

ISSN No: 2394-6563
Vol. 3, No.4
International Refereed
Index Impact Factor - 3.426

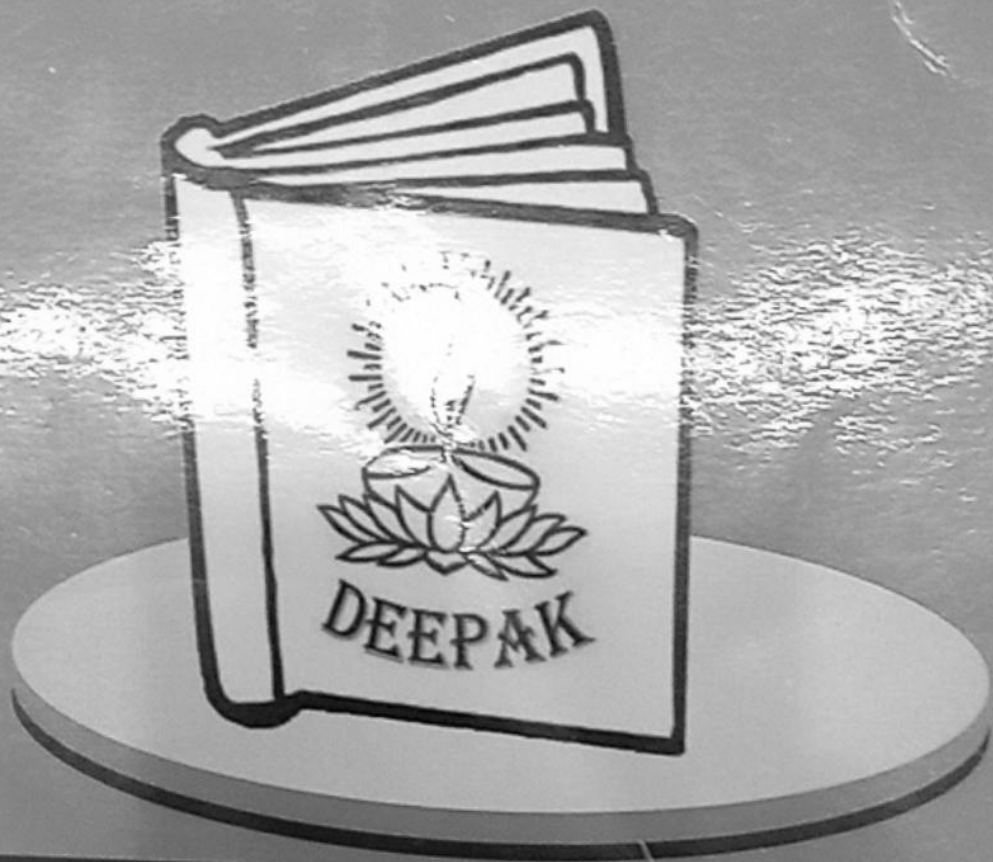
Deepak

Social Science Research Journal

AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL

(A Multi-Disciplinary Quarterly Journal)

October - 2017



Chief Editor
S. Bhardwaj

DEEPAK: AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL

(A Multi- Disciplinary Quarterly Journal)

Chief Editor

S. BHARDWAJ Bhardwajsonu199@gmail.com Mobile No. - 08684865072, 8950296360

Advisory Board

- **Prof. Kultaj Singh**
Physical Education, MDU Rohtak.
- **Dr. Satpal Vats**
Department of Military Science, MDU Rohtak.
- **Dr. Chander Shekhar**
Assistant Prof. of History, G.C.W. Sampla.
- **Dr. Pinki Yadav**
Assistant Prof. of Geography, Vaish College Rohtak.
- **Dr. Kamna Solanki**
Assistant Prof. of Computer Science, Department of U.I.E.T., MDU Rohtak.
- **Mr. Parmod Gill**

