

Women in Development in Global Perspective

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Development according to Mahatma Gandhi "recognition of human potentials" which includes both man and women". Participation is considered as a precondition for development". Development thinker Gutierer considers "development as liberation from oppression forces," It means development cannot be achieved without liberating each and every individual from all forms of subordination." The full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and all causes of peace, require the maximum participation of women on equal terms in all fields. In World's male dominated society, women's position is far worse than their male counterparts because of the socio-economic situation & cultural tradition.

"Women suffer dual oppression of sex and class within and out side family". The effects are strikingly apparent in the present world's population. "They perform nearly two thirds of all working hours, receive only one tenth of world's income and own less than 1% of the world's property (Women Welfare Conference, poster : 1985, Nairobi).

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Background of Women in Development

Recent years in the world history, the role of women in development process has become central focus. Naturally women have triple role in society as "reproducers, producers and community managers". The way women's role as wives, mothers have been recognized throughout times, their role as farmers, community leaders, educators of young people and protectors of the old people has been ignored and has a general tendency to overlook. This discrimination against woman is profound and it is a sort of sickness which is deep in the subconscious mind of both men and women. Besides the structure of the society and status of women in it is also to be held responsible for such negligence to women. As per Vickie Randell Paul Den "backwardness of women in our society is due to the effect of their childhood socialization". That is a female child from her childhood recognizes the prominence of her father or brother in the family and she grows up accepting their prominence. Secondly, motherhood, in the form of rearing up the children and looking after home has made women less progressed than male members of home. Thirdly, in the structure of home or society there exists hardly any position or status of women where they can fight for their own right i.e. they lack of own organisational power/position at home. These factors have made one of the hardest sources of inequality to fight. Analysis of women's situation, therefore shows today's women's inferior status is starting to be seen not as something right and natural but as the result of systematic discrimination on the basis of sex. So the scales of world's equality are out of balance. Women is weighted down with responsibility while man goes up high with power day by day. So as per the above views women must do all the domestic work and man possesses almost all of the world's wealth:

While speaking of women's participation outside home in a true sense, it actually started in U. S. A. in 1840's, U. K. in 1850's, Germany and France 1860's. In U. S. A. in 1814 only 5% women used to work outside home. On 8th March in 1857 women workers of Needle Producing Factory of New York City protested against the inhuman treatment to them. They have raised their voice against unequal pay, unequal treatment, hazardous environment and long hour works i. e. (12 hours per day). In 1860 on 8th March all those women workers got together, formed unions and protested for their rights. This procession was blocked by police who attacked them. This has made the protestors more united and stronger who committed to release their rights. On the same day of 8th March in 1910 CLARA ZETKIN a Gagman women leader called the world community to observe the 8th March as an WOMEN'S DAY. While later on 1984 United Nations has declared 8th March as INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. The purpose of UN designates 8th March as international women's day is to review and appraise the implementation of women's rights. Accordingly 8th March is the global celebration that symbolizes the progress made in the areas of concern for upholding women's rights and to publicize the obstacles and discrimination that women are to go through.

Discrimination against women existed in Europe, France and in other European countries too. In France women used to get 13 french shush (money) while men used to get 30 french shush (money) for doing the same jobs. French thinkers like ALFRED, DUMAS & SAND protested for such inequality and they supported women's cause for development. In 1948 Ellen Roosevelt wife of Theodore Roosevelt (Ex-President of U. S. A.) declared that, "in the Family of human beings all members have equal rights". She meant that men

and women both have the similar rights in the family. In 1950-1960 different scholars, researchers and philosophers like RUSKI, RAYON, JOHN STUART MILL supported women's cause for development. From 1961 development of women was an international issue and a matter of discussion, which started globally. In spite of all these efforts upto 1971, integration of women in development was in marginal and secondary level.

Since its birth the United Nations (after the World War II), is emphasizing to establish equality between men and women has been a fundamental text of the U. N. charter. By 1945 the charter affirmed its faith in fundamental human rights in dignity, worth of human persons and in the rights of men and women. Two years later i.e. in 1947 a U. N. Commission on status of women was established.

Emergence of Women in Development

After the Second World War many countries became independent and as such they were thinking to develop their women folk socially, politically and economically. On this context women's development was an issue at their national levels. It was also observed that from 1960 all sorts of social movements started gradually.

