

Unnati: First Step towards Women Empowerment

Prof. Sangeeta S. Kumble

Atharva College of Engineering, Malad(W), Mumbai, India

Abstract: The subject of empowerment of women has becoming a burning issue all over the world including India since last few decades. Many agencies of United Nations in their reports have emphasized that gender issue is to be given utmost priority. It is held that women now cannot to be asked wait for any more for equality.

Keywords: Unnati, empowerment of women.

1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid pace of economic development has increased the demand for educated female labour force almost in all fields. Women are earning as much as their husbands do, their employment nonetheless adds substantially to family and gives family an economic advantage over the family with only one breadwinner.

2. WOMEN STATUS IN MODERN INDIA

During this time there was a little development in the women status. There were many women reformers in India who worked for the uplift & betterment of their female counterparts. The begun of Bhopal discarded the 'purdah' & fought in the revolt of 1857. Their education was elevated and English was introduced during this period. Various female writers emerged in the society.

In the modern time, women in India were given freedom & right such as freedom of expression & equality as well as the right to be educated. Various prestigious positions at this period were held by women. They're enjoying the 'ladies first' facility in different fields. However, some problems such as dowry, domestic violence, sex selective abortion, female infanticide are still prevalent. Preventive measures need to be taken to ensure that women are empowered in India.

Ultimate financial empowerment comes from attaining financial independence. As long as money is a factor in determining your relationships then you are not empowered – more than half the time decisions are made for you, you are not even consulted because – well your opinion has no value – so those who have the money think.

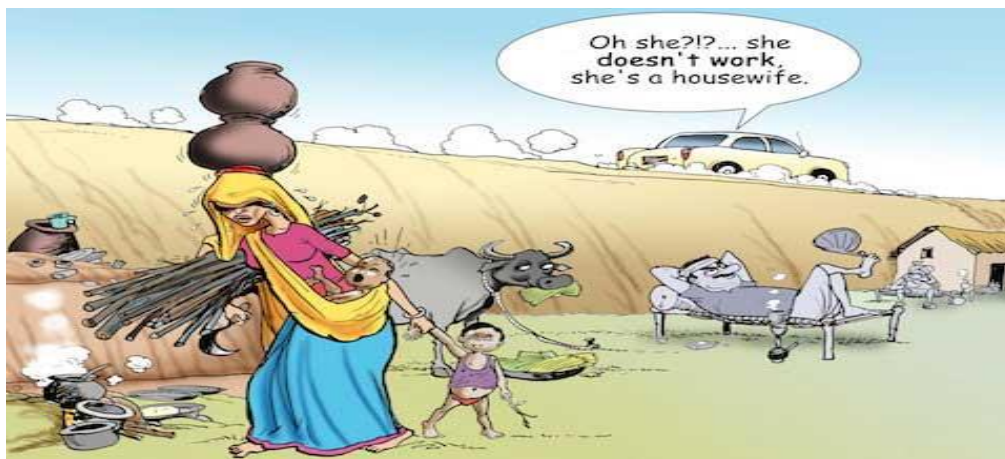


Figure 1: Image Courtesy: unwomensouthasia.org

3. HISTORY OF UNNATI

- **Activities Prior to Unnati Formation:**

Before a group is formed, a survey of economic conditions of families, their educational qualifications, family background study, and problems faced by women, is conducted with help of the women.

a) Unnati Workshops:-As per our vision, we are determined to make women empowered through self independence in terms of Finance. This objective can be fulfilled with the help of continuous source of income given to the needy and poor women who doesn't have any access to the income because of less qualification, family burden, daily responsibilities towards family and the main thing is that they don't have any access to their internal capability. So to overcome this barrier Unnati conducts FREE workshops to such group of women.

1st Unnati Workshop was conducted on 12.10.2014 at Balgovind, Marathi medium school, Andheri (E), Mumbai-400093. Total 17 participants and a leader's team of 7 people who worked hard to bring this workshop in reality. 1st Unnati Workshop on 12.10.2014:-



Figure 2. Unnati's Flex banners for Workshops.