Editorial Board

- **Prof. Sudhir**
Department of Sanskrit, J.N.U. Delhi.
- **Ashok Khanna**
Assistant Prof. of Commerce and Principal GCW Sampla.
- **Dr. Vandana**
Assistant Prof. of Geography, GCW Dusserkheri, Sonipat.
- **Dr. Rambir Dahan**
Assistant Prof. of English.
- **Dr. Zahra Tabbi**
University of Mashad, Iran.
- **Vijay Dangi Advocate**
- **Prof. R. Sharma**
Department of Political Science, MDU Rohtak.
- **Prof. K.L. Istekhan**
Indus College of Education, Rohtak.
- **Dr. Satpal Sharma**
Department of Mass Communication, Himachal Pradesh University, Solan.
- **Dr. Brahm Parkash**
Assistant Prof. of Political Science, CRK College, Jind.
- **Dr. Jagdeep**
Assistant Prof. of Political Science, G.N.M. (PG) College Ambala Cantt.
- **Dr. Naresh Deshwal**
Assistant Prof. Of Law, C.R. Institute of Law (Rohtak)
- **Dr. Joginder Mor**
Assistant Prof. Of Law, C.R. Institute of Law (Rohtak)

• GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

The paper and article should be sent according to the following guidelines:

Title: The title of paper/article should be short and accurate.

Authors/s Name and institutional affiliations only should be given with the title. Address, qualification, etc. May be provided at the end of the paper.

Word Limit: Your Research Papers should not be more than 2000 words.

Abstract: Abstract of the paper should not be more than 200 words.

Keywords: The abstract should be followed by 5-7 Keywords.

Methodology: This should cover Techniques, Sample and Tools/Measures

Results: Provide relevant facts only. Data may be given preferably in the form of tables or occasionally in figure/text but do not repeat same data in more than one form. Do not include too many tables. Try to combine these wherever possible. Use Arabic numerals for the table and figure numbers, these should be carefully planned to fit the production size of printed page.

For **Hindi and Sanskrit** papers, use **Kruti Dev 10 or Walkman-Chanakya 902** For **English** papers, use **Times New Roman or Arial**

Declaration: The author has to give a declaration that paper/article has not been published elsewhere. The printer, publisher and the editorial board are not responsible for the authenticity of the paper/article. Submitted paper must be accompanied, by (a) a declaration that it has not been previously published nor is being considered for publication elsewhere, and (b) a brief biographical sketch of the author giving current/recent institutional affiliation, major publications and present research interests.

Reference: For References at The End Follow APA Style (American Psychological Association) In The Following Format:

Articles: Brar, J. S. Singh, S. and Ghuman, R. S. (2008), "costs of Higher Education in Punjab: Levels, Pattern, and Efficiency Issues," *Journal of Educational Planning and Administration*, Vol.22, No.2, PP. 153-177.

Book Titles: Barro, R.J. and Sala-i-Martin, X.(1995), *Economic growth*, New York, McGraw-Hill.

Chapters in the Book: Brar, J.S. (2008), "public Expenditure on Education: An Evaluation," in Ghuman, R.S. and Gurnail Singh (eds), *Rural Development in Punjab: A Success Story* Ganga Astray, New Delhi Routledge.

Internet Source: OECD/UNESCO (2006) Address at Kokrajhar, Assam, 16 January, *The Assam Tribune*.

Newspaper: Singh, Manmohan (2006), Address at Kokrajhar, Assam, 16 January, *The Assam Tribune*.

Reports: Ghuman, R.S. Singh, S. and J.S. Brar (2005), *Unit cost of Higher Education in Rural Punjab: A Study of Universities and their Affiliated College*, New Delhi, A Report Submitted to Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

Thesis: Kaur, Jaswinder (2004) *changing Scenario of Primary Education in Rural Punjab: a case Study of Eroze pur district*, M.Phil. Dissertation (unpublished, Patiala, Punjabi University).

Working paper: Agarwal, P. (2006), *Higher Education in India: The Need for change*, Working paper no. 180, *Indian council for Research on International Economic Relations*, New Delhi.

