

Promoting Women Empowerment: Indispensable in Leading to Progression of Women

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ABSTRACT:

The concept of women empowerment has acquired prominence among women, belonging to both urban and rural communities. The women, belonging to deprived, marginalized and economically weaker sections of the society need to acquire an understanding of this concept. Furthermore, they need to be encouraged towards acquisition of empowerment opportunities. In addition, support and assistance is needed from family and community members. The women need to be encouraged towards acquisition of education, getting engaged in employment opportunities, participation in various types of social, economic, political, religious and cultural activities and so forth. As a consequence, women will augment information in terms of various subjects and concepts, lead to an increase in motivation levels and carry out all types of tasks and activities in a well-organized manner. Furthermore, women will contribute efficiently in promoting good health and well-being, physically as well as psychologically. In this manner, women will render an important contribution in acquiring empowerment opportunities. As a consequence, they will promote family and community well-being. Furthermore, one will lead to up-gradation of overall standards of living. Therefore, it is well-understood, promoting women empowerment is indispensable in leading to progression of women. The main concepts that are taken into account in this research paper are, understanding the meaning and significance of women empowerment, measures to be implemented in promoting women empowerment, characteristics of women empowerment and women empowerment prepares women to live life to the fullest.

Keywords: *Abilities, Education, Employment Opportunities, Information, Participation, Progression, Skills, Women Empowerment*

INTRODUCTION:

In India, more than 70 percent of the population resides in rural communities. In these communities, individuals belong to deprived, marginalized and economically weaker sections of the society. Furthermore, they are overwhelmed by the social problems of poverty, illiteracy, backwardness, unemployment and gender inequality. The individuals in some rural households form the viewpoint that male children are assets. They will render an important contribution in promoting well-being of family and community members. On the other hand, girls are regarded as liabilities. It is believed that they will only make demands and will not yield any returns on investment (Upadhyay, n.d.). They are trained from the stage of early childhood in terms of household responsibilities and taking care of needs and requirements of family members. It is believed that they have to eventually get married and go to marital homes. They are discouraged from getting enrolled in educational institutions and acquiring education. The reason being, within marital homes, they will not be able to make use of their skills and abilities in an adequate manner. Therefore, this viewpoint is an

impediment within the course of promoting women empowerment.

In the present world, there have been transformations taking place in the viewpoints and perspectives of rural individuals. They have formed the viewpoint that girls can also render an important contribution in promoting well-being and goodwill of their families and communities. For this purpose, they are to be given various types of opportunities, i.e. providing education, augmenting skills and abilities, promoting good health, physically and psychologically and so forth (Women in Society, n.d.). As a consequence of making provision of various types of opportunities to girls, they will be encouraged towards acquisition of empowerment opportunities. Women empowerment is referred to giving rights and opportunities to women to progress and up-grade their living conditions. In this manner, they will be able to contribute efficiently in promoting well-being of themselves, family and community members. The rural individuals need to appreciate the birth of girls and form positive viewpoints in terms of them. Therefore, it is well-understood, girls and women will be encouraged towards acquisition of empowerment opportunities,

when they will obtain support from family and community members.

Understanding the Meaning and Significance of Women Empowerment:

The individuals, belonging to rural communities have recognized the meaning and significance of education. They have formed the viewpoint that education is the instrument, which not only imparts information in terms of academic subjects and concepts, but also in terms of ways that are necessary in emerging into moral and ethical human beings and productive citizens of the country. Hence, education is essential in promoting empowerment opportunities. The girls need to be encouraged towards getting enrolled in educational institutions of all levels. As a consequence, they will contribute in augmenting their skills and abilities. Furthermore, these need to be utilized in a moral and ethical manner. The education imparts information among individuals in terms of the factor that they need to work diligently in promoting enhancement of their career prospects. Furthermore, one needs to put emphasis on promoting well-being and goodwill of family and community members. Therefore, individuals are able to acquire an efficient understanding of the meaning and significance of women empowerment, when they acknowledge the importance of education.

Acquisition of employment opportunities is regarded as one of the major goals of individuals, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds. The women, belonging to under-privileged sections of the society aspire to get engaged in employment opportunities. The individuals need to ensure, these are suitable to their competencies, abilities and aptitude. The different fields that are selected are, education, arts, literature, architecture, science, technology, medical, healthcare, engineering, journalism, law and so forth. As a consequence, they will render an important contribution in bringing about improvements in their financial positions. In this manner, they will be able to promote enhancement of their overall standards of living. This is apparently understood that in all types of employment opportunities, the individuals are required to be well-equipped in terms of job duties and methodologies to carry these out efficiently. Furthermore, they need to be well-informed in terms of ways of promoting well-being of family and community members. Therefore, one is able to acquire an understanding of the meaning and significance of women empowerment, when they get engaged in employment opportunities.

