

Views on different facets of women empowerment

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Abstract

The World Bank has identified empowerment as one of the key constituent elements of poverty reduction. Economic development of a nation is dependent on women empowerment. Women have maximum contribution in creation of society. Women empowerment includes women awareness of their rights, self-confidence, to have a control over their lives both at home and outside and their ability to bring a change in the society. Women's empowerment has been an issue of immense discussions and contemplation over the last few decades world-wide. This paper is an attempt to know the views of women regarding different facets of women empowerment. All the relevant data has been collected through a sample survey of 240 respondents. The data was taken from Jaipur, Chandigarh and Delhi. A survey was conducted to verify the hypotheses and research framework. The data was interpreted with the help of Mean and ANOVA. Major findings exhibit that there is significant difference between understanding the different facets of women empowerment.

Keywords: Women empowerment, Economic development, Contribution, Society, Rights.

1. Introduction

Women are the part of our society but they have less authority. Women have maximum contribution in creation of society. Generally, there is discrimination between men and women. Women have hindrances in every aspect of work. From centuries, societies have been trying to develop without giving women their rights. For the welfare of society, condition of women should be improved. Both male and females are components of a society and they are depending upon each other. Men are empowered in the society and women are considered their servant. Women do not have their rights. Women empowerment includes women awareness of their rights, self-confidence, to have a control over their lives both at home and outside and their ability to bring a change in the society. Empowerment has many elements which depend upon and relate to each other i.e. economic, social, political and personal. Economic empowerment means to give woman her rights in the economy. Social empowerment means status of woman in the society should be equal to man by eliminating injustice and inequity. Women should have respectable value in the society. Political empowerment means women should have seats in provincial and national assemblies and giving one woman right of one vote. Personal empowerment means women should have freedom in their personal matters. Women's Empowerment has been an issue of immense discussions and contemplation over the last few decades world-wide. This as an agenda has been on top of the lists of most government plans & programs as well. Efforts have been made on a regular basis across nations to address this issue and enhance the socio-economic status of women. This paper is an attempt to know the views of women regarding different facets of women empowerment.

Literature Review

According to Goldin, C., 1990, "A large number of women has entered in the labor force but not been treated as equals to men. They earn less than men and have less opportunity for growth."

Empowerment is a multi-dimensional process, which should enable women or group of women to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life (Surekharao and Rajamanamma, 1999). "Empowerment comes from Women's groups who seek to empower themselves through greater self-reliance. They have right to determine their own choices in life. They also seek to gain control and access to resources". Empowerment is process, which helps people to gain control of their lives through raising awareness, taking action and working in order to exercise greater control. Empowerment is the feeling that activates the psychological energy to accomplish one's goals (Indiresan, 1999).

Women empowerment is understood as to give power to women for having not only the access to the resources and opportunities but also the ability to utilize these resources and opportunities for their personal and social change (Sophie 2007).

Ban Ki Moon, 2008 described that, "Investing in women is not only the right thing to do but the smart thing to do." "Women perform 66% of the world's work, and produce 50% of the food, yet earn only 10% of the income and own 1% of the property. Whether the issue is improving education in the developing world, or fighting global climate change, or addressing nearly any other challenge we face, empowering women is a critical part of the equation" (Bill Clinton, 2009). A study conducted by Duflo, E., 2011 elucidated that, "Small numbers of women work and for the same work they earn less than men."

Objective of the Study

The aim of the study was to understand the views of women on different facets of women empowerment.

Hypothesis of the Study

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between understanding the different facets of women empowerment.

H₁₁: There is significant difference between understanding the different facets of women empowerment.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference between the women of different cities for their understanding on women empowerment.

H₁₂: There is significant difference between the women of different cities for their understanding on women empowerment.

Research Methodology

A sample survey on 240 women professionals was conducted. The respondents were working in banking and education sector at senior post and having the experience of seven years or above. The sample comprised of both government and private sector employees from Jaipur, Chandigarh and Delhi. 80 respondents from each city were taken. Simple random sampling was used to select the sample. For the primary data, the information was gathered through a questionnaire. Data was

collected by face to face interaction with the respondents. The aim of the paper was to measure views on the different facets of women empowerment. 'Economic empowerment', 'Political empowerment', 'Health empowerment' and 'Educational empowerment' were the considered dimensions for women empowerment in the current study.

Analysis and Interpretations

Table 1: Mean values for different facets of women empowerment

Facets of women empowerment	Cities		
	Jaipur	Chandigarh	Delhi
Economic Empowerment	3.5	4.0	4.0
Political Empowerment	3.0	3.1	3.3
Health Empowerment	3.1	3.2	3.2
Educational Empowerment	3.4	3.6	3.6

Table 2: Two way ANOVA table for women empowerment

Sources of Variation	Degree of Freedom	Sum of Squares	Mean Squares	F
Treatments(Facets of women empowerment)	3	0.99	0.33	0.33/0.0125 = 26.4
Blocks(Cities)	2	0.175	0.0875	0.0875/0.0125 = 7
Error(Chance)	6	0.075	0.0125	
Total	11	1.24		

The table value of F_{3,6} and F_{2,6} at a 5% level of significance is given 4.76 and 5.14 respectively. The corresponding sample F values for both are 26.4 and 7 respectively. Since the computed F values are greater than the corresponding table values, the null hypothesis is rejected in both cases. Therefore it can be concluded that there is a difference between the different facets of women empowerment due to its understanding and because of the cities where measurements were taken.

Conclusion

The World Bank has identified empowerment as one of the key constituent elements of poverty reduction. Economic development of a nation is dependent on women empowerment. The past three decades have witnessed a steadily increasing awareness of the need to empower women through measures to increase social, economic and political equity, and broader access to fundamental human rights, improvements in nutrition, basic health and education. Gender is not synonymous with women, nor is it a zero-sum game implying loss for men; rather, it refers to both women and men, and to their status, relative to each other. Gender equality refers to that stage of human social development at which "the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals will not be determined by the fact of being born male or female," in other words, a stage when both men and women realize their full potential.

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