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THE ENIGMA OF TRAUMATIZED 'WOMANHOOD' IN BUCHI
EMECHETA'S THE JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD: A CRITICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Women empowerment has been the genre of literature existing for centuries for constructive reasons of the society. For the progress and higher development of the nation, it is vital that both men and women are provided with equal opportunities and equal rights. But unluckily in traditional Ibo society, the role of a woman is limited to produce children specially to produce male children. As a woman, she is provided with respect and value on the basis of her fertility. If a woman is giving birth to girls only, she will not be considered an honored woman. The character of Nnu Ego has absorbed these values and it is the utmost desire of her to be an honored woman. The character of Nnu Ego is the true representation of the women empowerment revealing the inner most feelings and desires of a woman. The character of Nnu Ego is the major point of focus who knows her identity and her completion is dependent on having many children specially the boy one enen she decided to commit suicide when her first baby was died. Her marriage is also ended as Nnu Ego fails to have children. Her husband married with a woman who conceives quickly. So, in this modern era also, usually a role of woman is lemmatized to produced children only. The sufferings and problems faced by the women and how she survives and shelters her family is the honest example of women empowerment. "The joys of motherhood" by Buchi Emecheta explains a will power of women how she supports her family when her husband was not with her. This story also reveals that despite a lot of hardships and sufferings which a mother face to raise her children, man always

blame a woman if children are doing something wrong which are against the moral values. Sometimes children also forget all the sacrifices of her mother and busy in their own lives. But at the end, when their mother died, they spend a lot on her funeral to show the world that they love their mother a lot. So, the author tries to explain the pain of a mother in this novel. It is the top most duty of children to take care of their parents when they are old likewise their parents cared about them when they were young and make the society happiest place to live in.

INTRODUCTION

The role of a woman in a society has been discussed and re-discussed by many writers and novelist through their books and it has a profound effect on the society as many steps have been taken to provide women equal rights just like men. The writer Buchi Emecheta through her novel "joys of motherhood" tries to explain the role of a women in a society. By using the character of Nnu Ego, she tries to explain the innermost feelings of a woman. Emecheta wrote many novels and her three major themes are: the quests for equal treatment, self-confidence and dignity as women. She discussed the major problem which a woman has to face to survive in the male dominant society. So, the main motto of the writer is that women are provided with dignity, self-respect and opportunities to survive just like the men.

First of all, we have to understand what is women empowerment? Women Empowerment can be defined in many terms, as it covers spheres of women rights that are or have been denied to them.

It can be defined as a provision of denied rights and freedom of action to women. This helps them to elaborate and recreate their legitimate rights that the society owes them being a member of the community.

It can also be defined as a legal permission to women of the society to exercise her rights in the decision-making process, that may be concerning her personal rights or rights of the community on political matters, economic fields or social problems of the society to which she belongs. Women empowerment can also be defined as a process that generates mental ability in women to control her own life as per her own requirement and wishes. It is also a process that helps in equipping and inculcating ability in women so that she can take decisions that will directly make an effective impact on her life.

The joys of motherhood by Buchi Emecheta tells a story of a strong woman who always tries to support her family and in return she expects dignity and respect from her husband and children also. The character of Nnu Ego is the major point of focus who knows her identity and her completion are dependent on having many children specially the boy one so, she decided to commit suicide when her first baby was died. Her marriage is also ended as Nnu Ego fails to have children. Her husband married with a woman who conceives quickly. Nnu Ego is again married with Nnaife who is not her ideal man but she feels contended when she becomes pregnant quickly. But this child dies and propels her to commit suicide. World War effected the happiness of Nnaife and Nnu Ego but in this hard time Nnu Ego supports the family with the pretty trade.

Nnaife gets work on ship and gone for month at a time. When he finally comes back, he is greeted by the news that his elder brother has died and he has inherited with all the wives and children of her brother. His wife Adaku moves in with Nnu Ego and Nnaife to Lagos. Now Nnu Ego is the senior wife and she has to share a pitiful salary with Adaku and her children. Life is continuous struggle and becomes more difficult when Nnaife is recruited into the army and sent to fight in World War. Now he is gone for four years and his wives have to wait tolerantly with no salary and no news. At that time, Nnu Ego supports her family and raises her four children.

