

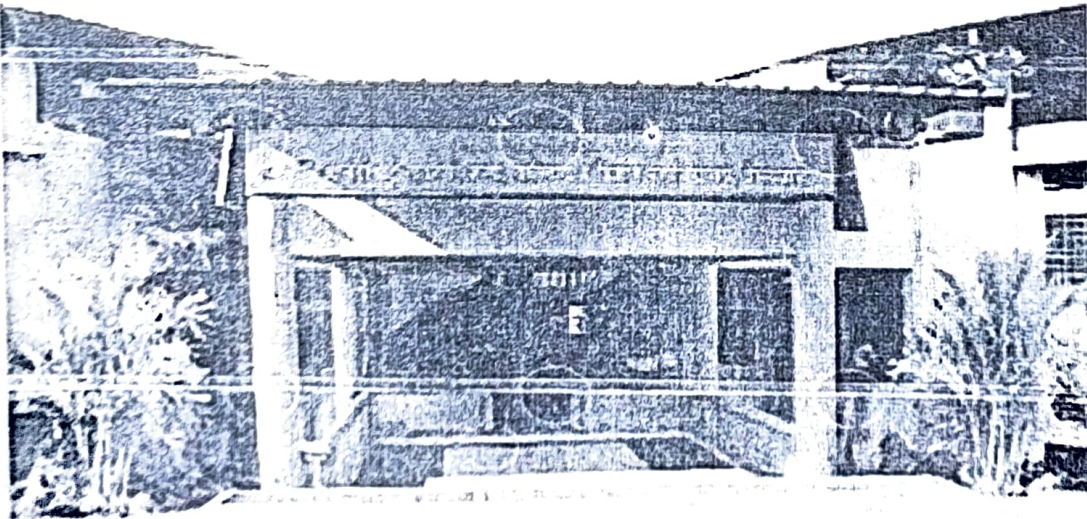
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महाराणा प्रतापसिंह शिक्षण संस्था मुंबई संचालित

२०२० या महाराष्ट्र राज्याच्या हिरक महोत्सवी वर्षानिमित्त

आंतरविद्याशाखीय ऑनलाइन राष्ट्रीय परिषद - २०२०

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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT – KEY OF EMERGING MAHARASHTRA

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"Empowering women is a prerequisite for creating a good nation, when women are empowered, society with stability is assured. Empowerment of women is essential as their thoughts and their value systems lead to development of a good family, good society and ultimately a good nation."

Dr. A.P.J. AbdulKalam

Abstract:

"Women Empowerment" is a burning issue since long period of time in all over the world. "Women Education", "Women Equality", "Gender Sensitization" "quality Life" are the universal issues in this regards. It was experienced by the India and Maharashtra also. Government of India as well as Maharashtra has announced and implemented so many schemes, legal and women friendly administrative provisions by giving the paramount importance to empowerment of the women. Still we are lagging on this front due to varied problems in defining and implementation of the schemes, society, family and women themselves. But all these things played key role in the building of emerging Maharashtra.

Key words – Women empowerment, emancipation, Magna Carta.

1. Introduction:

Women constitute the backbone of the nations. Almost One half of the world's population comprised by women having enormous potential. But in reality these potential are underutilized or unutilized for economic development of the nation. No country can achieve its economic development and objectives of targeted growth, if half of its citizens are left behind.

Till today in India at large extent women are considered as home makers whose responsibilities are restricted to only cooking and taking up other household work, so potential of the women remains untapped. Many aspects of women remain hidden because of social customs, after freedom to India there is dawn to progress in women life. Women in India consistently lag behind the men in the term of access to education, health care, jobs, economic empowerment, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in a ways which recognize the value of their contribution, respect their dignity, and make it possible to negotiate the fairer distribution of the benefit of the growth. Since 1950, movement of women empowered starts. Empowerment of women has emerged as an important issue in recent time. It increases women's access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property, and other productive assets. The empowerment of the women is a prerequisite for sustainable develop of the nation. It happens only through higher education, skill development, vocational education and training, various government schemes for upliftment, development of women.

"There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women"

–Kofi Annan

"Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world; When women participate in the economy, everyone benefits"

– Hillary Clinton

2. Objectives of the study:

2. To study the profile of women empowerment schemes.
3. To study significance of the scheme toward women empowerment.
4. To study the strength and weaknesses of women.
5. To identify the hindrance in the path of women empowerment.

