

A Critical Study on Women Centric Problems in India and its Remedial Measures

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Abstract—*The research paper will study the problems that are faced by women in India since time immemorial. It's a research analysis which will keenly observe the problems and will find solutions. The burning women problems are gender biasness, male dominance, illiteracy, malnutrition and other health issues, child marriage, dowry, marital problems, widowhood, sati, witch-hunt, purda, violence on women, honor killing, physical and mental harassment on women. Even after more than seven decades of independence the problems exists. The literacy rate has increased several folds, women are participating in every walk of life with its male counterpart, there is media enlightenment, development in science and technology still the women-centric problems persists.*

Crimes and atrocities against women are studied. Despite of the existence of law and order, Human Rights Commission, NGOs and social reform groups still the problems cannot be uprooted. It has become necessary for the citizens from every walk of life, irrespective age of gender, caste, creed and profession should come forward and participate to remove the social evils that are faced by the women in most part of the country.

Women are getting education and male members are also enlightened to respect women and consider them to be equal. There is decrease in crime against women but still more control is needed in this aspect. Remedial measures are discussed to solve the problems.

Keywords: *Problems, honor killing, caste, creed and Social evils.*

Introduction

The very existence of a society is not possible without females. Henceforth equal status should be given to females along with the male members of society. No society can develop if the females are not educated and get support from the male counterpart. If males are the one side of a coin of society the females are the other side of the (same) coin. A child gets its first education at his home from his or her mother. School, college and society at large come at a later stage. In the growth and development of the societal structure the females are at the foundation. The base of a child as a good and rational human being, the qualities of determination, decision making, tolerance, discipline, love, respect, empathy,

sympathy, understanding of duties and responsibilities are learnt from the females as mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, wife, friend or any other relationship.

The female entrepreneurs are upcoming in the Indian society and doing good job despite of domestic responsibilities. The females are getting higher education and capable of holding senior positions in government and private organizations. There are females who are doctors, engineers, commercial pilots, in the armed forces which comprises of army, navy and air force. They are doing quite well in their job. But many females had to leave their job in the mid-career due to family obligation like marriage, family, to take care of children and old people in the family.

These days due to financial pressure, high standard of living, trying to get all the luxuries of life, most of the families prefer to have double income which leads the female members of the family to go out of the home and earn.

Women empowerment means their capacity to participate as equal partners in cultural, social, economic and political systems of a society. Even though the world economy has developed into global economy, in both developed and developing countries women have been suppressed in all walks of life for generations.

Though women have achieved success in various spheres of life, the dark areas of humanism do exist even in modern days. We get to hear plenty of cases of rapes, mental and physical harassments, dowry deaths, cases of domestic violence, etc. These news fill our daily newspapers and are very important part of the ugly truths of mankind. Women today are definitely empowered with self-confidence and boldness to carry on the world without fear, yet in terms of women safety, there are still lots to be achieved.

Crimes against women are definitely on the rise. Many women fear to go out of their houses after sunset. They fear being manhandled by brutal men. They fear their own safety. Women are also prone to plenty of incidents of chain

snatching, molestation, eve teasing etc. Such incidents morally bring down the courage of women.

Need of the Study

A society cannot develop if the women are not given equal opportunity and status like that of men. If the females are illiterate, malnourished and weak, it will create a weak and unhealthy society. It's not only male members in the society but females should also get equal status and opportunity to develop a healthy society and a nation.

Objectives of the Study are to

1. Study the various problems faced by Indian women
2. Know the remedial measures given by the government
3. Find out remedial measures which are practical and implicational

The study was done to know the various problems which are faced by women in Indian society from a long time. The government from time to time has given several remedial measures. But it has been observed that neither these measures are not fruitful nor the females and their family members are reluctant to accept them.

The study will help in understanding the various implementation factors to combat the women centric problems in the society which will help in developing a happy and a healthy society. The social activists, NGOs, private organizations, government and citizens from every walk of life can help in reducing and completely uprooting the problems faced by women.