The health is considered as wealth. In order to acquire empowerment opportunities, it is necessary for women to promote good health from physical as well as psychological perspectives. They need to be supported by their family members in putting into operation all the factors required in promoting good health. In some cases, women are able to acquire empowerment

opportunities, even when they are overwhelmed by different types of health problems and illnesses. But it is of utmost significance for women to be psychologically sound. This is necessary in honing analytical, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. These are necessary in putting into practice various job duties successfully within personal and professional lives. The women need to have access to medical and health care facilities. Within rural communities, these are in an under-developed condition; hence, the women migrate to urban communities, in cases of severe health problems and illnesses. Furthermore, consulting medical practitioners, health care specialists and professional counsellors is worthwhile in augmenting information in terms of various factors. Therefore, an understanding of the meaning and significance of women empowerment is acquired, when women have access to all the opportunities to promote good health, physically and psychologically.

Measures to be implemented in promoting Women Empowerment:

In order to lead to progression of individuals, communities and nation as a whole, women empowerment needs to be promoted. It is well-understood that educating the women is educating the entire nation. Hence, women should not be looked down upon, but they should be provided with the opportunities, which would be facilitating in promoting their empowerment. The prevalence of gender inequality is regarded as one of the major barriers within the course of leading to progression of women. Hence, particularly among economically weaker sections of the society, the individuals are required to augment their information in terms of measures, which are to be implemented in promoting women empowerment (2004 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, 2006). The measures are put into operation on an individual basis as well as through working in collaboration and integration with other members. One of the important aspects that needs to be taken into account is, positivity needs to be reinforced in these measures.

These are stated as follows:

Giving them Independence:

The women should be provided with independence in putting into operation decision-making processes. The individuals, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds are required to make decisions in terms of number of aspects, i.e. education, employment opportunities, careers, settlement and so forth. The family members within natal and marital homes need to provide opportunities to women to make their own decisions. In enhancing their career prospects, they are required to make decisions, which are suitable to them. For instance, one needs to make selection of subjects and fields, in which one is able to carry out job duties in a well-ordered manner.

The women ensure that they put into operation the job duties and responsibilities, which would be approving to their family as well as community members. In other words, they need to focus on promoting their well-being and goodwill. The women may or may not take ideas and suggestions from family members. Furthermore, analysis is conducted in terms of various types of alternatives and options in putting into practice decision-making processes. Therefore, giving them independence is regarded as one of the indispensable measures to be implemented in promoting women empowerment.

Providing Education:

The individuals, belonging to rural communities have formed the viewpoint that education is the instrument, which not only imparts information in terms of academic subjects and concepts, but also in terms of ways that are necessary in emerging into moral and ethical human beings and productive citizens of the country. Hence, providing education is essential in promoting empowerment opportunities. The women need to be encouraged towards getting enrolled in educational institutions of all levels. As a consequence, they will contribute in augmenting different types of skills and abilities. Furthermore, these need to be utilized in a moral and ethical manner.

The education imparts information among individuals in terms of the factor that they need to work diligently in promoting enhancement of their career prospects. In addition, one augments information in terms of norms, values, standards and principles. Furthermore, one needs to put emphasis on up-gradation of motivation and concentration levels towards job duties. In addition, one needs to be well-prepared to overcome all types of setbacks. As a consequence, one will contribute efficiently in achieving all types of educational goals. Therefore, providing education is one of the significant measures to be implemented in promoting women empowerment.

Getting engaged in Employment Opportunities:

Acquisition of employment opportunities is regarded as one of the major goals of individuals, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds. The women, belonging to under-privileged sections of the society aspire to get engaged in employment opportunities. The individuals need to ensure, these are suitable to their competencies, abilities and aptitude. The different fields that are selected are, education, arts, literature, architecture, science, technology, medical, healthcare, engineering, business, management, administration, journalism, law and so forth. As a consequence, they will render an important contribution in bringing about improvements in their financial positions. In this manner, they will be able to promote enhancement of their overall standards of living.

This is apparently understood that in all types of employment opportunities, the individuals are required to be well-equipped in terms of different types of job duties and methodologies to carry these out efficiently. Furthermore, they need to be well-informed in terms of ways that are vital in promoting well-being of family and community members. In other words, in all fields, one not only needs to generate income, but promote community well-being as well. Therefore, getting engaged in employment opportunities is an eminent measure to be implemented in promoting women empowerment.

