

CHAPTER-V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

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Women are integral part of society and society cannot be run without them. At the present time women have entered in every sphere of human activity and are playing an important role in the society with men. The status of women in different countries of the world Greek, China, Rome has been indicates that the women was subject of admiration. In the 18th and 19th centuries, democracy, equality and justice brought significant changes and process which affect women. The status of women in the society can be understood with the political status. Political equality of women started in 18th century in Northern America and Western Europe. In India, Indian National Congress gave important position to the women. The important aspects to be noted that the Indian women did not fight for their political status; it was given to them by the Indian constitution itself in 1950.

Indian women, during Vedic Period occupied a equal status, but her position deteriorated during the Mughal Period and British Rule. Various attempts were made by the Brahma Samaj, Arya Samaj and Prarthana Samaj to improve the position of women in India. During National Movement women pushed out of their homes to face the *lathis* and bullets. It gave them not only consciousness of their own strength but a new vision of their true place in the society. Gandhiji's vision of freedom the equality

for women provided them a suitable forum to the formation of national bodies like the All India Women's Conference, the Women's Council and state level bodies like Jyoti Sangha etc.

The term 'empowerment' accepted in the vocabulary of development. It is a process which helps people to assert their control over factors which affect their lives. Empowerment requires the full participation of people in formulation, implementation and evaluation of decision, determination the functioning and well being in our society.

Women's empowerment as a concept was introduced at the International Women's Conference in 1985 at Nairobi. Empowerments of women mean redistribution of social power and control the resources in favour of women. Concern for women's empowerment was very visible in India .In 19th and 20th centuries the women's empowerment re-emphasized by our constitutional framers.

The brief review of literature in the area of the status of women, empowerment of women and role of women in PRIS were dealing in this study.

The previous chapters an attempt has been made to analyze the status of women, empowerment of women and initiatives in international, national and state level. Socio-economic condition of common women, PRIs women and role of NGO's and women's groups for the empowerment of women in Himachal Pradesh. The present chapter focuses on the major findings of the study and some suggestions to improve the socio-economic and political status of women.

The present study is based on the hypothesis that government of Himachal Pradesh has taken proper initiatives for empowerment of women. The hypothesis was divided into sub-hypothesis

- (i) Himachal Pradesh Govt. initiatives are playing effective role for empowerment of women.
- (ii) Socio-economic condition of women is satisfactory.
- (iii) Lack of awareness among women about government initiatives for empowering them.
- (iv) Panchayati Raj Institutions/PRIs women representatives are actively participating in empowering women.
- (v) NGOs are playing greater role in women empowerment.

In the chapter 'Women Empowerment Initiatives', it was observed that there has been a tremendous increase in the developmental activities for women. UN General Assembly proclaimed the decade 1976-85 , "Decade of Women" after the first world conference on women (1975) under the motto: equality –development-peace. Bijing Conference (1995) was with the critical areas of concern, poverty, education health, media projection etc.

Further it became evident that the Constitution of India has also provided the best expression of concern safeguarding the rights and privileges of women. Various articles of the constitution provide to equal rights and opportunities for women in political, economic and social

spheres, prohibit discrimination on grounds of sex, religion, caste, etc. Acknowledging the world-wide significance of women empowerment the government of India declared 2001 as the “Year of Women’s Empowerment” and the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women came in to the force from 2001.

Government of India with its welfare approach during five year plans launching various education and health plans for women. The large numbers of laws have been enacted to protect the rights of women. The women specific legislation are the Immortal Traffic (Prevention) Act-1956, the Dowry Prohibition Act-1961, the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act-1986, the Commission of Sati (Prevention Act-1987) and Domestic Violence Act-2005 etc. The NCW made a number of recommendations for changes and removal of lacunae in more than 34 laws and more than 10 bills. It also made recommendation an Older Person’s Maintenance, Care and Protection Bill, and the Compulsory Registration of Marriage Bill etc.

Women’s political participation and representation has been considered a major measure of women’s empowerment as per the 73rd and 74th Constitutions Amendment Acts. A bill for introducing one third reservations for women in legislatures was drafted. Unfortunately the Women’s Reservation Bill becomes one of most controversial and debatable bill in the history of Indian parliament.

