



Women under the Pains of Poverty: A Social Danger for Child Health and Development

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Abstract:

Nowadays much emphasis has been given to the empowerment of women both in and outside India. Since half of the world population is women so they should get equal status along with men. It is encouraging that together with the government, NGOs, many social activists and elite group have come forward to take a positive attitude towards the empowerment of women. It is well known that women play vital role in the development of family and by this way they contribute to the development of the country. So the women should be empowered for the all round development of the society. But in India majority of the rural women are economically weak. Though the Government of India has undertaken various schemes for the elevation of poverty of the rural women, but unfortunately not all but some of the rural women have got benefited from these schemes.

Poverty can be defined as a social phenomenon in which a section of the society is unable to fulfill even its basic necessities of life. When a substantial segment of a society is deprived of the minimum level of living and continues at a bare subsistence level, that society is said to be played with mass poverty. The countries of the third world exhibit invariably the existence of mass poverty, although pockets of poverty exist even in the development countries of Europe and America. Poverty is a situation that gives rise to a feeling of a discrepancy between what one has and what one "should have". What one should have is an internal construct, hence each person's feeling and experience of poverty is individual and unique. But, the feeling of 'powerlessness' and remorselessness is possessed by all poor people. Poverty exists when one is not able to get sufficient food and necessities of life.

We suggest an average set of controls and a variety of dealings of poverty that should be incorporated in any study, when feasible. The present paper will highlight the Women under the Spasms of Poverty with a study on the Social Danger for Child Health and Development.

Keywords: Women, Pains, Poverty, Social Danger, Child, Health, Development.

Introduction:

Poverty is predominant in the rural areas all over the country. As the aim of the author is to illuminate the pangs of poverty and its harmful effects on rustic women particular, 100 respondents have been selected to find out the hidden facts and affects



of poverty on the subject. So in this paper, a humble attempt has been made to highlight poverty as a social hazard affecting seriously the poor women and of child development, to bring out the pathetic condition of the poor people and also to chalk out some concrete suggestions for the eradication of poverty to create a healthy environment for the healthy growth of the growing children in rural setup.

The fact is that majority of rural women are still deprived of these benefits. As women play vital role in their families so their economic position greatly affect the well being of their children. But due to poor economic condition they cannot build up their children properly the way they should be. Hence it needs an in-depth study to explore the pangs of poverty and its various affects on rustic women in bringing up their children in a healthy way and also to make the society a congenial one with peace and harmony for all.

Objective of the Study:

The very objectives of the study are-

1. To study the Women under the Spasms of Poverty.
2. To highlight the Social Danger for Child Development.

Research Methodology:

The paper is mainly based on secondary sources which are collected from books, journals, articles, Government reports, newspapers and website relevant to the study.

Influence of Poverty on the Development of a Child and its Importance:

Children are the future of the parents, workers and citizen of tomorrow. Consequently, children are the central concern of the government. As human being they should get all opportunity for their development. The future of a country depends upon its future citizens. It is the prime responsibility of the government for their development. It is the duty of a country to make its future citizen as strong and energetic as is possible. They should make aware about their rights and duties. But unfortunately, poverty poses a serious threat to the development of a child.

In order to understand the affect of poverty on children of three villages of the Golaghat District, 100 respondents have been selected and interviewed. All the respondents are women in the role of mother because she plays the most vital role in the development of a child.

The right to education is a fundamental right of every citizen of India. So every child should get education irrespective of sex, role, loss etc. The LTC is launched by



the central government to achieve total literacy of India. But due to poor economic condition of the people, majority of children are deprived of getting education.

The study has brought into light that 80.5% of the respondents do not send their child to school. When they were asked why they did not send their children to the school in spite of getting free and compulsory education up to the age of 14, majority of the respondents replied that instead of going to school it better to send their children to the working place so they can earn something which will help the family for living. Apart from this, it was found that 70.6% of the respondents did not want to send their girls to the school because of their special soft corner to the boys rather than the girls in respect of the three studied villages. Now it is the environment of globalization. So, it needs more technical education of the children. But due to poverty, these people can not afford high cost of technical education.