3. Significance of the study:

1. Increase the participation in decision making process.
2. Increase contribution in varied area of national development.
3. Create self sufficiency among the women.

4. Research Methodology:

Present research paper is relied upon secondary data. Researcher has collected related information from reference books, research papers, periodicals, government publications and related government websites through internet.

5. Scope of the Research:

Research covered important schemes, trainings, educational facilities provided by government for the women upliftment without age barrier. Also it reflects customized limitations of women.

6. Some important definitions of women empowerment:

"The term "women empowerment is a process of providing a power to women to become free from the control of the others that is to assume power to control her own life and to determine her own conditions."

"Women empowerment includes the action of raising the status of women through education, raising awareness, literacy and training,"

"Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, economic, strength of women. It often involves the empowered developing confidence in their own capacities."

7. Historical background of the concept:

The women used to command acute power and overruled on devils in our ancient culture. The proof in this regards can be found in all the scriptures and even in our mythological stories. That shows how our Indian civilization revered the women. But things have not remained same in last few centuries and social fabrics have acquired completely new dimensions. So it is very necessary to empower her lost heritage in the society to empower the nation.

Till 1975 the International Women's Year the question of women emancipation was treated as a non issue in the politics of most of the developing countries. However, since then the emancipation of women has become a part of the political agenda of these countries. The

women empower concept was first time introduced in 1985 at Cairo (Nairobi) in International Women Conference. If the educational facilities provided to the women, knowledge, attitude and mental horizon will be widens. The concept of women empowerment is a broader having various issues and diversions. At the social summit in Copenhagen in 1993 and International Conference of Population Development in Cairo 1994, Governments of various countries committed themselves to the empowerment of women. This commitment was operationalized and formulated into clear action plan at the fourth world conference on women in Beijing 1995 where governments committed themselves to the "empowerment and advancement of women, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, thus contributing to the moral, ethical, spiritual and intellectual needs of women and men, individually or in community with others and thereby guaranteeing them possibility of realizing their full potential in society and shaping their lives in accordance with own aspirations."

8. Women Empowered in Maharashtra:

After establishment of national commission on women empowerment in 1992 at central level immediately government of Maharashtra formed state level commission on women empowerment in 1993 and thereafter government of Maharashtra positively declared a comprehensive policy on women development named "Policy for Women" in 1994. But the policy is in the traditional set in the 1970's when the new approach towards women as something other the recipients welfare began to evolve. Though the emancipation of women was earlier co-opted into the development agenda of the company. It simply means that the issue of women development was never addressed from the point of gender justice. Maharashtra, have given the impression that the question of women emancipation is being brought to the core of state's major concerns. The women policy that the state of Maharashtra had announced in 1994, has been hailed by the authority as the "Magna Carta" while some of the women's organizations and activities have by and large hailed this policy.

However, some other women's organizations have criticized the policy document and have expressed their doubts about the feasibility of implementing this particular policy. Some of these organizations have also pointed out that the inherent contradiction in this policy but without any substantiation.

Thus to empower women in the real sense is to enable them to flourish their talents, abilities and capacities and to realize their full potentialities and real identity, it also means to have freedom of thought, expression and action and to strength them to handle every sphere of their lives, It is not only to make them aware of their capacities but also to provide them with the opportunities, facilities and external and internal environment to utilize their inherent qualities and to develop in them the ability to raise voice and fight against injustice, exploitation and violence done to them. It is essential for bringing about prosperity, peace and progress in society.

8.1. Policy for Women 1994:

Government of Maharashtra declared the Policy for Women in 1994 for development and empowerment of women. Following are some important provisions of this policy which empowers the women of Maharashtra.

