



EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES: A STUDY IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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Abstract:

Women empowerment means giving freedom to create life choices, attain equality and take part fully in all domains of society, including social, economic and political fields. The empowerment of women is need of the hours specially the empowerment of women with disabilities. Reports of various organizations depict the condition of disable women. This study is an exploration of their miserable condition and would address the need for empowerment, The data would be collected from both primary as well as secondary sources. Primary data would be collected from the respondents through field study. Whereas the secondary data would be gathered from books, journals, newspaper articles, official records and so on. Respondents would be selected through snowball sampling techniques Interview schedule has been prepared to get responses from the respondents. The main findings of the study lack of educational opportunities, lack of awareness, lack of political participation.

Key Words: Disabilities, Economics, Empowerment, Political, Social and women.

Introduction

As a traditional society women in India have to perform secondary role in households. But the policy makers have always given importance for the welfare of women. There has been a significance shift during fifth five year plan [1974- 1978] from welfare to empowerment. India has too supported the Mexico Plan of Action 1975 , the Nairobi Forward LOOKING Strategies 1985, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination [CEDAW] IN 1993. The Beijing Declaration as well as platform for action in 1995 and the outcome Document adopted by the UNGA Session on Gender Equality and Development and Peace for 21 Century

As per an estimate more than one billion persons are disable. Women and girls with disabilities experience systemic marginalization and attitudinal barriers and environmental barriers which lead to lower economic and social status.

Disable population in India about 2.21 % of the total population as per 2011 Census In the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir the disable population is 261153 which constitutes 2.87 % of the total population of the UT. 204834 males and 156319 females. These women with disabilities face various types of challenges and exclusion from the society due to patriarchal structure and cultural taboos. When a baby boy takes birth in a family her birth is

being celebrated by parents and family members whereas when baby girl delivers she has been seen with hate. If disable girl takes birth she is considered burden for the family. The mother of the baby has to face torture by in-laws and husband and sometimes divorce occur.

Review of Literature

Nayak [2013] emphasized on the double discrimination faced by the women with disabilities in patriarchal society like India. He noted that women with disabilities are excluded from education and employment, they are too consider unfit for marriage and motherhood. In his ethnographic study in Odisha families hide their disable daughters from interaction and independence.

Jogdand, A., & Narke, HJ., [2022] In the global complicated culture there is struggle to create their identity by women with disability but in India the situation is depressing. They are facing violence and abuse without the right to marriage and motherhood. The author concludes there is a need for policy intervention programming for the inclusion of girls with disabilities in the mainstream society.

Badland [2022] analyzed the Legislative Landscape in India by focusing on Rights of Persons with Disability Act [2016]. He noted while the Act expended its definition by including 21 types of disabilities but its implimention is weak particularly in rural areas. He too emphasized on the lack of awareness among the beneficiaries as a significant barrier. The author concluded that without proper dissemination and enforcement even the most progressive laws remain effective.

Area of the Study

The study has been conducted in the Rajouri district of jammu and Kashmir to assess the need for the empowerment of disable women and how their empowerment enable them to overcome their day to day challenges in socio economic and educational fields.

Research Methodology

The exploratory research design has been applied for the exporation and analysis. For the present study 12 respondents have been selected through the snowball sampling. Non participant observation method has been applied and responses have been gathered from field study through interview scheduled.

While conducting field survey the researcher has found despite of the various Legislative measures like Rights of Persons with disability Act 2016 Access India Campaign 2015 . The United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006 and 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment Act guarantees 33 % reservation for women in panchayats and municipalities. These laws and schemes have not been properly implemented on ground particularly in rural areas. Respondents have expressed their dissatisfaction over the delay in implementation of these centrally sponsored schemes and urge from policy makers for the effective implementation.

Due to the patriarchal structure of the society the parents do not allow their disable daughters to attend schools and offices. They consider them burden for parents and family.

Women with disabilities are untrained in professional and vocational courses, so they are leading miserable lives as found in present study.

Infrastructure is inaccessible so we can not visit offices and schools for education and employment.

Health professionals are unable to understand our's problems like sexual and reproductive health.

Table no 01

Awareness about Government Schemes	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	4	33.33 %
No	8	66.33 5

This table shows majority of the women with disabilities are unaware about the welfare schemes initiated or them.

Table no 02

Opinion of the disable women	Frequency	Percentage
Satisfactory	3	25
Dissatisfactory	9	75

This table shows that only 25 percent disable women satisfied over the welfare schemes and 75 percents are dissatisfied.

In the present study the researcher found that less participation of disable women in the social economic and political spheres due to infrastructural barriers and social stigma further degrading the standard of living for disable women. So there is an urgent need to uplift the disable women by making them independent and engaging them in community participation through awareness and providing them access to institutions and Government Offices.

The study too revealed that women participation political field is negligible. No women with disabilities has represented even in the panchayat or municipality despite the decentralization of power. This is need of the hours to strengthen the political participation at grassroot level.

Conclusion

Suggestions and Recommendations

This present study reveals despite various legislations at national and international levels but the women with disabilities are still leading a miserable and dependent lives due to weak implementation of these existing laws particularly in rural areas, lack of awareness among beneficiaries, dearth of trained professionals, inaccessible infrastructure and patriarchal norms. These challenges hinder their socio economic educational and political empowerment in society. There is need of the hour to empower these disable women

All legislations which deals with empowerment of women with disabilities should be effectively implemented otherwise the laws will remain in papers.

Infrastructure should be built while considering the needs of disable women. So that they can approach Government Offices, Schools and Recreational centers easily.

Special training sessions should be conducted for health professionals to deals with special patients.

Representation in political field should be given to disable women as given to non disable in panchayats and municipalities.

Training should be imparted to disable women in different vocational courses and innovative skills.

Awareness regarding women participation particularly women with disabilities in political sphere for example importance of vote, participate in the election as candidate in local bodies , state as well as parliamentary election.

Awareness campaign regarding health and hygiene of disable women through the collaboration with Asha and Anganwadies workers.

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