After many years, war is over and Nnu Ego discovers that she has been sent three years of Nnaife's salary. Nnaife also comes back to home and married with a young girl. Nnu Ego is frustrated as they are unable to feed the children they already have and Nnaife keeps fathering more children and demanding more wives. But Nnaife surprises everyone when he decides to spend his rest of military money to pay for expensive schooling of Oshia who is the second child of Nnaife and Nnu Ego but the first one to live. They all are expecting that Oshia will graduate and will help her mother and father and his younger brothers in good schooling. But Oshia has other ideas and he disregards his own duties which leads to great anguish in his parents. The eldest daughter of Nnaife and Nnu Ego also breaks the rule by running away with the Yoruba man. Nnaife blames Nnu Ego for all these problems and his love for Nnu Ego turned to bitter hatred.

Nnu Ego moves back to Izu after that and started to living into her father's old house with her youngest children. So, she lives her rest days here. But when she dies, her children Oshia and Adim comes from America and throw her an expensive funeral. They build a shrine so that her descendants can pray to her and ask for children but Nnu Ego refuses to answer those prayers.

This term paper aims at finding out the role of a woman by the "joys of motherhood" and explains how women are treated unequally. It also explains the innermost desire of a woman and how necessary it is that women get equal opportunities in education and in jobs also. So, they will be able to raise their children and will be able to make their children a better and a healthier human being in a society. So, a theory of gender equality concerning the status of woman has been originated within socialist thought, which blames the existing material inequality in society for most or all of its ills. Most of the socialists assume that great reduction of this material inequality and feasibility of the elimination will result to eliminate all the social inequalities as well as status hierarchies. A society will grow definitely when both men and women will be provided with the same status. Brown (1970), Sandy (1973) and Lesser Blumberg (1983) gave various modern materialist theories that put stress on the central importance of women's place in production for their status in the society. The main maxim of these theories are the powerful position of women and their high participation in subsistence production will result in high social status.

Purpose Of the Study

The purpose of the study is to provide the women with equal survival opportunities for the betterment of the society. The purpose is to explain the inner thoughts of a woman by the example of the character. A woman is not born to give births to kids only. She also has some aims in life and has enough stamina or power to accomplish great things in life. The purpose also includes the efforts of a woman to support her family and how strong she is to take all the responsibilities with courage. The study's purpose is to give respect to women in a society so, a society will be a better place to live in.

Objectives Of the Study

The study's main objective is to evaluate the thoughts and inner feelings of a woman and to show the strength of a woman to support her family. Women is not born to give birth to children only especially male ones. Its primary objective is to study whether the circumstances and compulsions make a woman strong enough that this little creature do a lot of sacrifices for her family. The secondary objective of the study is to highlight the gender discrimination in the African education system in which priority is given to the sons for better education as compare to the daughters. There is no concept of educating the daughters and the inner thought behind this, their sons will get a good job and will support them in their old age. Under the theory of gender equality, this text will reveal how it is important that both girls and boys get equal opportunities of education as women have to run a family. The study's objective also includes that a woman does a lot of sacrifices for her husband and children but usually they never count her sacrifices and don't treat her well. With all these objectives, the study will evaluate and analyze a place of women in a society and under the gender theory of equality, it will explain how necessary it is to give both men and women equal rights.

Research Questions

- What is the importance of motherhood in the Igbo society?
- In what ways do poverty and traditional values oppress a woman to take step for her family?
- How women empowerment and gender equality lead to better society?
- How children got satisfaction and pleasure by spending a lot of money to the funeral of their mother and how it is connected to the satisfaction of the children?
- How the study of "joys of motherhood" is crucial in understanding the inner thoughts and feelings of a woman in a fictional work?