Focusing on their Health and Well-being:

When women are committed towards acquiring empowerment opportunities, it is necessary for them to promote good health from physical as well as psychological perspectives. They need to be supported by their family members in putting into operation all the factors that are vital in promoting good health. In some cases, women are able to acquire empowerment opportunities, even when they are overwhelmed by different types of health problems and illnesses. But it is of utmost significance for women to be psychologically sound. This is necessary in honing analytical, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Furthermore, wise and productive decisions will be made.

These skills are necessary in putting into practice various job duties successfully within personal and professional lives. The women need to have access to medical and health care facilities. Within rural communities, these are in an under-developed condition; hence, the women migrate to urban communities, in cases of severe health problems and illnesses. Furthermore, consulting medical practitioners, health care specialists and professional counsellors is worthwhile in augmenting information in terms of various factors. Therefore, focusing on their health and well-being is an expedient measure to be implemented in promoting women empowerment.

Encouraging Participation in Politics:

The women need to be encouraged to participate in politics. The political space has been monopolized by men. The representation of women within parliament and state legislations has never exceeded seven percent. It has remained around five percent. This has been over the years, despite of the increase in the visibility of women. Within politics, the decision-making processes have been considered as vital. In other words, there are number of factors in terms of which decisions are required to be made. The women have not been given the rights and authority of putting into operation the decision-making processes. Since ancient times, they are required to obey the instructions of the male members of the households. Within natal and marital homes, male members make decisions and women are required to abide by these.

Within urban communities, women are encouraged to participate in political campaigns, whereas, in some of the rural households, they are considered as subordinates to their male counterparts. Hence, it is well-understood, encouraging participation in politics is considered as essential in promoting women empowerment. Therefore, encouraging participation in politics is a meaningful measure to be implemented in promoting women empowerment.

Promoting Entrepreneurship:

Entrepreneurship is referred to free enterprises. In promoting empowerment opportunities, women get engaged in entrepreneurship as well. They augment their skills and abilities and get engaged in production and manufacturing of various products, i.e. artworks, handicrafts, garments, jewellery, candles, pottery, baskets, and food items. It is understood on a comprehensive basis that they have one of the major goals of leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. When they are wholeheartedly committed towards achievement of this goal, they are required to augment information in terms of various methods and techniques, i.e. labour market factors, customer demands and so forth.

As a consequence of satisfying needs and requirements of customers, women entrepreneurs will render an important contribution in leading to an increase in productivity and profitability. In this manner, they will be able to contribute efficiently in excelling in their tasks. Hence, the ultimate outcome is, one will be able to bring about improvements in their standards of living. Furthermore, they will be self-dependent and not depend on others in sustaining their living conditions in an effective manner. Therefore, promoting entrepreneurship is a worthwhile measure to be implemented in promoting women empowerment.

Encouraging Participation in various Activities:

The women need to be encouraged to participate in various activities, i.e. economic, religious, cultural and political. Through participation in these activities, they will augment their information in terms of number of factors. Furthermore, they will contribute efficiently in augmenting their competencies, abilities and aptitude. The women, belonging to rural communities are overwhelmed by backwardness and seclusion. They are unaware in terms of various factors, which would be facilitating in leading to their progression. Hence, through participation in different types of activities, they acquire the opportunities of integrating with other individuals. In this manner, they are generating information in terms of different types of factors that are necessary in acquiring empowerment opportunities. The women need to augment information in terms of different types of factors, which are necessary in doing well in one's job duties and achieving desired goals. The participation in different types of activities is

essential in honing confidence levels among women. Furthermore, up-gradation will take place in their overall personality traits as well. As a consequence, they will render an important contribution in doing well in their job duties and generating desired outcomes. Therefore, encouraging participation in various activities is a favourable measure to be implemented in promoting women empowerment.

Honing Leadership Skills among Women:

The family members within natal and marital homes are required to put emphasis on leading to up-gradation of leadership skills among women. In the implementation of this task, there are number of factors that need to be taken into account, i.e. giving them independence; providing education; getting engaged in employment opportunities; focusing on their health and well-being; encouraging participation in politics; promoting entrepreneurship among them; encouraging participation in various activities; inculcating the traits of morality and ethics among them; implementing the traits of diligence, resourcefulness and conscientiousness; honing analytical and critical-thinking skills; providing solutions to different types of problems in an effective manner and creating amiable and pleasant environmental conditions.

