29 Women Empowerment: Policies, Gender Issues in the Society

Dr. Rasmi Das

Assistant Professor, Department of Education,
Jorhat College, Jorhat

ABSTRACT

Women empowerment plays an inseparable role in the upliftment and development of a country. Women empowerment is a process that includes encouraging gender equality, creating the environments where women can understand their rights. It indicates the participation of women enthusiastically in social, economic, and political activities, and access resources and opportunities equally as a man does. The government has implemented several polices aimed at empowering women. Apart from that there are several socio-cultural, political challenges and inequalities that occurs due to the insight view of gender roles. This paper attempts to outline the importance of women empowerment in a society. The purpose of this study also highlights about several policies and initiatives taken by the Indian government for empowering women. The paper also tries to discuss several gender issues in the North East region of India. This study is based on secondary data collected from the books, journals, reports etc.

Keywords: *Women Empowerment, Policy, Gender Issue*

Introduction

Women empowerment plays an inseparable role in the upliftment and development of a country. Women empowerment is a process that includes encouraging gender equality, creating the environments where women can understand their rights. It indicates the participation of women enthusiastically in social, economic, and political activities, and access resources and opportunities equally as a man does. The government has implemented several polices aimed at empowering women. Apart from that there are several socio-cultural, political challenges and inequalities that occurs due to the insight view of gender roles. Women empowerment is a process where women are enabling to have control over their exists, take their rights, and speared their possibility in all the aspect of society. It is a progression that includes encouraging gender equality, creating the environments. Education is a landmark for women empowerment. Educated women can perform an actual leading role in the economic development of a country as well as in a society and in a family. In India including North-eastern area women are need to empower more and more themselves. North-eastern area of India includes Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya as well as Tripura and Sikkim including Assam. Women empowerment refers to development the divine, political, community, enlightening, gender or financial strength of individuals and people of women. The necessity for allowing women to participate in the economic activities is indispensable to build an economy. Apart from this, gender issues states about social, economic, and political contests and dissimilarities that rise due to changes in gender identity, roles, and outlooks. gender issue includes gender inequality, gender stereotypes, gender-based violence, reproductive rights, gender pay gap, intersectionality etc.

Objectives of the study

This paper attempts the importance of women empowerment in a society. The purpose of this study also highlights about several policies and initiatives taken by the Indian government for empowering women. The paper also tries to discuss several gender issues in the North East region of India.

Method of the study:

The present study is based on secondary source of data collected from the books, journals, reports etc. Descriptive method has been used.

Results:

The article has highlighted it result objective wise. The first objective is to study the importance of women empowerment in a society. Women empowerment is imperative for many reasons such as-

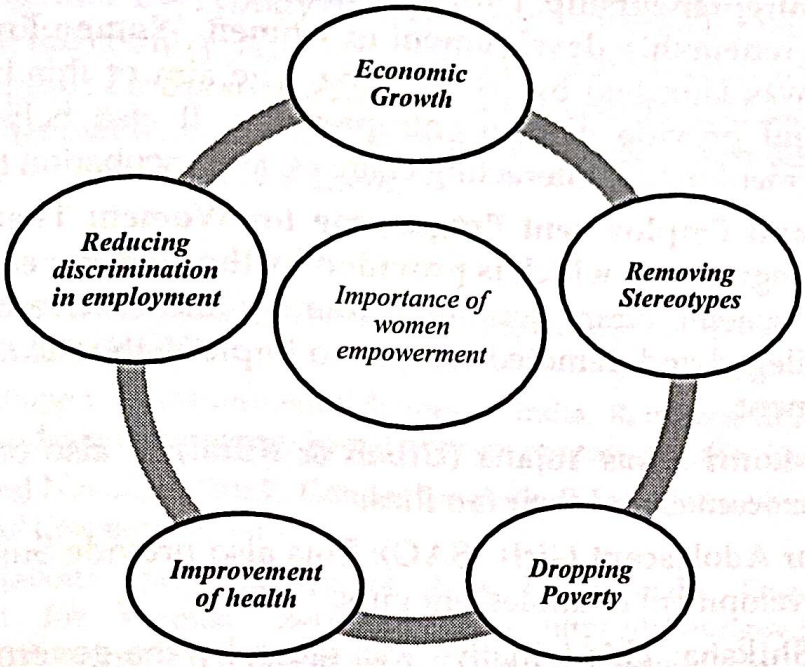

Figure 1: Depicts the Importance of Women Empowerment

- **Economic Growth: The** participation of women in the different work field helps the development of economy of a country. Women can contribute evocatively to family income and national GDP after empowering and educating themselves.
- **Removing Stereotypes**: Women empower helps to eradicate the old-style gender roles and stereotypes happens among the people of society.
- **Dropping Poverty**: Empowerment of women helps to reduce poverty. Women will be economically independently after receiving education.
- **Improvement of health**: Educated women have diminished a chance different diseases infection and help to improve in health. They are able to understand maternity care, child care, self-care etc.
- **Reducing discrimination in employment:** Educating and empowering women helps to decreases inequality in employment. Women are equally able to work efficiently in work place.