Significance Of the Study

The study will focus the less discussed and less sought characters as the major (positive characters) steal all the attention of the reader leaving a hatred and sense of rejection in the reader's heart. The study will highlight the inner feelings of a woman and it shows only a woman has the enough stamina to support her family in poverty and another crisis. This study will also be helpful

to highlight the several steps which should be taken to give a proper place to a woman in the society so, the society will grow and we will be a powerful nation. By giving the example of Nnu ego, this study explains how a mother bear everything for the sake of her children and for a mother her children are the first priority so, for the children also their mother should be first priority. The universal role of woman in joys of motherhood will be able to evaluated and analyzed under the research and study will allow the readers to understand how sensitive a woman is and how to deal a woman softly and how essential it is to give her a status of a woman.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The methodology of the study is based on the qualitative research with respect to the consultation to the written and published material from the authentic sources. There is no involvement of mathematical calculations and quantitative methodology of the study. The selected works for the research including short stories and the novella will be studied and analyzed through the lens of Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalytical Theory. The cited works which will help in this study will be mentioned in the last part of the research which are purely literary and authentic works.

Organization Of the Study

The study has been organized in four chapters and an abstract in a proper sequence and format in order to put the research in the right direction. The first chapter includes the basic introduction of the selected fictional work, their authors and the theory under which the texts will be analyzed. The study has been organized in the literature review and discussion which provide a solid ground to discuss the aspect of literature in a deeper manner. The study also has the structure of qualitative research which relies on the authentic sources for references and the background knowledge to execute the research.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The universal role of a women in a society is a social role which encompasses a range of attitudes and behaviors that are generally appropriate and acceptable. The place of a woman in a society is universal and global phenomenon present in the literature of every culture. Mostly, it has been aimed at producing the literature so, everyone should be familiar how a success of a nation also relies on women.

When we say that the women are empowered, we simply mean that the women of that particular society are a confident woman, one who has the freedom to analyze her living environment and base her life on her own decisions. She is not under any undue stress due to social and traditional customs of the society. A great leader once said about women empowerment "No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you; we are victims of evil customs. It is a crime against humanity that our women are shut up within the four walls of the houses as prisoners. There is no sanction anywhere for the deplorable condition in which our women have to live". (Jinnah 1944.

The current literature on rising gender equality and women empowerment has acknowledged various factors that will support women empowerment (Welzel 2003, Inglehart & Norris 2003). From various theories on women empowerment, following four factors are considered primarily important: 1) socioeconomic development; 2) historical legacies stemming from a society's culture and political traditions; 3) rising gender egalitarian attitudes that will be able to transform economic development into a cultural process of human development; 4) institutional design factors. By analyzing these four factors, a more vivid or clearer picture of women empowerment came into being and the universal role of a woman in a society will be clear.

A lot of work has been published in the literature in which various writers talked about women rights and gave awareness to the nation about this social issue. In the 20th century, a book named "Half the sky" by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn is published in which the writers try to aware the world about the universal role of women in the society. Their main motto was turning oppression into opportunity for women worldwide. In this book, they talked about the girls who are abducted at an early age. Even in our society, some girls might be sold by their families as they are unable to raise them. Usually, girls are also been sold by the families as they have to pay off a family debt. Due to these, poor little girls have to experience physical and sexual violence. The girls are not provided with the respect which is the right of every creature.

The authors also point out another issue which is rape. Sometimes young girls are raped at an early age and sometimes even by family members. Due to these problems, everyone prayed for baby boys and when a baby girl is born, they considered it "shame". The other most terrible and pathetic aspect that a female has to marry her rapist and she is unable to get respect which is her right.

WuDunn and Kristoff also claims that in our society, when it comes to the education boys are preferred to go to school as compare to the girls. The same thing in the "joys of motherhood" when Nnaife decide to spend all of his leftover for the study of his elder son Oshia. In actual for some communities, education for girls is considered shameful because they are afraid what an educated woman can do. Some men even don't want to marry an educated woman because they think that they will be deemed as inferior to her.

Women have always been a center to anything. Even if it is a family, a relationship or a society. As in the previous chapters, it was stated that women were undermined and were deprived from their basic rights even. They were used as a symbol of show off and power. Women were made slaves and were treated inhumanely. But, the women of today have become stronger than ever. They have got educated and they know their basic rights of living.

In this book "I am Malala" there too lies a story of a young lady who demanded her rights in a very young age and then, rose from small ghettos to the winning a Nobel Peace Prize. She describes her story in five portions.

