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Role of Teacher Education in Women Empowerment

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Importance of Teacher Education

The progress of a nation squarely rests on teachers as they are most important component of educational process. The importance of teacher is reflected by the first sentence of Education Commission report (1964-66) – "The destiny of India is being shaped in her classroom".

Teacher education owns the responsibility of preparing teachers who would be a very powerful resource of communication of knowledge and development of skill. Teacher is a human resource. He is not only a transmitter, programmer or informer, he has to assume the role of nurturing, gardening, building, scholarship, creativity, humanity, dynamism, a perfect human being with excellent creation of new knowledge.

Meaning of Gender Equality

Women constitute half the humanity. Despite being endowed with certain peculiar features – both physical and temperamental, men and women are complementary to each other. Their diverse physical and temperamental qualities together form a complete race. None of them can perform the task without involvement of other. Hence logically both should have equal status and should equally enjoy all human rights. According to Boutros Boutros Ghali (Former Secretary General of UNO)

The overall social content wherein girl lives from womb to tomb is filled with sex bias. Sex bias can be defined as "Inclination of mind on the basis of the sex of a child without due examination". Hence the sex bias which exist at paternal home, community level, learning institution, world of work, matrimonial home, rather all around puts insurmountable hurdles in her physical, emotional, social, educational, economical and even spiritual development. As a result she is not able to develop her potentialities to the desired extent. As a consequence to it she is invariably on unequal footings with the boys of her age and is often in a disadvantage position to take full benefit of various programs introduced by the government, for the welfare and educational development of children "Human Rights are not worthy of the name, if they exclude the female half of humanity. The struggle for women's equality is a part of the struggle for a better world for all human being and all society".

Present disastrous condition of gender equality

According to universal declaration of human rights-

Art -3- Right of life, liberty and security of person.

Art -5- No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Art-12- Protection of attack upon honour.

These rights, theoretically so sound and unchallengeable seems mere rhetoric in the wake of widespread violence against women throughout

the world. The problem of gender based violence is being recognized today not only as a crime but also as a major obstacle in the enjoyment of various human rights e.g. Right to equality, freedom, life and security of a person, peace and development by the women. In effect, basic human right of peace has been systematically denied to women for ages, irrespective of the political and legal system under which they lived.

Various forms of gender based violence

Social Status- The social condition of women is very pathetic

Domestic Violence- The greatest tragedy of women is that she falls the victim of brutal force at the hand of those whom she loves and trust the most-husband, father, uncles and brothers and within the safe confines of home. Even more regrettable is the fact that this kind of violence has for long acquired mute social acceptance all over world. In the developed and developing country alike physical, sexual and psychological abuse within the family affects astounding number of women. It is not surprising that domestic violence is the number one violence that numbers of psychiatrist handle today. It happens to every class of women –urban and highly qualified as well as rural and illiterate.

According to a world health organization report 16-52 percent of women all over the world experience violence in intimate relationship. Domestic violence may take form of wife battering, marital rape, dowry deaths, psychological harassment, infanticide etc.

Indian Scene- Though official statistics about prevalence of this form of domestic violence is not available as it is supposed to be a part of marital life life, wife beating is one of the most traumatic and prevalent form of crime against women in India. According to the National Bureau of Crime Report, 1994, torture against women in India. According to the National Bureau of Crime Report, 1994, torture against women by husband or his relatives forms 26.2 percent of all crimes reported against women.

Dowry Deaths- Dowry death include both murder of woman by her husband or his kins out of frustration for not being able to extract desired dowry as well as suicides committed by a woman torture for the sake of dowry, to get rid of her unbearable agony. Dowry deaths make most common reading in Indian newspaper.

Superstitions- Backed Violence against Women – Superstition prevail in every society. In traditional societies like India the impact of superstitions is more. Due to gender bias the axe falls on the woman. The most prominent and horrible form of this kind of violence is branding a woman a Witch or Dayan. The declaration of this kind is made by a witch doctor or ojha.

Patriarchy and Political Participation of Women – The mega structure of patriarchy is based on the pillars of gender bias and gender discrimination. The

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