Drop out of school children is another common benchmark for people living below poverty line. The poor people who are not in a position to afford two square meals a day. The study reveals that 60.9% of the respondents drop their children from studying. Due to poverty they send their child to some working place. Because the cost of education is high.

Though the child labour is illegal it is still practicing in the area where field survey has been conducted. The study has brought into light the fact that 55.5% of the respondents sent their children to work in the field, hotels and household helpers to earn money which help in running their families.

Lack of nutritious food is another affect of poverty on the children. It is essential to eat nutritious food both for the pregnant mother and children. But due to poor economic condition they can not get nutritious food. They study reveals that 80% of the respondents could not get essential food during pre-pregnancy and post pregnancy period food which hampered the birth and growth of a child to a healthy person.

Those, who were daily wage earners by various activities like helpers in cultivation, household helpers, working in small tea garden etc, took their child along with them to their working places and there by the children were made vulnerable to both water borne and airborne diseases like dysentery, fever, skin disease, stomach trouble, cough, indigestion and so on. It is found in the field survey that about 65% of children were undergrowth having physical disorder and health problems.

The Government of India provides various schemes in order to elevate poverty. The holders of those schemes have to stay for a long period in the field. So, the mothers left their children with their relatives for long, as a result, their children were deprived of proper care of their mothers due to the harmful effect of poverty.

Child trafficking is another problem which needs a serious discussion in this paper. As the economically backward circumstance of their live compelled to go out to procure different economic activities as a source to earn for daily bread, the children were seen to be the must neglected part of the family. This led to another problem that is child trafficking with the purpose of sexual abuse, bagging and to be made beast of



the field. A few respondents sorrowfully exclaimed that their children were missing since long and no news of the lost children were achieved till date.

Apart from these problems, the study also reveals that due to poverty 70% respondents of the respective three villages maintain a low standard of living. They have no passion for knowledge as a result of which they can not build their children in a proper way.

In addition to these, it is also found that 65% of respondents are lacking awareness about the basic necessities of life. They have no idea about their contribution which is adversely affect on their children.

The study also reveals that almost 75% of the respondents suffer higher levels of frustration. When they have to struggle for their daily livelihood it is natural that frustration may have come to their mind. On the other hand the cost of living is higher day to day. So they can not cope up with this situation as a result of which they have misconception about principle of living. This is also another reason for which the rural women failed to provide a suitable atmosphere for a healthy growth of children.

Considering all the issues and problems the following suggestions are made to eliminate poverty which is the mother of all social evils prevailing in our society.

There should be close watching to the functioning of Sarbasikha Mission so that education for the majority of rural children will be possible irrespective of class, casts, sex, religion etc.

The prevailing values and norms of the society should be changed regarding the education of the girls.

There should be strict monitoring system on the government schemes provided to the poor so that maximum benefits can reach to those who stand in the last raw.

The government should take all the responsibilities of the economically poor children in order to curve down the drop out of school children.

The government should take poverty elimination schemes frequently to tackle with this nefarious evil.

Sufficient nutritious food should be provided by the government to the pregnant mother as well as for children. As mal nutrition is a serious and overwhelming issue in rural areas.

Awareness camp should be frequently organized by the NGOs to make the rural women conscious of some misconceptions and prejudices against girls.

In order to develop the standard of living all basic necessities of life should be provided by the government.

The government should take active and drastic action to prevent child trafficking. Besides, awareness should be generated among the people in concerned areas where child trafficking has become serious problem.

To eliminate the loopholes in those Acts which are directly or indirectly related to the prevention of child labour. There is an urgent need to create social and moral awareness among the people against the exploitation of child workers.



If other issues relating of poverty can be eradicated only then their frustration can be got rid of to the extent of satisfaction.

Conclusions:

Since poverty is the root cause of almost all social evils it is urgent need to elevate poverty. It affects all the spheres of human life and human society. A country can develop only when this serious problem will be removed. It greatly hampers not only the well-being but also achieving quality of life of future citizens. Hence, there is great need of redefining existing policies, inspire new initiatives and co-operation from the government, from the policy makers, the decision takers, the non government organizations, the social workers and the elite section of the society so that the women under the pangs of poverty can come out of the familial and economic bindings to help in restoring peace and harmony in the society.

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