

Women Welfare Programmes for Women Empowerment in Manipur

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Abstract

The main goal of women's empowerment is to raise their social, political, and economic standing, particularly that of traditionally impoverished women. It entails fostering an atmosphere free from all forms of physical and emotional abuse, exploitation, and prejudice that women are the most defenseless group in society. The Indian government and state governments have been making many attempts to improve the conditions of women generally because they recognise the significance of women in the economic development of the country. In an effort to encourage women to engage in economic activity, the government is gradually turning its emphasis to supporting female entrepreneurship. In order to assess the Women Welfare programmes for Women Empowerment in Manipur, this study will emphasise the strategies and plans for women empowerment. In our everyday lives, we see how many societal ills cause women to become victims. In order to increase women's access to resources and capacity to make wise life decisions, women empowerment is a crucial tool. To protect kids from all type of assault is what this procedure entails. The study only used secondary sources for its data. Despite all of the government's efforts, women in this country still have less influence and a lower social position than males. It has been shown that women continue to accept gender standards that are not equal in society. The study's conclusion is that adopting different programmes and providing basic amenities are enabling aspects for women's empowerment.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Basic Rights, Welfare Scheme, Socio-Economic Status, Scheme implementation

Introduction

In order to empower women in India, it is first necessary to exterminate all of the social demons that violate women's rights and values, including the dowry system, illiteracy, sexual harassment, inequality, female infanticide, domestic violence against women, rape, prostitution, and illegal trafficking. Cultural, social, economic, and educational divides brought forth by gender discrimination in the country cause the nation to regress. Making women more powerful by enforcing the Right to Equality enshrined in the Indian Constitution is the most effective treatment to slay such monsters.

Prioritizing gender equality promotes women's empowerment across the nation. Women's empowerment should be pushed from childhood in every household in order to achieve the high level aim. Women must be strong on all fronts—physically, psychologically, and socially. Since a better education may be initiated at home from an early age, the advancement of women requires a strong family to contribute to the overall growth of the country. Due to parental poverty, instability, and illiteracy, early marriage and childbearing are nevertheless common in many underdeveloped countries. The government has made a number of actions to empower women through preventing violence, social segregation, gender discrimination, and abuse of women.

The 108th Constitutional Amendment Bill, popularly known as the Women's Reservation Bill, was enacted to reserve just one-third of the Lok Sabha seats for women in order to increase their participation in all spheres of life. Women have seats allotted in other disciplines as well, allowing for their full involvement without restrictions or competition. It is necessary to launch a number of large-scale initiatives in underdeveloped rural regions to educate people there about the true values of women and the resources the government has made available to ensure their bright futures. To truly realise the promise of women's emancipation, they must be supported in order to ensure the survival and good education of female children.

The emancipation of women from the negative impacts of social, economic, political, caste, and gender discrimination is known as women's empowerment. It entails granting women the autonomy to lead independent lives. In order to empower women, one must promote equality rather than machismo. Below are some of the several facets of women's empowerment :-

Human rights or personal rights:- A woman should be allowed to freely express her sensations, ideas, and thoughts in her everyday life. Having self-assurance when speaking and claiming the authority to decide to negotiate are examples of personal empowerment.

Social Women Empowerment:- The support of gender equality is a crucial component of women's social empowerment. In a culture that values gender equality, men and women have the same opportunities, results, rights, and responsibilities in all spheres of life.

Educational Women Empowerment:- It entails giving women the information, abilities, and confidence they need to actively engage in the development process. It entails educating women about their rights and giving them the self-assurance to exercise them.

Economic and Business Empowerment:- It suggests a higher standard of living through sustainable livelihoods run and owned by women. This entails making them a big portion of the human resource in order to lessen their reliance on their male counterparts financially.

Legal Women Empowerment:- It suggests a clause to establish a strong legal framework in support of women's emancipation. This entails closing the discrepancy between what the law presumes and what really occurs.

Political Women Empowerment:- It denotes the existence of a political structure that favours women's involvement and control in political governance and decision-making.

In recent years, a worldwide movement has formed that is breaking new ground, and this movement includes the empowerment of women and the advancement of women's rights. Even more impetus is being gained through days like International Women's Empowerment Day. The social and economic progress of families, communities, and nations depends on the empowerment of women. Women may realise their full potential when they live a secure, ideal, and successful life. a joyful and healthy environment for the kids while contributing their expertise to the staff. They substantially support society and mankind, as well as a healthy economy. However, despite significant advancements, prejudice and violence against women and girls still exist everywhere in the world.

