

7th Social Science Lesson 20 Notes in English

20] Women Empowerment

Introduction:

"Feminism is not about making women stronger. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength".

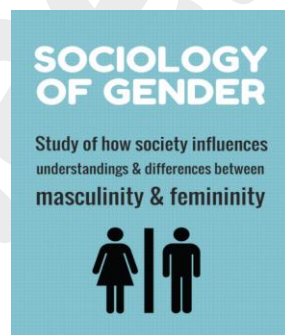
"The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organisation but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights".

"You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation".

To call woman the weaker sex is a libel; it is man's injustice to woman –Mahatma Gandhi.

The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself. In addition, it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. Women's empowerment and achieving gender equality is essential for our society to ensure the sustainable development of the country.

Social Aspects of Gender:



In sociology, we make a distinction between sex and gender. Sex is the biological trait that societies use to assign people into the category of either male or female. When people talk about the differences between men and women they are often drawing on sex – on rigid ideas of biology – rather than gender, which is an understanding of how society shapes our understanding of those biological categories.

Gender is more fluid – it may or may not depend upon biological traits. More specifically, it is a concept that describes how societies determine and manage sex categories; the cultural meanings attached to men's and women's roles; and how individuals understand their identities including, but not limited to, being a man, woman, transgender, and other gender positions. Gender involves social norms, attitudes and activities that society views as more appropriate for one sex over another. Gender is also determined by what an individual feels and does.

The sociology of gender examines how society influences our understandings and perception of differences between masculinity (what society views appropriate behaviour for a “man”) and femininity (what society views appropriate behaviour for a “woman”). We examine how this, in turn, influences identity and social practices.

Woman's Education:

Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. More than 40 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserted that “everyone has the right to education”.

Educating the girl child produces mothers who are educated and who will, in turn, educate their children care for their families and provide their children care and support. The girl child needs to be educated to acquire knowledge and skills needed to advance her status for social interactions and self-improvement.

The Unmatched Importance of Female Education:

1. Increased Literacy:

Of the illiterate youth across the globe, nearly 63 percent are female. Offering all children education will prop up literacy rates, pushing forward development in struggling regions.

2. Human Trafficking:

Women are most vulnerable to trafficking when they are undereducated and poor, according to the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking. Through providing young girls with opportunities and fundamental skills, Human Trafficking can be significantly undermined.

3. Political Representation:

Across the globe, women are underrepresented as voters and restricted from political involvement. The United Nations Women's Programmes on Leadership and Participation suggest that civic education, training and all around empowerment will reduce this gap.

4. Thriving Babies:

According to the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, children of educated mothers are twice as likely to survive past the age of five.

5. Later Marriage:

As suggested by the United Nations Population Fund, in underdeveloped countries, one in every three girls is married before reaching the age of 18. In a region where a girl receives seven or more years of education, the wedding date is delayed by four years.

6. Income Potential:

Education also increases a woman's earning capabilities. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, (UNESCO) a single year of primary education has shown to increase a girl's wages later in life by 20 percent.

7. Prospering GDP:

Gross Domestic Product also rises when both girls and boys are being offered educational opportunities. When 10 percent more women attend school, GDP increases by three percent on average.

8. Poverty Reduction:

When women are provided with equal rights and equal access to education, they go on to participate in economic activity. Increased earning power leads to reduction in poverty level.

First in the World – Woman:

First woman	Name	Country
Prime Minister	Sirimavo Bandaranaike	Sri Lanka
In space	Valentina Tereshkova	USSR
To scale Mt Everest	Junko Tabei	Japan
To win the Olympic gold	Charlotte Cooper	England

First in India – Woman
First Women's University Maharshi Karve starts SNDT University in Pune with five students in 1916.
First Women to hold a Union Cabinet post Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
First Women to hold a Union Foreign Minister's post Sushma Swaraj (2014)
First Women youngest minister of a state Sushma Swaraj (She became the cabinet minister of Haryana when she was only 25 yrs old)
First Women governor of Independent India Sarojini Naidu, in charge of United Provinces
First Women president of UN General Assembly Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (1953)
First Women Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi (1966)
First Women IPS Officer of India Kiran Bedi (1972)
First Women to win Nobel Peace Prize Mother Teresa (1979)
First Indian Women to climb Mount Everest Bachendri Pal (1984)
First Indian Women to win Booker Prize Arundhati Roy (1997)
First Women President Pratibha Patil (2007)
First Women Speaker of Lok Sabha Meira Kumar (2009)
First Women judge in Supreme Court Meera Sahib Fatima Bibi
First Women President of the Indian National Congress Annie Besant
First Women Chief Minister of an Indian State Sucheta Kripalani

First Women Director General of Police (DGP) Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya
First women defence Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman
First woman Finance Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman

Factors Responsible for Poor Female Literacy Rate:

1. Gender based inequality.
2. Social discrimination and economic exploitation.
3. Occupation of girl child in domestic chores.
4. Low enrolment of girls in schools.
5. Low retention rate and high dropout rate.

