



ISSN: 2249-894X  
IMPACT FACTOR : 5.7631 (UIF)  
UGC APPROVED JOURNAL NO. 48514  
VOLUME - 8 | ISSUE - 8 | MAY - 2019



## ISSUES AND CHALLENGES BEFORE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

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### ABSTRACT:

*"You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women"*

*Pt. Jawaharlal Nhrhu.*

*In modern India the concept of women's empowerment an issue of immense contemplation, debate and discussion. As an agenda it got the top most priority in the list of governmental policies, plans and programmes. Throughout the country on regular basis efforts have been made to enhance the social status, achieving of economic*

*independence, increase in political decision making process and gender equality in India. The women empowerment not only lies in economic self reliance it also lies in providing better health, education sanitation and free choice for determination of their family life.*

**KEYWORDS:** *women's empowerment , social status.*

### INTRODUCTION

The activities of women in their house and outdoor are the main indicator of national economic development. They are playing very crucial role in agriculture, industries, small scale industries, in animal husbandry, dairy production and national micro level finance. In comparison with men their saving capacity is high at the economic front they were front runner. In spite of this fact the status of women still lagging far away from equality with men. The women's constitute the half of the population in India without empowerment of women the national

development concept is meaningless.

Even after more than 70 years of independence women's were subject to domestic violence and sexual harassment in the society in India. Which requires more fresh and favorable conditions in society which cooperate with women to take their own right decision in every area for themselves in family, society and in matter of country. In order to achieve national development and to make country fully developed the empowerment is crucial and effective tool at the hands of people and government in India.

The concept of women's empowerment in India set back by gender inequality, honor killing, sexual harassment,

domestic violence, crime against women's female feticide, discriminated labour wage to women, low literacy rate, absence due political representation, dowry system and malnutrition and lack of health opportunities.

The concept of women empowerment not only focuses on giving women's to strength with skills to rise above from their miserable situations but at the same time it also emphasis on education and educating men regarding women's issues and challenges, a sense of respect women and their responsibility towards women as equal. In this present research paper tries to describewhat are the issues and challenges are suppress the women empowerment in India.

- 1. Honour Killing:** - honour killing is committing the murder in the name of dishonesty to family by a young girl and women for their suspicious behavior. In the name of family respect the parents kills their daughters and sister when trying to marriage against their will or out caste and religion boy Honour killings reported in India have increased by 796 in a year from 2014-2015 as per the National Crime Record bureau statistics more vigilant reporting of these crimes, which largely go unreported The highest 131 incidents of these killings were taken place in Uttar Pradesh followed by Hariyana, Punjab, Mahrastra and Bihar. Several initiatives have been made to mitigate through the separate law but the incidents of these killings increasing year by year.
- 2. Gender Pay Gap:-**The estimated gender gap in India is 24.18.% India has 10<sup>th</sup> place in world in Gender pay Gap. The average of women participation in the paid labour market generally it is more in rural areas. In rural areas in agricultural sector they were paid less wage to the men by 42% percent for same work with same time in agricultural field. It is varies from state to state. It is highest in these state

SATES	WOMEN'S EARNINGS AS A PERCENTAGE OF MEN EARNING
Bihar	63%
Chhattisgarh	48%
Assam	48%
Himachal Pradesh	45%
Rajastan and Kerala	44%

### 3. Domestic Violence:-

In India, 70 % of women's are subject to domestic violence, 38 % men in our country admits they have physically abuse their partners. Every after 9 minutes a case of violence again women either by husband or by his relatives from 2012 the rate of domestic violence is increased y 7.5% per year. In West Bengal 19,865 cases of domestic violence are reported which is accounting for 18.7%of the national, there were 13,389 cases in Andhra Pradesh accounting for 12.6% at national level in every district of Karnataka and other states 45 cases are registered every month. Any form of violence and abuse inform of verbal non verbal mental and physical within the preview of biological relations mainly by relatives of husband. According present survey by National family and Health Survey among the age group 15 to 49, the 33.5% of their life they spend under domestic violence out of their total life time. The ratio of domestic violence by husband relatives is to be 5.9% per 10000 again households. In domestic violence women's suffers from many types of and emotional abuse illegal action taken by partner in home. This domestic violence their status to slave to husband and his family. This domestic violence not only violate their human rights that placed greater hurdles in their all-round development. This is the biggest issue in front of women empowerment in India.