Place of Publication	:	Rohtak, Haryana (India) 124001
Periodicity of Publication	:	Quarterly
Publisher	:	S. Bhardwaj
Nationality	:	Indian
Ownership	:	President, Dada Juglal Educational & Social Welfare Society

Published By : DJL Educational & Social Welfare Society

No part of this Publication may be reopoduced, transmitted or disseminated, in any from
or by any means without prior written permission from the publisher.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

Dr. Jyoti

Department of Political Science

Indira Gandhi University Meerpur, Rewari (Haryana)

Phone No: 09459248727

Abstract : *Demographically, Women hold around a half of the world's population. It is therefore impossible to establish a society based on the principles of liberty, equality and justice in which women are ignored, isolated and marginalized from the modernization process. India is a country where discrimination and injustice against women is still a cause of concern for both policy makers and social reformers. Much has been done after independence to improve the socio-economic and political conditions of women in India. Though, so far a little has been achieved towards this end. Undoubtedly, there has been marginal women empowerment rather than inclusive empowerment of women. The benefits of modernization have not yet been realized by the majority of women especially, in the rural India. Large scale poverty, unemployment and increased crime against women only reflect the need to enhance efforts towards women empowerment in India. Now the question arises why women empowerment has been so limited and slow in spite of increased efforts from public-private and civil society. As rightly mentioned by Amartya Sen in his capability approach, empowerment is not restricted to the distribution of values, resources and facilities. It means to ensure a highly enabled environment which could lead to self reliance, capability enhancement and greater participation of women in socio-economic and political decision making process. Another contradiction Amartya Sen has highlighted is that a faster growth in GDP does not necessarily means the empowerment of marginalized section of the society. For instance, India and China are presently two of the fastest growing economies on the earth but both still have largest numbers of world's poor people. The paper is an effort to highlight such anomalies and contradictions which has led to limited success in achieving the goal of the real women empowerment in India. Present paper is an attempt to analyse and investigate the trends, pattern and strategy toward women empowerment in India. The paper will also focus on the development strategy which could lead to actual empowerment of women in socio-economic and political arena.*

Key Words: Demographically, Unemployment, Women Empowerment, Capability Approach, Socio-Economic

Introduction : One important issue that has attracted wider public attention with the outset the 21st century is the emancipation of women in all aspects of human life. In the past, women have been subjected to exploitation, discrimination, inequality and injustice in a male dominated society. There have been cases of cruelty and discrimination against women in all parts of the world. In spite of increased socio-economic, political and legal assistance women in the society, the cases of discrimination and crimes against women are still large in numbers. It has been confirmed in a number of studies conducted by United Nations Development Programme and also in the studies of International Human Right Watch that women still feel insecure in the wider public spaces.

India is the largest democracy on the earth in which the half of its population belongs to women. Women play a significant role in nation-building through nurturing family, the primary unit of the society, contributing substantially to the national economy and making democracy a success. The highly restrictive culture of Indian society has been a major factor for low participation of women in public sector. Consequently, 90 per cent of female forces are engaged in unorganized sector (The World Bank, 1991). Women are predominately, engaged in agricultural and informal household labour. Women are also a real incubator of rural economy, which serves as the backbone of Indian economy. Women constitute 32.2 per cent of the total workforce and among them 72.8 per cent are employed in agriculture as against 27.2 per cent

men. Women workers are predominantly in the informal sector with a share of about 91.2 per cent. Women contribute 23.4 per cent of the GDP in the informal sector and 16.2 per cent in the formal sector. The overall contribution of women to the GDP remains about 19.8 per cent (Raveendran, 2010).

However, in practice women are increasingly discriminated and exploited in the wider public domain today. Present paper is an attempt to critically analyze the contour of women empowerment in India. The paper highlights the Achievement and limitations of contemporary strategy of women empowerment and gender justice in India. Present study is an attempt to evaluate the contemporary state efforts towards the actual empowerment of women in the society in the context of Sen's capability approach. The study will also discuss a few strategies to ensure the real women empowerment in the country.

History of Women Empowerment in India

Indeed, Women empowerment is not a recent phenomenon in India. The country represents one of the world's oldest civilizations where women enjoyed a place of proud privileges and authority but, in a limited sphere. Women were privileged members of Vedic Sabha and Samiti in ancient period. However, the medieval period could not find much space for women participation as the scenario remained grim in fighting battles and expending mighty Mughal Empire while confronting resilient Hindu Kings. The advent of British Empire was a major catalyst to transform subaltern voices in both negative and positive perspective. The social reform initiated by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Daya Nand Saraswati, Acharya Vinoba Bhave had played a vital role in the emancipation of women in India.

