Abstract

Introduction:

There have been a number of social reformers in India who have been rewarded for the work they did towards equality of man and women. e.g. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Shahu, Tarabai Shinde, Karve, Mahatma Gandhi etc. Even today there are also many social reformers who are active for equality of woman and man. However, we have not seen significant changes in the status of women even after the 63-64 years of the independence. We see that even today a number of women are being kept far away from their basic rights. They have not been given opportunities for self-development. Even if women have the desire to gain more knowledge and skills, there are various socio, economical barriers. They have been deprived of their developments and progress.

On the brighter side, United State accepted equal rights of women and men legally in 1945. In 1975 there was the first universal women conference held in Mexico. 8th March has been celebrated as Universal women day all over the world. The decade from 1976 to 1985 was celebrated as the decade of women’s development. The second World Conference on women held in 1980 at Copenhagen. In India year 2001 was celebrated as the year of women’s strengthen. There have been historical `movements` for the development of woman and laws for the equality among men and women.

However, still there is a long way to go. World has 50% female population. Are women given equal treatment in all walks of life? is a million dollar question today. This thesis brings up all, positive and negative sides of gender inequality.

Here is some information about few conferences with their features:


2. The Second World Conference on Women - Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980

3. The Third World Conference on Women - Nairobi, 15-26 June 1985


1.1. Subject Importance:

UN, under its project `Millennium Development Goals` has taken a specific goal “Promoting gender equality and empowering women”, which itself will give an idea of the importance of the subject. This goal is well described by UN. Here are some salient points pertaining to this specific goal.

1. Gender equality means sex equality or sexual equality or equality of the gender.
2. This means men and women should receive equal treatment unless there is sound biological reason to differ.
3. Under UN declaration of human rights, it aims to provide equality in law, in social situations especially in democratic activities and securing equal pay for equal work.

History of gender equality dates back to 1774 when `Shakers` a group founded in America practiced equality of the sexes.

A visitor to the `Shakers` wrote in 1875, “Each sex works in its own appropriate sphere of action, there being a proper subordination, deference and respect of the female to the male in his order, and of the male to the female in her order, so that in any of these communities the zealous advocates of ‘women’s rights’ may here find a practical realization of their ideal.”

Empowerment to women is impossible unless there is gender equality. Many of the barriers to women empowerment and equity lie ingrained into the cultures of certain nations and societies. Many women feel these pressures, while others have become accustomed to being treated inferior to men. Even if men, legislators, NGOs, etc. are aware of the benefits women empowerment and participation can have, many are scared of disrupting the status quo and continue to let socialize norms get in the way of development.

This specific goal of UN and the summary of UNDP reports given in earlier section are enough evidences to understand the importance of the subject taken up here for the thesis, that is `The Impact of UNDPs Gender - Related Approach on Aspect of India’s Economic Policy`.
This is true that the problems of women are different in different countries, but her slavery is same as a woman in patriarchal system. This is seen that man dominates her in work, in capacity of reproduction, sex, thinking power and behavior etc.

Women should have got right of decision, equal chances in the system of social, economical, political and educational as equal to men. She should have get benefit and honor. This will be called gender equality. If all this happened in reality after that we will say there is gender equality.

“Major international development agencies, now routinely refers in their policies, declarations to empower the poor and women, however there is no consensus of on the meaning of the term and it’s frequently use in a way that robs it of political meaning” (Kabeer N. 1994).

In the system of marketing women’s awishkar (Marathi word) (research) and women’s work have become abnormal things. If we seen the international capitalism relations to the process of development and ideas about women’s lack of development. It is seen first of all that how the exploitation all over the world helps to suppression of woman. Changes happening from last few centuries are undesirable for woman. At the other side traditional, familiar structure, religious facts, aggressive nationalism are helping integrated for the disempowerment of woman and gender. Today’s system of politics, education, and economics, social is making woman’s work area limited and narrow.

Each and every person naturally keeps has a potential energy and willingness of development. Nature has given to each person (Men-Women) same mind, emotion, intelligent, capacity, skills, by birth. They need proper chance and suitable environment and right tools for development, but only man is facilitated will all these that is why man becomes greater than women. Women have not availability any of these things. She never gets chance to develop her hidden skills, so her place in society becomes lower and this is the starting point of inequality between man and woman. And man tries to keep this continuously.

