

**Women Empowerment – An Indian Woman As A Decision
Maker And Her Independency**

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Abstract

‘WOMAN IS A KEY FOR SUCCESS OF ANY HUMAN BEING’

This is the phrase which shows the importance of women in the life of men. Every successful personality has direct or indirect influence and backing of women. But, in this era also women are playing the role of dependent personality in the family to shoulder the responsibilities of the family. Now, there is a need to take the involvement, support of women to develop the society. Every woman has patience, convincing capacity and management ability also. The number of research papers on women empowerment which shows the significance of education, health, safety and poverty are analyzed in this study. Indian woman faces basic problems like education, poverty, safety and health of woman. Women empowerment needs to understand the main causes of ill practices in male dominating society in India. Society should be open-minded and should change way to look. The study also covers the facts and findings of single women in India.

Keywords: Empowerment, Education, Health, Safety, Poverty

1.1 Introduction

Literature, sports, entertainment, science or military and so many fields are their where Indian women have always stood up first. History of all the successful women shows that they are great decision maker and fought for their rights which gives them different personality and great achievements. But from the ancient period, the role of women in society is always in a dependent position because we are having male dominating society. Men and women are both equally important for the development of the country Woman empowerment is the process of creating an environment to take independent decision on their personal development. Empowerment will help to increase the assets and capabilities of negotiation and influence. It will also help to control and hold accountability.

The government of India declared 2001 as the year of women’s empowerment. The national policy for the empowerment of women was passed in 2001. As per census 2011, the population of India is 1210.19 million comprising 586.47 million (48.5%) females and 623.72 million (51.5 %) males. Females have a share of 48.1 % in the urban population and 48.6 % in the rural population.

The present research paper is an effort of a researcher to study the role of women in Indian society and their independency to take decisions. It will also study the tools to empower women socially, culturally, and financially.

2.1 Review of Literature

In his address, the Former President Bill Clinton in the annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative stated that, “*Women perform 66% of the world’s work, and produce 50% of the food, yet earn only 10% of the income and own 1% of the property. Whether the issue is improving education in the developing world, or fighting global climate change, or addressing nearly any other challenge we face, empowering women is a critical part of the equation.*”

As per the report of United Kingdom Department for International Development (2010), *Agenda 2010 - The turning point on poverty: background paper on gender* - in the long term, the higher earnings of females and strong bargaining power contributes in greater investment in children’s education , health and

nutrition. It contributes in economic growth of any country. In Africa, Asia, eastern Europe and latrine America, the number of women entrepreneurs are growing rapidly which results in economic development, creation of job opportunities and reduction of poverty.

3.1 Research Methodology

The following is the outline explaining the methodology adopted for the research work. The Research Methodology explains the systematic work of researcher to complete his/her endeavors.

3.1.1 Problem Statement

The present paper studies women as a powerful and strong resource of the society. It also studies the role and of empowerment of women in the development of country. Empowered women can participate in decision making process of family and can extent share of domestic work by male (house husband). Women can take a decision about her reproductive functions and size of family, expenditure to be made from her income. She can feel and express the value in her work with pride, self confidence, self-esteem and full of ability. The research tries to cover and justify the role of women in economic development of a country.

3.1.2 Objectives

1. To understand the conceptual framework of empowerment of women.
2. To enlighten the women contribution in development of country.
3. To study the facts and figures related to Indian women.
4. To give recommendations for future action, focusing on effective procedures and mechanisms of empowerment.

3.1.3 Significance of The Research

In India, it is assumed that male and boys are main household held and decision maker. Women are considered as homemaker and obedient to husband only. Men have more freedom to engage in public, social and formal affairs. To change this situation, empowerment of women is most important criteria. Women empowerment requires institutions who take the responsibilities for improving right conditions of women in the society and exercising their rights.

As per Census 2011, in India there are seven crores 14 lakhs women are single in India and Maharashtra state has second place in it, out of which 1 crore 69 lakhs (23%) women are in the age of 25 to 29. It also shows that self employed men in India are 53.5% and women are 55.7%. This percentage shows the importance of the women in development of country. The present paper in this regard deals with importance and empowerment of women.

