Country: India

Committee: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)

Topic (Agenda Item): Empowerment of Women



One of the earliest civilizations in the world, the Indus Valley civilization flourished in the third and second millennia B.C. and spread into northwest India. India is a country on the Asian continent. Since the majority of India is a peninsula, water envelops it on three sides. The Himalaya, the tallest mountain range in the world, is located in the north. The Arabian Sea borders the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal borders the southeast. India's society is structured around social classes known as castes. Caste is essentially set at birth and cannot be altered. Soldiers, landowners, and priests are examples of high castes. Known as "Untouchables," they work at the lowest levels and lack caste. India is an extremely spiritual nation. Though over 80% of Indians identify as Hindu, the country has no official religion.

The five pillars of women's empowerment are: their self-worth; their freedom to choose; their access to opportunities and resources; their ability to govern their own lives, both inside and outside the home; and their capacity to shape social change in order to establish a more equitable social and economic order on a national and international scale.   
In this regard, the most important tools for enabling women and girls to assert their rights are education, training, raising awareness, boosting self-confidence, expanding choices, increasing access to and control over resources, and taking action to change the institutions and structures that support and uphold gender inequality and discrimination. Women receive less formal schooling than males do in most parts of the world, but at the same time, women's own skills, knowledge, and coping strategies are sometimes overlooked. In order to bring about change, policies and programs must be implemented that will increase women's access to stable employment and financial resources, lessen their excessive housework responsibilities, remove legal barriers to their engagement in public life, and increase public awareness through mass media and education campaigns. Furthermore, elevating women's status increases their ability to make decisions at all levels and in all areas of life, particularly with regard to sexuality and reproduction.

Experience has shown that population and development initiatives work best when women's status is improved at the same time. Women's needs should be given special consideration in capacity-building initiatives to guarantee that their knowledge and expertise are adequately included into decision-making at all levels. Ensuring that women and girls have full and equal access to all levels of education and training should be a top priority.

**REFERENCES**

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