



Woman empowerment: a case study of the select villages of Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand

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Abstract

Women lead 50% of world population. In India the condition of women is not so well specially in rural areas where women are facing traditional discrimination. The Indian Constitution gives equal rights to all, but most of the women are not enjoying their rights even some of them not aware about their rights. In rural and hilly areas of Uttarakhand, the women play key role in the economy as well as in all other fields. They are hard worker but the men dominating society has been consistently ignoring their participation in the society. Women are facing discrimination, violence and humiliation in all fields. This paper is an attempt to analyze the actual condition of women in the select villages of Pauri Garhwal district in their male centered family. Some suggestions are also placed by the scholar at the end of the results and discussion.

Keywords: Discrimination, empowerment, hilly women.

INTRODUCTION

Woman is the wonderful creation of God on this earth. She plays many roles in a family as mother, sister, daughter and a wife. We can't imagine this world without a woman. Today she is raped, sexually harassed, facing violence and discrimination in the male oriented society. In rural areas of Uttarakhand girl child is only a means of household works. According to census 2011, the number of women in Uttarakhand is 4962574 and the female literacy rate stands at 70.70% whereas the male literacy rate is 88.33% . The sex ratio of Uttarakhand is 963 females per 1000 males. (<https://wecd.uk.gov.in>). But still the condition of women in hilly areas is not so well. Women play an important role in the socio- economic system of this region. As Uttarakhand is an agricultural state where women have to deal with all the agricultural works.. Due to the lack of modern social structure the people celebrate the birth of a boy, but the birth of a girl is considered as a time of mourning.

In 1975 the United Nation Organisation held the first International Conference of women in Mexico where UN declared the decade 1975-85 as a decade for women. The convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women was the first document which spelled out women's rights in considerable details. The United Nations ' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and many subsequent declaration including the two international conventions, proclaim the equal rights of human being without regard to their sex.

Uttarakhand Government's - Empowerment Programmes

Uttarakhand State Women Commission:

To stop discrimination and violence against women, to empower the women, the State Government established the State Women Commission on 9th October, 2003. Uttarakhand became the 21st State to constitute the Women Commission. Because of the geographical conditions of the state commission has been decentralized. One member from each district make their representation in the commission to solve the problem of women easily at local level. Sabla Yojana: For the development and empowerment of adolescent girls Government of India aided Sabla Yojna in Haridwar, Chamoli, Uttarkashi and Nainital district. 2.08 lakh adolescent girls have been identified during the survey in mentioned District. In sabala Yojana there is a provision to provide supplementary nutrition to the girls aged 11 to 14 years.

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act: Under Domestic Violence Act, women officers have been given preferences to be nominated as Protection Office. In all the districts Non-Governmental Organizations have been selected as service providers. All District hospitals, community and primarily health centers and A.N.M. sub - centers have been nominated as Medical Facility Centre. District level reviews and trainings have been organizing through Women Commission and Mahila Samakhya.

Tilu Rauteli Award: Under this scheme a women or adolescent girl, who has made a heroic or a special achievement in any particular area, is awarded an amount of Rs. 10,000 and a citation.

Uttarakhand Women Integrated Scheme: The Uttarakhand Women Integrated Development scheme is being conducted under Women and Child Development Society constituted in the department in the year 2002 under Society Registration Act, 1860. The objectives of the scheme is to reduce the work load of women spread awareness about gender discrimination, to develop the capacity of decision making in women, women self employment, to create understanding amongst women on Panchayati Raj System etc.

Kishori Shakti Yojana: The main objective of this scheme is to encourage the adolescent girls in 11 to 18 years of age by training to make them able to actively contribute in health and development of their family and society. Under the scheme an annual amount of Rs. 1.10 lakh has been provided to each Child Development project.

Beti bachao Beti Padhaao: The main objective of this programme is to improve the sex ratio, to educate the girl child to empower them, develop opportunities for them to make them self dependent. At present this program has been conducting by the Uttarakhand Government in Pithoragarh, Champavat, Haridwar, Dehradun and Chamoli District.

Purpose of study

The paper ensures the following findings:

How the women of the villages of Pauri Garhwal have been surviving in their families.

Are still the women of the villages of Pauri Garhwal living there with domestic violence or not?

Role and condition of women in the male centered family.

Methodology

Interview

Questionnaires

Data collection and analysis

The actual study was conducted by getting the answered questionnaires self administered by the research scholar. Once the data was received, it was analyzed to find out the actual condition of women in the select villages of Pauri Garhwal.

Results

21 % were not free to take decisions in their family.

12% were still encountering domestic violence in their family.

37% were not free to spend their family income the way they want to be.

43% were not free to decide on large household purchases.

21% were not free to spend money on their health.

5% were not free to give vote according to their own choice.

60% wanted to go outside to earn money.

Suggestions

1. Government should adopt some awareness programs with a certain glance on the implementation of these adopted programs.
2. As we are witnessing that in village Panchayat, the head of the village (pradhan women) are not performing their duty themselves. Instead, their husbands are using their rights and fulfilling their duties as Prdhan Patis. Hence, there should be some certain and strict rules to avoid these types of abnormalities.
3. As the result shows that 12 % of women are still encountering the perplexity of domestic violence, there must be annual surveys by Uttarakhand Government to ensure the safety of hilly women.
4. As the result shows that 21% of women are still not free to spend money on their health, there must be some policies to ensure the health benefits of women.
5. As the result shows that 60% of women want to go outside to earn money, government should make them able to earn money. There must be some loan and business policies to ensure their benefits.