

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN VELLORE DISTRICT - A STUDY

A.NARESH KUMAR AND R.STHANISLAS

Ph.D Scholar, Department of History, Government Arts College, Thiruvannamalai-606 603

Head of the Department, Department of History, Government Arts College, Thiruvannamalai-606 603

Abstract: The study was undertaken to identify Women Empowerment. It is found that the socio-economic factor has been changed. But the saving is increasing at earlier stage of life. There are emerging issues that need to be addressed to make that role of women in the long run. It is clear that by involving voluntary organizations in social mobilization and creating an enabling policy environment, micro finance can achieve a vast scale and can become a rational movement. Education is the basic requirement and the 'Fundamental Right' of the citizens of a nation. While Higher Education is important, the Elementary Education system serves as the base, over which the super-structure of the whole education system is built up. Empowering women by providing access to good health, education, social, economical and political rights in various aspects had been a boon, elevates the growth of status in the society among the men and also has improved their difference. Perhaps the most significant development for women in the last few decades has been the introduction of 33% reservation for women in local, village-elections. In Vellore district, Empowerment women that breaks all the barriers both in the family as well as in the society.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Fundamental Right, good health, education, social, economical and political rights.

1. INTRODUCTION

Women empowerment these issues of gender equality are discussed in World Conferences, National and International Conferences, etc. Our Constitution has conferred and guaranteed equality before law, universal adult franchise and equal opportunities for men and women as fundamental rights. The year 2001 had been declared by the Government of India as "Women Empowerment Year" to focus on division where women are equal partners like men". Because the Constitution of India grants equality to women in various fields of life. people in general, thought and considered that women are weaker than men and are supposed to do only household works like taking care of the cattle, cooking, baby sitting etc. Women under the bond were unable to do their task on their own. They had to fully depend on their husbands or their in-laws. But the trend now has changed as we see women in almost all the areas that requires lot of physical effort. Women have been empowered physically, mentally, politically, socially and economically. Women education had been an eye opener since the independence. Enhancing the status of women is a continuous process and also the same is in practice all over the world.

Women do play a vital role in sectors like sales, services, production, agriculture and professional fields which is ultimately connected. Education, in one way, plays a vital role in empowering women. By providing access to good health, education, social, economical and political rights. In various aspects had been a boon, in particular to the family and in general, the society. It has raised the power of women, provides them access to all the activities, provides positive thinking attitude, and creates a self image that comforts them, elevates the growth of status in the society among the men and also has improved their moral living. The women issues have received tremendous attention in the planning circle and in wide intellectual discussions and forums at national and global platforms. On the encouraging front, in the South Asian countries there have been relatively increasing economic participation in past one decade. Statistically the rate of literacy among women has also increased.

Separate institutions for women and child development, departments at the Central and State levels, creation of the National Commission for Women and also State Commission for Women in several States are some of the important developments for the betterment and prosperity of women. The launching of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Indira Mahila Yojana Mahila Samridhi Yojana, reserving of one third of the number of seats in Panchayats and the local bodies are programmes launched with a view to improve and empower women socially, economically and in political frontiers.

2. HISTORY OF VELLOER DISTRICT

Vellore (tamil: vellore) is a city of the Vellore district in the Indian State of Tamil Nadu. In 2018, the 152 year old Municipalities were made a city corporation. The Vellore city corporation, at 392 square kilometers (151 sq mi), is the largest in Tamil Nadu surpassing Chennai City Corporation, which is 182 square kilometers (70 sq mi). It is considered one of the oldest Cities in south India and lies on the banks of the Palar River on the site of Vellore fort. The City lies between Chennai (145 km) and Bangalore (215 km) and the temple towns of Thiruvannamalai and Tirupati. The City has Colleges, ancient temples and one of the best hospitals in India (Christian medical college & Hospital). Vellore is a major transit point for travelers, a hub for medical tourism and emerging as a tourist hot spot.

The name is said to have originated from vel which is the main weapon of the Hindu deity Murugan or 'velayadayaan' (one who bears the spear). The word then literally means the place of Murugan. The name Vellore is derived from the Tamil words vel + ur meaning City of Spears. Ancient history shows that Vellore was a battle field where the warriors used to fight was left with abandoned weapons like Spears. The name; Vellore is also said to have been derived from some of the precious stone which had a similar sounding name. There is megalithic proto-historical evidence in and around Vellore of such a semi-precious stone industry being prevalent in ancient times.