According to Mariya Miese, ‘without exploitation of nature and women today’s capitalism and system of man could not keep their existence’.

Phulrenu Guha (the president of committee for the evaluation of woman and their status in Society) has suggested some instruction in the programme of women’s welfare. They are as follows:-

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1) ‘In the development of Nation we have to accept the concept of “Women”.
2) Provide facilities for training to avoid the women’s dependence.
3) Nurturing the safety of children and women would be accepted as
important program.
4) House work should be paid as the national and productive work.
5) To make law for the politics, socialism that it should not closed for the
women under the headings of marriage and motherhood.
6) Follow the command of constitution’.

1.2. Why this topic is selected for the study:-

We are in 21st century and witnessing an era where science & technology has
taken human being on a different platform and height. We are not going to stop here
and many amazing developments would follow in years to come.

However, one particular segment which still needs to be properly attended is
Gender Equality. Women in many part of the world are still waiting for proper justice
to their existence. This is possible only when the topic ‘Gender Equality’ is also given
prime importance, same as the importance given to the development of science and
technology or importance given to improve GDP.

The topic ‘The Impact of the UNDP’s Gender - Related Approach on
Aspects of India’s Economic Policy’ has been selected to bring to the notice of
common man, more particularly women, who are not all aware of the developments
that are being talked and planned on global level. When it comes to Indian women,
the situation for women, though looks to be improving, the rate of the improvement is
too low in comparison with developments taking place in developed countries.

A very recent report appeared in SAKAL; a newspaper from Maharashtra
(INDIA), dated 14th June 2012 throwing light on the plights women in India is loud
enough to bring forth the realities faced by Indian women. Following are some of the
salient features of the report.

1. Women here do not get concrete rights even to vote and drive vehicles.
2. The state of women is dependent on the basis of their wealth and social status.
3. The problems of early age marriages, dowry, abuses at home and foetus killings still
exist everywhere.(not only in India also all over the world).
4. Women are abused more in the families having less income.
5. There is improvement in women in urban areas. However, state of rural women life is in plight.
6. Delhi and the nearby areas are with high incidences of female kidnapping and gang rapes.
7. Newspapers publish news about the abuses on women including women trading.
8. Many abuses with women are socially accepted.
9. 51% of males & 54% of females have approved the abusive treatment given to the women.

The survey, conducted by Thomson Routers Foundation, has ranked India on 19th place in 19 countries surveyed. The first ranked is Canada. Even Brazil (11th), Turkey (12th) and Indonesia (17th) are ranked better than India.

Women should have got right of decision, equal chances in the system of social, economical, political and educational as equal to men. She should have got benefits and honour. This will be called gender equality. If all this happened in reality after that we can say there is gender equality.

1.2.1. **Objective of Research:-**

1) To study the contribution of women in economic development.
2) To study Gender development approach to evaluation of economic development.
3) To study the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP’s) gender related approach.
4) To study the impact of the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP’s) approach on economic policy of India.

1.2.2. **Hypothesis of Research:-**

1) United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP’s) gender related approach has resulted in focus of women in Indian economic policy.
2) The inclusion of women in development program has resulted in a reduction in gender disparity in India.
1.3. Research Methodology:-

1.3.1. Scope and Period of Study:-

In the present study we have to study various human development indices and their impact on global economic development and development policy. However, for detailed investigation we have restricted our scope national level i.e. India. We will study extent of gender disparity in different spheres and find out where as GDI approach has improved development policy. Also whether the policy related to woman has achieved desired objective. The period of study is 1995 to 2010.

We took some indicators at Global level and India level for measure the women’s development. These indicators are as follow:-

i. GDI in Various Countries and In India :-

ii. Education – a) Enrollment Rate   b) Literacy Rate.

iii. Health and Well –being

iv. Income

v. Employment in various countries and In India :-

vi. Work Participation Rate

vii. Ratio of member & Representation of women in parliament (Power & Decision Making).

