



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL: A STUDY ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN

DR. ABHA SHARMA

Professor, Faculty of Law
Gokul Global University, Sidhpur,
Dist. Patan (GJ) INDIA

ABSTRACT

The present study is conducted to know whether the women folk of our society is aware of their constitutional and legal rights. It is necessary to know whether they realize the significance of empowerment for their benefit. Even after 70 years after the commencement of the Indian constitution, the plight of women is still very pitiable. As a democratic country, India gives priority to the principles of liberty, fraternity, equality and justice. Indian constitution provides various rights necessary for securing women's empowerment. Various laws and legislations have been implemented for women including the Sati Prevention Act, Dowry Prohibition Act, and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act in the year 2005. To ensure equal rights to counter social discrimination and various forms of violence, and atrocities and to provide support services, especially for women, the following legal provisions have been made: The Employees State Insurance Act 1948; The Plantation Labour Act 1951; The Family Courts Act 1954; The Special Marriage Act 1954; The Hindu Marriage Act 1955; The Maternity Benefit Act; The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971; The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1976; The Equal Remuneration Act 1976; The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 1983; The Factories (Amendment) Act 1986; Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act 1986. The objective of the paper is to find out the awareness level of women about their constitutional and legal right by interviewing them through a structured questionnaire. The paper deals with the empowerment of women and girls as a sustainable development goal.

Keywords: Sustainable development, Laws and legislation, Empowerment of women and girls, and acts related to the protection of women.

DR. UMESH B. BANSOD

1Page



INTRODUCTION

The importance of awareness and building skills development necessary for women's empowerment. Our Indian constitution was written in an era when the social condition of Indian women was very poor and need urgent reform. She was mentally and physically tortured in society. She was struggling to find her social status and a respectable place in society. At that time Indian women were in a need of some laws in order to improve their social position and to ensure proper safety against mental and physical torture. Now they are treated equally to men. Today women are everywhere and to be precise women are in space, women are in corporate, women are in politics, women are in the entertainment field, women are in the defense field and the list goes on. It is indeed a matter of pleasure that the position of women has improved in the last four decades. But still, somewhere it is felt that the present Indian women are again a bit struggling to maintain their dignity and freedom. Mental and physical torture of women has again become common and that is why they have started feeling unsafe. As per understanding with the proper knowledge of the legal and constitutional rights of a woman, their position can be further strengthened in society. There are lots of provisions in our law which protect a woman from mental and physical torture. Now let us discuss some of the problems women are facing along with remedies provided by the law. After Independence heaps of arrangements have been acquainted with enhancing the social state of women and giving them a stage where they can use their potential for their advancement and contribute decidedly towards the development of their nation. It is the reality that in the present period position and improvement of any nation is subject to the financial position of its ladies. The arrangements which improved the estimation of present ladies can be separated into two sections: Constitutional arrangements; parliamentary arrangements. Awareness about protected and Parliamentary arrangements to enhance the state of women is inadequate. The present study is conducted to know whether the women folk of our society is aware of their constitutional and legal rights.

Objectives:

- To find out the awareness level of women about their constitutional and legal right towards empowering

Hypothesis to be tested:

H0: There is no significant influence of women (a) Group (b) Education (c) Age (d) Working and Nonworking (e) Family Income (f) Marital status (g) Number of children (h) Age of Children (i) Number of dependents (j) Nature of job and (k) family status on attitude towards the importance of empowering women.

DR. UMESH B. BANSOD

2P a g e

Research Methodology

A sample consisting of 600 working and non-working women belonging to schedule caste, schedule tribe, OBC and general castes in the age group of 30-60 years residing in towns and villages of Udaipur, Sirohi, Dungarpur, Banswara, Pratapgarh and Bhilwara districts has been selected. Simple convenient sampling method applied. The sample was divided into six groups of 100 each belonging to every district and among working and non-working women. Again these groups were divided into four groups of 25 each belonging to general caste, OBC, Schedule Cast and Schedule tribe. An attempt is made to collect data from primary source as well as secondary sources. In order to collect primary data, observation, questionnaire and interview schedules were used. Till now various strategies have been made for upliftment of tribal women. Indian constitution provides legal equality for men and women but in reality social and economic equality is yet to be achieved. Women in India still continue to be discriminated and their current status still causes concern. Even today majority of our women are being identified not as independent individuals but only as daughters, wives and mothers or as family members. In our society women are still regarded as belonging to the “weaker section”. Therefore, it is necessary to empower women so that they can participate fully in the development process and transform them into resourceful members of our society. Since independence, a great variety of researches have been undertaken on various issues related to women. In order to find out the path towards women empowerment such kind of studies may be considered essential.