The government of India has been implementing various schemes and programmes for the welfare and empowerment of women in the areas of education, health services, awareness generation, and support services. Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resources Development was setup in 1985, with the major programmes focusing on women. Construction of hostel for working women with day care center, income generating programmes, rehabilitation of women in distress, Support to Training and Employment for Women (STEP), Women Development Corporations and Prevention of Atrocities against Women etc. Central Social Welfare Board setup in 1953 to promoting voluntary action in the country and also setup branches at the various state capitals. CSWB is facilitating the social and economic empowerment of women providing them with education and relevant schemes. Socio-economic programmes, provide setting small industries units, dairy projects, self employment, assistance handloom etc.

Apart from there programmes there are also various special schemes for women, Swayansidha, Swa-shakti Project, Swalamban, Swadhar, RMK, Janani Suraksha Yojana etc.

The government of Himachal Pradesh has also undertaken many women related programmes and schemes to upgrade the status of women. The Monthly Pension schemes for Widow, Matri Shakti Bima Yojana, Indira Mahila Yojana, 50 percent reservation for women in PRI's, State Home and Mahila Mandal Protsahan Yojana etc.

The main objectives of these are programmes and scheme to bring women into the main stream of national development. Since independence the government of India has enacted constitutional and legal framework and developed institutional mechanism to enable improvement in the condition of women.

The next chapter divided into two parts, the first part of the chapter dealt with the Socio- economic condition of common women. It was found that general category women were dominated. As for as occupation was concerned, majority of women belong to the agriculturist and involved in agriculture activities in their area. The income group of women was monthly Rs.5000 to Rs. 10000 and had a small family which has two to three members and has nuclear family. It was very important to note from the analysis of data that majority of women were married between the age of 21 to 25 years. As far as property concerns majority of women possess property (moveable and immovable). Majority of women were working outside and save their earnings. It was observed that after joining gainful employment women are enjoying freedom and feel independent and earn respect in the society. The majority of women strongly favours of employment for women and think that women should take up the job like teaching and nursing.

It was observed that women in the study area is socially empowered they are fully aware about legal age of marriage, about Divorce and Widow re-marriage have clear view. Majority of women favored widow

remarriage. They denied the dowry practice in their area. Women rejected the view that the son in the family is necessary and they do not discriminate girl child imparting education.

Further it was very encouraging to note that after the analysis of data full majority of women strongly opposed the practice of female foeticide in the society. It was also observed that domestic violence in the society is a main problem and lack of education among women and alcoholism among men is also a problem, which were facing women in their day today life. Majority of women were not able to solve women's problems in their area. Thus the sub-hypothesis that is socio-economic condition of women is satisfactory has been approved.

Most of the women were interested in politics and favored the reservation for women. It was noticed that women enthusiastically cast their vote in the election especially in panchayat elections on the basis of educational qualification and honesty of the candidate.

It was found that women were aware about the women oriented programmes and schemes and media is main information source and agreed that government official also motivate them to join these programmes and government organize various camps. This awareness is responsible for the success and failure of programs. The sub-hypothesis that is lack of awareness among women about government initiatives for empowering them partially has been disapproved.

The next part of the chapter dealt with the socio-economic position of elected women representative of PRI's. It was found that women leadership was dominated between the age group of 31-40 years. As far as educational qualification concerned, majority of representative women belonged to the education up to matric level. Most of the representative women belonged to agriculturist and income group of Rs 5000 to Rs 10000 monthly and size of land holdings was 10-15 kanal.

It was found the representative women were aware about the 73rd amendment Act 1992 and HPPR Act, 1994. The women representative were of the view that the main problem in their area is illiteracy and felt that social evils like dowry, domestic violence, rape, female foeticide should be under the jurisdiction of PRI's. Another significant inference drawn from the data was that representative women were fully satisfied with the government's developmental schemes. It was found that full majority of representative women attended the meetings of PRI's regularly. It was very interesting to note drawn from the data was that women representatives specially raise the social issues in PRI's meeting. It was found that male members of the PRI's give attention to representative women's demand and issues.

The representative women were of the view that the reservation of seats for women in PRI's is the advantages of women in general and had brought change in their social status. So the sub-hypothesis that is PRI's

and women representatives participating actively to empowering women have been approved.

