SOCIAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN MANIPUR

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Abstract

Empowerment of women has been an issue right from the Beijing Convention. Before that there were discussions on women’s development. The concept of empowerment is multi-dimensional. According to Goswami (1998) Empowerment means “Changing the nature and direction of systematic forces which marginal women in a given context.” According to Batliwala (1994) the term ‘women’s empowerment’ has come to be associated with women’s struggle for social justice and equality.” According to the Country Report of Government of India (1995) “Empowerment means moving from a position of enforced powerlessness to one of power. It would promote women’s inherent strength and positive self-image.”

Therefore, the term “Empowerment” can be described as a process in which women gain greater share of control over resources, human, material, intellectual, information and financial resources like money and access to money and control over decision making in the home, family, community, society, and nation and thus to gain power. It is in fact women’s struggle for social justice and equality. As such, women’s empowerment in reality is to empower herself and not to overpower man.