



## Women's Education and Social Empowerment and Sustainability

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**Abstract:** *This present paper emphasises the women empowerment in India. In every aspect of society, women are stereotyped as being less capable than males. Indian society has been resistant to women's emancipation for a long time. As a result of their historical and cultural marginalisation, women are now universally acknowledged as the oppressed gender. A country cannot be changed into a developed nation unless and until the younger generation is actively engaged and their potential is fully used. By ensuring that women have unfettered equal access to all societal resources, we can help bring women into the mainstream and contribute to the nation's overall growth. A well-rounded education equips one to stand firm in the face of an unfair and unequal reality. Empowering women via education is a key to advancing society and the economy.*

**Keywords:** *Women Empowerment, Education for Empowerment, Social Empowerment.*

**Introduction:** Empowerment is multifaceted, multidimensional and multilayered concept. So, it's not just one thing; it's the result of a complex web of influences, including but not limited to the following: material, social, political, psychological, and attitude-based aspects. (Rao.,1994) One definition of women's empowerment is the increase in the percentage of decision-making authority held by women in domestic and communal spheres, as well as an increase in their share of material, human, and intellectual resources (such as information, ideas, and knowledge) and financial resources (such as money and access to money). 'Power' and influence over one's community, state, and country. We now often think of women's empowerment when we hear the term used in reference to their fight for equality and social justice. (Khan.,1999)

Women empowerment is a phenomenon with specific forms on the critical and key issues related with the empowerment of women.

Women empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, women's economic, political, and legal power, in order to guarantee women's equal rights and empower them to assert such rights, including:

1. Freely live their life with a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity.
2. Have complete control of their life.
3. Freedom to make their own choices and decisions.
4. Enjoying equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities.

5. Have equal sound status in the society.
6. Share equal rights for social and economic justice.
7. Express choices on financial and economic fields.
8. Equal opportunity for education.
9. Equal employment opportunity without any gender bias.
10. Get safe and comfortable working environment.

### **Reasons for Women Empowerment:**

According to Kamela Basin (1992), the reasons for women empowerment are as follows:-

1. Empowerment means recognising women's contribution and development of knowledge.
2. It means helping women fight against their own fears, feelings of inadequacy and inferiority.
3. It means enhancing their self-respect and self-dignity.
4. It means women controlling their own bodies.
5. It means women becoming and self-reliant.
6. It means women controlling resources like land.
7. It means reducing men's burden of work, especially within the house.
8. It means creating and strengthening women's groups and organizations.
9. It means promoting equalities of nurturing.

### **Challenges For Women's Empowerment:**

There are many obstacles that go against the way for women's empowerment in India. Some of the obstacles that need mention are:-

1. Gender discrimination.
2. Lack of proper educational program.
3. Female infanticide.
4. Atrocities on women.
5. Child marriage and dowry system.
6. Inequality in sharing the burden of householdwork.
7. Financial constraints.
8. Lack of health care and safety.
9. Professional inequality particularly workplace harassment.
10. Patriarchal order and the subordinate status of Women.

### **Need of Education in Women Empowerment:**

Being able to steer and manage one's own life is a powerful kind of empowerment. (Agarwal, 2001). In it, women learn about and assert their rights at the national, regional, and domestic levels, empowering them to make decisions about their own lives. Autonomy, agenda-setting, and full participation in economic, political, and social decision-making are hallmarks of self-empowerment for women.

Women empowerment has the following components:-

1. Self-worth
2. Right to determine choices.
3. Right to access to opportunities and resources.
4. Right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home and workplace.
5. Ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economical orders, nationally and internationally.

Education is a potent instrument for societal change; for example, it equips women with the information, competence, and self-assurance to take an active role in development.