### 4. Health issues:-

Women has to undergone numerous organic procedures from birth to death in form attending maturity ,pregnancy, to give the birth to child and other organical and genetical process this every organic process in women's body considered as rebirth. Health problem among the women's are resultant of unwanted pregnancy, genealogical problems including HIV, miscarriage pelvic inflammatory diseases chronically pelvic pain. To come out from this the women's in India neither t in position to talk and discuss openly in the society nor have elaborative medical specilities and institutions urban and rural areas. The women's who living in tribal areas they have to face numerous health problems to compare with urban and rural women's their economic status is cope with them to avail service of private hospitalsby incurring on their own expenditure . This force the women's in rural

and tribal to concentrate only on their health this is the greatest hurdles in women empowerment in India.

### 5. Human Trafficking:-

Although the human trafficking remain illegal in India, but it remains a significant and greater challenges before women empowerment in India, women's female children are trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation or bonded labor. This problem affects directly or indirectly 20 to 65 millions of people. According Human Right Watch Project every year 7200 minor girls were trafficked into forcible sex market, Indian women's are trafficked to Middle East and Europe as house servants, low skilled workers but their life ends as part sex industry and as HIV patient. Every year 50% women are who were trafficked subject to succumb the HIV in India. From 2011 there was increase in immoral trafficking of women by 5.3%. Governments of different states have made arrangement for their treatment but these women's treated as social stigma.

### 6. Rape, murders and insult of modesty of women's and girls':-

The act of removing the dresses, pulling women and coupled with a request for physical relation is the insult of modesty. Cases relating to this crimes are increased year by year.

Year	Assault with intent to outrage modesty	Insults to the modesty of women
2008	40,413	12,214
2009	38,711	11,009
2010	40,613	9,961
2011	42,968	8,570
2012	45,351	9,173

Madhya Pradesh had 6,655 cases which accounting for 14.7% of the national incidents. Andhra Pradesh had received 3,714 cases and Maharashtra received 3789, the average of this increase by 7.0% at national level which emotionally and physically weakens the women's.

The report of National Crime Record Bureau cases of crimes against women's including rape rose by 83 % in India and in 2013 only 24,923 cases of rape reported. According 2016 crime survey against women Delhi is recorded as first place in rape incidents 974 rape cases are reported per 100000 persons while Lakshwadeep record lowest rate at 43.9 for per 100000 persons, 98% percent of these incidents are committed by known persons to the victims. In 2015 state Madhya Pradesh has the highest raw number of rape cases while Jodhpur of Rajasthan has recorded high per capita rate of rape reports. According a sample survey by Human Rights Watch Projects more than 7,200 minors-1-6 in 100000 minors are raped each year. According Madhya Pradesh 54% rapes crimes are goes un reportedly and according National Crime Record bureau in 2006 declare that the 71 %cases go un reportedly. The average of convictions under rape case fallen severely out of the judicial investigation only one out of the four case leads towards conviction due to lack of evidence police negligence, political pressure and fear of family respect.

Conviction Rate (%)	Year
44.3%	1973
37.7%	1983
26.9%	2009
26.6%	2010
26.4%	2011
24.2%	2012
27.1	2013

### **7. Undue Political Representation:-**

In our country according Economic Survey Today emphasis for more women political representation in decision making process. Despite their population accounting for 49 % political representation is low. The tabled survey report of 2017-18 in parliament has revealed factor such like women family obligations, cultural attitudes regarding roles of women in society and their suffering from lack family were among main reasons that prevented them from entering politics. Developing countries like Rwanda which has more than 60 percent women representatives in parliament in 2017 while in the women ratio in politics still below 15percent.

In India between 2010 to 2017 women political representation is rose just by only in Lok Sabha lower house of parliament it had only 11.8 percentage women parliamentarian with 64 seats out of 542 elected seats and in Upper house of parliament their number is reduced only to 11 percent with 27 seats including nominated women member. As an October 2017 out of total 4,118 MLA across the country, only 9% women are there. Lack of confidence and monetary factors were prevent them to enter in politics.

