Empower Women to Make India Truly Independent

By: Manshapreet Kaur

We talk about empowering women, but are women being truly empowered in every sense? Even after gaining ‘independence’ for 72 years, women in India, especially those living in rural areas continue to live in fear, oppression and indignity. India has been ranked as the most dangerous place for women because of its high incidences of sexual violence, lack of access to justice in rape cases, child marriage, female foeticide and human trafficking. Why do we need to let all this happen? To empower women, first we need to kill all the demons killing women’s rights and values in the society.

Inequalities between men and women in the society generate a lot of problems which becomes a big obstruction in the way to success of our nation. There cannot be any development if half of the population is held back. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru rightly said “To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves”.

There are many private and government organizations supporting women empowerment and expanding their independency in life. But, for empowerment, the mindset of the people has to change. The real meaning of women empowerment is to make them well educated and leave them free so that they can be capable to take their own decisions in any field. India is also called as ‘Mother India’, and we all should understand the true meaning of it. They should not be treated less important than men. They should be allowed to have a voice and opinion of their own.

India will truly become independent only when women are educated, *safe* and respected. It is rightly said, “Educate a woman and she can change the world.” It’s high time and we all need to realize the importance of women. Empowerment of women would automatically bring empowerment of everyone. So, let us come together to make India a better and safe place for women.