

# Women Empowerment in India

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**Abstract:** *Empowerment of women Today, there has been a discussion with women working with men everywhere. They claim an independent approach, even if they are living or working outside of their education, career, profession, and lifestyle. With the continued increase in the number of working women, they have achieved financial independence, which has given them the confidence to lead their lives and make their identity. They are successfully taking various professions to prove that they are not second to anyone in any respect. But on doing so, women also take care of their profession as well as to prevent the balance between their commitment to their home and family. They are playing a role of a mother, daughter, sister, wife and remarkable goodwill and easy-to-do professional. With equal opportunities to work, they are working with the spirit of teamwork so that they can provide all possible support to their male counterparts in fulfilling the set deadlines and goals in their respective counterparts. Women's empowerment is not confined to urban, working women, but even in remote towns and villages, women are still very quick to hear their voices in society. They are no longer willing to play the second puzzle for their male counterparts. Educated or not, they are paying attention to their socio-political rights and are feeling their presence despite their socio-economic background. Although it is true that women, on a large scale, do not face discrimination in today's society, unfortunately, many of them face exploitation and harassment. The empowerment of women in the most powerful sense will be achieved only if women have genetic changes in relation to women, they should be treated with proper respect, dignity, fairness, and equality. The rural areas of the country are largely sunk in the feudal and medieval perspective, so women have equal status in their education, marriage, dress code, profession, and social.*

**Keywords:** Women Empowerment, Socio-economic background, commitment, discrimination

## 1. Introduction

**Women Empowerment** refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender, or economic strength of individuals and communities of women.

Women's empowerment in India is heavily dependent on many different variables that include geographical location (urban/rural), educational status, social status (caste and class), and age.

The manifestation of redistribution of power that challenges patriarchal ideology and male dominance. Chandra 1997. Process aimed at changing the nature and direction of systematic forces which marginalize women and other disadvantaged sections in a given context .Sharma 1992

### Need For Women Empowerment

#### Women are depressed of:

- Non involvement in *Decision Making Power*
- Restriction for *Freedom of Movement*
- *Seizure to Education*
- *Seizure to Employment*

#### Non involvement of women's in *Decision Making*

Among those who have earnings, more women (1 in 5) than men (1 in 18) do not have a major say in how their own earnings are used and fewer women (about 7 in 10) than men (about 9 in 10) have a major say in how their spouses' earnings are used.

Women who earn about the same as their husbands are more likely to have a major say in the use of their husbands' earnings than both women who earn less than their husbands and who earn more than their husbands. Less than two in three currently married women participate, alone or jointly, in decisions about their own health care, large household

purchases, purchases for daily need, and visits to her family and relatives.

The number of decisions women make jointly varies positively with education and nonlinearly with wealth; and For women, having earnings that they control is associated with greater participation in decisions; however, having earnings without a major say in their use is negatively associated with the number of decisions made jointly and, unexpectedly, positively associated with the number of

#### Restrictions on women's for *Freedom of Movement*

Women's freedom of movement is severely curtailed: only one in three are allowed to go alone to the market, the health centre, and outside the community.

Women face a large number of hurdles in accessing health care: of the eight pacified hurdles, one in four among all women and 47% of women in the lowest wealth quintile face three or more hurdles.

#### Seizure to Education

Only two-thirds of girls and three-fourths of boys age 6-17 years are attending school. The sex ratio of children attending school is 889 girls per 1,000 boys. Forty-one percent of women age 15-49 have never been to school. Educational attainment remains very low: even among the 20-29 age group, only 27% of women have 10 or more years of education. The percentage of ever-married women with 10 or more years of education has risen very slowly from 11% in NFHS-1 to 17% in NFHS-3.

Women age 15-49 are about half as likely as men in the same age group to be employed: 43% vs. 87%. The relationship of employment and wealth for women suggests that, for many women, employment is largely a result of economic necessity. Even with controls for education, age, and wealth, marriage is negatively associated with a woman's likelihood of being employed and is positively associated with a man's likelihood of being employed.

Most employed women work for someone else, away from home, and continuously throughout the year; about one in three women do not receive monetary compensation for their work or receive at least part of their payment in kind. Most employed women work in agriculture; only 7% work in professional, technical, or managerial occupations.

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### **How We Can Empower Women's**

- Changes in women's mobility and social interaction
- Changes in women's labour patterns
- Changes in women's access to and control over resources
- Changes in women's control over decision-making.

### **Social Empowerment**

Political empowerment of women is only a part of the overall mainstreaming of women.

- Education of women means greater awareness of their role in society.
- Awareness of their rights, better knowledge of housekeeping and better performance of their roles as a housewife and mother.
- Education and training have opened up the avenues of employment and self-employment in the organized sector. As never before women are working in diverse fields as doctors, engineers, IAS officers, IPS officers, bank officials and in a wide range of sectors in the unorganized sector. In agriculture, most of the operations are run by women

### **Involvement of NGO**

Non-governmental organizations are playing a significant role in the empowerment of disadvantaged women. Just a few years after Independence, the Government set up the Central Social Welfare Board, an apex body of the voluntary sector that aids more than 10,000 NGOs across the country, helping women stand on their own through such programme as socio-economic programme, vocational training and other similar programmes

### **Involvement and role of government**

The Department of Women and Child Development has been implementing special programmes for the holistic development and empowerment of women with major focus to improve their socioeconomic status. There has been policy shifts from time to time based on the shifts in emphasis. The year 2001 was declared as "Women's Empowerment Year" to bring greater focus on the

programmes for women. A programme of Support to Training-cum-Employment for Women (STEP) was launched in 1987 to strengthen and improve the skills for employment opportunities for women below the poverty line, in traditional sectors of agriculture, small animal husbandry etc where women are employed on a large scale. Swayamsidha launched in March 2001 and the Swa-Shakti Project (earlier known as Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project), launched in October 1998.

## **2. Conclusion**

Women represent half the world's population, and gender inequality exists in every nation on the planet. Until women are given the same opportunities that men are, entire societies will be destined to perform below their true potentials. The greatest need of the hour is change of social attitude to women. If we want to bring women empowerment in a true sense, it is necessary to cry for eliminating male superiority and patriarchal mentality. Apart from this, there is a need to give equal opportunity for education and employment without discrimination against women. As long as there is no genetic change in the society towards women, it is inadequate to give them arms only with legal and constitutional rights.

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