

CONCLUSION

The foregoing research expose the present attainment of social empowerment of women in Tamil Nadu from 1850 A.D to 2010 A.D. Empowerment is envisaged as aid to help women to achieve equality with men or at least to reduce gender gap considerably women empowerment is the key to sustainable human development in modern society. Social empowerment of women is to give power or authority to them and to reach the social equality status. There are many evidences to show that women in ancient Tamil Nadu had a much higher social status than what they came to be in later times.

Women's were given certain independence in their choice of their males and they were allow to attain certain maturity of mind before they were ready to marry, women enjoyed freedom, they played games in open, they took part in pass times and amusement sport and bathed in ponds, went to temples to offer worship, attended loyal assemblies and started their enjoyment like equal status of men.

The influences of Jainism and Buddhism which believed that women was a source of distraction from piety seems to the age been another reason for despising the women and women being looked down upon as women came to consider as inferior regarded as men's possessions secluded the inner quarters not only did their loss their privilege of education. Even the tradition of Isai Tamil was losed to them as music and dancing came to the more and more associated parathiyars. The women of disrepute.

In course of time women of Tamil Nadu become completely illiterate and entirely dependent on men, father, husband or son and they lost their social empowerment. By the beginning of 19th century hardly one women in a hundred good read in Tamil language. In subsequent years the social evils like polygamy, polyandry, child marriage, widowhood, rape, harassment, illiteracy, unemployment, slavery, exploitation and subordination at home and outside

dependency, dowry, Sati, Prostitution, Devadasi system, divorce and female infanticide were affecting women grew more in number. They had no property rights to above said elements affecting the social empowerment of women.

The advent of European changed the situation to a greater extend. The missionaries contributed women education in Tamil Nadu. Many schools were started and slowly they were given higher and professional education. The leaders of social reform movements of 19th and 20th centuries in Tamil Nadu concentrated mainly on the eradication of social evils and served for the social empowerment of women.

As per comparison report for the years between 1921 and 1931 there were 178 widows in every 1000 females in 1921 and figure had fallen to 155 in 1931. A relentless struggle for widow remarriage in Tamil Nadu led by Srinivasa Pillai, a social reformist founded the Hindu progressive improvement society in Madras on November 1852 with the effort of Venkatarayalu Naidu, the widow marriage act of 1856 was passed.

Chenstel Rao and Muthuswamy Iyer started Madras Hindu widow remarriage Association in 1874. The agitation for abolition of Devadasi system in the Madras Presidency was started at first in 1868 with effort of Dr. Mrs. Muthu Lakshmi Reddy. Devadasi abolition bill was passed by Madras Legislative Council on December 5th, 1947 A.D and was given the assent by the Governor General on January 17, 1948 to Act Number XXXI of 1947 A.D.

Education is a powerful tool in the emancipation and social empowerment of women. In 1868, the central government sanctioned a grant of 1,20,007 to the Madras presidency including Tamil Nadu to start educational institution for women.

By the end of 19th century, there were 34 high schools and 3 women colleges in the Madras presidency. In 1821, Church Missionary Society opened

Madras Boarding school at Tirunelveli. As per the instruction of Sir Thomas Munroe a Board was constituted to organise a system of public instruction in the state. Two principal school in each collectorate and Junior school in each Taluk were established by the Board. Young girls continued their education at Boys school. Munroe founded a primary schools in every village with the help of Rev. Isaac Wilson. Six schools were opened for Hindu girls at Madras in 1840. In 1882, only 4207 girls attended co-education schools. Between 1907 and 1912, 172 female candidates were admitted in Madras, Between 1936 and 1937, two arts college for women were opened at Tiruchirapalli.

From 1952 to 2010, Tamil Nadu Government introduced social legislation and social welfare measures to attain the social empowerment of women on 4th September 1958, Dowry prohibition bill was introduced. It became act in 1961, Dowry prohibition Act was passed in 1973. Women welfare department was established in 1954. Hotels for working women was found in 1967 in Egmore, in 1975, widow rehabilitation scheme was announced. 1971 - 1972, the female working population of Tamil Nadu was 34,48,950 which constituted 16.96% of the total population of these employed in industrial sector, cultivation and agricultural workers accounted for 63.76% and other worker to 34% Tamil Nadu government Girl child protection scheme launched in 1997. After the introduction cradle in 1992, Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme was launched in 2007. The family will be benefited and women will be achieved social empowerment with the active participation of women folks in every field of Society.