



WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT: DIFFERENT APPROACHES

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ABSTRACT :

The role of women in development is directly related to the goal of comprehensive social and economic development and is fundamental to the development of all societies. Development means total development, including in development in the political, social, economic and cultural and other dimension of human life, as well as the development of economic and other material resources and the physical, moral, intellectual, cultural growths of human beings. It should be conducive to providing women particularly those who are poor and destitute, with the necessary means for increasing claiming, achieving and enjoying the equality of opportunity. More directly, the increasingly successful participation to each woman in societal activities as a largely independent agent will contribute further recognition in practice of her right to equality. This paper seeks to explore different approaches, which explain how women can be involved to the development process abreast how to empower women through the development process is possible?



KEYWORDS : Women, Development, Equality, empower.

INTRODUCTION

The question of development of women in the interest of the development is very important. Three different theoretical streams have arisen in front of the questions.

- ❖ Women in Development (WID)
- ❖ Women and Development (WAD)
- ❖ Gender and Development (GAD)
- ❖ **Women in Development (WID) :-**

Women in Development (WID) are very old and popular method. UN Commission on the status of women and American liberalist are the introducer of this method.¹ The theoretical base of this method started through the published of the famous book "Women role in Economic Development" written by Easter Boserup. However this method was rooted in the Modernization theory of 1960s. The theory was thought that the benefits of national development and growth would naturally reach to the women but in reality it was found that women didn't get benefits of the modernization. So women need to think differently. WID realize that, women have a role in the production of society and they can contribute the developmental process.² To relate the women in economic process, the administrative

¹ Nalini Visvanathan et al. , (ed), *The Women Gender and Development Reader*, UPL ,1997,P.33

² Caroline O.N.Moser, *Gender Planning and Development: Theory, Practice and Training*, Rutledge, London and New York, 1993,p.2.

and legal system need reforms and in the case of production it is necessary to remove the problems of women.

WID method attempt to play a role by involving women in the development process and trying to established women rights through it. But in spite of that There are some limitations:-

- a. This method is derived from the traditional modernization theory, where it was believed that women are not involved in the development process. But this is false. Women are directly or indirectly associated in the production process, so there is no need to re-engage them.
- b. This method adopts existing structure and does not ask the roots of women's subordination and exploitation. But without searching and questioning emancipation these root emancipation of women is not possible.
- c. This method is Non- confrontational. It is associated to the development of women society but does not favor in disagreement.
- d. This method does not question why women didn't get benefit from the development strategy.
- e. This method does not consider the class, caste, culture which is more important in connection of women in development.
- f. This method only takes into account the development of women's work but the reproductive side does not considered.

❖ **Women and Development (WAD):-**

In the second half of the 70s decade of 19th century this method (WAD) was developed against the critique of modernization and WID method. This method originated from the dependency theory. WAD believed that women are always associated with the development process, so it is inconsequential to get involved with them by new developmental process. It is more important to know is how much women receive from the production process.

In WAD method women are considered to be an important economic worker. Women always play their important role in the economic field. But despite this women did not get a fair estimate from production process. According to the WAD theorist, the fundamental reason is that the emergence of unequal world money system and the improvement of the condition of women will be established through the equality process of world money system.³ However this method has failed to explain the relationship of the role of patriarchy in different types of production system and the subordination and oppression of women. Indeed. By in equal and exploitable world system can be explained in many ways in women's life but many things can't be explained regarding women related to family and the state.

❖ **Gender and Development (GAD):**

In the 1940s this method was emerged as an alternative of WID. The proponents of this method highly influenced by socialist feminist and the method emphasis on "gender" more than "women." According to Caroline Moser "the focus on gender rather than women makes it critical to look not only at the category women -- since that is only half the story- but a women relation to men, and the way in which relations between this categories are socially constructed, men and women played different roles in society, with their gender differences shaped by ideological, historical, religious, ethnic, economic and cultural determinants.⁴

This method thinks that women are the subordinate to the men. So to find out the actual problems of women it is the backbone of the relationship between men and women⁵. So this method gives emphasis on gender relations. It faces the questions of various sexes. It accepts productive contribution of women in both house and outsides. This method does not recognized the conflicts between private and public sphere and enter the private sphere to investigate the causes of violence of women. They seeing the women as a role inquisitor of development and change not as a passive recipients⁶.

