

Importance of the Women Empowerment in Karnataka (Kabbaliga Community)

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Article Link: <https://aksharasurya.com/2023/12/bhaganna-mainal/>

ABSTRACT:

Empowerment of women is essentially the process of up lieutenant of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in the society. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. Women empowerment involves the building up of a society, a political environment, wherein women can breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension, discrimination and the general feeling of persecution which goes with being a woman in a traditionally male dominated structure. Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio whereby female's population has been comparatively lower than males. As far as their social status is concerned, they are not treated as equal to men in all the places. In the Western societies, the women have got equal right and status with men in all walks of life. But gender disabilities and discriminations are found in India even today. Thus this paper will focus on the place of women in the society of Karnataka

KEY WORDS:

Women Empowerment, Education, Discrimination, Socio-Economic Status.

Introduction:

Women constituted the key role in the arch of Indian society. The present book reveals Kabbaliga community. The Kabbaliga community is only one community, based on slight variations related to their occupations and geographical areas, these communities are also called as Koli, Bestha, Meenugara, Kabbila, Ganga Matha, Gouri Matha, Ambiga, Talavar, Kolkar, Walikar, Barikar, Natikar, Boya, etc. In Gulbarga district, it is popular as 'Kabbaliga' or 'Kabbila' community. Numerically, Kabbaliga population is fourth largest in Karnataka after Lingayats, Vokkaligas and Kurubas. But due to illiteracy, decreased importance of their caste based occupations and negligence, this community has become backward. Even though, reservation is provided, compared to Kabbaliga population, the percentage of reservation is lesser. Hence, Kabbaliga community is facing many of the problems and challenges in society. Still, with gradual increase in education, it can be said that the Kabbaliga people are changing in terms of socio-economic, educational and political decision making. The Ancient and medieval status of women in modern Indian society regarding Equality, Education, Marriage and Family life, Race and Gender, Religion and Culture is maintained or deteriorated. The Rig Vedic Women in India enjoyed high status in society.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the historical profile of Indian Women.
2. To know the need of Women Empowerment.
3. To study the Government Schemes for Women Empowerment.
4. To offer useful suggestions in the light of Findings.

Review of Literature:

According to World Bank (2001), “Women empowerment is the expansion of freedom of choices and action, which could increase women authority and control over resources and decision regarding their life.” The National Policy for women empowerment (2001) states that “Gender equality manifests itself in various forms, the most obvious being the trend of continuously declining female ratio in the population in the last few decades.”

Women Empowerment:

Empowerment is about change, choice and power. It is a process of change by which the individuals and groups with little or no power gain the power and ability to make choices that affect their lives. Women empowerment is a stage of acquiring power for women in order to understand her rights and to perform her responsibilities towards oneself and others in a most effective way. According to K. Sayulu, G. Sardar & B. Sridevi, (2005) “Women empowerment is any process that provides greater autonomy to women through the sharing of relevant information and provision of control over factors affecting their performance”.

Characteristics of Women Empowerment:

Women empowerment possesses certain characteristics. They are the following:

1. Women empowerment enables a greater degree of self-confidence
2. Women empowerment is acquiring power for women in order to understand her rights.

3. Women empowerment enables women to organise themselves.
4. Women empowerment provides greater autonomy to women.
5. Women empowerment means women's control over.

Importance of Women Empowerment:

Women empowerment is a continuous and dynamic procedure which allows women to take an interest in the choice – making in all financial, political and social procedures in the general public and improves their capacities to change the structure and condition that keep them hindered. The introduction of the 73rd Amendment spoke to an exertion for women's empowerment which was supported by the state and in which 33% seat in Panchayats and in workplaces are saved for ladies. Reservation in the Panchayats was viewed as a noteworthy milestone during the time spent empowering women in India. Empowerment of women is essential for maintaining economic development of the nation when 50 percent of the populace comprises of ladies. As Ex-President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam stated that empowering women is an essential for making a decent country, when women are empowered, society with stability is guaranteed. Women's empowerment.

Women Rights in India:

The guideline of equivalence status of women is cherished in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The constitution provides equity to women, yet in addition enables the State to make provisions of positive discrimination in favour of women. Some of the significant articles are as per the

following.

- » religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them [Article 15(i)]
- » Children [Article 15(3)]
- » employment [Article 16]
- » women equally [Article 39(a)]

Government Schemes for Women Empowerment:

The Government programmes for women development began as early as 1954 in India but the actual participation began only in 1974. At present, the Government of India has over 34 schemes for women operated by different department and ministries. Some of these are as follows;

1. Rastria Mahila Kosh (RMK) 1992-1993
2. Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) October, 1993.
3. Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) 1995.
4. Women Entrepreneur Development programme given top priority in 1997-98.
5. Mahila Samakhya being implemented in about 9000 villages.

Suggestions:

1. Awareness programmes need to be organized for creating awareness among women especially belonging to weaker sections about their rights.
2. The first and foremost priority should be given to the education of women, which is the grassroots problem. Hence, education for women has to be paid special attention.
3. Strict implementation of Programmes and Acts should be

there to curb the mal-practices prevalent in the society.

4. Women should be allowed to work and should be provided enough safety and support to work. They should be provided with proper wages and work at par with men so that their status can be elevated in the society.

Conclusion:

Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and communities of women. Women's empowerment in India is heavily dependent on many different variables that include geographical location (urban / rural) educational status social status (caste and class) and age. Policies on Women's empowerment exist at the national, state and local (Panchayat) levels in many sectors, including health, education, economic opportunities, gender based violence and political participation. The Empowerment of Women has become one of the most important concerns of 21st century not only at national level but also at the international level. Government initiatives alone would not be sufficient to achieve this goal. Society must take initiative to create a climate in which there is no gender discrimination and women have full opportunities of self decision making and participating in social, political and economic life of the country with a sense of equality.

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