On the other hand, in the majority of developing nations, women have much lower literacy rates than males. We need to work on being more sensitive to gender. A woman's education should prepare her to fulfil her role in society by teaching her to apply what she learns in the classroom to the tasks of everyday living. In order for women to adapt to the intricacies of society, education must constantly focus on their overall growth. A person's ability to think and make decisions independently may be enhanced via education by raising understanding of their rights and responsibilities. Education that raises men's and women's consciousness of women's economic, legal, and personal rights are crucial. The central question for women's effective participation in national development in the twenty-first century is whether they will have access to a quality education that equips them to enter any field, where they can be exposed to science, technology, communications, and creativity.

### **Need for Social Empowerment**

Paradoxically, women in contemporary India have a very high standing. She is at the very top of her game, but she's also dealing with stress and aggression from all directions. Although women in the contemporary day have made great strides forward, they still face many obstacles. (Gupta.,2003). Now that women have left the safety of the house, they must fight for survival on the battlefield of life. They are demonstrating their worth. However, in India, recompense has not yet been granted. On a daily basis, women in India face several challenges, including:

- Malnutrition.
- Poor Health.
- Maternal mortality.
- Lack of Education.
- Selective Abortion and female Infanticide.

- Sexual Harassment.
- Downy and Bride Burning.
- Disparity in Education.
- Domestic Violence.
- No Property Rights.
- Child Marriage.
- Inadequate Nutrition.
- Domestic Violence and Status in the Family.
- No Military Service.
- Satue of Widows.

The social empowerment of women can be seen through following directions:-

**Equally competent and Intelligent:** Women are just as capable as males. In many societal and economic spheres, women are now even ahead of males.

**Capable:** Men and women are equally competent. In the past, women’s talents went unused since they could not attend university at the same level as males. But now days women may also attend college, which empowers them to prove their worth in ways that benefit society as a whole as well as themselves.

**Overall Development of Society:** Society as a whole will advance, which is the primary benefit of women’s empowerment. Earnings made by women benefit not only themselves and their families, but also the progress of society as a whole.

**Economic Advancement:** More economic advantages accrue to society and individuals alike as a result of women’s empowerment. When women are given the tools they need to succeed, they are better able to support themselves and their families, which in turn boosts the economy of the nation.

**Reduce Poverty:** The added earnings of women help the family to come out of poverty trap.

**Under-employed and Un-employed:** Roughly half of the world’s population consists of women. The global unemployment rate for women is high. As a result of gender inequality in the workplace, the global economy takes a major hit.

**Natural Development:** A growing number of women are actively engaging in the development process at the national level. Thanks to their exceptional work in almost every field—engineering, social service, medicine, etc.—they are bringing honour to the country.

Ways of Achieving Women’s Empowerment:-

**Through Social Empowerment:** It is crucial to arrange awareness initiatives to educate women, particularly those from marginalised communities, about their rights and to curb the spread of STDs like HIV/AIDS and infectious illnesses like tuberculosis in the area. Child prostitution, child maltreatment, female foeticide, child marriage, and other forms of child social stigma must end immediately.

**Through Education:** By providing women with the information, competence, and self-assurance they need to take an active role in the development process, education may be a potent instrument of social change.

**Through Economic Participation:** A critical step towards increasing family income and promoting economic growth is women's quantitative involvement in the labour force, which is essential for resolving the disproportionate levels of poverty among women.

**Through Political Empowerment:** To be politically active, women must be allowed to participate in shaping policies that impact their socioeconomic group and have equal participation in official and informal decision-making organisations.

**Through women's Organisation:** A growing body of evidence points to women's groups as contemporary India's preeminent vehicle for empowering women.

### **Conclusion:**

Concerning women's roles in defining human civilization, there is a massive chasm between fact and theory. Government and corporate initiatives aimed at empowering women have failed to gain traction in local communities because of inaccurate portrayals and a lack of concrete action. Because of their low levels of education and economic independence, women have been passive participants in their own emancipations.

Women may realise their dreams of equal rights to property, safer childbirth, greater access to education, employment, and social prestige via government and non-governmental initiatives. The empowerment and sustainability of women will follow from this.

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