Scope and Utility

The citizens of the country are taken into consideration. The study will help youth, academicians, social activists and citizens at large to understand the hardships and various problems faced women of Indian society. This will also help women of the world in general and specifically South Asian countries women to lead a happy and healthy life and also make their society healthy, happy and strong. The study is giving prime importance to the youth of the nation in understanding the grave consequences of neglecting the needs of women. They also should have the knowledge of the implementation measures in lowering and finally eradicating the women centric problems.

Literature Review

Several researches have been conducted on women centric problems and the roles played by the remedial measures were thoroughly studied by various researchers, academicians, social scientists, researchers, social activists, etc. An attempt is made to review some selected works on women centric problems.

M. Rana, (2014), stated that women empowerment is the process of treating the women with same status with that of men in all the fields of the society. Women Empowerment has become a movement now but in our country it only seems a distant dream. Contrary to today's scenario, even during Vedic era women had enjoyed equal status with men.

Report based on Constitution of India, (2017), the reports says that according to India's constitution, women are legal citizens of the country and have equal rights with men (Indian Parliament). Because of lack of acceptance from the male dominant society, Indian women suffer immensely. Women are responsible for baring children, yet they are malnourished and in poor health. Women are also overworked in the field and complete all the domestic work. Most Indian women are uneducated. Although the country's constitution says women have equal status to men, women are powerless and are mistreated inside and outside the home.

M. Reynu, (2017), stated that as per the latest census carried out by the government of India, there are 933 females for every 1000 males in our country. Male dominance is everywhere. We can find superiority of men in every phase of our lives. When we are born, we have our fathers to look after us, our brothers then share the responsibilities of the father when we enter our teenage years, then we have our life partners who decide everything in our married lives, lastly our sons enter the bandwagon in our old age days. To a very large extent, lives of women in our country are decided and controlled by the men in their lives.

Research Methodology

As women are integral parts of society. Since time immemorial the women folks of the country are facing large number of problems and leading a hard life in comparison to the male counterpart. The research was done to find out the level of awareness about the women centric problems amongst the youth. The study will find out the various problems women are facing. The research study will try to know the remedial measures given by the government from time to time. Also the various remedial measures which are practical and implicational will be known.

Sample Area – Delhi/NCR

Sample Size – 100

Sample Unite – Students of Under Graduate and Post Graduate levels

The research tool, Questionnaire was given to the respondents. The responses received through the questionnaires were analyzed using coding, tabulation and percentage method.

Secondary Data

Government records, surveys and other publications, newspapers and magazines from the archives

Stratified random sampling is done as the students of undergraduate and post graduate were taken into consideration

Findings and Analysis

Table 1: Level of Awareness in Youth about Women centric problems

No. of Respondents	Responses in Percentage	
	Yes	No
100	100	Nil

Table 1 show that all the respondents are aware of the women centric problems. Therefore, it can be said that the youth can help the nation to a great extent in combating the problems faced by women in society. This shows that the youth are enlightened and getting exposed to the knowledge of gender equality and development.

Table 2: Relationship of Health and happiness of women and development of Society

No. of Respondents	Responses in Percentage	
	Yes	No
100	100	Nil

Table 2 shows that all the respondents agree that healthy and happy females can develop good society. And which in turn will help in nation building.

Table 3: Various Women-centric problems

Sr. no.	Women-centric problems	Responses of the Respondents in Percent
1.	Dowry	100%
2.	Gender biasness	90%
3.	Purda	75%
4.	Sati	40%
5.	Child marriage	40%
6.	Sexual harassment	80%
7.	Molestation	80%
8.	Eve teasing	75%
9.	Marital rape	80%
10.	Menstrual Taboos	90%
11.	Malnutrition in women	75%
12.	Not allowed to take any decisions	75%
13.	Male dominance	80%
14.	Witch hunt	65%
15.	Illiteracy in women	75%
16.	Infanticide	65%
17.	Foeticide	80%
18.	Widowhood	75%
19.	Flesh trade and human trafficking	88%
20.	Polygamy	65%
21.	Divorce	90%

