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## 9. Role of Men in Empowerment of Women

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### Abstract

Gender as an Interdisciplinary concept which pertaining to women and men, the relationship and alliance between them, and the institutions that administer these relationships. However, most of the literature on gender spotlight on women and girls and the factors that affect the socioeconomic issues. For a long time, a commitment to promoting gender equality in economic issues, as in other areas of social development and human rights, has emphasized women empowerment. In a world where gender inequality prevail, it is the need of an hour to understand that we as humans comprise of both men and women who co-exist and are interdependent. And man as an intimate partner plays very important role in the empowerment of women.

**Keywords:** Empowerment, economic, social intimate partner, gender, empowerment.

### Introduction

Empowerment of women is an immediate need for the very development of a society since it enhances both the quality and the quantity of human resources available for development. Empowerment is one of the main procedural involvement and it relates to addressing economic, socio-economic and most importantly human rights and development.

Men - as community and political or religious and dominating factor or member - often control access to a variety of resources like not only health and educational services, but also transportation and finances. As heads of states and government ministers, as leaders of religious and faith-based institutions, as judges, as heads of armies and other agencies of force, as village heads, or indeed as husbands and fathers, men often wield enormous power over many aspects of women's lives. Therefore, the role of men's attitudes and behaviors should not be ignored in the debate and the design of gender related policies.

Family is the institution where gender interactions are likely to be more intense, ranging from marriage and child-rearing decisions to consumption, time allocation to work and household

capital investment. In what follows we consider the family as the main unit of analysis and review the contribution of men as fathers and husbands or we can say partners to the evolution of women's socio-economic issues.

Differentiating empowerment from bitterness or misandry - Most of the men whose major concern who oppose women empowerment is the myth that empowering women would enslave or deprive men. When people speaks about empowerment they are talking about giving equal rights to everyone and not withdrawing the rights of one gender to empower the other one. And this needs to be clearly explained to and be understood by men who think that empowerment means misandry.

Most of the inequality arises from the pigeonhole of duties, roles, and professions based on gender. And for women to reinstate the lost power and empower themselves, they will need a lot of support and understanding from men.

The most essential thing as far as the man is concern to understand the inequalities, the problem that prevails requires immediate corrections for stable world where gender is just important thing for men to do is to understand that a problem does exist and needs immediate rectification for stable world where gender is just a biological differences and nothing else which is the barrier or obstacles for smooth administration of gender equalities in the society.

The lives of men and women are interdependent and any advantages or benefit from women empowerment will go a long way to both men and women.

#### **International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 1994**

There was an International Conference related to gender equality in the year 1994 on Population and Development (ICPD) to promote men's support in the struggle for gender equality and encourage their involvement and shared responsibility in all areas of family life and reproductive health. Research has proved that, partnering with men is an important approach for advancing women's empowerment. Secondly, the need for the concern of men has been accelerated by a series of universal chain such as the 48th session of the United Nations Commission on the status of Women (CSW), which tells about the role of boys and men in achieving women's empowerment and gender equality. This requires for men's concerns and involvement is specified by the reality that men's influence over women in many references, necessitates working with men to change the conditions of women's life; for men's power in society is exercised from personal decision regarding family size to the policy and programme

decisions taken at all levels of government. Thirdly, men as assassin awaken the need for their concern, that is in treating the "disease" of women's disempowerment, ignoring the cause which only make the fight, a back and forth unprogressive agenda and as such to resolve the situation the real cause-men, must be involved in the whole process of development. Also empowerment of women, calls for the pulling together of many resources for its achievement and these resources unfortunately are largely controlled and managed by men who determines it's distribution. Beneficiaries and accessibility and hence it makes greater sense to pull them along on the path of women's empowerment to be able to assess and appreciate the resources needed in the process.

Involvement of men in women empowerment is needed due to the fact that they are leaders in the society serving predominantly in the capacity of not only a decision maker but also to opine about something and as a public figures who the younger generation both male and female imitate as part of their socialization and as such for women's empowerment to be achieved, men as leaders must be encouraged and mobilized to become committed to gender equality in all aspects of human interactions and relationships to serve as good examples to the younger generation to acquire a wholesome socialization that view both men and women as equal and not as one being superior and the other inferior.

