



UGC sponsored State Level Seminar
on
Empowerment of Women: Change and Challenges

1st September, 2017

Baruipur College

Despite plentiful programmes and public policies avowed for advancing empowerment of Indian women, substantial and critical clefs persist between the objectives and outcome and the Indian women, in generic sense, continue to languish as 'prisoner of gender'. Undoubtedly, plethora of public policies have been charted out for advancement of position, dignity and rights of Indian women: Domestic Violence Act (2005), and provisions for reservation of seats and post in local-self governments. However, the hiatus between the proclamation and practicality is widespread and all evident.

Empowerment of women depends on many variables like location, age, education caste and class. The patriarchal structure that governs society and family, as in India, is a key determinant that entrenches socio-economic (and other) discrimination and marginalization and accentuates violence against women. Women and girls have controlled mobility, constricted access to education, health facilities and decision-making roles.

Women's empowerment is negatively impacted by the pervasive gender-based discrimination in the family and the community and such prejudice limits women's choices and freedom. These choices are further contingent upon structural factors like caste and class. Access to education for girls is a part of a larger structural concern, including the practice of 'son preference', which creates inherent discriminatory ethos. Mobility restrictions for women are dependent upon how the family and community view women's rights.

Hence, empowerment of women demands a multifaceted approach encompassing diverse social structures that influence and govern women's lives. Empowerment approach therefore is not only about delivering services, but also about recognising multiple layers of discrimination that obstruct woman's access to 'human' rights and entitlements. The gender equality and empowerment in a developing country like India squarely depends on comprehensive plans, recurring investments and above all fruition of the intention and efforts.

In this context, we intend to engage with questions concerning the status and future challenges towards women's empowerment in India through the following prisms:

- a) Empowerment of Women; the concept and its nuances;
- b) Employment and Livelihood of Women
- c) Women and Education, Culture and Family;
- d) Women and Health and Hygiene;
- e) Women and Political Leadership, Democracy and Governance;
- f) Women and Mass Media;
- g) Gender-based Violence: Nature, Cause and Course;

- h) Women in Conflict Situation;
- i) Public Policies (like Reservation & Gender Budgeting)—A Critical Estimation.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS:

We propose to review the interventions, observable limitations and challenges in the context of empowerment of Indian women. Gender professionals, development practitioners, women cooperatives, NGOs, researchers and academicians will deliberate on the various facets involved in the promotion of women's empowerment. The conference will follow the participatory approach, putting emphasis on experience sharing, discussion and dialogue creating an eco-system in which we would hopefully enrich the scholarship and course of action.

CONFERENCE OUTCOMES:

The dialogues and diagnosis are expected to generate pragmatic appraisal and strategic recommendations concerning the situational and perceptible gaps in policy implementation and the positive outcomes. An effort will be made to disseminate the knowledge as widely as possible among women networks and the eventual recommendations arising out of the Conference will be conveyed to Central and State Governments for policy redirection and/or re-strategizing.

Last date of abstract submission: 16th August 2017 (200 – 300 words)
Last date of full paper submission: 25th August 2017 (5000 words max.)
Last date of registration: 29th August 2017
Registration Fees: Rs. 200/-
Rs. 150/- (for students and research scholars)
Send abstracts to the Email: bpcseminar@gmail.com
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