Findings and Suggestions:

Attitude towards importance of empowering women:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Very High	180	30
High	240	40
Neither high nor low	84	14
Low	60	10
Very low	36	6
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

Out of 600 women, 70% of working and non-working women have positive attitude towards the importance of empowering women. They are in favour of women empowerment for extermination of violence against women. 30% of women, they belong to lower economic status had no awareness in this connection.

Relegation in their lives:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Very High	150	25
High	240	40
Neither high nor low	66	11
Low	90	15
Very low	54	9
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

Out of 600 respondents, 65% feels relegation in their lives. Another 11% respondents say that they have no idea about it. There are only 24% respondents who say that they do not feel any relegation.

Women should take legal action against her husband:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Highly Agree	25	4
Agree	37	6
Neither agree nor disagree	90	15
Disagree	218	36
Highly Disagree	230	38
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

Out of 600 women, 74% women highly disagree/disagree on women should take legal action against her husband, if he beats her or has extra-marital relationship. There are 10% respondents agree on women should take legal action if this situation prevails. 15% respondents are having no opinion.

Knowledge about laws against sexual exploitation:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Very High	27	5
High	63	10
Neither high nor low	30	5
Low	250	42
Very low	230	38
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

Regarding the knowledge about laws against sexual exploitation, 80% of the respondents are having low/very low knowledge. There are 15% respondents who have sufficient knowledge about the laws against sexual exploitation. 5% respondents have no opinion about the laws against sexual offence.

Freedom in expressing personal desire:

Particulars		Freedom in expressing personal desire		Total
Group		Nuclear family	Joint family	
Yes	N	370	70	440
	%	62%	12%	73%
No	N	62	98	160
	%	10%	16%	27%
Total	N	432	168	600
	%	72%	28%	100%

Out of 600 women, 62% female from nuclear family agreed that they have freedom in expressing personal desire, 12% from joint family shown that they have freedom in expressing personal desire. 26% are not having freedom. It is found that the women belonging to nuclear family have more freedom in expressing personal desires than the respondents of joint family. Most of the women do not prefer to take decisions on important matters but leave them to their menfolk's discretion.

Null Hypothesis

There is no significant influence of women (a) Group (b) Education (c) Age (d) Working and Nonworking (e) Family Income (f) Marital status (g) Number of children (h) Age of Children

DR. UMESH B. BANSOD

5P a g e

(i) Number of dependents (j) Nature of job and (k) family status on attitude towards importance of empowering women.

Social Group:

The obtained 'F' value is 15.670 with "P" value is 0.002, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women among social groups on opinion towards importance of empowering women.

Further, the mean table indicates that attitude of women from general social group have scored higher mean value of 4.20 and the lowest mean was scored by the women from Schedule tribe (3.55). This shows that the women from general social group are highly agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women and the women from ST group are not fully agreed attitude on importance of empowering women.

Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(a)}$ that "there is no significant influence of women from various social groups towards attitude on importance of empowering women" is rejected.

Education:

The obtained 'F' value is 14.270 with "P" value is 0.025, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women among various level of education on opinion towards importance of empowering women.

Further, the mean table indicates that attitude of women from educational level (graduate, 12th, 8th and illiterate) who are graduate scored higher mean value of 4.70 and the lowest mean was scored 3.40 by the women who are illiterate. This shows that the women who have higher education level are highly agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women and the women who are illiterate not fully agreed attitude on importance of empowering women.

Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(b)}$ that "there is no significant influence of women from various education standards towards attitude on importance of empowering women" is rejected.

Age:

The obtained 'F' value is 6.866 with "P" value is 0.060, it is insignificant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is not significant influence of women among various level of age

groups (25-30 years age group to above 50 years) on attitude towards importance of empowering women.

Further, the mean table indicates that attitude of women from age groups (25-30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 years and above 50 years age) who are in age group of 31-40 years scored higher mean value of 4.05 and the lowest mean was scored 3.85 by the women who are in age above 50 years. This shows that the women who comes in lower age group are highly agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women and the women who are above age of 50 years not fully agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women.

Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(c)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women from various age groups towards attitude on importance of empowering women” is accepted.

Working and Nonworking

The obtained 'F' value is 8.709 with “P” value is 0.001, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence on women among various working and nonworking groups on attitude towards importance of empowering women.

Further, the mean table indicates that attitude of women from working and nonworking groups who are in working group scored higher mean value of 4.29 and the lowest mean was scored 3.45 by the women who are in nonworking group. This shows that the women who come in working group are highly agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women and the women who are nonworking not fully agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women.

Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(d)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women from working and nonworking groups towards attitude on importance of empowering women” is rejected.

Family Income:

The obtained 'F' value is 3.670 with “P” value is 0.045, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women among various family income groups (<Rs. 6000 per month, Rs. 6001 to 8000, Rs.8001 to Rs.10000 and more than Rs. 10,000) on attitude towards importance of empowering women.

