facing lot many hardships to prove their existence and facing uncountable challenges and hardships to overcome inequalities. The prominent factor to support this inequality can be seen through the sex ratio which depicts the number of females in proportion to males is not balanced. They are not supported even at initial level of their homes by the male members. They are supposed to carry house hold activities and upbringing of their kids.

Reference

1. Dabhi, D. J. (n.d.). *Empowerment of women through organisational power—An alternative development paradigm.*

2. Menaka, G. (2017). Women Empowerment in India. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature, and Culture*. <https://doi.org/10.21744/ijllc.v3i4.485>
3. Sama, A. A. (n.d.). *Women Empowerment: Issues and Challenges*.
4. Shiva, K.L.(N.A). A Study of Issues and Challenges in Empowerment of Women Through Their Participation in the Panchayat Raj Institution: A Case Study of Allahabad District of Uttar Pradesh .Department of Economics University of Allahabad : U.P
5. Mishra, A. D.(2006). Women empowerment: issues and challenges. *Indian journal of public administration*. Vol. Lx, no. 3, July-September 2014. Retrived from: Anil Dutta(1)pdf.
6. Leela, Menon, “Women and Social Attitude”, Kerala Calling, March 2004.
7. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Human Development Report 1996, New York, 1996.
8. Sachidananda, A.N., Women’s Rights – Myth and Reality, Patna, Sinha Insitute of Social Studies, I983.
9. https://ijip.in/wpcontent/uploads/ArticlesPDF/article_49c50312449493700491e54fb3ed7f1e.pdf
10. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316349807_Women's_Empowerment_in_India_Issues_Challenges_and_Future_Directions
11. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353971290_THE_STUDY_ON_ISSUES_AND_CHALLENGES_OF_WOMEN_EMPOWERMENT_IN_INDIA