



## IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

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### Abstract

Women empowerment is very necessary to make the bright future of the family, society and country. Women need fresh and more capable environment so that they can take their own right decisions in every area whether for themselves, family, society or country. In order to make the country fully developed country, women empowerment is an essential tool to get the goal of development. The Study is Purely Theoretical. The Study is based on secondary data sources. The necessary information about the Importance of Women Empowerment in India and its various components are collected from Books, Journals, Internet Source or related topic. The study concluded that to promote education through mass media. Women and men should be made aware of their roles in promoting and implementing gender equality. Gather national statistics to determine the areas with the highest rates of violence and gender disparity. The government, NGOs, and field workers can use this information to improve women's position. The public should be made aware that both male and girl children are equal and should have equal access to resources.

**Key words:** Women Empowerment, Decision, Development. Independent, family limitations

### INTRODUCTION

Women's Empowerment is a hot topic around the world. "Women's empowerment" and "equality between men and women" are universal issues. Women's empowerment refers to the formation of an atmosphere in which women can make their own decisions for their own personal and societal gain. Women's empowerment refers to strengthening and improving women's social, economic, political, and legal strength in order to promote women's equality and confidence in asserting their rights, such as: live freely with a sense of self-worth, respect, and dignity; have total control over their lives, both within and outside of their homes and workplaces; the ability to make their own decisions and choices; they are entitled to participate in social, religious, and public activities on an equal footing; having the same social standing in society; have the same rights in terms of social and economic justice; make financial and economic decisions; equitable educational opportunities; obtain equal work opportunities without regard to gender; and obtain a secure and pleasant working environment.

According to Moser (1989) women's empowerment refers to their ability to develop their self-reliance and internal strength. This is defined as the ability to make life

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decisions and influence the direction of change through gaining control over material and non-material resources. According to Pillai (1995) "Empowerment is a multi-faceted, active process that allows women to realise their full identity and power in all aspects of their lives."

Hoshemi (1996) developed mobility, economic stability, ability to make greater purchases, realising freedom from domination within the home, political and legal awareness, and participation in political campaigning and protests are five indicators to measure women's empowerment. In the following scenario, an attempt is made to measure women's empowerment. Mayoux's (2000) definition of empowerment is "a multidimensional and interconnected process of change in power relations," with three components: "power within," which enables women to circulate their own aspirations and strategies for change; "power to," which enables women to develop the necessary skills and access the necessary resources to achieve their aspirations; and "power with," which enables women to examine and circulate their collective aspirations and strategies for change. These power interactions work at various levels (individual, household, community, market, institutional), in various sectors of life (e.g., economic, social, political), and at various levels (e.g., person, family, community, market, institutional).

The research relies on secondary data sources. The relevant information about the Importance of Women Empowerment in India and its many components was gathered from a variety of books, periodicals, and internet sources.

### **BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA**

Many societies, including India, have used it throughout history. Gender disparity was unavoidable in a traditionally male-dominated culture.

In today's world, atrocities and prejudice are the two biggest issues that Indian women confront. The conventional mentalities of Indians consider that women's roles are primarily focused on domestic chores such as kitchen work and child rearing. In some fields of expertise, they have been regarded as sex objects and inferior to men. Atrocities and discriminatory attitudes against women have included the 'Sati Pratha,' 'Purdah System,' 'Child Marriage,' 'Dowry System,' and so on. Women are still one of the most weak and disenfranchised parts of Indian society, even after fifty-eight years of independence. According to the 2001 Census, India's sex ratio is 933, the lowest in the world. Female literacy is 54.16 percent (2001 Census), whereas male literacy is 75.85 percent. Women's representation in India's Parliament and State Assemblies has never exceeded 8% and 10%, respectively. The majority of working women do not work in the organised sector. Women account for only 2.3 percent of administrators and managers, 20.5 percent of professional and technical workers, and 25 percent of the total income. The prevalence of violence against women is on the rise.

The democratic process in India raised women's awareness of their precarious situation. In the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties, and Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution, the principle of gender equality is incorporated. The Constitution not only guarantees women's equality, but also authorises the government to take affirmative discrimination measures in their favour. The 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Indian Constitution (1993) provides for the reservation of seats for women in local governments such as Panchayats and Municipalities (at least one-third). Another constitutional amendment (the 84th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1998) is in the works, reserving 33% of seats in Parliament and state legislatures.

The Indian Government has passed various legislations to safeguard the Constitutional rights of women. These legislative measures include, the Hindu Marriage Act (1955), The Hindu Succession Act (1956), Dowry Prohibition Act (1961), Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (1971), Equal Remuneration Act (1976), and Child Marriage Restraint Act (1976). Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act (1986) and finally Pre-natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Measure) Act (1994) etc.

Apart from these, various welfare measures have been taken up by the Government from time to time to empower women. They are the support to Training for - Employment Programme (1987), Mahila Samridhhi Yojana (1993), the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (1992-93), Indira Mahila Yojana (1995), DWACRA Plan (1997) and Balika Samridhhi Yojana (1997). On 12th July, 2001, the Mahila Samridhhi Yojana and Indira Mahila Yojana have been merged into the integrated self-help group programme i.e. Swayam Siddha. In 1953, the Indian government formed a

Central Social Welfare Board with a national grant-making programme for women, children, and underprivileged people. In 1985, the Centre established a separate department of women and child development to give it a distinct identity and to serve as a focal point for issues concerning women's development. An Act of Parliament established the National Commission on Women in 1992. Aside from these, India has ratified a number of international conventions and human rights treaties.

