



Women empowerment to achieve sustainable development goal

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Abstract

Empowerment of women and girls is to be evaluated based on the sustainable development. Sustainable development may vary on an equitable distribution of resources and it cannot be obtained without gender equality. Gender equality is intrinsically connected to sustainable development and is vital to the observation of human rights for all. The main purpose of gender equality in a society that women and men can participate & celebrate the same occasions, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. The objectives of the paper are to study the importance of women empowerment for sustainable development, the study adopted the review of secondary data and information in exploring gender issues matters within and across the facets of sustainable development. For Empowering the women and girls by investing (in all its ramifications), supporting their specific needs as entrepreneurs, workers, home-based consumers, producers, drivers of low-emission climate-resilient economies, and instituting sustainable development framework that faced the discriminatory social norms and practices will promote gender equality and obtain development that is more sustainable. The study provides appropriate knowledge in the fields of gender studies, environment, and sustainable development where furtherance of gender-responsive policy focus, planning and implementation is the major thrust.

Keywords: Sustainable development, Empowerment, Gender equality, environmental

Introduction

Sustainable development is “development is an organized fundamental right of women for meeting the requirements of the present-day without compromising the capability of future generations to meet their own needs”. It therefore encapsulates the requirements of both women and men. Intra-generational equity can't be obtained without addressing the gender relations which underlie prevailing inequity. Neither inter-generational equity can be obtained, nor responsibility to pass on a more equitable world to future generations be met, if inequalities continue to be eternalized. Gender inequality is midst the most pervasive forms of disparity in the worlds and without thoughtful steps to tackle it, sustainable development cannot be accomplished.

Women, who constituted 50 percent of the world's population, have contributed more than men for the progress in economic and social development in the last three decades. Nevertheless, they continually to be overrepresented in front of the world's most vulnerable groups, as access to resources and power remains highly skewed towards men. Gender equality is a target in its own rights but also a main cause for sustainable economic growth & development, social development and environmental sustainability. By providing the similar opportunities to women and men, including in decision-making in all kinds of activities, a sustainable path of development can be obtained to ensure that women's and men's interests are collectively taken into consideration in the allocation of resources.

Objective

The main objective of our study is to find out the role of women Empowerment in Sustainable Development.

Methodology

For the study of this paper we use descriptive and analytical method. In this paper the data are collected through secondary sources like journals, articles, books and internet.

Sustainable Development and Women

The Commission on Environment-and-Development explained sustainable growth & development, as development meets the requirements of the present without compromising the capability of upcoming generations to meet their own needs. In order to achieve sustainable development, the three core elements that need to be harmonized are-economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Sustainable development objectives are at eradicating poverty through, in particular, producing better opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living and fostering equitable social development and inclusion. Sustainable Development and Women Empowerment Sustainable development cannot be achieved without gender equality. It also depends on reasonable distribution of resources.

Women's empowerment is a most efficient factor for obtaining the sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. It is based on the principles and brings about solidarity within and between present and upcoming generations. In almost all countries, women are sharing the primary responsibility for nutrition, child care and household management. In most of the developing nations, women demonstrating a major role as animal tenders, farmers, and water and fuel collectors. Women participated actively in the Rio Earth Summit process and succeeded in obtaining a chapter on women and sustainable development and over one hundred references and recommendations relating to women in the final agreement, Agenda 21.

In the Rio Summit of 1992, collectively with the 1993 Human Rights Conference, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 Social Summit and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, have focused on the work of the United Nations on the environment, population, human rights, poverty and gender, and the relationships between these issues. Accordingly, women were considered a "major group" in RIO, whose participation was necessary to achieve sustainable development. The United Nations system mainly focused on the process of mainstreaming a gender-perspective in its work. Moreover, in 1995 the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in the month of September and emphasized that empowerment, full participation and equality for women are the foundations for peace and sustainable development.

