

Women Empowerment Through women Study Courses- Role of Higher Education Sector- Opportunities And Challenges

Dr. Poornima B

*Assistant professor Department of Sociology Government First Grade College for women
Near stadium Hassan Karnataka state*

Abstract: *This paper explores the need for promotion of women empowerment awareness through women studies. The paper focuses on challenges faced by colleges and universities in running courses on women studies. The need for recording the role of women in historical past and streamlining their participation in nation building process calls for restructuring feminist historiography. Building a feminist knowledge base becomes all the more important because women are positing in a global panorama where they have successfully landed after fighting different levels of discriminations. There is a need to do research in gender studies, feminist theories, methodologies, women's movements, gender science and technology, gender politics and gender budgeting. This identity will lead to demand greater inclusive representation and this augmented representation will lead to creation of empowerment strategy realistically. Thus there is a need to build a women data base supported by primary and secondary sources, archival records, oral histories and other material in vernacular languages*

Keywords: *Women studies, women empowerment, strategies, opportunities, challenges*

I. Institution

Women studies and research taken up across India found that the number of women in the science, technology and innovation fields alarmingly low in the country while compared to men. Although the past few decades have seen fundamental growth in gender equality, the reality is that equal opportunity is still a challenge for women in certain disciplines in various states.

1. Low rankings in female participation in the labor force,
2. Access to resources,
3. Participation in the knowledge economy,
4. Health status.
5. Less than 15% of women have access to their own bank account,
6. Women hold less than a third of available administrative and managerial positions in the country.

Institutional level - the role of ICSSR

Indian council of social science (ICSSR) played an important role in making the women studies modular courses in universities. Some universities and degree colleges opted to introducing courses on women studies only after being guaranteed regular funding by state governments. Besides there are innumerable non academic forum which have women studies related courses. Women studies were a part of the social science and humanities subject. It was under the purview of social science heading for a very long period but now women studies has emerged as an independent discipline. Even though it has multi disciplinary approach in its content, it is highlighted as a core subject of study following UGC's love towards granting autonomy to Colleges. Autonomous Institutions have priorities to introduce courses of women studies.

Starting of women study courses- Women studies center were started in 1987 in select universities across India and since then women studies become popular as a subject of study in colleges. There is a need to mainstream gender issues in teaching and research development. There is a need to co-ordinate different courses on gender studies.

The funding for Women studies courses - The support for women's studies centers was under the plan head from the 6th five year plan onwards. These centers were established and sustained by special grants and support given by the UGC according to the UGC public notice the continuance of ongoing UGC schemes under the plan head after September 30, 2017 would depend on the outcome of a review by the UGC.

Inter disciplinary relevance- Women studies is a multi disciplinary subject as it involve

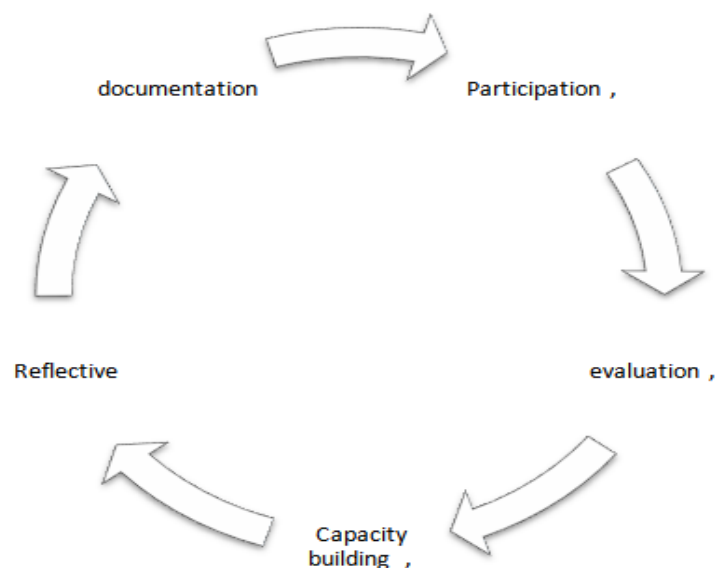
1. Anthropology
2. Archeology
3. Business management
4. Economics & Finance services

5. History
6. Health Economics
7. Folklore and culture
8. Law and Legal science
9. Literature and Prose
10. Political science
11. Social work
12. Sociology
13. Social studies

Areas of Research: A Women study approaches women issues in a variety of ways. Women suffer from social, economic, cultural, religious, political and administrative constraints. The patriarchal set up still hinders them from accessing basic education, basic health care, basic hygiene and sanitation etc. Women suffer from disproportionate discrimination .Hence women study courses can support awareness among women and acknowledge their key role through several areas of research.

