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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP

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“RECENT TRENDS IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA”

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"...Empowerment of Women is essential as their value systems lead to the development of a good family, good society and ultimately a good nation." – Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

Abstract:-

According to the saying of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's world does progress without the commission of women, the world empowerment is always associated with women because it's always presented as a weaker part of society. Behaviour on the commission of women living in the state, original (panchayat), and public situations. Still, women encounter isolation in the utmost sectors such as education, profitable openings, health and medical support, and political participation, which shows that there are significant gaps between strategy progress and real exercise at the community position. It also explores recent developments in the advancement of women. Through skills, training and microfinance, women can be financially stabilized so that they're no longer dependent on others in society. The Indian Constitution contains some provisions that specifically focus on the commissioning of women and prevent segregation from women in society. Composition 14 addresses equality before the law and also to make special provisions for women in Article 15 allows the state. Since the progress of humanity is insufficient without women, successive governments have introduced a number of programmes to promote women in male-dominated society.

Keywords:- Empowerment, laws, education, women's rights, Constitution of India.

Introduction

The term women commission is each about authority, or the power embarked on women participating indistinguishable rights. Women comprise around 50 of the country's population, and a bulk of them stays economically dependent on each other without employment. In the age of feminism, a small portion of women in India are freed and can employ their free will and are permitted to sculpt out their lives the way they want. But there's a considerable division of the women in this nation who bear auspicious support. In utmost Indian town lets and semi-urban metropolises, women are still denied abecedarian education and are now authorized to continue advanced education despite amassing the understanding needed. Women are known for delivering multiple places painlessly per day, and therefore, they're considered the backbone of every society. Living in manly- dominating societies, women play a wide range of places, similar as minding matters, loving daughters, and able associates. The stylish part is that they fit the bill impeccably in every part. Nevertheless, they've also stood as a neglected bunch of society in different corridor of the world. In turn, it has redounded in women surviving the mass of unevenness, fiscal responsibility, oppression, and distinct social immoralities.

Women have been abiding under the impediment of servility for centuries now that impedes them from attaining professional as well as particular highs. Being an NGO for women commission in India, Hind rise Foundation has designed our dynamic and metamorphosis-acquainted programs in such a manner that the grooming of impoverished youthful girls will host the condition of the nation. The procedure of being empowered underprivileged people involves giving them entrance to vital possibilities, either unswervingly by the relegated individualities themselves or with the help of those who aren't marginalized but partake in their access. It also includes reluctant attempts to reject those chances. Stimulant of and training in tone- adequacy is another aspect of commission that aims to make members of the group less dependent on unborn aid or weak. Starting and carrying out this procedure successfully might be gruelling. Around the world, gender difference and demarcation

against women have also long been problems. Accordingly, women's pursuit of equivalency with men is a global miracle. People who are unfit to support themselves at least come reliant on welfare or charitable organizations. Due to their incapability to sustain themselves fully, they lose their tone of confidence. Due to the chances that are denied to them, they're also denied the sense of pride in their achievements that others who have access to similar openings can witness. This can also affect in issues with cerebral, social, and indeed internal health. Women used to be considered little more than domestic aides.(Panitapu)

Review of literature

1. A research article by (Meena & Sharma, 2020)on “Empowerment of women in India-Historical perspective” The position of women in society are frequently cited as the best indicators of a civilization's development as well as weaknesses. In the case of India, women have come a long way from being Rig Vedic sapient and intellectuals to becoming active participants in the military, the IT industry, politics, the business world, and other important fields while juggling their responsibilities as mothers, wives, and daughters. This Road to Modernization Has Not Been Straightforward. To become stronger and more independent, women in traditional male-dominated Indian society have had to struggle. Even with such developments Rape, workplace harassment and dowry death are negative developments are also too common. The majority of women continue to be illiterate and unaware of their rights. This paper emphasises the development, status, and women empowerment in India from a historical perspective against this backdrop.

2. A study by (Khanday, Shah, Mir, & Rasool, 2015) on “Empowerment of Women in India-Historical Perspective” explains in society’s position and status of women are frequently cited as the greatest indicators of a civilization's advancement and flaws. In India, women have gone a long way from being Rig Vedic sages and academics to being in the military, the IT industry, politics, the business world, and other key fields while juggling their responsibilities as a daughter, wife, and mother. Transformationis not an easy task for women. To become stronger and more autonomous, women in traditional Indian civilization had to battle against the male-dominated culture. While all of these are excellent advances,

rape, job harassment, and dowry killings remain all too common. The majority of women continue to be illiterate and unaware of their rights. In light of this context, this study emphasises how women's position, growth, and empowerment have changed historically in India.

