

Milestone and Challenges: An Effective Approach to Women Empowerment in India

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1. INTRODUCTION

The strength of chain is the strength of its weakest link. In a society, women are the weakest links, so that they may be strengthened for strengthening the society as a whole and that is possible only by empowering them. Nehru said, "Women should be uplifted for the upliftment of the nation, if a woman is uplifted, society and nation is uplifted." Women empowerment is critical to the process of development of the community. Empowerment of women is essential to harness the women labour in the mainstream of economic development. According to Swami Vivekanand, "..... there is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of the women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing (Yojana, Aug. 2001). Women have to play an important role in the building up of every economy. Women who form almost one half of the world's population constitute the visible majority of the poor. Women either solely or largely support an increasing number of families. Women experience poverty more than man. When money is given to men, it may not benefit the family but when women manage money, it is found to be better utilized. Projects aiming to improve the living conditions of the poor cannot, therefore be effective unless women participate in their formulation and implementation as contributors as well as beneficiaries. "Increasing women's capabilities and empowering them is the surest way to contribute to economic growth and overall development."

In India, apart from the provision in the constitution and the ratification of different international conventions, several legislative acts have also been passed to ensure women empowerment. Moreover, women empowerment has received attention of the government right from the beginning of Indian planning. Bringing women into the mainstream of development has thus been major concern of the government since independence. In order to empower and bring them into the mainstream, an enabling environment with requisite policies and programmes, institutional mechanisms at various levels and adequate financial resources has all along been tried to be created. The Ministry of Rural Area and Employment has special components for women in all its programmes and certain amount of funds is earmarked as women's component to ensure a flow of adequate resource for women.

Empowerment of women means equal status to women. Here the balance of power between men and women is equal and neither party has dominance over the other. Empowering women socio-economically through increased awareness of their rights and duties as well as access to resources is a decisive step towards greater security for them. Empowerment includes higher literacy level and education for them, better healthcare for women and children, equal ownership of productive resources, increase participation in economic and commercial sections, awareness of their rights and responsibilities, improved standards of living and acquiring self-reliance, self-esteem and self-confidence. Thus the framework of empowerment encompasses the welfare of women, satisfaction of basic needs, access to resources, conscientisation to attain gender equality participation in decision making alongside men and control, which refers to the ultimate level of equality and empowerment. In short, the philosophy of women's empowerment needs a total overhauling of Indian society.

CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

Women empowerment processes certain characteristics, they are the following:

- Women empowerment is giving power to women; it is making women better off.
- Women empowerment enables a greater degree of self-confidence and sense of independence among women.
- Women empowerment is a process of acquiring power for women in order to understand her rights and to perform her responsibilities towards oneself and others in a most effective way.
- Women empowerment gives the capacity or power to resist discrimination imposed by the male dominated society.
- Women empowerment enables women to organize themselves to increase their self-reliance.
- Women empowerment provides greater economy to women.
- Women empowerment means women's control over material assets, intellectual resources and ideology.
- Women empowerment challenges traditional power

మిసిమి

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ADSORPTION OF Pb (II) ON EUCALYPTUS TERITICORNIS LEAF FROM AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS

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Abstract:

This work investigates adsorption of metal ion on Eucalyptus leaf from solutions with environmentally relevant concentrations of metals. Adsorption of Pb (II) was studied in batch test, and adsorption isotherms were studied. The kinetics of adsorption of metal ion was analyzed using Pseudo-Second-Order model and rate constants were calculated. Optimum pH values for maximum metal ion adsorption were determined as 3.0. Further experiments characterized by Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). Adsorption isotherms were expressed by Langmuir and Freundlich models. Langmuir adsorption model fits the experimental data reasonably well than Freundlich model. The maximum adsorption capacity of Eucalyptus leaf was found to be 96.21 mg/gm. The thermodynamic parameters such as standard Gibbs free energy (ΔG°), standard enthalpy (ΔH°) and standard entropy (ΔS°) were evaluated indicating that this system was in spontaneous and endothermic process. The studies showed that this low cost adsorbent could be used as an efficient adsorbent material for the removal of lead from aqueous solutions.

Key words: Eucalyptus leaf powder, Adsorption, Lead, Pseudo-second-order, Langmuir isotherms and Thermodynamics.

Introduction

Heavy metals being non-biodegradable tend to accumulate in living organisms, thus becoming a permanent source of hazard to their health and life and degradation of the environment [1-3]. Recently, biosorption is emerging as the best method for the removal of metal ions from the aqueous solutions [4]. In the present work, Eucalyptus leaves powder is utilized as