1. Gender based Violence
2. Gender discrimination
3. Gender budgeting
4. Gender bias
5. Gendered Economics
6. Population and Reproductive Health
7. Problems of the Girl-child
8. Women and Development
9. Women and Environment
10. Women and Law
11. Women and religion
12. Women and Science
13. Women and technology
14. Women in Society
15. Women and Entrepreneurship
16. Women and Globalization
17. Women in Management
18. Women in the Diaspora
19. Women and digital technology
20. Women and Social media
21. Women and sports
22. Women and sex education
23. Women and travel sector
24. Women and entrepreneurship
25. women and tribal issues
26. Women and journalism
27. Women and Media
28. Women's Movements
29. Women and Performing Arts
30. Women and Body Politics
31. Women and information technology
32. Women and Intersecting Marginalities

Considerations:- The empowerment as a process needs to be attached with strategies of awareness creation India constitutes of urban and rural women and there is a gap between them which is increasing.



- 1. Participatory awareness-** The women studies and courses supporting women empowerment, need to contribute effectively through augmenting participation . More and more women have to be motivated to take up Women studies, This builds an environment of awareness and this identification of their primary role in the country' s progression will positively affect their lives. Hence considering the introduction of courses relating to women studies needs to be taken up by the higher education sector.
- 2. Role Evaluation and assessment awareness-** Women studies and awareness about role of women in country can be a reality if there is a consistent assessment of development projects with the support of government and NGOs. The evaluation of women focused developmental projects can be supportive to women empowerment policies.
- 3. Capacity building and self awareness-** The women studies and courses relating to women empowerment become successful only when they help in building capacity of all levels of women. The women are classified as rural and urban and semi urban and semi rural. The constraints and limitations covering them are different and dissimilar.
- 4. Statistical awareness-** There is a need to create an accurate women data base to make the women studies and courses relating to women empowerment reach larger sections of women. The potentialities of women can be harnessed only when they come to know about their strength. This identity will lead to demand greater inclusive representation and this augmented representation will lead to creation of empowerment strategy realistically. Thus there is a need to build a women data base supported by primary and secondary sources, archival records, oral histories and other material in vernacular languages.
- 5. Reflective awareness-** There is a need to take up research about emerging trends of change in empowerment approaches. Western countries have analyzed women empowerment strategies differently from Asian countries. Countries of US. Europe and UK have achieved cent percent a woman inclusive polices in social, economic, political, financial and cultural sectors. The representation of women in projects, governing bodies, welfare committees and organizations are very high .But in India, women policies are framed in the absence of any women representatives in the policy framing committees.
- 6. Documentary awareness-** There is a need to create an extensive documentation of women's participation and leadership in protest movements. Women have fought for their rights and responsibilities ever since the dawn of civilization. But there is no appropriate recorded data covering their participation in National movement , women movement, human rights movement , political suffrage movement , women labor movement , etc

There is a need to do research in gender studies, feminist theories, methodologies, women's movements, gender science and technology, gender politics and gender budgeting.

II. Conclusion

Thus there is a need work towards gender justice in India and tackle a multitude of complex social cultural and economic issues at the same time. Violence against women, pre -natal sex selection engendered governance women and economy and gender sensitization and mainstreaming within all sectors of society. Participation of women in the economic development of the country has become important since they constitute nearly 50 % of the population .But violence against women is increasing as she is the first target of

all ill thinking and first victim of anti social thoughts. Event though government support women constitutionally, there is a need for augmentation of administrative interventions. Women studies can make women identify their pivotal roles in society and national progress.

References

- [1]. Sengupta, Subodh Chandra and Bose, Anjali (editors), 1976/1998, Sansad Bangali Charitabhidhan (Biographical dictionary) Vol I, (in Bengali),
- [2]. Ray, Bharati. Early Feminists of Colonial India: Sarala Devi Chaudhurani and Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain. Oxford University Press, USA. 2002.
- [3]. Sengupta, Subhodh Chandra; Basu, Anjali, eds. (January 2002). Women in Indian historical annals
- [4]. Kanwar Dinesh Singh (2004). Feminism and Post-feminism: The Context of Modern Indian Women Poets Writing in English. Solan: Sarup & Sons.
- [5]. Jain, Devaki. 2005. Women, Development, and the UN – A Six-Year Quest for Equality and Justice. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- [6]. Karat, Brinda. Survival and Emancipation: Notes from Indian Women's Struggles. Three Essays Collective, New Delhi, 2005
- [7]. The Evolution Of Women's Studies In India | Feminism in India feminisminindia.com/...volution-women's-studies-India/
- [8]. Women's Studies in India | SpringerLink
- [9]. link.springer.com/...ter/10.1007/978-94-011-3816-1_20
- [10]. Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) www.iaws.org/
- [11]. Women's Studies - Vedams eBooks
- [12]. www.vedamsbooks.com/women.htm
- [13]. chapter 3 women's studies: its concept and growth in india
- [14]. shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/...8/13/13_chapter%203.pdf
- [15]. Women's Studies in India: A Reader Book Online at Low Prices ...www.amazon.in/...udies-India-Mary-John/dp/0143063774