Role of Women Empowerment in Sustainable Development

In India, women play multiple role during production of goods and services as well as their domestic chores and wives and mothers, yet their contribution to economic development has been neglected. The problems most often cited included health, malnutrition, repeated childbearing and education. If women's contribution in an economic growth is to be enhanced adequately, then women must obtain the certain services i.e., training in income-generating activities, easy access to low-interest loans, and family planning services to limit childbearing. India has been developing with immense speed, but not always equitably or inclusively. Our development model is mainly comply a work in progress method, and deep-rooted challenges still remain. The biggest issue faced by the country is the empowerment of women.

As Across the world is empowering & educating the majority of women appropriately & it has proven time and again to be the catalyst for rapid socio-economic growth. Percentage of Indian women constituting 7.5% of the world's total population. While specific development indicators show, their quality of life is improving. That are maternal mortality rates declining, literacy rates increasing, more women gaining access to healthcare and education the pace of change is heartbreaking slow. Societies with higher gender equality not only offer improved socio-economic opportunities for women, but also tend to grow sooner and more equitable manner. There are improvements in poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, consumer choices with innovation and decision making in a broader set of issues. Economic development and gender equality go hand-in-hand. Because lowering the barriers faced by women entrepreneurs at home and internationally helping to connect international value chains and would encourage the growth and inclusion of the country.

The majority of women-entrepreneurs run a micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) more than 30% of MSMEs are owned by women. Only are in five exporters is a woman-owned business. Establishing the women at the heart of the global policymaking will go a long way towards realising the United Nations 2030 Agenda goal of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Trade and Women's on global Economic Empowerment is the main steps to empower the women economically but it's happening slowly and not systematically. Women are not less capable in the export business and other income-earning

work, instead, they often lack access to information, finance and technology. They need some additional encouragement to overcome the initial barriers.

Females are around 50 percent of the total population but their representation in Public place is very low. Women continue to bear the major load of these household work. Her primary role is mostly considered by the society as housewife. In cardinal goals of democracy "of the people by the people and for the people" that can't be optimally accomplished if the female population remains out of political and economic empowerment. Women in society act's structural constraint to their participation in political and economic activities. This restriction operates more or less for all classes and communities of women. Prevalent culture which is very constraint in this regard. Recognising women's rights and have faith in their ability are essential for women's empowerment and development. Females must realize their own competences and potentials which will strengthen their self-image and foster them with confidence to take action in life. Political empowerment doesn't imply just a right to role silently but to discuss, share and empower politics by knowing its pros and cons and thereby to influence policies and decision making. Empowering the women is the basic to the basics of human rights, where she wants neither to beg for power nor search for power hierarchy to exercise power against others. On the contrary she demands to accept human first of all. She as an individual in command of herself and for that necessarily all the resources physical, social economical political, cultural and spiritual to be correspondingly accessible to her, are pre-requisites for considering the whole question of empowerment. Indian society was biased and inherited with male chauvinism, but now the society has started to realize women's importance and has being accepted women's empowerment, women as an active agent for growth & development, including participation and guiding to their own development.

Various Ways for Women Empowerment

As issues of women's empowerment and gender parity gain momentum in view of the economic empowerment on the global stage, nations across the globe are implementing incredible measures to decrease the gender gap and promote economic equality. To demonstrate the contribution in the movement, some of the path-ways can be implemented for obtaining the women's economic empowerment for a sustainable development and these are discussed below:

- **Education:** an educated girl can have a capability to live her life on her own terms and can change the perception of the entire world for women's empowerment. Being responsible citizen, it's our responsibility to provide the adequate education to all the girls those were living or spending their lives by begs for alms to that ragpicker who residing under the bridges, every girl requires and deserves to be educated. Teach one, and same way teach all, and originate the new path-ways for her upcoming bright future.
- **Place women as leaders and give them decision making roles:** Although most of the women on multiple states are majorly contributed in growth of the economy, but gender parity is still a myth in the major parts. Women have been actively participated and contributed in the tech industry, natural resource

management, domestic wellness, entrepreneurial work, as well as energy and climate change, but still most of the women's are still not allowed to have a good job opportunities and resources to get a better-paid job. As the focus transferred towards inclusive economic structures, providing women with leadership opportunities and making them a part of decision making can go a long way in achieving women's empowerment.