3. A study on “A Study on the Status of Women’s Empowerment in urban Bangalore, India” by (Menon , M, & Sharma, 2020)The goal of the current study is to assess the level of empowerment experienced by urban Bangalore women in key areas including economic opportunity, health and well-being, decision-making, and autonomy in all spheres. The examination of a sample population of women in Bangalore City, India's urban regions was part of the research technique. Using a standardised questionnaire that was given randomly to the female population of urban Bangalore, many markers of women's empowerment were examined. The primary focus was on metrics like women's decision-making authority in domestic matters, financial independence, freedom of movement, and access to education. According to data research, there are significant differences in women's freedom of movement and home decision-making according to their age, level of education, and occupation. Only a small percentage of women had the final say in how their money was spent. With maturity and knowledge came an improvement in financial control. The study also shows that access to work and educational opportunities are crucial for promoting women's empowerment, but the degree to which the objective is realised largely depends on public opinion on gender equality.

4. The research article on “Women Empowerment in India: A Critical Analysis” by (Singh & Singh, 2020)Women have been granted a secondary role in our historically patriarchal culture, and this is reflected in the social, political, and economic sectors. The empowerment of women has, however, always been a top priority and has received the highest attention from all parties involved. The essay critically examines India's position in relation to other nations and assesses its readiness to meet UN Sustainable Development Goal No. The thesis in the study is developed using secondary sources, including a review of prior material that has been published in journals, books, reports from different NGOs, Government agencies, and international organisations, as well as websites. The many approaches and dimensions of women's empowerment in India are critically examined in this essay. The study addresses

constitutional protections, government goals and programmes, their execution, and measures of women's empowerment. However, when compared to other nations, the nation does poorly. Programmes must be re-evaluated and modified in order to meet SDG-5 by 2030.

5. A study by (Shettar, 2015)“A Study on Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment in India” This essay aims to examine the state of women's empowerment in India and to highlight its problems and difficulties. One of the most pressing issues of the 21st century is now the empowerment of women. However, in actuality, women's emancipation remains a fantasy. We see in daily life how different societal ills target women as victims. Women's empowerment is a crucial tool for increasing women's access to resources and capacity to make wise life decisions. Women's empowerment is fundamentally the process of improving the position of historically underprivileged women in society on the economic, social, and political fronts. It entails protecting kids from all sorts of assault. The study only used secondary sources for its data. Despite several government initiatives, the survey shows that women in India still have a comparatively low level of influence and prestige compared to males. It has been shown that women continue to accept gender standards that are not equal in society. The study's conclusion is that women's empowerment is only made possible through access to education, employment, and social structure change.

6. A research article on “An overview of women empowerment in India: A brief discussion from past to the present” by (Kaviarasu & Xavier, 2016)Women's empowerment is a contentious issue. Women enjoyed equal status and authority to males throughout the early Stone Age period. However, throughout the post-Vedic and epic times, they began to have certain challenges. History demonstrates that women were frequently treated like slaves. The standing of women has been progressively shifting from the early 20th century (national movement), and the British people are to thank for this. Only after India gained its independence, and under the competent guidance of Dr. Ambedkhar, did the country's constitutional writers and national leaders begin to vehemently demand and reiterate the equality of women and men in society. It is astounding to see how many Indian women there are in respectable positions now across all professions. However, the numerous events and occurrences that have occurred in the nation over the last two squares make it very evident that women are harassed, mistreated, and tormented both in and outside of the home. It is

encouraging to know that some women have been able to realise their potential despite the pain and suffering. As a result, this article recommends that everyone exercise caution when taking actions to advance the status of women and respect their dignity (“Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 3 September 1981, in accordance with article 27 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 1, 2, 7, and 23”).

7. A study by (Nayak & Mahanta, 2009) on “Women Empowerment in India” The current study makes an effort to evaluate the level of women's empowerment in India using a variety of measures based on secondary data. Despite several government initiatives, the survey shows that women in India still have a comparatively low level of influence and prestige compared to males. There is a gender difference in who can access jobs and education. Women's freedom of movement and household decision-making authority vary greatly depending on their age, level of education, and occupation. It has been shown that women continue to accept gender standards that are not equal in society. More over half of the women think that hitting your wife is acceptable for one reason or another. Less women have the final choice in how their earnings are spent. Age, education, and place of residence all enhance the degree of control over monetary earnings. Media exposure for women is also lower than for men. Domestic abuse is more likely to affect rural women than metropolitan ones. Additionally, there is a large gender disparity in political engagement. The study's conclusion is that while employment and educational opportunities are simply enabling variables for empowerment, achieving the objective mostly rests on public attitudes toward gender equality.

