

CHAPTER VIII

OBSERVATION, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

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8.1 Observations

8.2 Conclusion

8.3 Suggestions

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8.1 OBSERVATIONS:

1. During the survey it is observed that, 92% women reported that they are not having knowledge about the National State Commission or the State Commission for Women. This may be because of illiteracy prevailing in the Marathwada region.
2. Eighty five percent women respondents were of the opinion that there are little chances of getting justice through National or State Commission for Women and therefore, women's are not willing to approach the commission. This is because the process adopted by the commission is lengthy and time consuming.
3. It is said that the law without the public opinion is nothing but a bundle of papers. The gap between men and women cannot be bridged by a just enacting law without any public support. As the centuries old practices and traditions cannot eliminate in one day, it will take time. Therefore, when laws are enacted to bring radical change in society and are not backed by the will of people, then it has to face great resistance and opposition from the conservative thinking

of the society and they are like dead law, which have no effect on society.

4. Despite the fact of several measures, women continued subject to every form of violence like female foeticide, rape, molestation, abduction, trafficking, dowry death, domestic violence, etc. Such scenario clearly indicates flaws in the system and as well implementation procedure for holistic development of women.

8.2 CONCLUSION :

Historically, women's issues pertaining to dignity, discrimination, inequality, deprivation, violation of basic rights, etc is an age old phenomenon in Indian social landscape. Like any other social phenomenon, its emergence, approach and nature of dynamics is historically and socially conditioned which varies in 'space and time' depending upon the given economical, political, cultural and social milieu. Starting with, in ancient and medieval Indian society women role and position was embedded with cultural perspectives, traditional values, social ethos and customs. Many social reformers had extended undated help to hapless women in providing relief to their cause. The advent of colonial legacy radically transformed the very structure of Indian society and as well the very status and role of women based on caste, class, ethnicity, religion and community. Any

women's question related to development often looked to be solved by state policy, plan and programs through enacted laws, prescribed legislations and public institutions, which was often criticized as suiting to the best interest of colonial ruler and jeopardize the very spirit and capacity of women for own improvement. After independence, the Indian state, like any other developing countries, has followed the British measures without any concerted efforts of developing own model for development of women. As reflected in the Constitution of India, the principle of gender equality is enshrined in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties, and Directive Principles. Accordingly, India has ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights to women. Key among them is UN International Women's Year (1975), UN Decade of Women (1976-1985), Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW-1993), Beijing Declaration as well as the Platform for Action (1995), etc. Besides, under five-year plans state has initiated various steps linking to legal, institutional, administrative machinery, civil society organisation, and latest constituting National and State Women's Commission for redressing grievances of women. Naming a few are Women and Child Development Department, Women Grievances Cell, Social Welfare Department, The National Policy on Empowerment of

Women, Constitutional provision of Women's Participation in local Panchayat and Municipal Bodies, Women Component Plan, The Hindu Succession Act(1956), Domestic Violence Act, etc. As well, over the years, women's movement and recently feminist movement by lobbying putting pressure to state to adopt welfare and development policy, and effective implementation on maintaining basic rights of vulnerable women. As observed, despite the fact of several measures, women continued subject to every form of violence like female foeticide, rape, molestation, abduction, trafficking, dowry death, domestic violence, etc. Such scenario clearly indicates flaws in the system and as well implementation procedure for holistic development of women.

In light of this fact, this starved to analyse role of State Women's Commission on Gender Justice in backward Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. As found, like any other stereotype earlier programs commission played role of addressing bias towards women relating to harassment, domestic violence, sensitizing law enforcement agencies about solving women's problems through organising various training programmes, networking with local civil society organisation on family counseling for maintaining dignity of women, establishing Grievance Committee in district level, etc. The programs covered, so far, appears

scanty and much is proposed to be covered in days ahead. On the whole, the commission seems eluded own independent vision and autonomy, broadly adhering to Government policy prescription which not yet yielded any significant result in ameliorating problems of women. As like before, Commission treated women as ‘homogenous’ not contextualised in looking problems to their culture, pattern of livelihood, impact of globalisation, market economy, production relation, changing nature of family institution and social change, etc. Besides, during programme operation, the Commission has hardly considered to value the experience, ideas, views, knowledge of local women and specific need of the region. The major consequence of this one side approach of Commission projects least concern on their growing inequality, abject poverty, raising exploitation, rampant casteism, etc. The Commission as a ‘catalytic agent’ is largely lost in addressing these vital issues and acting like ‘service delivery agent’ instead of ‘change agent’. Besides, in the process women is looked as ‘clients’ or receiving end of the programme delivered by the Commission, and not as potential partner in operational planning of the programme. In brief, as shows, State Women’s Commission is working under regulatory system of the State and Central Government and aid agencies which is sectoral in approach and do not encompass the entire fabric of human development