Vellore has a blend of heritage and culture reflecting the ancient Dravidian civilization. It was the seat of the Pallovas, Cholas, Nayak, Marathi, Arcot Nawabs and Bijapur Sultan kingdoms. Vellore was once the capital City of the Vijayanagar Empire during 1606-1672. The fort in Vellore was described as the best and stronger fortress during the Karnatic war in the 17th Century. The Monuments found in the district give a vivid picture of the evolution of the City through the ages.

In the centuries before India's Independence there were many changes in kingdoms of the south and their capital. The North and south regions of Arcot came into the political map in 1810 at the time of the last Mughal Emperor. Late in 1908, the two districts, namely North and South Arcot, came into existence. Chittoor (now in Andhra Pradesh) was the first capital of the North Arcot district. From then on it was the principal military base of the British. In 1911, Vellore became the head quarters of North Arcot District comprising Vellore and Thiruvannamalai.

3. EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN VELLORE DISTRICT

The year 2001 had been declared by the Government of India as "Women's empowerment Year" to focus on division where women are equal partners like men". Because the Constitution of India grants equality to women in various fields of life. Vellore being one of the largest districts in Tamil Nadu has been focused on the research study and the analysis of women empowerment has been carried out. The paper discusses the various measures taken by the government of Tamil Nadu to empower women in Vellore district. Women are given equal rights with men and uplift their position in the society. Empowering women also empowers the entire family and helps them to stand on their own legs. As women started taking meaningful decisions in the family, there exists a growth factor that provides better living conditions to all the family members. It is amazing to identify the fact that educated women can definitely be a boon to the society.

4. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

The social scenario also has changed keeping pace with the changing time. Increased social awareness and upward social growth mark the successful story of the district. The bonded labour, child labour, etc. are fast disappearing giving place to a new social order. A striking feature of the social change is that the district achieved cent percent literacy owing to the effective implementation of the Arivoli Movement.

The samathuvapuram that are being set up, in various parts of the district, herald a new era, as social harmony and peaceful co-existence of different communities are the basic concept of this scheme. The varumun kappom Thittam by providing basic infrastructure to rural folk for a free medical examination is indeed a milestone in the social history of Tamil Nadu.

One can glimpse Dravidian culture in Vellore's art and ethics, Dance forms include Devarattom kummi, Kolattam, Kuchipudi and a Gymnastic dance form called karhai Kothu including Silambattam which is an interesting merger of martial arts and dance. Age old of theatre namely 'Therukoothu' and the traditional dance form 'kokkalikottal' which were dying a slow death are being revived by patrons of art. Typical of south Indian cuisine, Vegetarianism is the way to go in Vellore Sambar, dosa, vada, rasam, coconut chutney, uthappam, idiyappam, kottu, koozha puttu, aviyal, ect. Are some of the local favourites, not to forget the dessert 'Pongal' and the lip-smacking south Indian filtered coffee. Festivals are celebrated with much enthusiasm, especially Pongal which is the harvest festival. Music connoisseurs can spread their musical wings at the annual carnatic music carnival. Vellore is known for handicraft items such as hanging brass lamps, rosewood furniture, cane baskets, wooden handicrafts and clay. Additionally, one can peruse carved artefacts, panchaloha idols, trendy terracotta and decorative wooden bangles. Walajapet is famous for its mats and Arni for its silk woven products.

5. EDUCATION

Education to women is the most powerful instrument of changing their position in the society. Education also brings about reduction in inequalities and also acts as a means to improve their status within the family. In order to encourage education of women at all levels and to dilute gender bias in the provision and acquaintance of women in the state. India is more than 75% as compared to the female literacy rate of 54.16%. The Indian government has tried to provide incentives for girls' school attendance through programs like midday meals, free books, and uniforms. This welfare thrust raised primary enrollment between 1951 and 1981. In 1986 the National Policy on Education decided to restructure education in tune with the social framework of each state, and with larger national goals. It emphasized that education was necessary for democracy, and was central to the improvement of women's condition.