³ Nalini, op, cit, p.19

⁴ Moser, op, cit, p. 3

⁵ Ibid, p. 3

⁶ Nalini, op, cit, p. 19

- Various policy approach and programme have been adopted for the welfare of poor women in the Third world. Simentioniously also recognized the role of women in development process .But there is a series of confusion about the definition and use of these policy approach method. But in spite of that these policy approach method has taken by the national and international policy making agencies as a method of women development. These approaches are:

1. Welfare approach:-

This approach arises in post world war to help the dependent group of the society. Here women were identified the primary dependent groups. This approach was very popular in 1950 to 1970s in the developing countries for the development of women. The goal of this approach is to identify women as good parent and to engage them in developmental process⁷. This approach believe that the primary role of women is reproduction and various policy was adopted for food security , family planning and malnutrition .At present time this policies are very popular in developing countries.

Since pre- Independence Colonial Government adopted these policies aimed at the welfare of women in the third world countries. But as the colonial interest was the main objectives of the government they did not give importance to social welfare. According to European poor laws in the 18th century the social needs of the people were determined by the market through personal initiatives⁸. The government administration was specially engaged to maintain law and order. Voluntary service organization played an important role in social welfare. This policy was expanded in many countries in post independence and thought the establishment of ministry of social welfare, tried to promote the development of women. Modernization theory was one of the base from this approach.

Welfare approach is based on three concepts:-

One, women are the participants of the development process, but they have not benefitted from the development.

Two, Motherhood is the most important role of women in society.

Three, the most effective role of women is child rearing from the point of view in economic development.

In a family centric way, the role of women is restricted to reproduction only and the role of men has been acknowledged in the process of development. Therefore under this approach the opportunities of women participation in development activities not are created. The main goal of this approach is to provide relief as a short term programme for the survival of the family. As a result they didn't get chance to be self reliant. In this decades, other approaches has emerged as alternative to the welfare approach.

2. Equity approach:-

Various research data in 1970s provided that the contribution of women in agriculture sector was the most, but contribution was never recognized anywhere. At the same time new agricultural method and improved quality technology negatively affected the women. It decreasing traditional productive role of women, income, status and power. Irene Tinker argued that development planners are unable to comprehend that women have to play two roles whereas men only have to play one role⁹. Women in development group in the United States realize that in the third world countries the capitalist economy has increased the inequality between men and women. In this background "Equity approach" was emerged.

This approach recognized women as active participants in the development process. It believes that women can contribute in economic growth through their role both in reproduction and production. This viewpoint begins with the idea that economic development strategy affects women negatively.

⁷ Moser, op, cit, p. 19

⁸ Ibid, p. 58

⁹ Ibid, p. 63

That's why they need to be associated with the development process. This approach is related to the basic question like equality between men and women. M. Buvinic argued that equity approach is related to the inequality between men and women in all spheres of life.¹⁰

This method marks the origin of women subordination not only in the family but in other areas of life. It emphasizes the economic self-reliance in the field of equality between men and women. If women can self-reliant through development process they get equal rights like men in others area of life. This approach is to assume that in the present production and distribution process men gain and women suffer losses. So that the method should be taken by which the discrimination between men and women is reduced. Such programme can be taken so that women are benefitted by men. This will gradually established equality between them.

