

# Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women

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## ABSTRACT

*Women's empowerment in India is challenging task as we need to acknowledge the fact that the gender based discrimination is a deep rooted social malice practiced in India in many forms since thousands of year. Women's education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of half of the human resources but improving the quality of life at home & outside. Although most women in India work & contribute to the economy in one form or other much of their work is not documented or accounted for in official statistics. We can say that women are equally competitive to men & even surpassing the men. There is no field today where is not approaching. Women have posed a threat to the success of the men. When we talk about women empowerment in India the most important aspect that comes into the mind is attitude of the society towards women. Women are still considered as burden & liabilities. Violence against women is not a myth but a reality. It is a global phenomenon. The development of the country is not possible if women, comprising half of the human resources as labour force & citizens stay away from the national development process*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Women's empowerment in India is challenging task as we need to acknowledge the fact that the gender based discrimination is a deep rooted social malice practiced in India in many forms since thousands of year. Cruelty & discrimination against women is a way of daily life in Indian society. Women are considered to be only worthwhile of household activities & managing the children. The veil system child marriage & dowery are testimonies to this truth but now a day's women to believe in their own inferiority to men and their incapability to excel educationally politically economically & domestically. Women attempting to gain power in a man's world.

### 2. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN EDUCATION

Women's education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources but in improving the quality of life at home & outside. Education one of the improvement factors for improvement in the status of women determines aspirations technology,

productivity & social mobility. About education Jawaharlal Nehru said:-"Education of a boy is education of one person but education of a girl is the education of the entire family."

Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl children, but also can provide better guidance to all their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate & growth of the population. She can care her health & her family because she know very well what things is good & what things is bad for health.

### 3. WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN INDIA

Although in the Vedic period women had access to education in India, they had gradually lost this right women's education got a fillip after the country got independence in 1947 and the government has taken various measures to provide education to all Indian women. As a result women's literacy rate has grown over the three decades & the growth of female literacy has in fact been higher than of male literacy rate. While in 1971 only 22% of Indian women were literate

by the end of 2001 54.16% women were literate. The growth of female literacy rate is 14.87% as compared to 11.72% of that of male literacy rate.

**4. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN EMPLOYMENT**

Although most women in India work & contribute to the economy in one form or other much of their work is not documented or accounted for in official statistics. Women plough fields & harvest crops while working on farms women weave & make handicrafts while working in household industries. Women can fly aeroplane while working in airlines. Women sell food & gather wood while working in the unorganised sector. Additionally women are responsible for the daily household chores eg. cooking, fetching milk and looking after children.

The Indian work force participation rate is 37.7%. The rate for women is 25.7% which is less than half the rate of 51.6% for men. The percentage of labourers employed as main workers is higher among men than among women. In case of marginal workers, this proportion is larger among women than among men. The majority of the main workers (66.8%) are employed in agricultural & allied industrial sectors. The proportion of women employed in this sector is 80.7%, compared to 62.7% for men. In rural areas 89.5% of the total female employed is engaged in the agricultural & allied industrial sector.

So we can say that women are equally competitive to men & even surpassing the men. There is no field today where women are not approaching. Women have posed a threat to the success of the men. Men have to try hard to get jobs. Earlier man was free to choose any jobs because women were confined to the four walls of the house. But now the picture has been changed. Women are ahead of men now. We can say that women are getting powerful in every field.

**5. CRIMES & VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

When we talk about women empowerment in India the most important aspect that comes into the mind is the attitude of the society towards women. Women are still considered as burden & liabilities.

Violence against women emerges as a truly universal issue, crossing cultural, geographical, racial, class, religious and ethnic boundaries thought is not true that incidence of violence by men towards women is not identical in all groups & communities & that moral, social belief family arrangement differ from group to group.

The UN commission on the status of women defines violence against women as “Any act of gender base violence that the results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of acts coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether in public or private life.” Violence against women is not a myth but a reality. It is a global phenomenon.

Women all over the world face violence in one or other form with varying forms such as.

1. Domestic abuse
2. Rape
3. Kidnapping or missing women
4. Dowry deaths
5. Mail order bride
6. Wife battering
7. Refugees
8. Sexual harassment at work
9. Honour killing

The problem of violence against women is not new Indian society. According to the report of national crime report bureau analysis in our country one women becomes victim of rape in every 54 minutes, one dowry death in every 42 minutes, one kidnapping in every 43 minutes and one

torture to women in every 33 minutes. Thus the conclusion of the analysis is that in every 7 minutes, one woman is victimized by crime in India. The government has also ratified various international instruments which prohibit violence against women.

## 6. HUMAN RIGHTS & WOMEN

In the past human rights advocate often tender to treat women's rights separately from human rights. But such as attitude is rapidly changing there are over twenty three main UN conventions relating to human rights in general & four specifically related to women.

1. Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
2. Convention on the nationality of married women of the recovery abroad maintenance.
3. Convention on political rights of women.
4. Convention on the consent of marriage minimum age of marriage & registration marriage.

One of the great milestones in the protection of women's human rights was the adoption by the United National General Assembly in December 1979 of the U.N convention to eliminate. The convention laid the foundation & universal standard for women's equal enjoyment without discrimination of devil political, economic, social & cultural rights. Since 1979, many organizations have emerged throughout the United States & around the global to promote awareness of women's human rights & to advocate their defense. Governments

around the world have been forced to admit that violence against women is an integral part of both state practice and so called private relationships and that they can be held accountable to take serious steps to eradicate both of these kinds of violence against women.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Despite all legislations & policy commitments & planning women remain a vulnerable group if we are to translate the policy commitment of women's empowerment into a reality we would have to go beyond the current outlook on gender budgeting which excludes several dimensions of the problem we have to go in for a more broad based approach that addresses planning adequate resource allocation, programming design and formulation targeted intervention and implementation based upon the requirement of women residing at the field level with their participation.

India is committed to the cause of empowerment of women. However, the journey towards progress is long arduous .In a world of challenge & competition, both the state and the society have to constantly attune themselves to the changing needs. It is recognized that the development of the country is not possible if women, comprising half of the human resource as labour force & citizens stay away from the national development process. Women's participation in the economic process of development is of crucial importance from the consideration of both equity & development.

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