In 1970 Ester Boserup's book on "Women's role in Economic Development" influenced very much policy makers of the world. This book has been called the fundamental text for UN for women's development. Slowly a consciousness started to develop to integrate women into development.

In 1972 UN has decided through its resolution no 3010 to declare 1975 as women's year.

The World's Food Conference in 1974 found that 40% women of the world are the main food producers, 80% women of

African Country were the main food producers and 50% women of developing countries are involved in food production works.

World Population Conference also proved that women's status development has positive link with the decrease of fertility.

GNP does not act as real indicator of development.

The above factors were the causes of emergence of WID concept.

Global Process on Women's Development

Besides the above facts, a wave of democracy and participation has swept over the world. In the background of these changes, United Nations Organization focused upon the action plan for women's development. So the year 1975 was declared as the International Year of Women which was the First World Conference on Women. The continued fighting on inequality led to the declaration on 1975 as International Women's Year marked by a World Conference in Mexico City which was attended by delegates from 133 countries. The same year the U. N. General Assembly declared that the ten years between 1975-1985 to be the U. N. World's Decade for women. The Themes of the conference were- equality, development and peace. And five years later in 1980, a second conference was held in Copenhagen to maintain the momentum of the decade and for report on progress made so far in improving the position of women. At this conference 1,326 delegates from 145 countries attended to hear the preliminary results of research conducted during the Decade. In this conference, the importance of the participation of women in the development process, both as agents and beneficiaries was stressed. At that time at the end of the year, there were

some signs that Govts have begun to take care of their women. In 90% of the country's Govt. bodies decided for the advancement of women, 50% of these have been established since beginning of the decade. This conference reviewed and evaluated future strategies to reach Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (NFLS). In the meantime on December 18th, 1979, the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by UN General Assembly. CEDAW was adopted as an international bill on the rights of women and which contains Articles on basic human rights. 135 countries are member of this. (And the president of CEDAW is a Bangladeshi woman). Bangladesh ratified the convention in November 1984 with some reservations on the basic articles and articles about personal law. CEDAW contains in total 30 articles which is cited below.

Article 1-16 on the Equality between men and women

Article 17-22 on operation and responsibilities of CEDAW.

Article 23-30 on Administration of CEDAW.

The major provisions of CEDAW are as follows :

1. Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
2. Equality in national constitution and legislation and their implementation.
3. New legislation to ensure equal human rights to women.
4. Protection of maternity.
5. Elimination of social prejudice and equal recognition of the roles and responsibilities of women.
6. Legislation and ensuring implementation to stop trafficking of women.
7. Elimination of discrimination of women in politics and public life.

8. Equal opportunity for women to represent them in government and at international level.
9. Equal rights to acquire nationality.
10. Equal right of women in the field of education, culture etc.
11. Equal employment and training opportunities for women.
12. Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of health care.
13. Equal rights in areas of economic and social life including recreation.
14. Particular problems faced by rural women in terms of access to resources and services.
15. Women to be equal with men before the law.
16. Eliminate discrimination against women in matters relating to marriages, custody of children, property (interest of children to be paramount).

Decade of Women

Until the early 1970s "women as a distinctive rather than residual category made its appearance in development thinking". Besides, there existed social movements, and economic growth which was accompanied with the increase in unemployment and poverty that was effecting the growing concern with basic needs and poverty alleviation. So U. N. Decade for women tried to redistribute the wealth, work, the power and responsibility more fairly between men and women.

The emergence of women as a category of development from international perspective started through out the decades of 1960s, 1970s and finally from 1980s where women have been taken as a category of development. 1976-1985 was concentrated on women development throughout the world.

As the theme of the Decade of the women was Development, Peace and Equality and the sub-theme was Employment, Education and Health for women of the world. The Second World Conference was held in Copenhagen, Denmark of finding out as well as to sort out the courses of action of the second half of the UN Decade for women. The Third World Conference on women held in 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya adopted the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (NFLS) for the advancement of women through Development, Peace and Equality. The Nairobi conference strategies were adopted to review the decade of women. The Action plan of this conference reflects the shift from welfare to equity or Fair approach. The following are the details on policy approaches developed for women:

Policy Approaches to Develop Women

Gradually on Third decade i.e. from 1980s there were different policy approaches developed (advocated by Buvinic 1993). As it was found that there was no explicit policy approaches for women, who were benefited from the role of women and are expected to gain from the projects and programs. In that sense policy approaches to women have changed "mirroring shifts in macro-economic development approaches broadly modernization, basic needs and structural adjustment". Emergence of WID concept attacked the first welfare approach which focuses on women's role as wives and mothers which offering household works supporting man, whereas "men are here seen as the main target for development and they are the main work force". And women are the beneficiaries in development through their men. Women this way is not active participants to development. So it was found rather women are under-utilized.