8. A research article by (D. Srinivasa & Y S, 2015) on “Recent trends in women Empowerment: An Analysis” explains multidimensional aspects of women empowerment of women which includes social empowerment, political empowerment, economic and legal empowerment. Developing a sense of knowledge, skill, and competence is a key component of empowerment. By include women and girls in social and economic decision-making processes at all levels and providing education, we can provide them the chance to develop their talents and resources. By using the enormous untapped and underutilised potential of

women, this facet of development promotes social inclusion among women and advances society as a whole

Methodology

The applicable or acceptable data is collected from secondary sources like colorful exploration papers, books, journals and internet sources.

Objectives of the Study

- To understand the factors affecting women in modern times.
- To study the special laws for women in Indian constitution.
- To study the recent developments in women.

Factors Affecting Women's Empowerment in India-

Given below are the factors affecting women's empowerment-

1. **Gender Discrimination must be Checked-** The problem of gender discrimination has affected the pace of women empowerment in India. Gender discrimination in all realms of action must be checked. Women must be furnished with a resort to take an active part in decision making at every level and direction procedures to attain the motive of empowering women. They need to get due admiration and prominence, which they rightfully earn on merit basis in society to accomplish their fate.
 2. **Educational Factor-** Education is the most vibrant factor of advancement and growth. It is the only significant tool for anticipating women empowerment in India & human resource development.
- ✓ It gives light to the possibilities for access to employment and making a livelihood, which in twirl revivify economic empowerment to women.

- ✓ In order to join the community of developed countries, people should understand the value and importance of women's education and, thereby, put combined efforts to make India on the progressive track.
 - ✓ Education makes the individual conscientious, enabling them to comprehend, interpret, criticize, and eventually transform their atmosphere.
 - ✓ It results in the accession of abundances of skills that heighten a person's enthusiasm and her proficiency to shape life in a better form.
 - ✓ Education is the initial line of defense for women who withstand life-imperiling circumstances that traditional lifestyle perpetuates.
 - ✓ It motivates a sense of supervision over personal fortune. In addition to this, it unlocks the door to preferences that are not confined by tradition.
 - ✓ The women's status strides beyond the restrictions of motherliness. Advancement of education of women and girls allots to the postponement of their marriage timing and the ensuing constriction in the volume of their families.
 - ✓ Priority should be plopped on enrolment along with retention of the girl child in basic formal schooling and non-formal education via incentive methods like a supply of textbooks free of cost, midday meals, school bags, science kits, uniform, scholarship, residential and hostel facilities as well as the expulsion of gender discrimination in the curriculum.
 - ✓ Education will go an extended way in making women familiar with their legal and personal rights and make them battle for their privileges, which will direct to protecting their rights mentioned in the Constitution.
3. **Mass Media is Bringing the Transformation-** The mass media is responsible for playing a significant function to project and propagate associated issues, most specifically about women empowerment in India. The numerous programmes pertaining to women's prestige revealed the mass media enable her husband to behave toward her wife with loads of honour and respect. He can remake his attitude and assist her in the domestic domain to reduce stress and anxiety. The mass media performs a crucial role in repairing the attitude and way of conversation of husband and other family members towards women.
 4. **Steps Regarding Implementation of Women Development Programme along with Numerous Acts-**

Training programme based on action at the village or in rural parts of India along with vocational programmes and the growth-oriented entrepreneurship development programmes must be organized to make women self-reliant after becoming self-employed by enhancing their efficiency and capacities in making prompt decisions. It's extremely important to check cases related to female feticide & infanticide by prohibiting the sex determination of child that is yet to take birth via the Regulation & Prevention of Misuse Act 1994 as well as PNT ACT (Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act) other rulings correlating to marriage, succession, divorce, adoption, dowry and moral safety or protection against sexual harassment needs to be implemented for serving the goal of women empowerment in India.

