

## **Chapter 6**

### **Conclusion**

“Women carry a disproportionately greater burden of work than men & since women are responsible for a greater share of non – SNA (System of National Accounts) work in case of economy, they enter labour market already over burdened with work.”

Women constitute half of the world's population, two-third of the world's labour force but get 1% of the world's wealth. Women make up only 6% of India's workforce and the numbers get skewed as you go up the corporate ladder. Only 4% women are at the senior management level and only few in a leadership role. Status of women is generally measured using three indicators: education, employment status and intra-household decision-making power.

In general women with higher education tend to have a better position (WHO, 1989). In some cases, however, education alone may not be sufficient to enhance status unless it engages employment as well. In addition women's ability to communicate with and convince their spouses or other members of the family indicates their decision making autonomy. Women with great decision-making power are supposed to have a higher status in the household. In India women are discriminated due to several historical, religious and other reasons. A girl child is suppressed from the movement she is born in terms of personal development. She is made to undergo the feelings of being

inferior and feeble. She is denied the prospects for personal expression. It was reported during women's workshop (1987) that women's "sexuality is suppressed, their labour exploited, their property and other basic human rights denied to them and their humanity demolished".

The so called 'national movement' has further "displaced and marginalized women while at the same time, it has turned them into commodities, not just in terms of being used as machines for producing children, doing household work and even doing jobs outside but always controlled by men to whom they belong".

The age old grievances of Darjeeling hills and the problems of her simple, hardworking and hospitable people and the ever increasing sense of Alienation among the hill people which requires rapid implementation of programmes and policies that will put an end of long political unrest of this region and bring the economy of Hills back on the rails are the Leaders of this region and the state government. Though government is taking measures to overcome the increasing gap between the hills and the plains of West Bengal but at the same time, if the pro active and newly organized women wing from common women of this region are vested more power the Queen of hills, Darjeeling can be saved from becoming 'Kashmir' of West Bengal and from becoming the Queen hills to the land of goons, and rowdies.

Generally derived from Mongolian & Aryan race hill people of Darjeeling have stigma of Matriarchy. Due to which there is less

gender biasness, absence of infanticide that we generally see in other parts of India. Even though literary rate is fairly good in hill areas of Darjeeling district, politically women's position is backward in the sense; women do not come under the purview of 33% quota systems introduced by "women's Bill" by the Parliament of India through 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> amendment in 1992. (33% reservation of seats for women in all elected offices of Panchayat, Municipality).

So far only two women from this region have ever reached and become the member of Legislative Assembly are Reenu Leena Subba from 1977 to 1984 and Shanta Chettri in 1996, 1999 from Kalimong and Kurseong Constituencies. Beside these two women nobody has reached the position of Member of Parliament. If more women participates in politics and becomes MALs and MPs of Legislative Assembly and Parliament Hills can be developed and saved from ongoing ethnic problems of this region. 2

Hills of Darjeeling mostly have matriarchal society, from the surveys and the analysis of the data which are collected from the three subdivisions of hills viz. Darjeeling sadar, kalimpong, Kurseong and Mirik, it is evident that, as compare to plain areas of West Bengal and rest of India, women in Darjeeling are in better social and economic condition. In Darjeeling hills there is no gender biasness, female foeticide, dowry system, honor killing. A girl child is treated equally with the boy child. 2

In most of the houses, women runs the family budget and equally participates in the decision making process of the family along with the men.

Even though women are in better social position, politically they are less active and they do not know, enjoy the rights of their own. When women in other parts of West Bengal, and India are busy fighting for their political reservation and raising questions for equal participation in politics, women of Hills are happy in taking care of their family, running family budget. They are not bothered about what is happening around it is mainly because this region is going through critical ethnic problems, identity crisis which has made men and women of this region to join hands together for not the women issues but for basic amenities of life like, water, health, road communication, transport etc.

In case of India, as according to 2001 census, out of the total population of 1,027,015,247, the female population was 495,732,169 accounting for 48.2 % of the total population. But, their participation in economically productive activities is often underestimated. For last two decades, women's work participation rate increased from 22.73% in 1991 to 28.6% during 2001.

In the wake of globalization & the notion of world as a 'global village' the economic changes are altering structures & cultures. Most of the developing world is now in the process of restructuring in the direction of free market & liberalization & privatization.

Today, Information Technology is sweeping the whole world day by day. In fact, it is a vehicle for future development, opportunities, challenges & competition among the Nation States. In recent years, IT has become the focal area of India's major development & prosperity aiming to give the country a status of super power in the world. The government of India has also formed IT Ministry at the Central level to play a lead role in making India an IT super power. Thus, Globalization has brought a range of new technologies, which have potential for making the Indian women, endangered species. As per 1991 census, India had 439 million men & 407 million women workers.

The constitution of India is one of the most right based Constitution of the world, India drafted herself around the same time as the universal declaration of human rights 1948; the Indian constitution captures the essence of human rights in its Preamble and in the sections of Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of the State Policy.

"Women have been waiting for this since the last fourteen years. We have heard many assurances but we hope that this time the government is going to deliver on the assurance. As far as my party is concerned, 100 percent support is assured the day they bring the bill into parliament for passage," Communist Party of India politburo member, Brinda Karat on passing of women reservation bill in Upper House of Indian Parliament, March 2010. Karat also said that the 50

percent reservation for women in village governing bodies, Panchayats should be implemented at national level.

Congress party leader Girja Vyas said the women's reservation bill is on top of the Congress led government's agenda. Vyas said. "The manifestos of many political parties talk about women empowerment. Especially the Congress Party has it in their manifesto. It is in the 100 days agenda of the party so it has to be fulfilled."

The general level of frustration which creates a sense of alienation among a particular group of people from rest of the citizen of a country are mainly identity crisis of particular group of people, inequality, the issues of social injustice, socio, political and economic development and the capabilities of the government and the political system of any region of India. In such case, if women are empowered and properly trained and ensured 100% education to the entire children and women, men of the country, then only a common woman could be benefited. If the mother of the family is unhealthy, deprived of her rights, and uneducated then how can we say that, India is shining...!