European Journal of Business & Social Sciences
Available at https://ejbss.org/
ISSN: 2235-767X
Volume 07 Issue 06
June 2019

Women, Peace, Security and the United Nations

Dr. Kamaljit Singh

Associate Professor in Political Science

Govind National College, Narangwal

E-mail (ksohi10@yahoo.com) Mobile (9501396500)

Abstract:-

Women's empowerment and development is very much essential for gender equality. Women receive less share as compared to men in many areas. Women play many types of roles in building peace and security, yet they are not properly recognised. They can play a very significant role in the decision-making process regarding peace and security. They are denied a major role in decision making process, arms control policy, peace negotiations and peacekeeping operations violation of women's rights and violence against them is a common phenomenon. Some United Nations bodies have made efforts to promote women's cause. The Security Council passed resolutions 1325, 1888, 1889 and 1960 to eliminate gender related violence and discrimination against women. The United Nations General Assembly also passed resolutions to the equality of rights of men and women stressed that the participation of both is equally important for achieving sustainable peace and security in the world. Terrorists are also targeting women through sexual violence and using them as shields. The UN-Women a United Nations body is working for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The global peace and security cannot be achieved without the proper participation of women.

The concept of gender equality involves two major elements; Women's development and empowerment.[1] The benefits of any developmental measure do not percolate in equal measures to men and women and end up women receiving less than their commensurate share.[2] Women play many roles in peace, security, conflict and disarmament. As civilians, their lives are often dramatically altered, their livelihoods and their rights imperilled by

[1] Mehbub Ul Haq, "Reflections on Human Development," (Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1998), P.20
[2] Shakuntala Narasimhan,"Empowering Women-An Alternative Strategy from Rural India",(Sage, London,1999), P.26

ISSN: 2235-767X
Volume 07 Issue 06
June 2019

conflict, as mothers and caregivers, they are often left to head households under harsh, sometimes unliveable, conditions, as breadwinners, they sometimes engage in the illicit trade of arms, as soldiers, they serve many functions, from combatants to cooks, as parliamentarians, they enact laws on security and arms-control policy and as civil society activists, they lobby Governments to increase security and build peace.[3]

Based on their diverse experience, women can offer valuable insights and make important contributions in decision-making processes about peace and security, but yet all too often they are bystanders to those decision-making processes, including questions about their own security, conflict preventions, arms control policy, peace negotiations, peacekeeping negotiations, peacekeeping operations and post-conflict rebuilding efforts.[4] When this happens, women's experiences are more likely to be discounted and their needs more likely to go unaddressed, which in the long run, facilitate and legitimize the violations of women's rights and violence against women and can undermine sustainable development, peace and security.[5] However, when women are included as active participants in decision-making systems, their needs and those of the whole community are more likely to be addressed, security efforts are more likely to be inclusive, and peace negotiations and peace building efforts are more likely to be successful and long-lasting.[6] In the context of above facts many United Nations organs have made efforts to promote women's participation and to mainstream gender perspectives into their work.

Efforts by United Nations Security Council:-

In 2000 The Security Council passed a resolution on women and peace and security and reaffirmed the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace building, peace keeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stressed the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.[7] The resolution also called upon all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse.[8] The elimination of all forms of gender-related violence and discrimination is one of the international

[3] Melissa Gillis, "Disarmament A Basic Guide", (United Nations, New York, 2012), P.91
[4] Ibid., P.91
[5] Ibid., P.91
[6] Ibid., P.92
[7] The Security Council Resolution S/Res/1325, October 31,2000.
[8] Ibid.

ISSN: 2235-767X
Volume 07 Issue 06
June 2019

community's highest priority.[9] The rights of women in an armed conflict or war must be protected and those responsible for war crimes and the violations of these rights must be prosecuted and punished in accordance to law. The U.N. Secretary-General in his report in 2004 recommended to develop a comprehensive strategy and action plan for maintaining gender perspective into peacekeeping activities and operations.

In 2009 through a unanimous resolution the Security Council stressed renewed measures to improve women's participation in peace processes and in rebuilding war-torn societies.[10] The resolution also called on all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and integration programmes, in particular, to take into account the needs of women and girls associated with armed groups, as well as the needs of their children.[11] Previously through the resolution 1888 the Security Council unanimously stressed on protection of women and girls from sexual violence in any armed conflict.[12] Through another resolution in 2010 the Security Council appreciated the work done by gender advisers and urged the Secretary-General to adopt a policy of zero tolerance on sexual exploitation and abuse by the United Nations personnel.[13]

Efforts by the United Nations General Assembly:-

The General Assembly passed a resolution 'Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control' and recalled that the charter of the United Nations reaffirms the equal rights of men and women and recognized that the participation of both men and women is essential for the attainment of sustainable peace and security.[14] It also appreciated the valuable contribution of women to practical disarmament measures at the local, national, regional and sub-regional levels in the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict.[15] The General Assembly also welcomed the adoption of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, including sustainable development goals relevant to the promotion of women, disarmament and arms control.[16]

[9] D.B. Rao, "Human Rights and United Nations", (Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi, 2001), P.75
[10] The Security Council Resolution S/Res/1889, October 5, 2009
[11] Ibid.
[12] The Security Council Resolution S/Res/1888, September 30, 2009
[13] The Security Council Resolution S/Res/1960, December 16, 2010
[14] The General Assembly Resolution 65/69, December 8,2010
[15] Ibid.
[16] The General Assembly Resolution 71/56, December 5, 2016

ISSN: 2235-767X
Volume 07 Issue 06
June 2019

It is also true that when women lead and participate in peace processes, peace lasts longer and research also shows that achieving gender equality helps in preventing conflict, and high rates of violence against women correlates with the outbreaks of conflicts.[17] At the same time terrorism is on the rise and the extremist groups manipulate prevailing gender norms and gender stereotypes to advance their agenda and drive recruitment and women and girls are not only targets of their systematic sexual violence, but have become targets of recruiters- Women make up at least 20 to 30 percent of foreign terrorist fighters.[18] In 2010 the United Nations formed UN-Women, the United Nations body for gender equality and for the empowerment of the women. Through this body the UN can more effectively solve the issue of gender equality. The equality between women and men is inextricably linked to peace and security.[19] Many civil society and women's organizations are also playing a vital role in bringing attention to the importance of women in disarmament, peace and world security. The actual empowerment of women will occur through political, economic, intellectual and social equality. This will lead to peacefully stronger society, which is pivotal of global peace and security.

"Sustainable peace is possible only with women's full participation- their perspectives, their leadership, their daily equal presence wherever we seek to make and keep the peace."[20]

[17] UN WOMEN, "Women, peace and security: Preventing War and Sustaining Peace," (www.unwomen.org), Retrieved on 26 January, 2018.
[18] Ibid.
[19] Anwarul Chowdhury, High-Level Advisory Group for the Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325(2000).
[20] Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary General.