In first portion, she describes her life before Talibans. What was life to her when there were no Talibans in Swat. In this time period she states about her initial

family life and her student life. Her father Ziauddin was a school owner and kind of a very supportive father to her.

In the chapter 2, she describes her life when Tehreek e Taliban got rise and started advising people on social and religious values but later on, turned out to bound women only to home. Schools were closed and she states all the difficulties, she had to face in that time period. She was writing a blog in BBC London by that time with the pseudo name of "Gul Makai".

In third portion, she describes her efforts for her career and the consequences she had to face in return of those efforts. In August 2009, Pakistan Army fought Talibans and forced them to surrender. This brought a positive impact on the valley of Swat as peace and schools were restored to some manner. Malala then shifts back to Swat with her family and she becomes an activist all over the valley. Because of her renowned public figure at such a young age, she gets to meet Major General Athar Abbas in Islamabad. But this was not something easy to swallow for the peace haters so they one day stopped her out in the way to school and chanted her name. Those brutal men fired three bullets on three girls including Malala.

The chapter four summarizes her time between life and death. She was shot in her left eye but luckily the shot got missed and got planted in her left shoulder. She was immediately transferred to Combined Military Hospital Peshawar. And, later on she got transferred to Queen Elizabeth Hospital. But her family could not go because of the passport issues.

Chapter 5 refers to her second life. The life she got after all the struggle and hardships she had faced. She was treated in the best way by the medical board there. Her facial nerve was operated in November that year and she was discharged in January 2013. She too had to undergo Cochlear implant surgery that year in February. She then after recovery gave a winning statement "I want people to remember me not as a girl who was shot by Taliban but a girl who fought for education, her basic right."

Malala Yousafzai, for her willingness to strive for education, her efforts and all the hardships she had faced, was awarded Nobel Peace Prize on October 8, 2014. She was announced as a co-recipient of the award for her struggle against suppression of people and young people and for the right of every woman to get education. She got this prestigious prize just at the age of 17.

This is the best and rock-solid example of what actually women are. It states that women can be pushed down but they cannot be deprived. The right for freedom of speech and freedom of choice implies to each and every woman and they should fight for it.

Generally, the **women empowerment** is considered to be a concept of Western world, as they think that Muslim society does not grant equal rights to their women, they propagate that Islam suppresses the women with regards to social activities as practiced in the western world.

Women Empowerment was too an important clause of the rising of Islam 1400 years back. At that time, when no one was chanting for women empowerment, Islam was demanding basic rights for women. Even in the battlefield, women too were casting their shadows on war as some of them were working as nurses and others were given task of water and resources provision to the fighting heroes. Islam kept women under consideration when it came to provision of basic rights and Islam openly tagged women as an asset to the human race. Islam did all this struggle for women empowerment when violence against women was at its peak. People used to bury their daughters because they didn't want to have one. Islam came and made people to realize that who women are to society and what is their sacred role towards nation building.

Whereas if one studies the Holy Quran and the Hadith, it will become evident that Allah the Almighty and His Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has repeatedly accentuated on the **women empowerment**, their right to education, they be involved in decisions at national and international levels/forms. The women be given the rights of opinion, right of taking decisions concerning their choices of a spouse, they have also emphasized on the positive role of women in social society.

A great writer isobel Coleman through her novel "Paradise Beneath Her Feet" through light how Muslim men and women are fighting and trying to get provide equal rights to both the gender. To support women's right in a progressive movement of Islamic feminism, the great Muslim leaders are making efforts with advanced Islamic interpretations. (Isobel Coleman, 2010).

Since for centuries, women are struggling for equality and basic rights. By the rise of political Islam in the middle East, their challenge has been intensified. However, in western culture, the women empowerment has been condemning many times. Coleman reveals that how in the Middle East, activists by following the Islamic rules or within tenets of Islam are providing women with economic, educational and political opportunities. Coleman claims that it leads to great fight among championing reform and the people who in the name of religion want to oppress women.

Coleman also highlights the number of women and men who are brilliantly working for the women rights. An afghan educator, sakina Yaqoob is running more than forty women centers to provide women education and health exercise by remaining within the limits of Islam. A successful business man in Saudi Arab named Madawi al-Hasoon raise voice to provide women with career opportunities. A sincere dentist turned politician depend on adequate interpretations of Islam to provide women in Iraq with equal opportunities. So, these are revolutions which are taking place in the middle east to give women basic rights within Islam.

