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Empowering Women to lead change

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To

Lead Change

Edited by

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of intelligentsia to discuss, deliberate and meaningfully contribute over issues of national significance. We are very grateful to all our honorable guests, resource persons and participants.

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Preface

Woman empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic strength of individuals and communities. It often involves the empowered developing confidence in their own capacities. Empowerment of women is the balanced distribution of powers between both males and females. This power can be controlled over physical, natural, intellectual, financial and human resources along with the control over their self esteem. Empowering the women pre-suppose a drastic, dynamic and democratic change in the perception of and expectation from women in our society. To help women and to attain economic independency empowerment is the first priority. Jawaharlal Nehru had said "You can tell the condition of the nation by looking at the status of women."

There are quite a large number of issues which need to be addressed to streamline the existing women empowerment programmes in India as well as initiating actual work at the ground level. Women constitute almost one-half of the population of the world but their social and political status is lower than a men.

The saga of missing daughters is vividly depicted in the growing incidence of female feticide as a result of which the child sex ratio has declined. The violence against women continued unabated with the absolute number of

crimes against women increasing.

To achieve gender equality and to stop crime against women, what is needed is a change in the people's attitude, both of men and women. Having any number of legislations, policies and programmes will not take us towards the desired goals unless the thinking, perception and attitude of the society changes. Bringing about attitudinal change in the society as well as dissemination about the laws, policies, programmes etc of the Government can be achieved only through an effective multi-media publicity campaign through electronic media, print media and outdoor publicity tools.

Empowerment of women in this way would insure women's efficient and effective role in family, our society, economy and politics which would ultimately strengthen the social fabric; and would evolve a society based on eternal moral and human values.