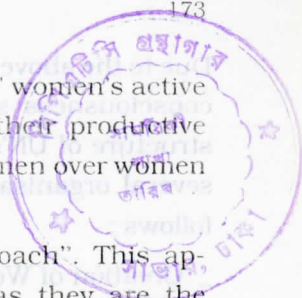
Next Equity/Fair approach. This approach seeks to improve women's status, power and control so that women are more

equal with men. This approaches recognize" women's active role in development particularly through their productive role. It also seeks to challenge the power of men over women and to end discrimination."

The third approach is "anti poverty approach". This approaches focuses on women's problems as they are the "poorest of the poor". The solution of poverty alleviation, are not in equality with men. This approach thus is concerned and aims to increase women's earning capacity through generating projects, skill training, introduction of appropriate technology and literacy.

According to Mouser (1989) who advocated development of women through two more important approaches as Efficiency and Empowerment approaches. Through Efficiency approach it is seen that women are "essentially not as beneficiaries of intervention, but as a major resource of development. Being the half the world's population they one already contributing to all economies but they are not sufficiently used" "So to make of development efficient, it has to include the participation of women who has the capacity to "compensate for declining social services" by the use of their free time. It needs women to put into main streams of development. As they are under utilized, their participation is a "must".

Next is Empowrment approach comes from women's groups who find to empower themselves through greater self-reliance. They seek to influence own changes and the rights to determine their own choice of life. They also seek to gain control of and access of resources. This approach emerges from women who have been involved in liberation struggles and grassroots women's organisations. These approaches brought a great change for women's improvement.



Due to the above approaches changes and emergence of new consciousness some changes came in the organisational structure of UN's body. So by the end of 1980s there were several organisations created in UN system which are as follows :

- _ Creation of Women Division
- _ UNDP for women
- _ The legal status of CEDAW
- _ International Research and Training Institute for Women (IRTIW).

In view of above and on the basis of NFLS the Fourth World Conference on women was held on 30th August to 15th September 1995 in Beijing to evaluate the implementation status of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the advancement of women and to adopt a platform of action for Third UN Decade 1995-2005.

The "platform of action" is an agenda for women's improvement. It aims at accelerating the implementation of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (NFLS) for advancement of women and at removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and matter of human rights. It is a condition for social justice and is also an essential fundamental pre-requisite for equality, development and peace. The Beijing conference were on the progress and drawbacks on the implementation of NFLS as to how the women have been involved in areas like the health, education, employment, family life and human rights. This conference also sought ways to eliminate gender discrimination and develop new partnership between men and women in the 21st Century.

Hence looking back to the history of advancement of women, we find the following development since 1945 until now.

1945	UN charter on human rights Sub-Commission on the status of women.
1946	Commission formed on status of women
1966	CSW Submits a Draft Declaration.
1975	- International women's' year - World conference on Women - New women's organisation & projects for women
1976	- UNFEM - Declaration of Women's decade
1976-1985	UN Decade for Women
1978	INSTRAW Temporarily
1979	Adoption of CEDAW
1980	MID-Decade world conference on Women in Copenhagen
1985	End of Decade world conference Nairobi Forward Looking strategies (NFLS)
1990	World Summit for child
1992	Earth Summit Development in "Women and Environment (Rio conference)
1993	World conference on Human Rights. (Vienna declaration)
1994	International Conference on Population Development (ICPD), in Cairo.
1995	Fourth World conference and NGO Forum Beijing. (to review the implementation status of (NFLS), Beijing Declaration and UN Platform of Action).
1996-2000	Medium term plan for Women and Development is being prepared which will ensure that the process for implementation of NFLS within UN system is to secure beyond the deadline of 2000.

Conclusion :

Twenty first century is ushering in an era of new hopes and aspirations for the women-folk, as the women of the world can now look forward with pride and hope for having some outstanding and significant movements that have taken place in the last two decades for their all out development. In this period, the drive for women's rights has accelerated and taken on global momentum. In the 23 years since the first UN conference on women, the campaign for equality between women and men has witnessed momentous changes and remarkable advances in the world's history.

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