4.1 Some Facts And Figures About Women Empowerment

There are some facts and figures about women empowerment. The data is taken from the Census of India – 2011. The data is presented in a tabular form.

4.1.1 Position of employment

	Male	Female
Regular wage/salaried employment	8.5 %	4.4 %
Casual labourers	38.0 %	39.9 %

4.1.2 Bank Operations

No. of accounts operated by female in all commercial banks	487.37 Crores	153.18 Crores
Deposit amount	1838826.25 Crores	517209.74 Crores

4.1.3. Unemployment rate

	Rural Sector		Urban Sector	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Labour force participation rate	54.8 %	20.8%	55.6%	12.8%
Unemployment rate	2.0 %	2.4%	3.1%	7.0%

4.1.4. Receipt of Salary

	Rural Sector		Urban Sector	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
The average wage salary received by regular wage salaried employees	Rs.249.15 per day	Rs.155.87 per day	Rs.377.16 per day	Rs. 308.79 Per day

5.1 BASIC ELEMENTS TO EMPOWER WOMEN

To empower women, there are some basic elements which are needed to be understand. Poverty, Education, Health and Safety are some important criteria to study. The explanation of the same is given below -

A. POVERTY

Poverty eradication contributes vital role in women empowerment. It will automatically strengthen the economy of any country with the improvement of their quality of life. Source of income makes the women independent, self confident and self-esteemed and self-reliance. In each and every sector, you will find a footprint of women. The day would come when the woman will play a vital role in decreasing the dependency of man in earning and running a home.

B. EDUCATION

Nelson Mandela had rightly said education is the most powerful weapon to change the world. Education of women gives better position and respect in the society and family. Women can understand civil rights and laws against their harassment. Gender equality education and right to education is most important factor of women empowerment. Women can take self decision to bright her and her family's future. It will also help to integrate different aspects like technical, entrepreneurial and cultural. Education provides them various economic opportunities. Education provides the skills for income generation.

C. HEALTH

Healthy women can change and develop the family, society as well as country. From the warm, till the journey of being a lady, women should carry a legacy of being a strong one. She should take the knowledge of health and nutrition. Female enrolment ratio can be increase by giving better sanitation and toilet facility everywhere she goes and works.

D. SAFETY

Education of safety can empower women. Information and learning on politics, knowledge about their bodies and sexuality with reproductive information, reduction in the rates of early marriages can maintain safety of women. A woman is truly empowered if she make herself secured. She should not dependent on society on her safety because charity and safety starts from your home.

Recommendation

1. Local government should organized programs to develop the concept of gender discrimination and promotion of women. Training and education develops skill and helps to remove poverty.

2. Health services should be improved by cost curtailing and transport facilities.
3. Aadhar card Registration scheme should be implemented by special cell of Government because without Aadhar Card No. one can not apply for and Government Scheme.
4. Awareness programmes should be organized for giving the information about easy, fast and special Judiciary system for women. Awareness programme can transfer powerless women to powerful.
5. Single Women Ration Card should be issued for the identification from rural area to urban area.
6. Number of working women hostels with availability of basic facilities should be increased in town areas also.
7. From primary school education, there should be learning of skills from interaction with women and men. Co-education should be promoted.
8. Strict implementation of laws of child marriage, child sexual abuse, dowry, female feticide, rapes etc. should be there.

Conclusion

The concept of women empowerment can be seen today as one of the most important factor contributing to equality between men and women. The economic, cultural and social security increases scope for the subject of women empowerment. A women is worshipped as goddess but the same woman is not able to participate in the decision making process as far as the other factors are concerned. The empowerment of women puts a female in a stronger position and gives them the power to speak, to be heard, to participate together with men in shaping the form and structure of society. A women should be empowered to influence economic development at all levels of society. A strong women should be promoted to make decisions to promote their family and their own well-being. In fact, women empowerment is a matter of human rights and social justice. In a country like India, it is a need of today to make the country prosper, progress and self-reliant.

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