

Women empowerment; Bane or Boon for Women

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Abstract; Half of the population of this world is made up of Women. Many activist (who believed that it is unfair to put women in social restriction which hinder their progress vis a vis men) came up and start making demands which will put women in equal pedestal of their male counterpart. . Now a day many women are financially independent and politically active. In our country itself we have women leaders like smt indira Gandhi, smt sushma swaraj, smt jayalalitha and at present ms. kangana ranaut, smt jaya bacchan to name a few. At present time women are empowered legally, politically, socially and financially to enjoy equal rights along with the men folk. Here my question is, are the women really empowered or are they over burden? I am arising this question because though women may have empowered to step out of their home and walk along with their husband to earn their livelihood, women are still responsible for their children, cooking and other house hold chores. In society women`s position are still considered as subordinate to their husband.

Key words: empowerment-giving more power.

Gender typing- work division in society on the basis of sex.

Introduction: Half of the population of this world is made up of Women. Women were bound to their home from the beginning. To run the household smoothly there are some kind of work division:- Women are responsible for household chore like – looking after children, cooking, cleaning etc. and men folk are responsible for earning bread, settle social issues etc. These work division are also called gender typing wherein a particular sex is expected to perform certain kind of activities. In course of time a particular activities e.g. cooking are assign to specific sex, Because of gender typing women are confined in their home.

Another reason why women are bound to their home is also because of war. Physically women are more fragile and vulnerable. For example- women cannot defend themselves when pregnant or while nursing their babies. So, men folk are responsible for defending their society and country. In due course of time the duty performed by men folk become more important and women`s activities are put into background and it is understood that women`s foremost duty is to keep their family happy.

In case of India it is said the Purdah system came into society because of invaders like Mughals, European etc. Women were taken away as war trophy after defeating the king. This kind of practiced are very detrimental to the position of women.

However, unequal position of women is found in Europe also for instance women do not get equal salary for equal work. Women get equal voting rights in 1928 in England. Until then women were considered not qualify to having voting rights, Aristotle father of political science, in his thoughts imply that women do not have the intelligence to participate in the political activities of the society. With such kind of mentality women were always kept away from political activities. Even in matrilineal society like Khasi, women folk have to consult their maternal uncle to take major decision involving property etc.

Many activist (who believed that it is unfair to put women in social restriction which hinder their progress vis a vis men) came up and start making demands which will put women in equal pedestal of their male counterpart. By 90's demand for equality between men and women became more vocal, as a result a school of thought called feminism became very important.

In case of India government took various measures to improve the position or situation of women. As a result we find following changes in position and role of women in family and society:

1. Girls started going to school. Girl's education was given special impetus by govt. through schemes like beti bachao beti padao.
2. . There is demand for equal pay for equal work.
3. Women are encourage to go out and seek job and eventually become financially independent.
4. Women are encouraged to participate in political activity and take up social responsibility.

As a result the position and role of women in society has changed a lot. Now a day many women are financially independent and politically active. In our country itself we have women leaders like smt indira Gandhi, smt. sushma swaraj, smt. jayalalitha and at present ms. kangana ranaut, smt jaya bacchan to name a few. At present time women are empowered legally, politically, socially and financially to enjoy equal rights along with the men folk. Here my question is, 'are the women really empowered or are they over burden'? I am arising this question because though women may have been empowered to step out of their home and walk along with their husband to earn their livelihood, women are still responsible for their children, cooking and other house hold chores. In society women's

position are still considered as subordinate to their husband. In many cases though educated, women need permission of their father, husband or in-laws to have a job. While holding a job and earning their expenses the women have to cater to the needs of their family. In such kind of environment, women struggle to give their best in their work place. They are over burden with their job and household responsibility. As a result they lag behind their male colleague in delivering good result. It is not surprising that women are not eager to have child, even after marriage, because they know after having baby they will lag behind in their job. Those unfortunate women who do not have the family support really struggle to keep balance in their job and family responsibility.

Conclusion; Though the idea of women empowerment has envisage to empowered women economically socially, and politically in reality it has created a situation wherein women are drain physically, mentally and emotionally. Women cannot come at par with their male counterpart unless there are changes in the mindset of men regarding gender typing. Men and society per se needs to understand that we cannot have a developed and progressive society by treating half of population as subordinate or unimportant.

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