So, Coleman gave women a message of hope and tries to explain that the change is happening now. Time will come when in all the nations, women will work just like the men and their existence will not depend to give birth to children only especially the male ones.

It is the right of women to get equal rights in matrimonial life also. Rebecca Solnit explains about men who assume they about everything in her book "Men Explains Things to Me". To talk about this aspect of gender war is compulsory, first of all in personal life there is need to eradicate the gender difference. There should be no right to a man to assume wrongly that he is familiar with every aspect and women don't. If women will not get confidence from her husband, then how she will be able to transfer it into the children.

The universal role of women in a society has been discussed for quite a long ago. In Bible, there is a story of 5 inspirational strong women. Martha is a faith filled woman of the Bible who asked to Jesus for the life of her brother but her brother passes away before the Jesus arrives but she never lost her faith. Esther is another influential woman of the Bible who proves that true beauty comes from education. Abigail is a strong woman of the Bible who is known for its wisdom and beauty. Deborah is the powerful and inspiring women of the Bible. Her main motto was to get leadership and to serve the nation. All these strong women encourage the other women and represent that woman of all the times are brave and strong enough to accomplish great things in life. (Walsh, 2018).

DISCUSSION

Women have always been a spine to the natural system. Without women, the system wouldn't have worked. The child birth, raising up of child and the child's connection with the mother has been always significant roles of women in bringing up the society. In the "Joys of Motherhood" the writer Buchi Emacheta to try to circulate the importance of women in our society and have also discussed the child bearing task and what consequences women have to bear if they are not potent for child bearing or giving to a child. The main idea of this novel circulates around "The necessity of fertility for women and the importance of bearing male children for them."

"I was a queen, and you took away my crown; a wife, and you killed my husband; a mother, and you deprived me of my children. My blood alone remains: take it, but do not make me suffer long."

Marie Antoinette in the above-mentioned quote tries to mirror the feelings of a woman. She opens up that how it looks like to be a woman when you lose your family, when you get deprived and when you have no say over prospects.

Since the creation of this beautiful universe, God has made man and women equal but due to thriving man force and inability of women to strive for their basic rights, women were deprived in past whole lot of time. This deprivation of women since the early times has also been shown in the book "Joys of Motherhood" where story circulates around a woman named Nnu-Egu.

As Jessica Lange quotes "The natural state of motherhood is unselfishness." This universally renowned fact was too supported and projected by the novel mentioned above. Women are always inclined to their babies. They can't even think of resting if their child is awake, they can't even think of eating if their child is hungry and they cannot even think of covering themselves if their children are shirtless. In the early age's woman were only considered as a source

of pleasure or a child producing factory but a woman not only gives birth to children but she also feeds them, feels them and can overcome any obstacle for the sake of her child. And, that is a major reason why women are said to be a shadow of Almighty God.

Leaving this idea apart, if the psychology of women is considered, they tend to be softer hearted but when it comes to strive something, women to do anything to achieve what they want. Leaving the old and pitiful mentality apart, women of today who are inspired by Women Empowerment Theory, are more useful to society compared to earlier times.

The three-dimensional model of women empowerment was given by Marloes. A. Heus, Nina Hansen and Robert Lensink. This theory states that Women empowerment is a sequence of processes in which they can elaborate and recreate the fact that they can be something, they can be who they want to be and they can avail the valid rights which were denied for them earlier. This theory is also known as feminist theory focuses on criticizing gender inequality. Themes which are included in gender inequality include aesthetics, art history, objectification (sexual objectification), oppression, stereotyping and patriarchy. As stated in history books, men always had more access to power till today. Brown 1991; United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 2015) The gender power model (Pratto and Walker 2004; Pratto et al; 2011) suggests that power is gendered. This suggests that relatively men have more access to power, control of important resources, beneficial cultural ideologies and have less obligations to follow. According to a report by United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 2014. As reported in 2011, 20% of the developing countries possess gender parity in primary education and a large number i.e. 66% of the 774 million illiterate people on the planet are women.