There have been clear initiatives in recent years to promote women's political engagement. The Women's Reservation Policy Bill, on the other hand, is a tragic story, as it has been continuously scuttled in the legislature. Women, on the other hand, have been given representation in the Panchayati Raj system as a show of political empowerment. At the village council level, there are numerous elected women representatives. Their power is limited, however, because all authority is held by men. The government apparatus frequently overrules their decisions. It is critical to develop and empower these women leaders so that they can effect positive change in their areas. All of this demonstrates that the process of gender equality and women's empowerment has a long way to go, and may have gotten more difficult in recent years.

The fundamental source of the inconsistency is that tailored programmes have little influence when the core thrust of development does not reach the average woman, making her life more fragile and vulnerable. To make a good difference, every hamlet and city should have fundamental infrastructure. To begin with, providing safe drinking water and improved sanitation can improve women's life and health while also reducing their effort in terms of providing and maintaining such facilities. The need to travel vast distances in search of fuel wood will be reduced if economical cooking fuel is available. Improved transportation connecting villages and towns can directly enhance living conditions while also reducing unpaid labour time spent moving household products. It may also lead to more access to a broader choice of goods and services, as well as improved health care. In terms of sufficient nutrition, spending on food subsidies and better provisions for public distribution services have a direct impact on the lives of women and girl children. Government resource mobilisation patterns also have substantial implications on women that are often overlooked. When taxes are regressive and disproportionately fall on items of mass consumption, women are disproportionately affected. This is not only because consumption of such things may be limited, but also because the providing of such items is typically seen as the responsibility of the household's female members. Financing policies also hinder the availability of credit to small businesses, limiting women's job options. There is a need for women-friendly economic policies that would improve their social and economic status and enable them to become self-sufficient.

Women's emancipation is a difficult process. It necessitates a shift in the husband's, other family members', and society's attitudes. The implementation of the programmes relies heavily on community awareness and bureaucratic initiatives. Women's education should be given

first and foremost attention, as this is the basis of the problem. Because change is difficult to achieve, the fight for gender justice will be slow, arduous, and long. It must be battled on three levels: emotional, cognitive, and action. Within caste, class, race, religion, and everywhere else where man-woman connections figure and matter, the struggle must continue.

#### **IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

- Unemployed and underemployed women: Women account for over half of the world's population. Unemployment affects a vast number of women around the world. The entire economy loses greatly as a result of women's unequal opportunities at work.
- Equally capable and intelligent: Women are equally capable and intelligent. In many socioeconomic pursuits, women are now even ahead of males.
- Talented: Women have the same level of ability as males. Previously, women were not permitted to pursue higher education in the same way as men did, and hence their abilities were wasted. However, they are now permitted to pursue higher education, which encourages women to demonstrate their abilities, which will benefit not just them but the entire globe.
- General societal growth: The fundamental benefit of women's empowerment is that it will result in overall societal development. Women's earnings benefit not only themselves and their families, but also society as a whole.
- Economic Benefits: Women's empowerment leads to increased economic benefits for both individuals and society. Unlike in the past, when they stayed at home and solely did kitchen chores, they today go out and earn money just like the male members of society. Women's empowerment enables women to stand on their own two feet, become self-sufficient, and work for their families, so contributing to the growth of the country's economy.
- Domestic violence is reduced: Women's empowerment leads to a reduction in domestic violence. Domestic abuse is more likely to affect uneducated women than educated ones.
- Corruption is reduced: Women's empowerment is also beneficial in the event of corruption. Women's empowerment enables women to become educated and aware of their rights and responsibilities, allowing them to combat corruption.
- Poverty Reduction: Women's Empowerment also helps to alleviate poverty. Sometimes the money made by the family's male member is insufficient to cover the family's needs. Women's increased incomes assist families in escaping poverty.
- National Development: Women are becoming more involved in the process of national development. They are bringing honour to the country by excelling in practically every sector, including medical science, social service, engineering, and so on.
- Irreplaceable in some fields: Women are regarded as indispensable in certain fields.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Women's empowerment would lead to societal growth on both a micro and macro level. Women's active engagement in economic activities and decisions would help

to boost overall economic growth. Women's empowerment has its own set of problems and barriers, which include the following: Males' natural superiority complex prevents them from allowing their female counterparts to reach the same heights as them. Domestic obligations at a high level, Participation in social, economic, and religious activities is restricted. In our society, boys are frequently given preference for schooling and a good diet over girls. Many families in society still have a preference for male children. There are also options available. The following are some of the solutions for women's empowerment: It is critical to promote education through mass media. Women and men should be made aware of their roles in promoting and implementing gender equality. Gather national statistics to determine the areas with the highest rates of violence and gender disparity. The government, NGOs, and field workers can use this information to improve women's position. The public should be made aware that both male and girl children are equal and should have equal access to resources.

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