In the international summit of 1970s, the main objective of equity approach was to involve women in development and in the third world conference women problems were seen as a problem of development but in the second world conference capitalist system and war considered to be responsible for the problems of feminism. So equality, development, and peace are considered to be the main theme of this approach.¹¹

3. Anti-poverty approach:-

The anti-poverty approach is very closely associated with equity approach. Buvinic observed that this is "toned down version" of equity approach.¹² This approach gives greater importance to the benefits. The main consideration of anti-poverty approach is the employment of women but the central consideration of equity approach is that how employment plays a role to establish equality between them. Apathy of developmental agency in establishing gender equality is the main reason in origin of this approach. Another reason in origin of this approach is the failure of first development decades. In developing countries majority of women is poor and they are called "poorest of poor" in such cases poverty alleviation programs are very beneficial. This approach gives importance to women's productive role. It is believed that necessary to increase production related activities of low income families for poverty eradication and balance economic growth. This approach argued that "the origin of women's poverty and inequality with men are attributable to the lack of access to private ownership of land and capital and to sexual discrimination in the labour market"¹³

4. Efficiency approach:-

In 1980s efficiency approach has been recognized as a significant approach to the development of women. In recent times efficiency method become popular to the various national government and international aided agency. Need efficiency for development and development should be more effective through women contribution to the economy. this approach thinks that equality between man and women will be established through participation of women in economic activities. Maguire (Patricia Maguire) said that shifting from equity based principles between men and women to efficiency approach signifying that 50% of the public resource for the development was wasted or not used properly¹⁴.

Women backwardness in education, use of underdeveloped technology, preventing effective participation in economic activities. In this approach it is believed that women are competent like men. It is not like those women do work in the house so they can't be involved in external economic activities. Working hour is not a big problem for women but the problem is the environment and benefits. Because most of the poor women work 12 to 18 hours a day. This approach assume that if

¹⁰ Ibid , p. 64

¹¹ Ibid, p. 64

¹² Ibid, p. 67

¹³ Ibid, p. 67-68

¹⁴ Ibid, p. 70

women are given to opportunity to play a role in decision making and implementing the development plan , then the development projects will be able to achieve further goals¹⁵.

5. Empowerment approach:-

Empowerment approach is an important approach in recent times. Feminist writers and workers of the third world originally invented this approach. Jay Bardhan commented that feminist movement has an independent history in third world countries. It was on imposed by the United Nations and the western feminist thinkers¹⁶. The empowerment system thinks that there are inequality between men and women. And women are subordinate to men. It origins from family but not only the family is one of the reason of subordination. Women are oppressed the colour, religion, barna , blood, class, colonial history etc and in recent times they oppressed by the international economic system. This approach seriously considers the increase of women empowerment. Although increase in women's power means reducing the power of men. This approach portrait power " the right to determine choices in life and influence the direction of change, through the ability to gain control over crucial material and non material resources¹⁷"

CONCLUSION:-

For well balanced and sustainable development men and women must have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities. There are two way stimulating gender equality. Gender main streaming aims to achieve equality in all activities irrespective of all social, political, and economic. Activities specially aimed at improving the position and participation of women is necessarily well. Empowerment a combination of two strategies is most effective in recent times. To establish the Gender equality "gender Budgeting" is very powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure the benefits of the development reach women as much man.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All states be urged to establish National organization and bodies for women programme where they do not exist, or to support those which already to exist.
2. In order to accelerate the integration of women into development processes by giving them necessarily financial, technical, and human resource for the attainment of the objectives.
3. All the states are urged to cooperate to regional and international agencies that carry out women programme.
4. The specialized agency and other bodies of the United Nations are urged to continue to appropriate the necessarily financial resources in order to increase and intensify programme specially designed for women.

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¹⁵ Irene Tinker , " *The making of Field : Advocates, Practitioners and Scholars*"

Nalini Visvanathan et, al., (ed. *The Women, Gender and Development*, UPL, 1997,p. 39

¹⁶ Moser, op, cit, p. 74

¹⁷ Ibid, pp. 74-75