Women empowerment is an important aspect of achieving worldwide sustainable development. The process aiming empowerment is designed as a framework and it is directional to address gender equity. Women empowerment basically stresses upon two main perspectives i.e. freedom in exercise of personal choice and individual capacities. The other is a bit collective; women should be allowed to practice the collective behavior they want to adopt within a society.

Interventions regarding microfinance schemes are based on the principle that intervention participation possesses empowering effects and adversely affect individual growth. But there is a point to notice that these interventions are practiced in more collectively traditional values. So, this is the reason that it becomes necessary to conduct aimed cultural research which can uproot the cultural biases. This can make the cultural research outcomes to pop out in different cultural contexts.

The proposal of women empowerment proposed a sketch that how they can be allotted with their basic rights. The empowerment plan can dimension in three different ways i.e. Personal, relational and Societal.

Women should start to value their own selves first of all. They should deny anything that is making them feel uncomfortable. They should learn to raise voice for their own good. They should get themselves good education so that at least they might know their basic citizenship rights. And, getting education can also benefit them with getting good jobs and to get a good name earned for themselves.

Women empowerment also includes relational prospects as well. Women should learn to know how to maintain balance between their relationships. Women should learn that what things should be accepted and what should be denied when in a relationship. Education also plays an important role in this prospect as well. If women are educated, she can share the burden of her husband becoming an extra wheel to the family's income.

Women empowerment also involves the societal acknowledgement as they need to know that what are their rights regarding society. What they need to do when someone robs or molest them. Women need to learn the ethics regarding society that how they will have to adapt the society prospects. Moreover, societal involvements such as joining welfare societies or NGOs too turn to earn good name for women and can buy power to them.

Napoleon said: "Give me good mothers and I will give you a good nation." The progress of nation depends upon the way the mothers bring up their children. If the mothers are educated, the whole society will progress. Women have always played an important role in the progress of a nation. Considering the words embraced by the great leader, we come to know that even to make good men, great soldiers or massive politicians their mothers too play great role in it because they are the ones who carry a special attachment with the kid and bring him up to become someone.

Florence Nightingale, a woman who was the keystone towards the biggest help to humanity. This hard-coated lady strived for the cause all her life and led the successful campaign for building of hospitals and nursing homes. She once said "Were there none who were discontented with what they have, the world would never reach anything better".

**"You are Fire!
Don't believe these mere mortals.
They want to put you on a pedestal
and sing paeans to you;
later they would burn you
in the altar of that same fire!
Stand away and stand alone!
You are limitless!
But these mortals can only limit your sky!
You are the Universe!
But they will only give you a little space!
Break free! It's a trap!
They want to cage you!
Because, they are afraid of your real power!"**

**You are a woman.
You are the fire!
You are all conquering.
You are all powerful!
You are Supreme!
You were not born to be a mere beauty queen”.**

This beautiful poem mirrors the capabilities lying within woman. As per stated, woman is not meant to be beauty queens to star in just movies or stage casts but women also have sacred potential to become what they want to become. They should learn to embrace the fire lying within them and the passion they are fond of. Working on the passion will take any women to the dizzy heights of glory. In the past, there lie dozens of examples where woman have proved their worth among men and proved they worth every opportunity. Even if it is military, politics, science, literature or running a family, modern day women commit to every challenge they face and they project the idea of women empowerment. Open the history books, you will see women as head of states, ministers, governors or Noble prize winners if it's Benazir Bhutto, Hillary Clinton, Golda Meir, Elizabeth Dometien or Malala Yousafzai everyone has proved themselves to be the perfect person for the honour and proved that they are not half a man. So, as the main storyline, the chapters, the references and the facts state women are soft as fur and flexible to bear anything happening around. Women were deprived in previous ages but since last century women have strived hard to change their status co and let the world know who they actually are. Women possess enormous talent because they have an inbuilt insight of balancing relational and societal affairs.

So, in a nutshell woman should be encouraged rather than to be criticized because they bear the same intellectual power as men do.

“And one day she discovered that she was fierce, and strong, and full of fire, and that not even she could hold herself back because her passion burned brighter than her fears.” Mark Anthony (The beautiful Lie).