22.	Separation	80%
23.	Consumption of alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants by the male members in the family and beating wife and other females in the family	75%
24.	Domestic violence	85%
25.	Honor killing	70%
26.	Discrimination in the work place	85%
27.	Women sufferings due to live-in relations	65%
28.	Marriage with NRIs has ruined many Indian girl's life	75%
29.	Financially dependent	80%
30.	Due to shame and fear many women don't take help from the government, NGOs, police, etc.	95%

Table 3 shows the various women centric problems stated by the respondents. Option 1 was selected by all the respondents. It is followed by option 30 which was selected by 95% of the respondents. Options 2, 10 and 21 were followed by 90% of the respondents. Option 19 was selected by 88% of the respondents. Options 24 and 26 were selected by 85% of the respondents. Options 6, 7, 9, 13, 17, 22 and 29 were selected by 80% of the respondents. This was followed by options 3, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18, 23 and 28 were selected by 75% of the respondents. Option 25 was selected by 70% of the respondents. It was followed by options 14, 16, 20 and 27 which was selected by 65% of the respondents. Options 4 and 5 were selected by 40% of the respondents.

The remedial measures given by the government

The Britishers in India listened to the wise counsel of social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Swami Dayanand and they enacted several laws to improve the position of women, to bring back the dignity and glory of women. Some of these enactments were:

1. Act prohibiting the practice of sati (in 1850)
2. Cast disabilities removal act, 1850
3. The Hindu widow remarriage act, 1856
4. The special marriage act III of 1872
5. The married women's property act, 1874
6. The child marriage act, 1929
7. The Hindu gains of earning act, 1930
8. The Hindu women's right to property, 1937
9. The Christian marriage act, 1872
10. The Parsee marriage and divorce act, 1936
11. The dissolution of the Muslim marriage act 1939

These acts in themselves were very good but, since there was no matching enforcement, they were largely on paper and were not reflected in the actual society. But these acts gave a spark, a chance to various reformers and social workers like Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar, Ranade, and Annie Besant. And the inclination of status of women starts from this period.

International Treaties

By adopting international laws and treaties on women's right, the United Nations has helped to set a common standard for measuring how societies advance equality between men and women. Among such treaties are

1. The convention on the political rights of Women (1952)
2. The convention on the nationality of Married Women (1957)
3. The convention on recovery abroad of maintenance (1956)
4. The convention on the consent of marriage (1962)
5. The convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (1979)

In addition to these treaties United Nations also observed 1975 as International women's year.

Some important Schemes of the government are:

Uttarakhand Women Integrated Development Scheme

Nanda Devi Kanya Dhan Yojna

Krishi Talim Yojna

Sakhi Mandal Yojna

Nari Adalat

Chiranjeevi Yojna

Mahila Vrudh Ashram

Gaurav Nari Niti

Fish Entrepreneur Yojna

Poverty Alleviation and Economic Empowerment of Women (There are 58 Schemes under this programme)

Table 4: Remedial Measures which are Practical and Implicational

Sr. no.	Remedial Measures	Responses of the Respondents in Percent
1.	Compulsory education for all girls	100%
2.	Small saving schemes for the females	90%
3.	Vocational training centers for females in every nook and corner of the country	90%

4.	Martial arts and physical training of self-defense for free to women	85%
5.	Easy reach of the legal system to the females by providing help centers in every nook and corner of the country.	90%
6.	If any report of atrocities on women comes the action should be quick.	100%
7.	The punishment for dowry, domestic violence, mental and physical harassment on women should be rigorous.	100%
8.	Giving sex education to females at school level	80%
9.	Educating the females on health and hygiene in the schools, colleges	80%
10.	Volunteers, doctors, gram sevaks and gram sevikas should give information and education to the women in urban slums, rural areas, cities and towns about health, hygiene and menstrual taboos.	95%
11.	The health centers, dispensaries and government hospitals should be increased with advanced medical facilities	100%
12.	Every male should understand the females as integral part of society and deserves equal treatment.	90%
13.	Social evils like sati, purda, child marriage, strict societal rules on widows, witch hunt, honor killing, discrimination towards females, female infanticides, feticides, etc. should be completely eradicated.	100%
14.	Equal share of property for females	75%
15.	Allowing women to take decisions in family matters and also political and economic decisions.	75%

Table 4 shows the remedial measures which are practical and implicational given by the respondents. Options 1, 6, 7, 11 and 13 were selected by all the respondents. Option 10 was selected by 95% of the respondents. It is followed by options 2, 3, 5 and 12 which was selected by 90% of the respondents. Option 4 was selected by 85% of the respondents. Options 8 and 9 were opted by 80% of the respondents. It is followed by options 14 and 15 which were selected by 75% of the respondents.