#### **Gender inequality: An economic challenge**

As far as village-level governance is concern an unique policy experimented at the, which mandated representation of women in one-third of all positions of local leadership has shown positive results. While increasing representation of women in the public sectors is important and can possibility be attained through some form of positive action, it is essential for women to be considered as equals in their homes and in society at large.

Achieving the path to gender equality is not an easy task..., we have to move beyond to make women empowerment sustainable programmes that are extensively focused on women and involve the men as they are a critical piece of the empowerment system. We often talk about the need for men to alter themselves in order to understand and respect the differences they shared with their female fraction. However, we rarely offer them concrete support to handle issues of patriarchy and masculinity. The fact is that if we want the ecosystem of power to change around women, society needs to ensure that men are happy, healthy and supportive partners to women.

Female empowerment programmes must have a cultural sensitization lens for local men and traditional leaders. Policy engagement must be a part of a transformative approach to ensure

that positive changes on the ground are embodied in policy frameworks for scaling them so that they are sustainable in the long run. Investments have to be boosted in labor-saving technologies such as fuel-efficient stoves and processing machines to save women from spending most of their time on domestic chores.

### **Conclusion and Suggestion**

#### **Men-streaming women's economic empowerment**

Most initiatives in India that concerns and involve men are located primarily in the realms of violence against women, and sexual and reproductive health, initiatives are largely need to taken up nearsighted in their approach, and often fall short of situating women's poor economic status within the context of their unequal power relations with men. As finance or money is a life blood of every one irrespective of gender initiative should be taken by men to streamlined the situation to come out with the appropriate desired solution to overcome the gap between men and women's economic condition.

#### **Hostilities between men and women need to be addressed**

Real empowerment is not possible to achieve for women without prime involvement of men as supportive associate. This makes the women can lead to the emergence of tensions and hostilities between men and women. Poor and marginalized men, in particular, are already struggling to maintain their breadwinner status within their families and may perceive women's economic empowerment interventions as a direct threat to their positions within the status quo.

#### **Women's workload required to be accounted for**

If we exclude men from Women's Economic Empowerment initiatives has very real consequences on women's workload. Women's Economic Empowerment initiatives often treat women as a 'one-stop' solution and 'cushion' for economic struggles, and further reinforce the gendered division of labor rather than challenge it. It is important to take the issue of Women's Economic Empowerment programming on women's unpaid care work, which is gradually engaging men in important conversations surrounding the value of care, the distribution of household work, and men's own roles as husbands and fathers.

World's Fathers report in the year 2017 brings these issues to the forefront, and highlighted an evidence that men can reduce violence, increase fathers' involvement in childcare, and expand overall gender equality in participating families by observing parent training initiatives for this is particularly important for Women's Economic Empowerment as

women's numerous domestic responsibilities can often constrain their options for productive work, as well as leisure and participation in civic and political life.

### **Men's Engaging across multiple levels**

It is widely acknowledged that women's economic well-being is determined by factors at various levels including the family or household, the larger community, and the legal and policy level. The 2014 ILO-WED issue brief on engaging men in WEE interventions draws upon existing literature and intervention evaluations to highlight the importance of working across these various levels.

**Within the family/household:** WEE interventions can invite men to participate in trainings and capacity-building activities targeting women, as well as engage male household members specifically to challenge gender inequitable norms and practices.

**At the community level:** Awareness raising through campaigns, participatory sessions, and cultural activities can help transform harmful norms and stereotypes, Empowering and promoting context-specific male role models and champions can be an effective way to 'use men to change other men'.

**At the legal/policy level:** Laws and policies promoting healthy masculinities can act as the backbone to interventions that encourage men to participate in childcare and challenge norms on gendered divisions of labor.

The researcher wish to conclude here is that men plays a vital role in uplifting the status of women in the society at large. We should remove the historic perception as far as women's slavery and should initiate the human values in females.

*'My father always believed that it would have been far better if I were born a son, but today he realizes how lucky he is to have me as a daughter.'*

### **Footnote**

- 1) <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/92f5/d497cbf840f4244c35846cc76c5b71555848.pdf>