2. Participation in political decision making with reservation in electoral in various Houses.

3. Provision against Violence against women.
4. Provisions of supportive Administration for women
5. New legislation to safeguard in the interest of women in Maharashtra.
6. Provision of co-parcenary right to women
7. Passed Dowry Prohibition Act 1961.
8. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.
9. Maternity Benefits Act, 1961.
10. "Women friendly" policy of improvement in the economic status through (MAVIM).
11. Provision of Involvement of Non-Government Organization (NGOs)

8.2. New Policy for women 2001

After reviewing pros and cons of policy for women 1994 government of Maharashtra drafted a fresh policy for women entitled New policy for women in 1998 and declared in 2001. In the policy document government emphatically said that the government of Maharashtra is keen on enhancing women's status by empowering them through a special focus on law, economic programmes, education, and health. Silent feather and provisions are highlighted below:

1. Women focused Planning: "Women's Empowerment Programmes"
2. Charter for Women.
3. Provisions for funding : Women component plan
4. Women's participation in legislation: State supported for 30 percent reservation in parliament and administration.
5. Economic Development Through self help group.
6. Comprehensive education programme for girls: Uniform, S.T.Pass, sanitation, sport and vocational education, 30 percent reservation for admission.
7. Comprehensive health programme for girls: To reduce maternal mortality, Vaccination, folic acid cap., periodic medical check, counseling centers for adolescent girls, prevention of Pre-natal diagnostic techniques.
8. Restraint of child marriage.
9. Security and Protection of women.
10. Women's Right to property.
11. Rehabilitation of women in distress.
12. Awareness of gender sensitization.

All the above protective and strengthening provisions were made by the government of Maharashtra to empower women. Beside to that Women and Child Development Department of government of Maharashtra announced various following scheme to promote girl child, to create social status, advancement of women and also rehabilitation of the women.

1. Manodhairya scheme.
2. Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree scheme.
3. Integrated Child Development Services.
4. Beti Bhchayo Beti Padhavo Scheme.
5. Counseling centers for Women.
6. Child Care Institutions.
7. Savitribai Phule Multipurpose Centre's for Differently victimized women.
8. Bal Sangopan Yojana.

9. Rajiv Gadhi national Creche Scheme.
10. Indira Gadhi matritya Sahayog Yojana.
11. Kishori Shakti yojana.
12. Shelter Home Yojana
13. Devdasi Welfare scheme
14. Financial Help for Orphanage girls
15. Shubha Mangal Samuhik Vivah Yojana.

Women Entrepreneurs can be seen everywhere in the startup ecosystem of India. Women are stepping out of the four walls of their homes and joining of pool of Entrepreneurship in India. Banks are offering specialized loan scheme for women Entrepreneurs that have slightly different and more flexible. Here is a list of various scheme and loans exclusively for women that aim at promoting and easing out the process for them:

Scheme and loans:

1. Annapurnna Scheme.
2. Stree Shakti Package for Women Entrepreneurs.
3. Bhartiya Mahila Bank Business Loan Scheme.
4. Udyogini Scheme.
5. Dena Shakti Scheme.
6. Cent Kalyani Scheme.
7. Mahila Udyam Nidhi Scheme
8. Mudra Yojana Scheme for Women.
9. Orient Mahila Vikas Yojana Scheme.

Scholarships: (Besides to scholarship and Free ships of Social Welfare department, post metric, centre sector scholarships etc.)

1. Adobe research women in technology
2. Pragati scholarship
3. CBSC Uddan scholarship
4. Indira Gandhi Scholarship
5. Internshala Scholarship
6. DSF Women Scientist Feliow Scholarship
7. Abhilasha Scholarship
8. Science Olympiad Foundation Scholarship
9. Savitribai Phule Scholarship

Limitations of women empowerment:

Government of Maharashtra is putting its highest degree of efforts towards empowerment of women even then it could not succeed. It is because of some Indian traditions, customs, nature of women themselves are major reasons which are pushing away from empowerment. Few of these are listed below.

1. Inadequate infrastructural facilities.
2. Loopholes in implementation procedure.
3. Lack of capital.
4. High risk of migration
5. Family responsibilities

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6. Low risk bearing capacity
 7. Individual and natural limitations
 8. Male oriented culture
 9. Poor literacy ratio

11. Conclusion:

Gender equality is become a cross cutting issue in international development. So empowerment of women is very necessary for socio-economic development and upliftment of women in a global scenario. Government is making all types of provisions, providing assistance, skill trainings, financial aid, rehabilitations and promotion schemes for empowering the women. From the above study researcher strongly concluded that literacy or higher education is the key pass word for empowerment of women. Women can know their rights, duties, inner strength, excel the job and other betterment opportunities through education. In the magnitude of the empowerment of women; higher education is the powerful tool to built and prove their position in society. It is very necessary that women should come forward for picking opportunities on their own; no one feed a droplet to them for their empowerment.

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