After Independence, the government of India and state governments initiated a comprehensive strategy to increase the participation of women in various branches of socio-economic and political domain. More women in politics will bring a new culture and discipline into politics, which in turn, will encourage greater participation by women. More women in power at every level will ensure that women's needs get higher priority than they currently do. The needs to have better representation of women in decision-making bodies is to advance their struggle for basic rights including food, work and a life free from violence inside and outside home. According to Understanding Gender Equality in India-2012 Report, it is not just at home that women face discrimination. Our Constitution is not spared either. Women occupy less than 8 per cent of the Cabinet positions, less than 9 per cent of seats in high courts and Supreme Court and less than 12 per cent of administrators and managers are women.

So there is a need to increase the numbers of women representatives in the Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies (SLAs). Rising percentage of women in political decision-making from grass-root institutions to parliamentary participation resonate the importance of constitutional and statutory amendments such as 73rd amendments in transforming the women's stature to a more constructive and creative level (Mohanty, 1995). Though, it is a paradox that while the percentage of women participation has increased but they are still far from the actual decision-making process (Singh and Bakshi, 2007).

The 108th Constitutional Amendment Bill passed in the Upper House in 2008 provides for reservation for women in the LS and the SLAs and could be a real incubator towards women empowerment if the bill is enforced into a law. The bill could be a major factor in empowering women through increased their deliberative and decision making power. The women's reservation bill, is seen as filling a crucial gap in legislatures - at the Centre and the State - to allow for 50 percent of the population to have a say in the decision-making process. So, the bill reserving one-third seats in LS and SLAs, strikes at the heart of gender representations in India (Government of India, 2008).

In addition, there is a need to ensure greater participation of women in public domain through active welfare policy formation and implementation through institution level. Presently, there are a large numbers of

women centered welfare policies in both rural and urban sector which need focused strategy to accrue desired result. The National Policy for the empowerment of women (2001) aims to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women in socio-economic and political arena. The policy objectives highlights primarily on; exploring an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realize their full potential, to ensure equal access to health care, to ensure quality education at all levels and elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girl child (Nayak, 2012).

More importantly, the focus on women empowerment has to be proffered to rural development. Rural India holds a bedrock position in transforming the national economy to a formidable and self-reliant level. Agriculture and allied sectors are the backbone of rural economy and, thus need focused attention from both state and central government. Agriculture sector has been the backbone of Indian economy that ranks only second after China and European Union, in term of farm output worldwide.

An Assessment to Women Empowerment Strategy in India

The universal declaration of human rights, (1948) under the aegis of United Nations Organizations (UNO), ensures the equality of honour and treatment to all, irrespective to one's caste, class, race, decent, religion, sex and ethno-cultural distinctiveness's (Devetak et. al. 2007). Article 55 of U. N. pledges to promote "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language and religion" (Kapoor 2004).

Similarly, the constitution of India works as an impartial and vigilant guardian to the basic human rights of its citizen. The incorporation of fundamental rights in the Part III of Indian constitution not only ensure the right to equality, liberty, Right to life but also works as an effective custodian of religious, cultural and educational rights of the minorities communities of India (Bakshi 2005).

In addition, Supreme Court of India, High Courts of Indian states and various institutional arrangements such as National Human Rights Commission, State Human Rights Commissions, and Statutory Commissions for Minorities and Tribal Rights are honestly and sincerely providing their respective physical, financial and technical assistance to the fulfilment of said objective. The presence of a large web of quality educational and research institutions also works to create awareness's about the essential human rights of the citizen of India.

In spite of a large numbers of incentives initiated towards women empowerment in India, women are still deprived from their basis human rights. There are still wide spread discrimination, injustice and crimes which are committed against women. In spite of increased socio-economic and political participation of women they are still far from living a life of liberty, equality and self reliance. So there is a need to reassess and restructure the present strategy to women empowerment in India.