In this quote, Mark Anthony a famous novelist too agrees with the point that whenever a woman will come to know of her capabilities, come to know of the fire or passion enclosed in her, she cannot be stopped thereafter.

So, when we say that the women are empowered, we simply mean that the women of that particular society are a confident woman, one who has the freedom to analyze her living environment and base her life on her own decisions. She is not under any undue stress due to social and traditional customs of the society.

Women empowerment can be measured by following factors: She has the ability and freedom to measure her worth, she has the freedom of making her own choices, She has the right to cash on the opportunities, She is able to access to all available resources, Her way of living is according to her own wishes, she is granted same status as men in the places outside her own home and national

or at international forum she is given the right to have an impact by way of her decisions to bring about social improvements along with economic well-being. Women are denied their basic rights by way of not allowing them to contribute in the working to bring about social improvement in the society. **Women empowerment** entails the provision of rights to the women to be able to fully contribute in the decision making at appropriate level of a society; this in return brings the women of the society on the political stage, in economic process, making and implementing decisions concerning their own life both at social and domestic level.

Women empowerment helps improve the living standards of women folk of a society. This entails acquiring quality education, living as per their own choice, improvement in living standard and adopting a suitable profession to improve their financial conditions with full independence and control. This will help the women of the society to be an important part in decision making to bring about a positive impact on the society. Remember women form the major part of many a society in the world.

At international level the women have achieved limited **women empowerment**, in some countries; the rights of women have been restored in the field of health, education and jobs etc., but still there is a wide gap in gender equality; especially in the field of economic reforms and as part of labor force. Women are not considered to be paid as much as it is paid to a male, even if her education and experience level as compared to a male is much better. Women also suffer badly when it comes to inheritance of wealth and properties. In societies where **women empowerment** has an impact, it has been observed that the society has results much better than others, especially in the fields of improvements in economic resources, reduction in the level of poverty and enhancing the quality of life

United Nation Organization has formulated special programs for women of countries where the majority of population is living below the poverty level. This has been done to ensure improvement in the community development with regards to increase in earning standards, women skill training, and self-dependence to eradicate poverty at community level.

Program entails issue of loans to women, so that they are able to establish small businesses, repay loans along with limited interest and in return have an impact on the community by improving the life standard. The program teaches to generate financial resource by way of contribution by each member; the repayment with interest not only maintains the level of funds, but the interest paid keeps increasing the funds. The program is based on organizing groups of 15-20 women, meeting of these groups is held each week, where in they discuss their issues, make decisions and implement their plans according to their own choices. Thus, **women empowerment** helps in improving the life of the entire community and alleviation of poverty.

Pakistan is one of the countries in the world that has more population of women as compared to men, In Pakistan women are 51 percent of the total population of the country. This makes it more important to ensure that the national

resources available in the country are distributed in a manner that the entire population is able to contribute to the national development of the country. The growth rate of Pakistan will remain dependent on the appropriate contribution by the female population of the country. This means that women in Pakistan must be given **women empowerment**, so that they are able to contribute towards the positive development and eliminate the poverty in the country.

Much before the creation of Pakistan, the father of the nation Quaid-e- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah once said, Quote “we are victims of evil customs. It is a crime against humanity that our women are shut up within the four walls of the houses as prisoners. There is no sanction anywhere for the deplorable condition in which our women have to live.” Unquote.

Women in Pakistan have little or no contribution towards the participation in economic works and development projects of the country; they remain involved in household work, agriculture activities, collection of water from far off resource or in some cases roaming in jungles for collecting fuel wood.

For a rapid development of the country it is essential that women are inducted in every project enabling them to contribute in the positive and productive development. Therefore, in Pakistan **women empowerment** is of paramount importance. Although Pakistan has become part of many projects at world levels that are working on program of women empowerment and gender equality, yet the country lacks far behind in many fields where women could have contributed in development projects. To overcome this drawback in the society the country has initiated a program called “Gender Reform Action Plan” (GRAP). The purpose of this program is to bring equity among both genders of the society; the program intends to bring many positive changes in relation to process being followed by the government.

The government of Pakistan is laying special emphasis to ensure that at all levels the women are secure, respected and work with dignity.