5. **Changes in Women's Attitude-** Women should empower themselves by becoming to be aware of their oppression, indicating initiative, and confiscating chances to bring a shift in their status. Empowerment must come from within the soul. Women need to empower themselves by bringing a major change in their attitude.
- ❖ Women must know that opportunities will not reach their laps.
 - ❖ They would have to determine ways to create them.
 - ❖ They should fight back to rebuild their prominent position in Indian communities and societies.
 - ❖ They must flourish hard to carry out their rights and maintain justice & equality in society.
 - ❖ They need to work vigorously for the entire elimination of poverty, dowry-ills, illiteracy, and productive implementation of all programmes and laws related to women.
 - ❖ Women's empowerment is valuable for the development and advancement of the family, community as well as the nation.

Hence, it must be a leading concern of the Indian Government to bring women into the fore of the development strategy by empowering them via numerous development-oriented schemes.

6. **Organization for Awareness Programmes-** State and National level commissions for women, Non-Governmental Organisations, ICDS Programmes, must undertake e-awareness, the Taskforce for women & children Development DWACRA (Concerning Development of Women & Child in Rural Areas), women's rights, human rights, a campaign about legal rights, education about saving schemes,

population education, environmental education, rehabilitation programmes with all integrity and solemnity.

Special laws for the protection of women

- The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
- The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (28 of 1961) (Amended in 1986)
- The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 (3 of 1988)
- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION and REDRESSAL) Act, 2013
- The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013
- The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986

Recent developments in women

Developments in the year 2023 for women empowerment are as follows:

In recent years, there have been many positive developments in India's efforts to empower women. The government has implemented several programs and policies aimed at improving women's health, education, and economic opportunities. There has been a significant increase in the number of women participating in the workforce, and women have achieved high positions in various fields, including politics, business, and entertainment.

RECENT WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SCHEMES	LAUNCH YEAR	PURPOSES
Protecting Women's Dignity: Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)	October 02, 2014	SBM has brought about an irreversible improvement in the quality of life of women in the rural and urban areas, by promoting cleanliness, and hygiene, and eliminating open defecation.
Giving Wings to Girl Child:	January 22, 2015	To prevent abortion of girl child selective,

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao		protection of girl child, education of girl child.
Ensuring Smoke-Free Homes: Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana	May 2016	By empowering women, PMUY has been able to bridge gender inequality with respect to rights, access and economic empowerment
Door to Dignity: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana	November 20, 2016,	To facilitate the aspirations of women of owning a pucca house and strengthened their participation in the financial decision making of the household with basic amenities gives security, dignity, and economic power to the women and uplifts their social inclusion.
Drinking Water at the Doorstep: Jal Jeevan Mission	August 15, 2019	To facilitate the women in the planning, decision-making, implementation and monitoring of JJM, the mission is playing an important role in women's empowerment.
Empowering Women Entrepreneurs: Stand-Up India and PM MUDRA Yojana	November 25, 2022	To generate self-employment and getting more job opportunities
Supporting Motherhood: Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana	November 21, 2022	To facilitate the scheme has increased awareness and promoted the importance of maternal and child health, thereby empowering women and improving their overall well-being.
Suvidha at ₹ 1: Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana	February 18, 2023	Main aims to empowering women to manage their menstrual health by offering an affordable solution.
The Mahila Samman Saving Certificate	April 01 ,2023	It facilitate the one time scheme available for two years, from April 2023 to March 2025. It will offer a maximum deposit facility of upto Rs 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for two years at a fixed interest rate of 7.5 % p.a.

Conclusion

Women empowerment has multifaceted benefits on an individual, society and the nation as well. It plays an essential role in the social and economic development of the nation. It removes the obstructions to women's progress and frees their minds making them able to make decisions and progress. Many women were proven globally in many sectors like sports, politics, business, scientific achievements etc. Even though by having many empowerment schemes by state 30-40% of women are still in backward in social, economic, political aspects etc. Being educated many women are still believe in old practices as well as fail to raise voice against such practices. Our constitution and legal system have many provisions and special laws in order to prevent crimes against women as well as for the betterment and development of women to become independent to earn their livelihood. But the crime rate against women is increasing every day. So, it is necessary to identify the loopholes in system and made all schemes to reach every women of the country for their upliftment and change should always start from us. The dream of a developed nation could only be achieved if the women enjoy equal power and opportunities as that of the men in society.

Recommendation

1. Education should be provided every woman as one of the basic needs.
2. Awareness should be created regarding various fundamental rights, special laws and schemes.
3. Many more skill developments and funds for self-employment programs among women should be encouraged.

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