Though the women reorientation is magnificent at local self government institutions due to the reservation under 243D article of Constitution. There are 13.72 lakh women representatives in Panchyati Raj Institutions. Women's constitute 44.4% political representation in this institutions. But it is only name sake 91% women representatives they work under their sons and husbands and other influential persons of locals, they are not in position to take their own decision.

### **8. Religious degradation of women:-**

All religion in Indian one hand or other hand give the second citizen status to the women's. they were considered as an impediment in the religious path of men leading towards salvation. Jainism maintains that women's cannot obtain Moksha, they believed that god has created women's deprived them entering into heaven, they have reborn as men to get salvation in next birth. The Hindu religion based on Manusmriti largely responsible for degradation of women status they were prohibited to practice religious activities in home and temples. Both Hindu and Islam religion impose the ban on women's to enter in some temples to perform the pooja and to enter in mosques and Darghans to prayer for Muslim women's in Islam.

### **9. Sexual harassment of women's at work place:-**

In simple terms it implies unwanted direct or indirect physical and mental contact, indications and conduct which irritate the women psychological condition in work place from their male colleagues. It is a sensitive issue which degraded the morality of women's in their work place. Statistics showed that 50 -90 % women's are well experience of this form of harassment at working places. Most of the cases go un reportedly due to fear of loose their jobs if they told, blame themselves, get blackmail or threat by colleagues they are not supported by other women who think that it is the result of provoking and exposing body language. The women who tolerate this humiliation silently when she was the only source of income to run her family.

### **10. Crimes against women's:-**

Crimes against the and girls is a problem of pandemic proportions. At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her life time with the abuser usually someone known to her. The world health Organization find out and classified the different forms of crime against women through all phases of life before birth to old age. Crime against women has become a prominent topic of debate discussion, politicians and mass media have placed their great concentration on the issue and challenge of crimes against women's which is greatest impediment of women empowerment.

### 11. Existence of Dowry system:-

The article 3 of the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 made it clear that penalty for giving or taking dowry does not apply to parents which are given at the time of marriage to the bride or bridegroom at the time of marriage, when no demand for them have been made. Though the law against dowry system in effect still this system is on glorification. It leads gender inequality, economic burden, violence against women, injustice towards girls, gender imbalance, loss of self esteem in women and degradation social status of women's these factors largely responsible for impediment in way of women empowerment.

### 12. Educational disparity:-

Many research in social science field have proved that India is a humongous laboratory for social experiments and results. Because Indian society is operated by various discriminations and inequality based on caste, gender, religion, economic status along with these education inequality more particular towards women's. It is still a hot topic of discussion, because the world average female literacy rate is 79.9% but in India female literacy rate is confined on 65.46% less than by 14%. According report of Gender Inequality in education by UNICEF in 2015 more than 50 million young women in India neither study nor work, girls of rural India continuing to less education, the study by Adrianan and D Kugler and Santosh kumar on Demography revealed that when size of family increased by having additional child on average quarter of a year decrease in overall year schooling. The enrolment of girls of Scheduled caste and schedule tribe the gender gap in education is 30 percent at primary and 26 percent at higher primary level. In Indian context the participation of girls in education is lower than by boys by 42 percent. Under various flagships programme Indian government gives priority to female education. The contemplation of Indian parents of girls the benefit of education of their daughter goes to the family where she got the marriage around 63.5% percent female students give up their school during adolescence concern over privacy and safety.

According study by World Institute for Development Economic Research at the United Nations University made it clear that greater financial capacity and level of education of parents plays very crucial role in providing education to their girls. The fear of sexual assault of girls in state of Madhya Pradesh, Uttarpradesh, Hariyana, Punjab, Bihar Tribal areas of Chaatisgrah, Gharkhand, Uttarakhand and Assam among the parents made them to not sent their girls to school and colleges women's share in higher education remain on just 12 percent after 70 years independence.

Women empowerment is inevitable to country like India, because women constitute the 49 percent of the population without their enhancement of socio, economic, education, health and political status.

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