To ensure effective participation of women in all fields of life; **women empowerment** will also entail allocation of quotas for women in important departments of the government. (10 percent seats in political setups, 33 percent seats reserved for women in all local bodies). Apart from these women have been given due share in all the assemblies of the country.

A very important factor in relation to women empowerment is the enhancement of women's financial status, this is termed as economic empowerment, and it provides financial independence status to the women and helps her to create activities outside her home environment. This factor in **women empowerment** must be reinforced with provision of quality education, so that then women can handle financial tasks effectively. Economic empowerment enables women to counter: Bargaining ability of men, claim jobs with higher wages, challenge inheritance and property rights and manage her assets in better and more effective means

Women are required to be able to maintain equal status with men both in private and public sector of the country. Women are allowed to form part of political

structures like members of constitutional assemblies at provincial and federal levels. Women are allowed to contest election on open seats as well as on seats reserved for women only on quota basis.

Women empowerment in relation to political field enables the women to contribute at the highest level of government activities; women work for the betterment of women folk and try to solve problems in relation to women. The most effective method that can be adopted to ensure **women empowerment** in any society of the world is the provision of quality education to females' right from their childhood days. The educated women will display more confidence when dealing with matters of national importance; women will be able to compete with men in acquisition of jobs. Educated women prove to be better mothers and they also have enough confidence to speak for the rights of their children also.

Women empowerment in any country and especially in underdeveloped countries is not easy to achieve. Restrictions placed on its way are part and parcel of the customs and cultural traditions of the societies. Women remain under intense pressure and feel that they are inferior to men. Although some women put up strong resistance against the barriers, they encounter to achieve the women empowerment, while others submit to the resistance they face and accept the condition they live in.

Research of recent times have revealed that women who use internet to gain information for her own use, are often become victim of exploitation, this normally is the result of revealing personal information to strangers for sake of making friends. Many males exploit such women by posing as a female friend by use of photographs of some unidentified female

Research has also revealed that women empowerment is most effectively countered in cases of working women. In many reported cases women are subjected to sexual harassment, hiring on fake information, offered jobs on much lower pay scales. Countries around the globe remain committed to the process of development and progress, every country plan to be part of developed group of companies. Therefore, sustainable development has become mandatory for them.

Gender equality is one of the essential factors to attain sustainable development. Many scholars have repeatedly emphasized on women empowerment in the society to ensure uninterrupted and sustainable development process in the country. In societies where men and women remain fully involved in the development projects the ultimate results are far better and more profitable as compared to where the system is based on male domination. Therefore, **women empowerment** in any society remains of paramount importance

CONCLUSION

The study explains that universal role of women in society is essential so, it is essential that women are provided with equal rights. Women should be rendered with equal opportunities and due rights and for this effective polices must be

taken. Sexual violence is a crime, so if government is providing them equal opportunities in education and jobs then to provide them with safe environment will also be the first obligation of the government.

Some people are against feminism which is right to some extent. Our moral values do not allow the too much independency or liberalness of women. There are certain limits in our religion in which men and women are not equal in all respects because nature has assigned them different tasks. Both these creatures have different jobs and different needs. The main motive of this study is that women should not be mistreated. It is much important that they are provided with essential rights. Neither women are higher in rank as compare to man nor men are superior to women.

The next point which highlights in the study is that women are not come in the world to give birth to children only especially male children. Her status should not be recognized on the bae of her fertility. A woman has inner thoughts and feelings and she has enough stamina and power to accomplish great things in life. So, a woman should not be judged on this criterion only. The effective participation of a women should be encouraged in various fields by the family, society and government officials. By doing this society will grow more effectively and no one will be worried when a daughter born to her family.

The main thing which has to be eliminated from the society is that the education is important for men only. Like in joys of motherhood Nnaife spent all his money to educate his son Oshia. Education is the need of both these creatures. The education of women related to the entire family. If you are educating a man, you are educating an individual only but if you are educating a woman, you are giving the chance to grow to an entire family. At the grassroot level, especially women were ignorant but now the concept has been changed. The woman of this modern world is well aware of her rights and she knows how she can improve the quality of life by getting education. In almost every field, she is provided with equal rights now which is the great achievement.

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