



Role of Viksit Bharat in women's empowerment

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Abstract: “Viksit Bharat” refers to the vision of transforming India into a developed, self-reliant, and inclusive nation by the year 2047. The primary objective of Viksit Bharat is to elevate India to developed-country status by ensuring equal opportunities for all. This vision is based on four key pillars: youth, women, the poor, and farmers. A nation can achieve true development only when half of its population, women, actively participate in education, the economy, politics, and overall social life.

Among the four pillars of Viksit Bharat, women's empowerment is a crucial one. Special emphasis is placed on enhancing women's skills, education, social status, digital inclusion, and employment opportunities. Women need to be encouraged to participate actively in these areas.

For the research on women's empowerment in Viksit Bharat, a qualitative methodology has been used, relying on secondary data such as books, journals, and government policies.

The study reveals that a truly developed nation can only be achieved through the active participation of women. Furthermore, improvements in women's education have led to better social and economic conditions.

Keywords: Viksit Bharat, Women's Empowerment, Policy Analysis, Gender Equality, India.

Introduction: The concept of Viksit Bharat 2047 represents India's long-term developmental aspiration to transform itself into a fully developed, inclusive, and self-reliant nation by the centenary year of its independence. This vision goes beyond the conventional understanding of development as mere economic growth and instead adopts a holistic approach that includes social justice, equality, sustainability, and participatory governance. It emphasises that national progress can only be achieved when all sections of society are empowered and actively contribute to the development process.

Within this broader framework, four major pillars, youth, women, farmers, and the economically weaker sections, have been identified as key drivers of development. Among these, women occupy a central and indispensable position. As women constitute nearly half of India's population, their participation in education, economic activities, governance, and social transformation is essential to achieving balanced, sustainable growth.

Historically, Indian women have faced multiple structural and cultural challenges, such as limited access to education, restricted economic opportunities, gender-based discrimination, and deeply rooted patriarchal norms. These barriers have not only affected their individual growth but also hindered society's overall

progress. However, in recent decades, there has been a significant shift in policy perspectives, with increasing recognition of the need to empower women as active agents of change.

The Viksit Bharat vision integrates women's empowerment as a core element of its developmental strategy. It focuses on enhancing women's capabilities through education, skill development, financial inclusion, digital access, and leadership opportunities. By promoting equal participation and removing systemic barriers, the initiative aims to create an environment where women can realise their full potential. Therefore, women's empowerment is not merely a social concern but a crucial determinant of national development and progress.

Objectives

1. To explore the extent to which policy documents related to the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision incorporate and highlight initiatives aimed at women's empowerment.
2. To analyse how women's economic and social empowerment is represented within the narratives, strategies, and programs associated with Viksit Bharat.

Methodology: The present study adopts a qualitative research methodology to explore the role of the Viksit Bharat initiative in promoting women's empowerment. A qualitative approach is particularly suitable for this research as it facilitates a deeper understanding of policy frameworks, thematic representations, and developmental narratives.

The study is based entirely on secondary data sources. These include government publications, policy documents, academic journals, books, and reports published by national and international organisations. Such sources provide a comprehensive and reliable foundation for analysing the concept of women's empowerment within the Viksit Bharat framework.

A descriptive-analytical research design has been employed. The descriptive aspect outlines the various initiatives and policies, while the analytical component critically examines their implications and effectiveness in promoting women's empowerment. Key areas of focus include education, economic participation, social empowerment, and digital inclusion. The data for this study have been collected from a wide range of secondary sources to ensure reliability and depth of analysis. These sources include: Official policy documents and reports related to the Viksit Bharat 2047 initiative Publications and strategy papers from institutions such as NITI Aayog Scholarly articles and journals focusing on gender studies and development issues Books and academic research on women's empowerment Reports and publications from international organizations such as UNESCO and the World Bank These diverse sources provide valuable insights into both national and global perspectives on women's empowerment and development

Analysis: The collected data have been analysed using thematic analysis, which involves identifying and interpreting key themes and patterns. The major themes that emerged from the analysis include:

- Educational empowerment and access to learning opportunities
- Economic empowerment through employment and entrepreneurship
- Social empowerment and gender equality
- Digital inclusion and technological accessibility
- Political participation and leadership representation

The analysis focuses on understanding how these themes are reflected in policy frameworks and development programs. It also examines the extent to which these initiatives have improved the socio-economic conditions of women.

Through careful examination of policy documents and reports, the study identifies emerging trends and highlights the growing emphasis on women's empowerment as a central component of India's development agenda.

Findings: The study's findings indicate that the Viksit Bharat vision places considerable emphasis on women's empowerment as a key driver of inclusive development. The major findings are discussed below:

1. **Expansion of Educational Opportunities:** One of the most significant developments is the increased focus on women's education. Efforts to improve female literacy and access to educational institutions have enabled women to acquire knowledge, develop skills, and enhance their self-confidence. Education has also played a crucial role in improving employment prospects and overall quality of life.

2. **Strengthening Economic Participation:** Women's involvement in economic activities has grown considerably. Initiatives promoting entrepreneurship, self-help groups, and skill development have enabled women to become financially independent. Access to financial services, including banking and credit facilities, has further strengthened their economic position.

3. **Enhancement of Digital Inclusion:** The promotion of digital literacy has significantly reduced the gender gap in technology access. Women are increasingly using digital platforms for education, communication, and employment. This has not only improved their access to information but has also opened up new avenues for economic participation.

4. **Improvement in Social Empowerment:** There has been a gradual improvement in women's social status due to increased awareness, legal protections, and policy interventions. Efforts to promote gender equality have contributed to changing societal attitudes, though deeply rooted cultural norms continue to pose challenges.

5. **Policy Support and Institutional Framework:** Government policies aligned with the Viksit Bharat vision have created a supportive environment for women's empowerment. These policies address critical areas such as education, health, safety, and employment, thereby facilitating overall development.

6. **Persistent Challenges:** Despite notable progress, several challenges continue to hinder the full realisation of women's empowerment:

- Ongoing gender-based discrimination
- Unequal access to resources and opportunities
- Socio-cultural constraints and traditional norms
- Underrepresentation in leadership and decision-making roles

Addressing these issues remains essential for achieving comprehensive and sustainable empowerment.

Conclusion: The vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 clearly underscores the importance of women's empowerment as a cornerstone of national development. Women are not only beneficiaries of development initiatives but also active contributors to economic growth and social transformation.

The study concludes that while significant advancements have been made in areas such as education, economic participation, and digital inclusion, sustained and targeted efforts are required to overcome existing barriers. A gender-inclusive approach, supported by robust policy implementation and social awareness, is crucial to achieving Viksit Bharat's goals. Ultimately, empowering women will lead to a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable society, thereby accelerating India's journey towards becoming a developed nation.

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