Male Female literacy rate in India: 1951-2011

Census year	Persons	Males	Females	Male-Female gap in literacy rate
1	2	3	4	5
1951	18.33	27.16	8.86	18.30
1961	28.3	40.4	15.35	25.05
1971	34.45	45.96	21.97	23.98
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76	26.62
1991	52.21	64.13	39.29	24.84
2001	64.83	75.26	53.67	21.59
2011	74.04	82.14	65.46	16.68

Role of woman in the economic development:

Importance of women's economic empowerment in society is inevitable. Empowerment is one of the main procedural concerns when addressing human rights and development. Women's empowerment and achieving gender equality is essential for our society to ensure the sustainable development of the country.

Benefits of Economic Empowerment of Woman:

1. Women's economic empowerment is central to realising women's rights and gender equality.
2. Empowering women in the economy and bridging gender gaps in the world of work are key to achieving the agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. When more women work, economies grow.
4. Increasing women's and girls' educational attainment contributes to women's economic empowerment and more inclusive economic growth.
5. It is estimated that companies with three or more women in senior management functions score higher in all dimensions of organisational performance.

The need for Economic Empowerment of Woman:

1. Gender differences in laws affect both developing and developed economies, and women in all regions.
2. Women remain less likely to participate in the labour market than men around the world.
3. Women are more likely to be unemployed than men.
4. Women are over-represented in informal and vulnerable employment.
5. Globally, women are paid less than men.
6. Women bear disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work.
7. Unpaid care work is essential to the functioning of the economy, but often goes uncounted and unrecognised.
8. Women are less likely to be entrepreneurs and face more disadvantages starting businesses.
9. Women are less likely than men to have access to financial institutions or have a bank account.
10. Women are still less likely to have access to social protection.
11. Violence and harassment in the world of work affects women regardless of age, location, income or social status.

Indian society is known for its unity in diversity. Social inequality also prevails in this society which has given birth of weaker section of society which is as diverse as Indian society itself, women, Scheduled caste, scheduled tribes, children, poor, landless farmers are considered as weaker sections. They have faced socio-economic and political discrimination in hands of dominating section since ancient time and their fight for rights and access to justice is almost as old as the discrimination against these marginalised and weaker groups.

Summary:

Women empowerment and issues related, nowadays gained its importance worldwide. Personal rights, Social equality, Political power, and Economic opportunity are the important aspects of woman empowerment. World governments, both developed and developing countries are sincerely working towards achieving the goal of Women empowerment. Almost the women population shared 50% of the total population of the world; we can't imagine world peace and prosperity without empowering each and every woman on this planet. It is everyone's responsibility to make each woman into an independent and empowered woman.

Glossary:

1.	Bully	To hurt or frighten someone, terrorise	பலவீனனைக் கொடுமைப்படுத்துபவர், கொடுமைக்காரர்
2.	Trafficking	The act of buying or selling people	ஆள் கடத்தல்
3.	Thriving	Very lively and profitable, successful	வெற்றிகரமான

4.	Chores	Task, duty	வேலை, பணி
5.	Retention	The act of retaining something, with holding	தேக்கி வைத்தல், வைத்திருத்தல்
6.	Entrepreneur	A person who sets up a business or businesses	தொழிலதிபர்
7.	Harassment	Aggressive pressure, irritation	துன்புறுத்தல், தொல்லை கொடுத்தல்

Do You Know?**The essential factors for empowerment are:**

1. **Education**: Education gives one the ability to think wisely and take thoughtful decisions.
2. **Gender Discrimination**: A Society which discriminates between the two genders can never be empowered.
3. Discrimination based on caste, creed, religion etc.

The sustainability and progress of all regions depend on the success of women across the globe. As the former President Barrack Obama said while addressing the United Nations General Assembly in 2012, "the future must not belong to those who bully women. It must be shaped by girls who go to school and those who stand for a world where our daughters can live their dreams just like our sons."

Savitribai Phule as a tradition breaker, the first female teacher at the first girls' school. when we talk about the girls' education only Jyotirao Phule is remembered as the champion of women's education in India. He, along with his wife Savitribai Phule, opened the first school for girls in 1848.