Women Empowerment Through Capability Development

Most of the development and poverty alleviation programmes in India in post independence years till 1980s were based on trickle-down effect and hardly took into consideration the gender inequality. Capability approach developed by the champion of welfare economics, Amartya Sen is an attempt to analyses the impact of modern welfare policies in the actual empowerment of the people. Sen argued for five components in assessing capability:

1. The importance of real freedoms in the assessment of a person's advantage
2. Individual differences in the ability to transform resources into valuable activities
3. The multi-variate nature of activities giving rise to happiness
4. A balance of materialistic and non-materialistic factors in evaluating human welfare.

If we analyse Sen's above mentioned components of capability development with that of contemporary path and strategy of women development in India, it becomes clear that the real empowerment of women is quite marginal and limited in nature. In spite of increased socio-economic and political participation of women, the incidences of crimes and discrimination are still alarming in India. The benefits of development are still concentrated to less than 10 percent of the women in India. It is indeed a great contradiction that, in spite of increased public and private efforts towards women empowerment the society is still dominated by patriarchal mindset and value system. The following strategies could better help to ensure actual empowerment of women irrespective to their cast, class, rural and urban background. A holistic and inclusive strategy towards women empowerment need to:

1. Focus on women education to enable them to realize their rights and duties in the society. Education is also a tool toward achieving self-reliance by getting adequate job opportunities.
2. The government's role in eliminating inequities, hunger and malnutrition is vital not only to fulfill the first requirement but is also vital to fight crimes and the cases of women harassment in the society as it have been revealed in various studies and survey that the frequency of crime against women is more in women who are poor and illiterate.
3. More importantly, law enforcement is the key to reduce crimes against women in society. Rigorous punishment to criminals and speedy justice of the victims is the way ahead.
4. Civil society and self help groups could play a decisive role toward prevention of crimes against women and also enabling them to become enlightened and vigilant citizen which according to Harold Laski is a key to protect your rights and liberties.
5. Finally, the real empowerment will come through ensuring actual participation of women in socio-economic and political decision making which will enable women to decide their fate by their own wise efforts.

Conclusion : On the basis of above analysis, it is clear that the efforts to fight against discrimination, injustice and crime against women have increased substantially in recent decades. The increased visibility if women in public domain is a matter of great satisfaction. Though, this empowerment is narrowly concentrated to elite women in the society only. A large numbers of rural and lower cast women are still deprived from their basic civil amenities and liberties. The strategy to provide increasing numbers of socio-economic and political incentives and legal protection to women has only solved tactical goals of women empowerment not the strategic goals. So, the most important thing is to enable them to stand firmly on their own strong feet. It is worthwhile to conclude the issue of women empowerment with these visionary words of U. N. Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon "Social, political and economic equality for women is integral to the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals. Until women and girls are liberated from poverty and injustice, all our goals — peace, security, sustainable development — stands in jeopardy".

References :

1. Bakshi, P. M. (2005), "The Constitution of India", New Delhi: Universal Law Publishing Company.
2. Government of India, (2008) The Constitution 108th Amendment The World Bank (2011), "World Development Indicator", Online Web:

- <http://www.scribd.com/doc/57736743/World-Development-Indicators-2011> Accessed on 28 February, 2015.
3. Kapoor, S. K. (2004) "International Law and Human Rights", Allahabad: Central Law Agency. <http://www.unfpa.org/gender/empowerment.htm>, Accessed on 3 March, 2015.
 4. Mohanty, B. (1995) "Panchayati Raj, 73rd Constitutional Amendment and Women", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 30, No. 52, pp. 3346-3350.
 5. Nayak, A. P. (2012) "Women Empowerment Myth and Reality" Online Web: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Ashok_Priyadarshi_Nayak Accessed on March 4, 2015.
 6. Raveendran, G. (2010) "Contribution of Women to the National Economy" ILO Asia-Pacific Working Paper Series June, 2010.
 7. Singh, S. and Bakshi, S. (2007) "Impact of 73rd Amendment Act on Women Empowerment-A Study of Punjab and Haryana", *Guru Nanak Journal of Sociology*, vol. 28, no. 1-2, pp. 56-57.
 8. The World Bank (2011), "World Development Indicator", Online Web: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/57736743/World-Development-Indicators-2011> Accessed on 21 February, 2015.
 9. UNICEF, (2007) "Gender Equality -The Big Picture", Online Web: http://www.unicef.org/gender/index_bigpicture.html Accessed on 23 February 2015.