Conclusion

Women reservation bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha of March 9, 2010. There are reservation of seats in schools and colleges and government jobs. 1/3rd of the seats in parliament are reserved for women. Girl's schools and colleges are opened in nook and corner of the country.

As part of the current governmental campaign on sanitation, namely, Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, toilets and washrooms are built in rural and urban areas; specifically including urban slums in the campaign is a great relief to the women population in the country. Due to lack of toilet facilities in rural areas and urban slums the females used to be the worst sufferers. Ladli campaign, mother and child development programmes of the government, pulse polio, vocational training to women, opening of various small scale and cottage industries, small savings schemes are some of the government campaigns and activities which are helpful for empowering the women population of the country. These activities of government are making them financially independent. The efforts of government, NGOs and private organizations helping the female folks of the country are remarkable. This has helped them to become mentally strong to fight social evils which existed since time immemorial.

Vocational training for women should help the females of the country to become self-sufficient and self-dependent. Women are participating in every walk of life with the male counterparts like women flying airplanes, playing cricket, hockey and other sports.

There is development in every sphere, agriculture, information technology, primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of the country. But there is lack of progress in the quality of life of women. The women around the world share a common condition. Mostly, women do not share an equal position as participants in public policy choice which affect their lives. The top decision making position remain largely male dominated spheres where women have little influence.

The lack of women's participation in political decision making has important consequences. It deprives women of important rights and responsibilities as citizens, and excludes their perspectives and interests from policy making and decision making. Their voices are missing from key decisions on national budgets and setting of government priorities. Their skills and viewpoint often remain unheard, underrepresented or ignored.

India as a country is still recovering from years of abuse in the time of the British Raj and more years of economic suffering at the hands of the License Raj. It is only now that globalization, liberalization and other socio-economic forces have given some respite to a large proportion of the population. However, there are still quite a few areas where women empowerment in India is largely lacking.

To truly understand what women empowerment is, it is essential to bring changes in the mind-set of the people in the country. Not just the women themselves, but the men have to wake up to a world that is moving towards equality and equity.

We have many schemes, many programs for the purpose of women empowerment at every stage of administration, all we need is a good system and agencies for the implementation of

these policies and programs. If we can build up a system in a proper way and implement these programs then the goal of women empowerment can be achieved very easily through these programs.

Recommendations

The recommendations are based on the information provided by the respondents.

1. It is necessary and important that women should know to tackle the problems which they face in daily life.
2. Education is of prime importance. Education will make women financially independent and also helps in taking right decisions.
3. There should be agencies of government and private organization which actively work to tackle with the women centric problems in the country.
4. Financial aids and assistance should be given to the needy women to help them become financially independent and stable. So that they can take care of their families and themselves.
5. Free health camps and vocational training centers should be opened in every nook and corner of the country to help the women folks of the country.
6. The opportunities given by the government, private organizations and NGOs should be for empowerment and upliftment of women should be availed by them. Every woman should become financially independent.

Limitations

The limitations are based on the responses of the respondents, government records and practical observations.

1. There are many women who are victims of domestic violence but they cannot report due lack of support, lack of education and financially dependent on the male members.
2. There is an Indian tradition which is still followed that once a girl is married the responsibilities of the parents towards the girl are over. Even if a girl is mentally and physically harassed by husband and husband's family members the girls will have to accept it.
3. The literates and illiterates both think that a married woman should not complain about their married life despite of hardships, harassments and sufferings.
4. Many women lost their life due to continuous suffering after marriage which was caused by husband and his family members.
5. It is observed that the dowry and gifts makes the husband and his family greedier and their demand increases every time.

6. Wrong traditions and taboos have made many married women's life miserable leading to death of several women.

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