

Scenario of Women Empowerment of India

Shakuntla Gupta
Punjabi University, Patiala
shakungupta56@yahoo.co.in

Women empowerment is an issue of global importance today. The socio-economic empowerment of women in the family and in the society in reality is the need of the day. The main objective of the study was to analyse the present scenario of women empowerment in India on the basis of their participation in decision making, access to money and credit card, literacy rate, work participation rate, status of employment, infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, life expectancy etc. The second objective was to suggest some policy measures on the basis of the results of the study. Secondary data has been used to achieve the objectives of the study. For the analysis of data, simple averages and percentages have been calculated and the technique of correlation analysis has been applied.

The findings of the study reveal that women in India are going to be empowered as their access to education, health, money, property and decision making is gradually improving. In India, the female literacy rate has increased to 65.5 percent, female life expectancy has increased to 64 years, female infant mortality rate has declined to 55, sex ratio has increased to 940 as per 2011 census. Female work participation rate has reached to 25.4 as per National Sample Survey Organisation estimates 2007-08.

However, as per study results the changes are rather little and slow. The level of social, economic and political empowerment of women is low due to various socio-cultural constraints. Still women continue to be the victims of social humiliation of divorce, rape, crime and even death before birth.

Globalization has opened up new challenges for the realization of the goal of women empowerment. In view of all this, it is suggested that government should design such strategies which may enhance the capability of women to empower them to cope with the negative effects of globalization. Here also, as a policy, a change in the social value system may be advocated for the real empowerment of women in India.

Key words: *Women, Empowerment, Female literacy*