

# Social Development of Women in India: Problems and Prospectives

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**Abstract:** A complex Indian society structure with economical growth requirements has given rise to define women's social issues with a new perspective. Sustainable social development of the women population is interrelated with the economical, political, and health aspects of the development. The main issues faced in women's development in India are mostly related to traditional patriarchal culture with noneconomical recognition of women's contribution to society. The government's approach towards women's development in the earlier era was more focused on "women and child development". Therefore, there exclusive policy related to their wellbeing was missing with less political representation, as one of the reasons for it. The new development approach needs to incorporate women & development and women in development all together with an aim of gender equality. In the present era the economic growth has been replaced by sustainable development. And sustainable development is not possible until gender equality in social, economical, and political perspectives is not achieved. The initiatives for women's social development need to in alignment with the vision of UNICEF and must be monitored and reported promptly.

Keywords- Patriarchy, Suitable Social Development, Gender Equality, Economic Growth, Self-Dependency.

## 1. Introduction

The women's social development in India has major issues concerned with social structure and economical marginalization of the population. In the coming sections, the social development issue of women in India's perspective has been discussed to create a perspective solution for these issues. The impact of these social issues on overall economic development in the country has been discussed. A development model and its component have been discussed to provide a better understanding of requirements and gaps in policymaking. Lastly, a conclusion has been drawn on the issue and its impact on the country on suitable development.

## 2. Woman's social Development in India: problems and prospective

The lack of level playing field for women population in economic and social participation is a worldwide issue (Calman, 2019). The women in most of the parts of the earth have less access to education, better health, safer environment, and political representation. Social inequality, illiteracy, and conventional family structure make this issue more amplified in developing countries (Kapoor, 2019). India is taking major steps to bridge these gaps in its society but some of the major issues are yet to be addressed.

## 3. Understanding women's development issues in contemporary India

Indian society is comparatively complex structured with its hierarchical social orders which are based on caste, class, and gender (A Datta, 2020). The women in India mostly have a confined private domain with orientation around children's upbringing, family, and household work. In the countryman have a public life and the decision-maker in the family. Class inequality prevails in gender stratification.

## 4. Patriarchal social structure

The patriarchal social structure of Indian society social and economical aspects. The social aspect is derived from traditional family structures (KK Baker, 2018). The economical structure aspects elaborate on the financial dependency of women on men. The economical dependency of women on their husbands has social acceptance, in a manner that the social status of a woman is defined by her husband's class. The women in the social circle do not identify herself as a separate social entity and lead to acceptance to play a secondary and passive role (Srivastava, 2020). The traditional social structure has cherished this confined role of wife and mother in its literature. This confinement had led to the rise and strengthening of patriarchy.

## 5. Poor implementation of social reforms

Women's property right is still not at par. The daughters cannot initiate the property distribution and their consent leads to the distribution of property between male children only. The social acceptance of women is mainly derived from the fact that how they fit in the patriarchal society as a mother or wife. The society has defined marriage as an important institution to domesticate a woman (Dapke, 2020). A nonmarried woman has been marginalized from society. The social reforms implementations have witnessed a laid-back attitude. This slow process was mainly due to indifference social behavior for society. It has been argued that a lot of social perspectives has been changed on girl cold birth and education. But on a proper analysis of these events, it has been founded that it was more related to economical assurance and risk rather than a change in social perspectives. The recent report has shown that Delhi and NCR have a higher feticide rate (U Lenka,

2017). A social change begins from urban nexus, but this data depicts the urban thought process, as they have to survive the economic condition and do not find the girl child profitable enough. Similarly, girl child education is more because of the demand of earning female partner rather than to change their social position.

## **6.Laidback government's policies & Its implementation**

Being a developing country India has a lot of economical and social issues to address. But the government's policy towards half the population was more oriented towards healthy mother and child (S Azhar, 2020). For a long time, their policies have been integrated as women and child development. The major reason for the government attitude toward the woman population was based on their non-decision-making status. The government's economical and social planning has few women-specific policies compared to mother and child development. The political parties have an assumption that the lack of decision-making power does not make them a strong population which can affect politics.

## **7.Marginalization in economical contribution**

On an economical basis, a high population leads to the presence of enough workforce which needed to be trained so that they can contribute to GDP. In recent times when women's influence on voting has been witnessed in elections and the policy of growth has been replaced by development, exclusive women reform plans have been drafted and implemented to an extent (Guha, 2018). The allocation of employment opportunities is not equal and pay is less in many cases.

## **8.Lack of Access to opportunities and decision-making power**

The economical marginalization and patriarchal structure lead to a lack of access to opportunities and decision-making power for women. Women have an underrepresentation in the workforce and policy-making procedures. The women workforce contribution to the GDP in India is minimal due to these factors (K Mathias, 2019). The recent data shows that 70% poor in India accounted for the women population. Therefore, for the implementation of better poverty elevation programs women's development is the major key.