The women need to augment information in terms of different types of factors, which are necessary in doing well in one's tasks and activities and achieving desired goals. The participation in different types of activities is essential in honing confidence levels among women. Furthermore, up-gradation will take place in their overall personality traits as well. As a consequence, they will render an important contribution in doing well in their job duties and achieving desired goals. Therefore, honing leadership skills among women is an advantageous measure to be implemented in promoting women empowerment.

Providing Equal Rights and Opportunities:

The rural individuals need to appreciate the birth of girls. Furthermore, they need to make provision of equal rights and opportunities to them as compared to their male counterparts. There have been transformations in the viewpoints and perspectives of rural individuals. They have formed the viewpoint that girls can also render an important contribution in promoting well-being and goodwill of their families and communities. For this purpose, they are to be given various types of opportunities, i.e. providing education, augmenting skills and abilities, promoting good health, physically and psychologically, encouraged to participate in various types of social, economic, political, cultural and religious activities, get engaged in employment opportunities and so forth. As a consequence of making provision of various types of rights and opportunities to girls, they will be

encouraged towards acquisition of empowerment opportunities.

When family and community members make provision of equal rights and opportunities to women, they are rendering an important contribution in leading to up-gradation of motivation and concentration levels. The mind-sets of women get stimulated and they will contribute efficiently in carrying out job duties in an efficient manner and generating desired outcomes. Therefore, providing equal rights and opportunities is a suitable measure to be implemented in promoting women empowerment.

Providing them Control over Material Resources, Finances and Property:

The family members within natal and marital homes are required to provide control over material resources, finances and property. The financial resources are the monetary resources. These are the key in making purchases of various items, bring about changes in various factors, and fulfil various types of needs and requirements. Material resources are the tools, devices, machinery and equipment. Property is referred to assets. Earlier, there was a rule that after the death of the husband, widows were not entitled to have a right in the property of their husbands. But in the present world, there has been transformations taking place in the viewpoints of individuals and women should have a share in the property and assets.

This is regarded as one of the essential factors in bringing about improvements in overall standards of living of women. They will in this manner, not only incur the feeling of satisfaction, but will render an important contribution in forming cordial and amiable terms and relationships with them. As a consequence, they will render an important contribution in bringing about improvements in their overall quality of lives. Therefore, providing them control over material resources, finances and property is a useful measure to be implemented in promoting women empowerment.

Characteristics of Women Empowerment:

The women, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds aspire to acquire empowerment opportunities. These opportunities will be facilitating in living their lives in a well-ordered manner and to the fullest. In this manner, they form the viewpoint that they will be able to bring about improvements in their overall standards of living. Furthermore, they will be able to render an important contribution in promoting enhancement of family and community members (Women in India: An Overview, n.d.). When conducting research on women empowerment, it is necessary to acquire an efficient understanding of characteristics of women empowerment. These are stated as follows:

1. Women empowerment is referred to making provision of rights and opportunities to women to enhance their livelihoods opportunities.

2. Women empowerment inculcates the greater degree of self-confidence and self-esteem among women to bring about improvements in their overall quality of lives.
3. The women are able to acquire an efficient understanding of their rights and responsibilities towards oneself and others.
4. The women are able to reinforce their capacity and power to resist discriminatory treatment within homes, educational institutions, employment settings and other public places.
5. In this manner, women are able to augment information in terms of all the necessary factors, which would make them self-reliant and self-confident.
6. In this manner, women acquire the autonomy to make their own decisions in terms of various factors.
7. They are able to exercise control over financial resources, material resources and property.
8. Women get prepared in an appropriate manner to challenge traditional power relations and equations.
9. All types of gender-based discriminations within all structures of the society and all institutions get abolished through women empowerment.
10. The women are encouraged to participate in discussion meetings, functions and events, where, they are allowed to give their ideas and suggestions.
11. Women empowerment involves exposing the expressive power of the existing gender and social relations.
12. The women are able to generate information in terms of all the necessary factors, which would enable them to promote good health and well-being, physically and psychologically.
13. Within all spheres of life, personal and professional, women are able to lead to up-gradation of concentration and motivation levels towards putting into operation various types of job duties and responsibilities.
14. The family and community members make provision of equal rights and opportunities as compared to their male counterparts.
15. The women in this manner have greater knowledge and access to resources. In this manner, they are able to implement various types of modern, scientific and innovative methods in putting into operation various tasks and activities.
16. Women empowerment takes place within social, economic, political, psychological and sociological spheres. The individuals, groups and communities will progress through promoting women empowerment.