Education for women is the best way to improve the health, nutrition and economic status of a household that constitute a micro unit of a nation's economy. In this context, it can be argued that lack of women's education can be an impediment to the country's economic development. In India, women achieve far less than the education of men. As per the Census report 2001, the literacy rate of women is 54.16 per cent and that of men is 65.38 per cent. There has been a sincere effort to improve the education attainment of women by both government and voluntary organizations.

In Vellore district female literacy rate is comparatively more and there is a lot of openings for the female teachers when compared to male teachers. According to a survey in Vellore there are about 7748 teachers in primary schools, but the male female ratio is 1724:6024. This shows a positive impact on the women education in Vellore and the opening for the girl children to regularly attend the school. As with young children they feel very comfortable when they have female teachers than males. In case of upper primary level schools the male female teacher's ratio is again an eye opener, as it has the ratio 1663:4360 respectively. Creating a positive approach about schools in the minds of little school children has been a regular practice in village schools, as the teachers go out into the village to canvas the children and the parents to send them to school regularly.

The Thiruvalluvar University was formed by the bifurcation of the University of Madras which was located in the Vellore Fort campus. The foundation stone for a multi-core University campus was laid at serkkaadu near katpadi in Vellore by M. Karunanidhi on 16 February 2008 and inaugurated on 27 November 2010, Almost all of the Government run Arts and Science Colleges present in Vellore District, Tiruvannamalai District, Villupuram District and Cuddalore District are affiliated to the Thiruvalluvar University.

6. ECONOMY

Vellore has a diversified economy based on Leather Industries, Automobile Industries, Engineering & Manufacturing Industries, Precision Tool Industries, Explosive Industries and Service Sector Industries. Sidco & Sipcot Industrial Parks in Vellore region are located at katpadi, Ranipet, Mukundarayapuram, Vannivedu and Arakkonam. Industrial cluster of leather industries are located at Ambur, Vaniyambadi and Ranipet. Future developments include Electronics Manufacturing cluster (EMC), Leather SEZ and Information Technology SEZ.

The Statistical of Women in Vellore District

Vellore is a south Indian district with salient physical features like mountains, rivers, lakes, forest, forts built in the ancient period and historical spots. Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh is the northern boundary, Krishnagiri district on

the east. Vellore is a place with extreme climatic conditions during summer and winter. According to 2011 census data, the population in Vellore is about 3,936,331, the male population is 1,961,688 and the female population is 1,974,643. The literacy rate of male and female is 86.5 and 71.95 percent respectively.

Women Achievers

Women can definitely multi-task much better than men. They are more sincere, creative, responsible and hard working. They are technically strong too. Women express themselves better than their male counterparts and this helps them to interact with customers better. They are excellent team players. The corporate environment is also becoming more women friendly. Even engineering colleges, civil and mechanical engineering were regarded and inappropriate for the Indian middle class girl. Today the Indian women opted for Electronics & Communication and Computer Science resulting in more women graduating in these subjects. In order to acquire extra expertise some women opted for computer courses after they successfully completed their graduation. It was later when the Indian women realized their efficiency in the sector and went on to chase their subject of interest as a full time career. Ever since the requirements for technical experts increased in IT sector, women are now seen as tough contenders to men in terms of both experience and ability. Many of them also work in international scenario expanding their visibility to the companies recruiting them for their dexterity and proficiency.

Political equality to all children regardless of birth, sex, colour, etc. is one of the basic premises of democracy. Political equality includes not only equal right to franchise but also more importantly, the right to access to the institutionalized centre of power. Thus, political participation of women means not only using the right to vote but also power sharing, co-decision making and policy making at all levels. The active participation of women in political sphere is integral to empowerment of national development. Women's political empowerment is premised on three fundamental and non-negotiable principles: the equality between women and men; women's right to the full development of their potentials; and women's right to self-representation and self-determination. This has profound social implications which gives a long way in addressing gender related discrimination in development.

The expanding of the Indian economy, the amplified functions of the private sector and the boost in the number of multinationals coming up has assisted a slow but steady increase in the number of women executives and entrepreneurs in the corporate industry. In India, we still notice very few women at the top positions as many of them have selected parallel career options to concentrate equally on their domestic front. Indian MNCs still have to plan women oriented proposals designed especially for working mothers and institutional assistance.