system in which women live and survive, thus , fall short of to bring social justice to them as expected. Women Commission's own ideology, accountability, autonomy, openness and decisiveness, and free from state and external funding agencies could bring eternal solution of women's problem. Otherwise, simply subjective benevolent intentions and endeavours can hardly resolve the issues.

8.3 SUGGESTIONS :

1. There is an urgent need that Government should undertake massive literacy campaign in Marathwada region. Efforts should be undertaken by the Central Government and State Governments to make aware about the National and State Women's Commission. The procedure adopted by women's commission should be simplified. There is a need to establish machinery who will give justice like fast track courts. There is a need to have an integrated approach to justice equality and human rights for women.
2. Government, NGOs and academic institutions should develop a gender sensitive curriculum incorporating a holistic human rights based approach which recognizes cultural diversity and balances, modern science and technology with local knowledge basis.

3. Present laws relating to gender justice are not sufficient and hence it is necessary to have civil laws for domestic violence against women.
4. National commission for women should monitor the training programme for gender sensitization. National commission for women should include budget head for conducting women's workshop on sensitizing in the police and also monitor the subject of employment of women because all deployment of women personnel should be justified. Govt. should set up a vigilance cell at every District Collectorate for watching and reporting atrocities on women.
5. Personnel working in government, semi government and privet sector establishment should be required to undergo gender awareness training. Gender is not just women and therefore any training intervention cannot be successful unless we look at the relationship between men and women. Statutory powers should be given to the voluntary organizations to summon people for counseling.
6. In order to solve the problem of gender justice and to help the affected women there is a requirement for a large number of women lawyers to help affected women in bringing about gender justice.

7. For gender justice media should play a proactive role. It is necessary for media organizations to have a certain amount of self discipline. The media both, print and electronic should carry positive portrayal of women. Media should take up a sustained campaign on issues such as discrimination or injustice even within the Government; this may take the example of giving important portfolios to the deserving women. Visual media particularly private T.V. channels glamorized the stories on atrocities on women, such as rape, sexual abuse by repeated transmission for 3 to 4 days at a stretch; this should be avoided as it can be affect youth and children negatively. National Commission for Women should examine the cable law because increase in number of cable channel is going to have serious repercussions, some controls have to apply.
8. The Status of women in Maharashtra reveals contradictory trends. On one hands there have been extremely pro-women legislations, on the other hands demographic trends as well as state of education, health, work force participation reveals the continued gender inequalities in the State.
9. Govt. of Maharashtra should establish Women Police Station to curb the violence against Women. Special Women Cells should be

established in all Police Stations as far as possible. Family Courts should be established in each and every Districts to deal the cases of atrocities against Women. There is urgent need to gear up the work of *Mahila Dakshta Samitee* for handling cases of domestic violence. There is a need to streamline working of Counseling Cells and Help lines for women in each and every district.

10. The Anganwadi Teachers, Aasha, Sarpanch, Police Patil, Social Workers from very small villages should be trained about the legislations for women and working of NWC / Mahila Aayog, so as to spread the awareness amongst the illiterate, uneducated mass of the villages against the violence, atrocities against women, as well as legislative provisions easily available for the women.
11. In India the most of the laws were not effective as they were ahead of public opinion and willingness of the people to change the society and give the women the status of equality in society too lacked, so in order to give women their respective position in the society strong public opinion should be created through education, seminars and by taking the help of various other instruments of the society such as media etc, so that the people of the society should get educated about and change

their centuries old thinking and willingly implement the laws enacted for the emancipation for women.

12. To improve the status of the women in the society the need of the hour is that laws should be enacted but they should be backed by strong public willingness and public opinion because so long as conservative social thinking remain deep rooted in the society laws will not be able to achieve their ends. It must be asserted that social reforms is in social thinking, behaviour and law would be effective only if they are backed by major section of the society. Women Commission's own ideology, accountability, autonomy, openness and decisiveness, and free from State and external funding agencies could bring eternal solution of women's problem.