## **9.Lack of cultural & political well being of women in India**

The cultural and political aspects of women's marginalization indicate that social injustice and political discrimination deprived women of the power field. The lack of women representation in the political arena leads to their marginalization in the policymaking process. The economic development of women in India is one of the key factors for their participation in politics. The lack of any remuneration for domestic work contribution of women household decrease the value of the same (Guha, 2018). The government is planning to attach some remuneration programs for their domestic contribution in recent times, but the actual benefit of the same will be availed by women is a matter of argument.

## **10.Impact of social issues on social devolvement of women**

The social development of women is imperatively important for the sustainable development of the country. Gender inequality has fetched high economic costs to countries and leads to an imbalanced development approach. These social issues hamper the policy implementation process and henceforth women's development growth. Sustainable people-centric development required a fair representation of all gender in the growth process (KK Baker, 2018). The imbalance created due to these political issues hampers the idea of sustainable growth. The inequality created by these issues leads to underutilization of women workforce skill and under-representation of women in the political arena.

## **11.Prospective solutions to understand the women's issue**

A restrained participation of a woman workforce leads to hampering the overall growth of the society (A Datta, 2020). The recent millennium development goal of the government has emphasized women's development for the eradication of poverty. Some of the prospective solutions of women social issue could be as follows -

## **12.Skill development & Job creation for women**

Women's workforce has contributed to society with domestic work and child upbringing. No monetization of these activities leads to deprivation of value recognition in society (Calman, 2019). Their traditional roles have many skills attached to it like cooking, stitching, product manufacturing at a small scale. The government needs to take special initiatives to develop these traditional skills and provide assistance in monetization of these skills for increasing self-dependency in women.

## **13.Generation of sustainable livelihood for women**

A sustainable livelihood will make sure that the women workforce has an economical independence this will help to create a social impact in the society with self-dependence (Guha, 2018). The government policy needs to take special initiative to recognize women's workforce domestic contribution also. There could be incentives and monetary and non-monetary benefits attached to it so that the society recognizes their contribution and a sustainable livelihood could be created for them. One of the major aspects of sustainability is their self-recognition as an individual and social awareness is required apart from economical incentives. The government's collaboration with different NGO groups will make sure that these aspects could be achieved.

#### **14. Application of a hybrid social enterprise model**

It's a process to apply market logic to social issues. The social enterprise model emphasizes the synergy of women's social skills with entrepreneurship (KK Baker, 2018). This will help to improve the decision making and financial standing of women in the family. The hybridist of the market-based approach and social enterprises will enable the women population in the creation of better social and economic order into the society.

#### **15. Political empowerment**

The representation of women in the political sphere will ensure that their issues are reaching out to policymakers. Women's reservation bill is one of the initiatives (Kapoor, 2019). Yet women need more representation in politics for their betterment and empowerment. Political parties also need to mention the women candidates' representation in elections and provide more and more encouragement to join politics.

#### **16. Education, Health & Safety**

A change in social structure requires the social empowerment of women. Education, health, and safety are the key to women's social empowerment. India has a high women illiteracy rate with poor health conditions and safety risks. There are many steps needed in this direction in policymaking (S Azhar, 2020). The government has implemented the right to education and various incentives for the education of girls' children so that gap in education could be reduced. In recent policies, health factor has been addressed with exclusive women health development approach. Safety is also a serious concern for the women population specially in India, where crime against women is at a high rate. The government has taken initiative with special helpline numbers, all-women police stations, and PR surveillance to ensure the safety of the women population.

#### **17. A Holistic approach to women's social development in India**

Indian society needs a holistic application of social development models. These models include three models namely Women and Development (WAD model), Women in Development (WID model), and Gender and Development, model (GAD). The GAD model considers the WAD model and WID model outcome for its analysis. These developments model all together focus on development, equity, and change in society. The WAD model emphasizes that women were always passive recipients for welfare schemes which have sabotaged their productive role in society and given more emphasis on another gender. The WID model emphasizes that market needed to create equal opportunity for man and women but doesn't explain the distribution of equal resources. lastly, the GAD approach emphasizes that gender equality is created by society. Any change in the gender equation requires

#### **18. Conclusion**

To conclude, a complex social structure with the government's indifference in exclusive women development panning has to lead to the marginalization of women on social, economical and political fronts. To overcome the issues there is a need for willpower both in policymakers and policy influencers to draft a framework where the holistic approach has been taken for the social development of the women. These holistic approaches required the recognition of their social contributions and economical assistance by the government so that society could change their perspective towards the half population.

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