- **More Job Opportunities for Women:** Despite being important participator of social and economic development, women's are not provided the acceptance of obtaining the equal job opportunities. Equal rights programmes can invest significantly in promoting decent jobs and public policies, advocating growth and development.
- **Invest in Women's Entrepreneurial Ideas, Emotionally and Financially:** An effective way of tackling gender inequality is entrusting women with entrepreneurial work. The state can take initiatives to train women in business skills for better job opportunities. Looking at the global developments, many developing countries are spending a percentage of annual revenues in women's developments. By investing in women's education and providing them with entrepreneurial opportunities, the unequal pay gap can be ruled out from the socio-economic scene, encouraging women to increase their participation in the supply chain.
- **Taking Action against Unpaid Labour Work:** One of the biggest concerns about gender inequality is women's unpaid labor. Many marginalized groups, including rural women and domestic workers, are often deprived of economic independence and many times their labors go unnoticed by society. With empowerment policies striving to raise the incomes of women, resources can be appropriately managed to eradicate the issue. Unpaid labor is a growing concern among many developing countries, and this is primarily associated with rural and low-skilled workers. By controlling the driving factors and protecting women from violence and social abuses, women can be encouraged to explore and utilize their potential.
- **Mentoring Women Professionally and Personally:** Implementing fancy rules cannot drive away unequal pay gaps and the lack of job opportunities for women. To eliminate the problem from the grass-root levels, gender-sensitive economic policies should be deployed. To help women actualize their entrepreneurial goals and promote them as leaders, mentoring programmes should adopt a more holistic approach wherein both personal and the professional aspects are taken care of. Income-making skills are not always successful in building empowering personalities, and empowerment schemes can launch competent mentoring programmes to cater to the growing fiduciary demands.
- **Ensure women's safety:** Out in the streets, women fight an unspoken war every day. Some are assaulted, some molested, and some violated. Truth be told, there

is no safe haven for women anywhere, since most of these horrific cases occur inside homes and offices. While the government does need to initiate strict laws for the safety and security of women, we too need to keep our eyes open for wrongdoers.

- **Healthcare:** Safety isn't just fighting criminals but also creating a safe, survivable environment for women all over. Ensure a safe, holistic environment and regular health check-ups.
- **Teach job skills:** A small skill is enough for a woman to start a career. Be it gardening, sewing or craftsmanship, these efforts can help them start a small-scale business of their own. Share new ideas with them and help them learn, because women empowerment begins with small initiatives.
- **Raise your voice against gender inequality:** Above all, raise your voice. Stand up for every woman and help decrease the prevalent gender disparity in all the stratas of society.
- **Give her Freedom:** "Don't travel late, stay within limits." At every step we tend to imply restrictions on women. Now is the time to change the equation. Don't bind them in the chains of orthodox views. Give them the freedom they deserve. If you wish to change something, broaden your mind and see what great achievers' women can become.

Conclusion

Women's contribution to sustainable development must be recognized. Women plays a very important role in education and socializing their children, including teaching them care and responsibility with regard to the use and protection of natural resources. Participation of Women's shall be encouraged in order to increase women's voice in environmental decision making and to enable women to seize opportunities in the "green economy". Women empowering & encouraging programmes and training tailored to the needs of women are needed. In order to build women as channel for sustainable development, their role in family, community and society at large has to free from socio-cultural and religious traditions that prevent women participation. There is need for change of mindset, especially of the males who dominate the scene. Empowering of women today will lead to a progressive society for tomorrow. Empowering women is a tool for advancing development and reducing poverty. Social, educational economical, political and psychological empowered women contribute to the health and productivity of whole families and communities and improved prospects for the next generation. Government has launched with various schemes such as Beti bachao Beti padhao, Sukanya samridhi Yojana, hostels for working women, mahila Shakti Kendra etc for empowering a women. Apart from these schemes all citizens of the nation can also empower woman by abolishing social evils like dowry system, child marriage, gender discrimination. These small steps will help to change the situation of women in society which will lead for the nation development

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