Why need of women empowerment in Manipur:

To empower women in Manipur, the state government launched a number of projects. However, women face discrimination and marginalisation at all societal levels, including those related to social involvement, political participation, economic participation, access to education, and reproductive healthcare. A small number of women work in various professions and activities. To compete with the males, they thus require an equal economic force. Many rape, female kidnapping, dowry harassment, and other crimes are committed every year. Because of this, they need all forms of empowerment in order to safeguard their purity and dignity while also providing for their own protection. On the other side, it has been established that women have lower literacy rates than males. Therefore, educating more women is crucial to giving them more influence. The majority of women in rural regions are physically so frail that they labour

more hours than they eat. The empowerment of the socially disadvantaged must be addressed in order to make them strong and deserving of respect. The harassment of women at work is another issue. In conclusion, women's emancipation is not achievable without their participation in and support of self-empowerment. Reducing feminine poverty, advancing women's education, preventing and ending violence against women, and developing the fundamental resources to empower the country's female population are all necessary. In order to create a brighter future for them, the framers of our Constitution cared about the equality and rights of women and children. They also worked to advance their welfare. Constitutional provisions guarantee this goal. It is crucial that the phrase "empowered women" refers to women who live with respect and participate equally in growth in a society free from violence and prejudice. And it's crucial that kids are well-cared for, given ample opportunity for development, and raised in a secure atmosphere. By encouraging the social and economic empowerment of women via cross-cutting policies and programmes, mainstreaming gender issues, raising knowledge of their rights, and providing institutional and legislative support for allowing them to achieve their human rights.

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the Awareness of Women Empowerment in India
2. To utilize the Govt. schemes properly for the benefit of Women Empowerment.
3. To study the Government Schemes For Women Empowerment.
4. To study the Government's Schemes on Women Empowerment, development, progress, equality through the Constitutional provisions
5. To review the policies, programmes and projects of central government for development and empowerment of women

Research Methodology

The paper's analysis is both descriptive and analytical in nature. The secondary data for the study was acquired from records made available by various publications, journals, websites, published research papers, magazines, and articles.

Women Empowerment Schemes in Manipur

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) : Through its former Maternity Benefit Program, it provided pregnant women and nursing mothers with financial incentives for better health and nutrition, which helped to foster a more supportive atmosphere.

Scheme for Adolescent Girls : It aims to educate girls between the ages of 11 and 18 in nutrition, life skills, household skills, and vocational training in order to empower and uplift them.

Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme : It aims to educate girls between the ages of 11 and 18 in nutrition, life skills, household skills, and vocational training in order to empower and uplift them.

National Crèche Scheme : It intends to offer childcare services to employed working women with children ranging in age from six months to six years.

Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) : RMK will provide microcredit to disadvantaged women under favourable terms for a variety of livelihood assistance and income-generating activities in an effort to boost their socioeconomic development.

Swadhar Greh : Its goal is to assist women who are homeless and other women who require rehabilitation.

Ujjawala : This is a comprehensive programme for stopping human trafficking as well as for rescuing, rehabilitating, reintegrating, and returning victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in the workplace.

Working Women Hostels : Its goal is to provide women who must travel for employment with safe lodging.

Schemes of One Stop Centre (OSC) and Women Helpline (WH) : These are being implemented to make it simpler for women who have been the victims of violence to access a wide range of services, including medical assistance, police assistance, legal assistance/case management, psychological counselling, and temporary support services.

Gender Budgeting Scheme : It serves as a tool for mainstreaming the gender perspective during various planning, budgeting, implementation, and impact assessment phases, as well as when analysing policy/program objectives and money allotments. The Scheme supports institutional structure improvement and training for a wide range of stakeholders in order to integrate gender concerns in Central and State Governments.

Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP) : The program's training programmes have received financial support from the Department of Women and Child Development of the Ministry of Human Resource Development at Sashtri Bhavan in New Delhi. The project aims to increase women's independence and self-reliance by increasing their productivity and providing them with opportunities to engage in income-generating activities. Women who engage in traditional occupations such as agriculture, animal husbandry, dairying, fishing, handicrafts, Khadi and village industries, sericulture, social forestry, and wasteland development who are poor and without assets are given training to improve their abilities in these areas.

Setting up of Employment-cum-Income Generating units (NORAD) : The goal of this initiative, which has some NORAD funding, is to improve the lives of underprivileged women by teaching them traditional and non-traditional trades including electronics, watchmaking, basic and advanced computer skills, textile production, secretarial work, needlework, etc. After getting the required training, it also guarantees that these women are able to find employment in these fields.

Construction / Expansion of Hostel Building for working Women with a Day Care Center : This programme provides funding to non-profit organisations, governmental organisations, state governments, and educational institutions for the construction of working women's hostels in an effort to increase the number of women enrolled in technical education and the labour force. The objective is to provide working women who reside outside of their families with access to safe, affordable hostel lodging.

Short stay homes for Women and girls (SSH) : The SSH programme is designed for women and girls who don't have access to local support systems due to family problems, mental health challenges, social isolation, exploitation, or other issues. These homes offer a variety of services including medical attention, counselling, educational and vocational training, recreational facilities, and other services.

Conclusion :

It is essential as their thought and their value systems lead the development of a good family, good society and ultimately a good nation. The best way of empowerment is perhaps through inducting women in the mainstream of development. Women empowerment will be real and effective only when they are endowed income and property so that they may stand on their feet and build up their identity in the society. 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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