Apart from first objective, the second objective discusses that there are several policies and initiatives taken by the Indian government for empowering women such as-

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save the daughter, Educate the daughter): This** initiative was taken by the government **which was launched in 2015 keeping in mind the objective of** importance of girls' education and aim is to stop gender-biased sex-selective abolition.
- **Maternity Benefit: This** initiative was taken for the benefit of working women. This is given importance of duration of paid maternity leave. The employees are provided this facility.

- **Women Entrepreneurship: The government has given different** initiative for the **Entrepreneurship development of women. Women Entrepreneurship Platform was** launched by NITI Aayog. The aim of this initiative was to endorse and provide women entrepreneurs. It also helps to access the resources, mentorship, interacting chances, and incubation facilities.
- **Training and Employment Programme for Women: There are different training programmes which is provided by the government.** This centrally sponsored scheme offers vocational training and service opportunities to underprivileged and demoted women to improve their skills and financial empowerment.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban & Rural)**: It also offers reasonable housing for women and their families.
- **Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)**: This also provide Sustenance for the holistic development of adolescent girls.
- **Samagra Shiksha**: **This** initiative was taken by the government **which is helpful to** improves the quality of education, making schools girl-friendly.
- **Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship**: **The government** Provides scholarships for higher education abroad.
- **National Policy for Women Empowerment:** This policy highlights gender equivalence and constructive judgement in favour of women.
- **Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)**: This initiative is also helpful for senior citizens. This is a pension scheme for senior citizens, including women.

In this article the third objective is to discuss about the several gender issues in the society. These are-

- **Matriarchal vs Patriarchal Traditions: There are** some communities in the North East where follow matriarchal **Traditions.** Though, in other parts of the region, patriarchal norms govern, leading to gender inequalities and discrimination.
- **Violence Against Women**: Like in other parts of India, gender-based violence, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, and trafficking, ruins a significant concern in the North East.
- **Political Participation: There are less** political participation **rates** in the Northeast. In many states there are poor political participation rates.
- **Justice and Flexibility: There are need to be equity and flexibility empowering women in the society.**

Conclusion

The study concludes that there is necessity of women empowerment in a society as women the indispensable part of our country. Empowerment of a woman in a

society is most essential. Everybody needs to be empowered for the development and upliftment of the country. Apart from that there are several gender issues in the North East region of India such as matriarchal vs patriarchal society, different kind of violence against women etc. Government has also taken different kind of initiatives for the women empowerment.

References

1. Borah, P. (2019). A Brief Study on the Gender Inequality in North East India. *Journal of Critical Reviews*, 6(3), 146-155.
2. Digit (n.d.). Women Empowerment Schemes in India. Retrieved from https://www.godigit.com/guides/government-schemes/women-empowerment-schemes-in-india
3. Mahanta, B. and Nayak, P. (2013). Gender Inequality in North East India. *PCC Journal of Economics and Commerce*, 7, 1-13.
4. Ministry of labour and Employment, New Delhi. (n.d.). Ensuring Equality, Empowerment for Women. Retrieved from https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/012524_booklet_ministry_of_labour_employement_revised2.pdf
5. National Commission for Women. (2004). Violence Against Women in North East India: An Enquiry. Retrieved from http://ncw.nic.in/sites/default/files/Violence%20against%20women%20in%20North%20East%20India%20-%20An%20Inquiry.pdf
6. Neelmani, J. and Sudeshna, S. (2024). Empowerment of Women in India-A Study of Select Government Initiatives. *International Journal of Scientific Research and Reviews*, 13(1), 95-114.
7. NEXT IAS (July 14, 2025). Women Empowerment and Gender Equality in India: Retrieved from https://www.nextias.com/blog/women-empowerment/
8. Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Governemnet of India. (February 4, 2022). Schemes/Programmes for Empowerment of Women. Retrieved from https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1795471
9. Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Governemnet of India. (July 27, 2022). GOI Initiatives for Women Empowerment. Retrieved from https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1845382
10. Shome, M. K. and Das, U. S. (2020). Women and Gender Inequality: A Perspective of North East India. In Mukherjee, D. and Saha, M. (Eds.). Purvottaran-The Rise of North East Paradigms of Development in the VUCA World (pp.146-161). New Delhi: Bloomsbury Publishers.