17. The women empowerment up-grades the skills and abilities among women to do well in one's job duties and generate desired outcomes.
18. Changes are brought about in the structures, philosophies and principles, which prepares women to be at par with their male counterparts. Hence, they do not remain subordinates to men any longer.
19. Within personal lives, women are required to take care of needs and requirements of their family members. Hence, acquiring empowerment opportunities prepares women in an appropriate manner.
20. It is apparently understood that women get overwhelmed by different types of problems and challenging situations. Acquisition of empowerment opportunities prepares them in a well-ordered and satisfactory manner.

Women Empowerment prepares Women to live Life to the Fullest:

The women need to be encouraged to participate in various activities, i.e. economic, social, religious, cultural and political. Through participation in these activities, they will augment their information in terms of number of factors. Throughout their lives, they need to acknowledge how empowerment is advantageous to them. Furthermore, they will contribute efficiently in augmenting their competencies, abilities and aptitude. The women, belonging to rural communities are overwhelmed by backwardness and seclusion. They are unaware in terms of various factors, which would be facilitating in leading to their progression (Women's Rights are Human Rights, 2014). Hence, through participation in different types of activities, they acquire the opportunities of integrating with other individuals. In this manner, they are generating information in terms of different types of factors that are necessary in acquiring empowerment opportunities. The women need to augment information in terms of different types of factors, which are necessary in doing well in one's job duties and achieving desired goals. The participation in different types of activities is essential in honing confidence levels among women. Therefore, it is well-understood, women empowerment prepares women to live life to the fullest.

The rural individuals need to appreciate the birth of girls. Furthermore, they need to make provision of equal rights and opportunities to them as compared to their male counterparts. There have been transformations taking place in the viewpoints and perspectives of rural individuals. They have formed the viewpoint that girls can also render an important contribution in promoting well-being and goodwill of their families and communities. For this purpose, they are to be given various types of opportunities, i.e. providing education, augmenting skills and abilities, promoting good health, physically and psychologically, encouraged to participate in social,

economic, political, cultural and religious activities, get engaged in employment opportunities and so forth. As a consequence of making provision of various types of rights and opportunities to girls, they will be encouraged towards acquisition of empowerment opportunities. Furthermore, they will be well-prepared and put in their best efforts in leading to progression. Therefore, it is understood on a comprehensive basis, women empowerment prepares women to live life to the fullest.

Through acquisition of empowerment opportunities, women are able to generate information in terms of various factors, which are necessary in leading to progression. These are, being well-informed in terms of job duties and responsibilities; being well-equipped in terms of methodologies and procedures; utilizing modern, scientific and innovative methods and materials; inculcating the traits of morality and ethics; implementing the traits of diligence, resourcefulness and conscientiousness; reinforcing the traits of efficiency, honesty and truthfulness; making wise and productive decisions; promoting good health and well-being, physically and psychologically; coping with various types of problems in an effective manner; forming positive viewpoints in terms of various factors; reinforcing a constructive approach and forming cordial and amiable terms and relationships with family and community members. The acknowledgement and implementation of all the factors will be facilitating in preparing women in promoting well-being of themselves and others, including family and community members. In this manner, up-gradation will take place of women, belonging to deprived, marginalized and economically weaker sections of the society. Therefore, it can be stated, women empowerment prepares women to live life to the fullest.

The women, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds aspire to acquire empowerment opportunities. The occurrences of changes are apparent in the lives of women. In one's lives, in both personal and professional spheres, there are transformations taking place in terms of various factors, i.e. job duties, responsibilities, methodologies, procedures, techniques, family, relationships, health conditions, personality traits, housing, property, assets and overall standards of living. Women empowerment inculcates the greater degree of self-confidence and self-esteem among women to bring about improvements in their overall quality of lives. Furthermore, they are able to prepare themselves in an adequate manner to bring about changes in a positive manner. In some cases, there are occurrences of setbacks and negativities in terms of various factors, hence, acquisition of empowerment opportunities will prepare women in coping with these in an effective manner. Furthermore, these will be prevented from giving rise to impediments within the course of implementation of tasks and activities. Therefore, one

is able to acquire an understanding of the factor that women empowerment prepares women to live life to the fullest.

CONCLUSION:

Women empowerment is referred to giving rights and opportunities to women to progress and enhance their living conditions. Measures to be implemented in promoting women empowerment are, giving them independence, providing education, getting engaged in employment opportunities, focusing on their health and well-being, encouraging participation in politics, promoting entrepreneurship, encouraging participation in various activities, honing leadership skills among women, providing equal rights and opportunities and providing them control over material resources, finances and property. It is necessary to understand characteristics of women empowerment. Women empowerment prepares women to live life to the fullest. Finally, it can be stated, promoting women empowerment is facilitating in leading to progression of women.

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