In the chapter 'NGO's and Women Empowerment' it was observed that majority of women respondents were aware about NGO's and SHG's and women's group. Further it is evident that women respondents were aware about the help provide by NGO's and fact that NGO's had increased the general awareness level of women. It was also observed that NGO's were also dealt with the case of destitute women and playing important role for upliftment of destitute women. Again the women respondents were aware with the camps organized by NGO's .It was found during the study that NGO's, women's group, SHG's were playing active and effective role for improving the status of women and society in general. It was also found that women respondents were happy with the grant-in- aid provided to these organizations and satisfied that efforts of NGO's were making women socio-economically empowered.

Finally in this chapter it was found that women experiencing change after joining the various programmes and initiatives run by non-governmental organizations. Thus the sub-hypothesis, that is NGO's are playing effective and efficient role for empowering women have been proved.

The various programmes has implemented through its different departments to bring about women's development welfare and their

empowerment. The government launched the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) on International Women's Day in 2010 with the aim to strengthen over all processes that promote all round development of women.

It was noticed that the initiative by government is playing effective role for empowering women. The government of Himachal Pradesh is also initiating various programs for women to improve their socio-economic and political status in the society. This proves the hypothesis of this study that the government of Himachal Pradesh has taken proper initiatives in empowering women.

Suggestions

Women empowerment involves economic and political opportunities, social equality and personal rights. Besides a lot need to be done to elevate the status of women and put an end to discriminatory, practice in the society. Based on the finding of the study, following are measures out lined for the women fully empowered:

- Education plays a very important role in greater social participation. It helps women to develop a sense of motivation to achieve more and more. The educational level of women should be improved through part time education programmes.
- Legal provisions and legal changes in divorce, maintenance and domestic violence and other concerned laws should be strictly implemented.

- Women specific cluster, SHG's and area programmes for women should be promoted.
- Training in the gender sensitization among bureaucracy, legislative and judicial wings with special focus on policy framers, developmental agencies, law enforcement machinery and the judiciary as well as NGO's should be given.
- Both men and women should join hands to fight against the detrimental established practices in the society. The evils like dowry, female foeticide and subordination of women in society need to be eliminating by creating social awareness through various social awareness programmes.
- The enactment of 73rd Amendment Act 1992 providing reservation for women in local government at all the level of rural bodies is a landmark in women's empowerment and participation in decision making process need be implemented effectively.
- 33% reservation for women should be provided in Parliament and State Legislative Assembly to give political participation to the women at national and state level decision making process. In this way large number of women can enter the political institution which will help them to gain confidence and also influence other women to contest the election.
- Orientation programmes need to be organized for women to handle different situations (socio-economic, financial) at village level.

- Women and men should join together for the betterment of society.
- NGO's and Mahila Mandals which exist in the rural areas should be used as a affective instrument to organize and mobilize women. These organizations have to encourage women to participate in social activities also.
- The women need to know about legal rights and duties, democratic processes and values, various programmes and schemes for their economic upliftment and government policies. In this regard Department of Women and Child Welfare, NGO's, Women's Organization should adopt various strategies for educating and enlightening the women on various issues and problems.
- It is necessary to bring attitudinal change in grass root bureaucracy, workshops, awareness camps and orientation programmes should be organized where the officials get opportunity to interact with women's group as well as representative women members of PRI's will certainly bring about affirmative attitudinal changes in them.

India is committed to the course of empowerment of women. However, the journey towards progress is long and arduous. Age old prejudices and gender biases are giving way to gender equality and harmonious development. Empowerment of women requires involvement of every segment of society, women as well as men; government, laws judiciary, political parties as well as social reformers, religious leaders, journalist and media. Attitudes towards women and girls child need to change, women's

education and empowerment play an important role in development of nation. Our full potential as a nation will only be realized when women, who constitute half of the population can fully realize their potential. As long as that does not happen, half the talent, half the progress, half the development, would be lost.

To express the aspirations of Indian women I have composed following few lines: -

“जगने दो मुझे सूरज की किरणें मेरी भी हैं,
चलने दो मुझे इन राहों में, मन्जिलें मेरी भी हैं,
बहने दो मुझे, ये सागर मेरा भी है,
उड़ने दो मुझे यह आकाश मेरा भी है।”