Figure 3. Inauguration by our Chief Guest Dr. Anupama Deshpande, Ex Pricipal at ACE, Mumbai



Figure 4. Participants



Figure 5. Leaders

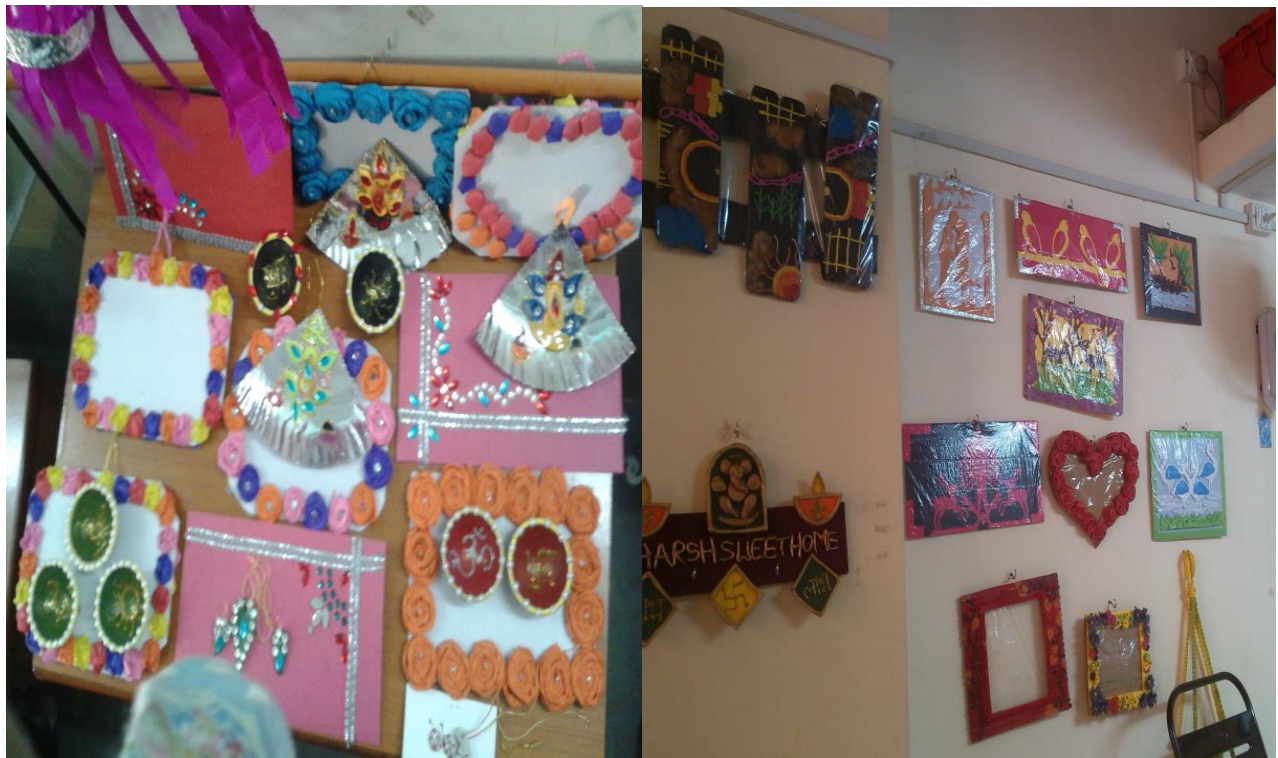


Figure 6. Display of items prepared by the participants

REFERENCES

- [1] "Essay on Women Empowerment in India", by Puja Mondal.
- [2] <http://www.womenempowermentinindia.com/status-of-women-in-india/>.
- [3] Actual images captured from the Workshop conducted on 12.10.2014.
- [4] "Ultimate Financial Empowerment", <http://myveryownboss.com/ultimate-empowerment/>.