viii. Sex Ratio

ix. Total Fertility Rate

x. Life Expectancy at Birth

xi. Gender Inequality Index

1.3.2. Nature of data:-

This study is based on the secondary data. we have collected the secondary data from various sources viz. Magazines, Economic and Political Weekly, UNDP’s Reports, Review of Literature and Analysis of secondary sources, Government Documents, Census Reports, Authorized Information, research papers, Monograms and record sources and other unpublished work such as unpublished thesis and Websites etc. the collected data have processed with statistical tolls like (Averages, Percentages, Correlation, Regression, Analysis of Time Series and Cross Section Data). The processed data has presented in the form of Tables, Graphs, Maps and Diagrams etc.
1) Review of literature will WID, WAD, and GAD outline of GDI & HDI approach.
2) Identification of areas and indicator of gender disparity.
3) Review of economic policy of under study with assessment of how far and how satisfactorily the gender aspect has been policy formation.
4) Assessment of impact gender related policy.

Following indices (dimension) will be used for measurement.

a) Female Life Expectancy.
b) Female Adult Literacy & Gross Enrollment Ratio.
c) Female per Capita Income.

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\text{Dimension Index} = \frac{\text{Actual Value} - \text{Minimum Value}}{\text{Maximum Value} - \text{Minimum Value}}
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Performance for each dimension is expressed as value between 0 to 1 by applying for the formula.

1.4. Chapter Scheme of the Study:-

The present study has divided into seven different chapters. Brief information about chapters as follow:-

Brief Summary of all chapters:-

Chapter 1st – ‘Introduction, Objectives and Methodology’ - provides the detail information about the research. This chapter is about main theme of research work. It is divided into 8 sub-sections namely subject entry, subject importance, why this topic is selected for study, status of women in the frame of society & culture in India, research plan, research methodology and scope & limitations of the study.

It is a flow of developments from the beginning of the thought process about gender development to the later developments that have taken place in the subject matter. The chapter gives brief details of how women conferences have taken various initiatives on global level.

A very short note on status of Women in Indian context is provided to give an idea of what is the need and state of women development. I have also presented road blocks (in points) in the women development.
The remaining sections like research plan, methodology and scope & limitations are more technical in nature and are mandatory to have proper structuring of the thesis.

Chapter 2nd – ‘About United Nations Development Programme and it’s gender related approach’

A brief note about UN and UNDP is given to link the initiatives taken by them. Since there is no major awareness of various sections of UN, I have given brief information in this chapter. Extract of some human development reports (HDR) has been provided to connect subject of the research properly.

Explain the concept of ‘Gender’, and different views on Gender and Development like – 1) Women in Development (WID) 2) Women and Development (WAD) 3) Gender and Development (GAD) 4) Women, Environment and Development (WED).

Chapter 3rd – ‘Gender Inequality and its Measurement / Mapping’ in this chapter we have discussed about importance of the GDI, related issues about gender like - Gender Inequality Index, Gender Budgeting, Gender Audit and Gender Mainstreaming etc.

Chapter 4th – ‘Global Scenario of gender development and Review of Literature’ two different part made in this chapter, the first part presents the global picture about gender and development level in the various countries with the help of statistical data.

The second part presents “Review of Literature” – in this part, we have attempted and taken here into consideration the conclusion and views of various scholars and some major studies regarding gender that is conducted in abroad as well as India.

Chapter 5th – “Gender Development and Economic Policy of a India” in this chapter we have discussed about India’s Economic Policies for the development of women and which helpful for reducing gender gap and inequality in the country.

Chapter 6th – “Impact on Indian Policy of Gender – Related Approach” There are many laws and policies provided by Indian constitution as well as from UNDP,
International platform to secure and protect women’s rights and enhance their life in various sectors but still in present days women are not so much secure at home, work place and social level. With the help of data and study I conclude that there is little bit positive impact of UNDP’s approach on India and India’s economic policy.

Chapter 7th – “Conclusion, Suggestions & Recommendations” presents the summary of the findings of the study along with major conclusions and some broad recommendations.

1.5.Scope and Limitations of the study:-

1) This study has focused only on women and women’s status in various levels.

2) This study is confined to the period of 1995 to 2010. This obviously helps to study in detail the gender gap between men and women, status and development of women in various levels such as in economic, politics, social etc. as compare to men counterparts.

3) The present study is purely based on secondary data. It is an attempt towards understanding the socio-economic condition of women.

4) Due to limitations of time and work though the area is limited for single nation - India. But research has been done scientifically, so conclusions may have a wider application.