7. METHODOLOGY

The Present study is mainly emphasis on women empowerment through the development in Vellore District based on secondary source of data. Which were collected through various Annual reports and economic survey. Some information collected from the sources of Journals, Periodicals, Books and Website.

While a male child is encouraged to pursue his desired professions under the pretext that he will take the household responsibility on growing up. Whether he really does or does not, yet he is prioritized for being the "heir" who will carry on the family surname.

Marriage is security for a woman and it might be an easier way of accumulating wealth for a man. Parents of a girl child educate their daughter and accumulate wealth for finding a "better groom" for her. Still, her income generating capacities are tested by the boy's parents. If she qualifies in terms of property, education, income only she has a chance to get a suitable match. If she lacks in the first and the last category then her chances can be reduced to nil. Even her beauty cannot compensate for it. Beauty of a woman has the last of all priorities during match-making. Child marriage and sati are still prevalent in states like Rajasthan, India. Denying a girl her right to live happily are heinous crimes. But sadly, even in the 21st century India, women struggle to find their right place. Dowry deaths have not become a talk of past nor has woman's secondary status elevated to equal. The collected data was analyzed by using simple analytical like average, percentage etc.

8. CONCLUSION

The study was undertaken to identify Women Empowerment. It is found that the socio-economic factor has been changed. But the saving is increasing at earlier stage of life. There are emerging issues that need to be addressed to make that role

of women in the long run. It is clear that by involving voluntary organizations in social mobilization and creating an enabling policy environment, micro finance can achieve a vast scale and can become a rational movement.

The organized workforce has been reduced to less than ten percent in India in the last decade. The 'formal' sector is under considerable attack. There is a great deal of concern regarding the impact of these developments on women. Women of today face increasing pressures to earn from petty self-employment, in the informal sector and in production for larger industries.

Education is the basic requirement and the Fundamental Right' of the citizens of a nation. While Higher Education is important, the Elementary Education system serves as the base, over which the super-structure of the whole education system is built up. Empowering women by providing access to good health, education, social, economical and political rights in various aspects had been boon, elevates the growth of status in the society among the men and also has improved their difference. Perhaps the most significant development for women in the last few decades has been the introduction of 33% reservation for women in local, village-elections. In Vellore district, Empowerment women that breaks all the barriers both in the family as well as in the society.lfm,

REFERENCES

- [1] Groups in India A Gender Perspective Asian Development Review, Vol.27(1), pp80-103.
- [2] Jayanthi. C "Empowering Women". Yojana, June 2001.
- [3] Jayaraman. R (2005) "Performance Analysis of Fisherwomen SHGs in Tamilnadu" final reportsubmitted to NABARD, pp1-63.
- [4] Puhazhendhi. V (2009), "Microfinance India –State of the sector Report 2012" SAGE publications India Pvt Ltd.
- [5] R. U. Menon and V. P. Sukumaran, "Urbanization and women empowerment an overview" International Journal of Human Resource Management and Research (IJGRMR), vol. 5, no. 2, April (2015), pp. 35-40.
- [6] E. Duflo, "Women Empowerment and Economic Development", Journal of Economic Literature, vol. 50, no. 4, (2012), pp. 1051-1079.
- [7] R. Karuppannan, "A study of Self Help Groups in Vellore District", Tamilnadu, India, (1012) March 1 <http://ssrn.com/abstract>.
- [8] K. Ramakrishna and Dr. A. Sudhakar, "Women Empowerment through Skills Development: The Role of RUDSETIs", International Journal in Management and Social Science, vol. 03, no. 06, (2015) June, pp. 421 -434.
- [9] D. Hazarika, "Women Empowerment in India: A Brief Discussion", International Journal of Educational Planning & Administration", ISSN 2249-3093, vol. 1, no. 3, (2011), pp. 199-202.
- [10] M. Maheshwari and P. Sodani, "Women Entrepreneurship- A Literature Review", IOSR Journal of Business and Management (IOSR-JBM), vol. 17, no. 2.Ver. II, (2015) February, pp. 06-13.
- [11] <http://www.census2011.Co.in/census/district/23-vellore.html>.
- [12] <http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/dchb/3304 PART B DCHB VELLORE. Pdf>.
- [13] Industrial Parks in Vellore District Industries Centre. Retrieved 9 Feb 2014.