Empower Women To Make India Truly Independent

"Godesses dwell where women are worshipped," I read, picking up Sudha Murty's Wise And Otherwise. This single sentence alone, made my mind race with thoughts.

Women in India are considered Godesses. They are considered sacred, the pride of the nation. But irony stems from this fact that a country which boasts of its females still lags behind in terms of equality between the genders. It has been seventy years since the country became free. But did it really gain independence when half of its population is still supressed by the socially constructed patriarchal norms which threaten their very existence?

All developed countries in the world have given women equal rights. But so did India. Then why, when all the other Westernised countries flourish, India is still under the umbrella of the third-world? The difference comes in implementation. Women are protected on paper, but not on the streets. Our laws have become liberal, but our outlook hasn't.

There is no limit to what an empowered woaman can accomplish. Women empowerment is the need of the hour. It seeks to uplift women and to free them from the oppresisve system that has been holding them back for centuries. It is sad that when you educate a man, you educate an individual. But when you educate a woman, you educate a nation. Gender equality can make a nation independent. When we seek gender equality through women empowerment, we raise girls to believe that they can achieve anything irrespective of their gender. An educated, empowered woman is self sufficient. She is aware of her rights and duties and is financially independant. This is beneficial not only for a country's human development index but from an economical aspect as well. An empowered woman is an asset for the country. She breaks the cycle of gender discrimination, raises a strong family and all along, inspires other women to do the same.

Every year as independence day comes, I dream of a better future the women of the country. For only when women in this country won't have to worry about their worth being reduced to their gender will India become truly independent. And it will also be a time when Godesses will truly dwell on this land.

Eva Rajput  
Class 10  
Bal Bharati Public School, Pitampura, New Delhi.