

Gender Equality And Women Empowerment

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ABSTRACT

From last ten decades women's empowerment and gender equality is the top most agendas of the whole world. Gender equality is through women's empowerment is an important aspect of achievement – through ICT, education, employment and representation of political terms as well as women's health and personality factors. Social development is important pillars of sustainable development and sustainable development never success without involvement of gender equality and women' empowerment. Consequently, it is stated that gender equality is both a human rights issue and precondition for, and indicator of sustainable development. It is also that gender disparity is prevalent across the culture of the world and that without serious steps to tackle it, sustainable cannot be achieved. Furthermore rightly outlined that to create a just and sustainable world and to enhance women's role in sustaining their families and communities, achieving gender equality is paramount. On other hand, if gender equality is not maintained, it will retard the country's development. By (Stevens 2010) interestingly underlines that "An increasing the high economic costs and leading social inequalities and environmental degradation around the world. Most importantly, in India, gender based discriminations and inequalities are very much apparent, although the government is working aggressively towards alleviating such problems. As a result, low empowerment of women's and high gender gap still impede the development process of the country. Even though the country is on path of development in various respect, the likelihood sustainability is in question, given such a disparity. Hence this study reveals the need to empower women and achieve gender equality for the sustainable development of the country.

1. Introduction

Gender Equality, also known as sexual equality, is the state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision – making and the state of valuing different behaviors, aspirations and needs equally, regardless of gender. UNICEF says gender equality "means that women and men, girls and boys, enjoying the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. It does not require that boys and girls or men and women, be the same, or that they be treated exactly alike." On a global scale, achieving gender equality also requires eliminating harmful practices against women's and girls, including sex trafficking, femicide, wartime sexual violence, and oppression tactics. UNFPA stated that "despite many international agreements affirming their human rights, women are still much more likely than men to be poor and illiterate. They have less access to property ownership, credit, training and employment. They are far less likely than men to be politically active and far more likely to victim of domestic violence. Gender equality, equality between men and women, entails the concept that all human beings, both men and women, all free to developed their personal abilities and make choice without the limitations set by serotypes, rigid gender roles prejudices. Gender equality means that the different behavior, aspirations and needs of women and men are considered, value and favored equally, it means fairness of treatment for men and women, according to their respective needs. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different but which is considered equivalent in terms of right,

benefits, obligations and opportunities. Gender Equality is achieved when women and men enjoy the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, including economic participation and decision – making, and when the different behaviors, aspirations and needs of women and men are equally valued and favored. The European Institute for Gender Equality has compiled online Glossary of gender mainstreaming concepts and definitions, draw from international and regional women's human right instruments, European Union and Council of Europe legislative and strategy documents.

2. Women's Empowerment

Women's empowerment can be defined as a process leading to enhancing women's control over financial, human and intellectual resources in society. In any nation, the women empowerment can be measured by extent of their involvement in social, economic and political fields. Women can be made said to be truly empowered only when all the factors such as self worth of women, their right to control their own lives, their ability to bring about social change, are addressed simultaneously. Participation of women in politics reservation is undoubtedly a positive development of recent times. Still, only the election should not be the end, but the active participation of women in decision making process and in planning and implementation of development programmes is also required. Women empowerment is a must for the betterment of any country future as they dual responsibilities of managing their families while simultaneous contributors in

managing juggling to earn to contribute in fulfilling the material needs of their families. No one care ever ignore the importance of the role of a mother, sister or a daughter in their families. At the same time, women have also established themselves as equal contributors in managing the financial requirements of their homes. On international levels as well, women have successfully created their unbeatable position, but they are just a handful in comparison to their not so fortunate counterparts.

3. Benefits Of Women's Empowerment

Women's empowerment adds to confidence of women in their ability to lead meaningful and purposeful lives, it removes their dependence on others and makes them individuals in their own right.

- They are able to lead their lives with dignity and freedom.
- It adds to their self esteem.
- It hem distinct identity.
- They are able to gain positions of respect in society.
- As they are financially independent they are able to spend their needs and desire.
- They are able to make meaningful contributions to the well being of society.
- They act as capable citizens to make the country achieve enhanced Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth.
- They get fair and equitable access to resources of the country.

4. Necessity of Women's Empowerment

- Without women's empowerment, we cannot remove injustice and gender bias and inequalities.
- If women are not empowered, they cannot enjoy security and protection in life.
- It also provide them safe working environment.
- Empowerment acts as a powerful tools against exploitation and harassment of women.
- It is great means to get adequate legal protection for women.
- If not socially and economically empowered, women cannot developed their own identity.
- If women are not employed, the global economy will be adversely affected as women constitute a vast chunk the world's population.
- Women are highly creative and intelligent which makes it imperative to receive their contributions in socio economic activities.

5. Conclusion

If we want to bring about gender equality and women's empowerment in true sense, there is crying need for elevation of the male superiority and patriarchal mindset. Also women need to be given equal opportunities for education and employment without any sense of discriminations. Contemporary societies across the world have been exposed to the major processes of transformation on social and economic development front. However, these processes have not been implemented in a balanced way and have augmented gender imbalances throughout the world which women remained the ultimate sufferer.

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