Further, the mean table indicates that attitude of women from family income groups of Rs. 6001 to Rs. 8000 scored higher mean value of 4.18 and the lowest mean was scored 3.18 by the women who have family income of Rs. Rs. 8001-10000 per month. This shows that the

women those family income is higher, they have high attitude on importance of empowering women

Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(e)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women from various family income groups towards attitude on importance of empowering women” is rejected.

Marital status

The obtained 'F' value is 4.050 with “P” value is 0.022, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women marital status towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(f)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women marital status towards their attitude on importance of empowering women” is rejected.

Number of children

The obtained 'F' value is 2.709 with “P” value is 0.125, it is insignificant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is no significant influence of women who have number of children (nil, one, two and more than two) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(g)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women marital status towards their attitude on importance of empowering women” is accepted.

Age of Children

The obtained 'F' value is 1.250 with “P” value is 0.222, it is insignificant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is no significant influence of women who have different age group of children towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(h)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women who have different age group of children towards their attitude on importance of empowering women” is accepted.

Number of dependents

The obtained 'F' value is 0.820 with “P” value is 0.202, it is insignificant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is no significant influence of women who have numbers of dependents (nil, one, two and more than two) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(i)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women who have number of dependents (nil, one, two and more than two) on them towards their attitude on importance of empowering women” is accepted.



Nature of Job

The obtained 'F' value is 6.298 with "P" value is 0.015, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women nature of job (farming/ daily wages/Regular/ Business) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{0(j)}$ that "there is no significant influence of women nature of job towards their attitude on importance of empowering women" is rejected.

Family Status

The obtained 'F' value is 6.200 with "P" value is 0.028, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women family status (Nuclear or Joint family) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{0(k)}$ that "there is no significant influence of women family status towards their attitude on importance of empowering women" is rejected.

Suggestion:

Education and awareness camp is only solution to create awareness among tribal women, More emphasis must be given in focused group and Government and NGO must play important role on empowering the women.

REFERENCES:

- Sharma, Dr. D; Rajasthan through the Ages. p 61.
- Ojha, G.H., History of Rajasthan, Vol - I pp. 95,102,113,137 & 147.
- Tod: Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan, Vol - I pp 247.
- http://www.rajcensus.gov.in/PCA_2011_FINAL_DATA/PCA_chapter 2.pdf
- History of Udaipur, Vol. I pp. 102.
- Erskine, Major K. D., Rajputana Gazetteers The Mewar Residency Pg 5-10
- A. Rajputana Agency, Political Bramah. Dungarpur, File No. 56 Vol. Raj. State Eng. New Delhi.
- B- Ojha Gaurishanker Heerachand, Dungarpur State History Page No. 1 -19.



- Meena Siyaram, Rajasthan Zila Gazeteer, Sirohi Published by Janshakh and Gazeteers Nidesalay, Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- Erskine, Major K. D., Rajputana Gazeteers, The Mewar Residency Pg. 127
- Erskine, Major K. D., Rajputana Gazeteers – The Bhils, Published by Scottish Mission Industries Co. Ltd. 1908, Ajmer. Pg 227-242.
- (A) Tribal Rajasthan, Sunshine on the Aravali Udaipur, Himanshu publistiers, 1992.
- (B) Dave P.C. (1960). The Grasias also called Kshatriya Grasias Delhi Bharatiya Adimjati Seva Sangh.
- (C) Mann (1993) pg 103
- (D) Mann & Mann (1989) Pg 81-82.
- Dave P.C.(1960), The Garasiyas, also called kshatriya Garasias. Delhi Bhartiya, Adim jati sevak sangh
- Meena, Jagdish Chandra, “Bheel Janjati ka sanskritik evum arthik jeevan” p-14, Himanshu publications, Udaipur-New Delhi(Ed. 2003)
- Mann (1993) p-103
- Mann & Mann (1989), pp.-81-82
- Garasia, Rajput at Etnologue (18th.Ed) 2015.
- Unnithan – Kumar, Maya (1997), Identity, Gender and poverty; new perspectives on Caste and tribe in Rajasthan. Berghahn Books, ISBN 978-1-57181-918-5
- Mann Rann Singh (1993) Culture & Integration Tribal cultures & change. Mittal Publications
- (A)Katariya, Surendra “Mautana ek aadim pratha”National Publishing House, Jaipur and Delhi.
- (B)Mautana- Decision of Jati Panchayat village Badli-Kotda Rajasthan Patrika Saturday November10, 2018.
- Interviewed tribal women of Siyawa near Aburoad Dist.Sirohi taken on 06.11.2018

DR. UMESH B. BANSOD

10P age