



# VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

**Dr. G. AnandAmruth Raj**

Academic Consultant, Department of Education,  
Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati-517 502.

## **Abstract:**

Half of the population are women. They are juggling several responsibilities outside of work and at home. Women are equally involved in all work activities as men are. However, they face discrimination across all industries. Today, one of the most important tools for any country's "effective development" is the empowerment of women. It entails releasing women from the tyrannical cycle of sexism in society, politics, the workplace, and the economy. The main concern is educating women about their rights and helping them gain confidence. Lack of economic independence for women, which is dependent on women's education, is one of the causes. In order to promote economic empowerment through education, governments are taking steps to empower women through a variety of programs. They must have the necessary skills in order to provide better care for their family both at home and at work. In addition to creating work prospects, skill development also gives people power. When it comes to women, the purpose of skill development goes beyond simply preparing them for the workforce and includes enhancing the caliber of the work they do. Since the previous few decades, women's empowerment has become an urgent problem everywhere in the world, including India. Vocational education should be pushed to give women skills.

**Keywords:** population, discriminated, economic empowerment.

## **Introduction**

Women were not treated equally to men in many respects for decades. We can see today that women hold respectable positions in all spheres of society. However, because of societal discrimination and harassment, they are not completely free. A small percentage of women have been successful in realizing their potential. Therefore, the era of women's repression is now over. The campaign for the empowerment of women, or the fight for women's rights, is currently necessary if we want to ensure that they have all the same rights as men. The only way to achieve this empowerment is through education. Therefore, educating women to become more powerful is crucial right now.

Everybody's life is greatly impacted by education. It is a fundamental tool for promoting equality and a human right. The National Policy on Education's main recommendation from 1986 is to support women's empowerment via education. Self-governance, self-sufficiency, and self-upkeep are all aspects of empowerment. At the 1985 International Women's Conference in Nairobi, the idea of women empowerment was first articulated. For the residents of any country, education is seen as a fundamental right and a basic demand. It can enable people to become independent, making it an effective strategy for eliminating inequality. Women especially need this because they experience discrimination in numerous areas. Women's empowerment is a global problem, and both formal and unofficial movements around the world place a strong emphasis on the political rights of women.

Because it gives women the confidence to take on difficulties, question their old roles, and transform their lives, education is viewed as a crucial step towards the empowerment of women. The most effective instrument for changing women's status in society is vocational education. The majority of women in our nation are still illiterate, outdated, frail, and exploited. Additionally, education helps to lessen inequality and raises the status of students within their families. Women have access to empowerment and capacity building as a means of obtaining useful knowledge and skills for bettering their lives. Only if women contribute to the best of their

talent and aptitude, which is only achievable when they are educated and empowered, will India become a developed country.

### **Vocational Education Programmes in India**

The following are the different types of vocational education courses to women.

#### **Commerce based:**

1. Office Secretaryship
2. Stenography and Computer Applications
3. Accountancy and Auditing
4. Marketing and Salesmanship
5. Banking
6. Retail
7. Financial Market Management
8. Business Administration

#### **Engineering based:**

1. Electrical Technology
2. Automobile Technology
3. Civil Engineering
4. Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology
5. Electronics Technology
6. Geospatial Technology
7. Foundry
8. IT Application

#### **Health and Para Medical based:**

1. Ophthalmic Techniques
2. Medical Laboratory Techniques
3. Auxiliary Nursing & Midwifery
4. X-Ray Technician
5. Healthcare Sciences
6. Health and Beauty Studies
7. Medical Diagnostics

#### **Home Science based:**

1. Fashion Design & Clothing Construction
2. Textile Design
3. Design Fundamental
4. Music Technical Production
5. Beauty Services

#### **Agriculture based:**

1. Poultry Farming
2. Horticulture
3. Dairying Science and Technology

#### **Hospitality and Tourism based:**

1. Food Production
2. Food and Beverage Services
3. Mass Media Studies and Media Production

4. Bakery and Confectionery
5. Front office
6. Travel and Tourism

### **Others:**

1. Transportation System & Logistic Management
2. Life Insurance
3. Library and Information Sciences

### **Courses offered by Government of India**

1. Polytechnics
2. Parvaaz
3. National Rural Livelihood Mission
4. Industrial Training Institutes
5. Aajeevika mission of national rural livelihood
6. Craftsmen Training Scheme

### **Challenges to Implement VET in India**

The barriers to the expansion of vocational training include cultural and traditional prejudice against non-white collar jobs. The study article has noted the absence of state-level mechanisms to promote vocational education and training. The UGC and other organizations do not recognize the vocational programs offered by private institutions, which contributes to their low enrollment. A 11% unemployment rate in VET courses was also cited in the publication.

### **Initiatives by Government**

The National Skills Coordination Board, the National Skill Development Corporation, and the National Skills Qualification Framework were all established by the government following the release of the National Skills Development Policy in 2009. The Minister of Finance promised to put Rs. 1000 core into the system's architecture. Under NSDC, Sector Skills Councils were created with the goals of involving business in training and labor force development, establishing occupational standards, and accrediting credentials. Academic, vocational, and technical qualifications are included in the development of the NSQF. It attempts to make improvements between levels and types of education and the recognition of prior learning easier.

### **Schemes by Government of India**

- The National Skill Certification and Monetary Reward Scheme offered financial rewards in 2014 totaling an average of Rs. 10,000 for finishing specific training programs. The program aimed to increase the skills of one million young people.
- The PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana program, which aims to give 2.4 million individuals skills, was introduced in 2015. Among the 2.4 million individuals, one million were enrolled under the Recognition of Prior Learning Framework.
- Short-term training in high-demand fields and industries was the main goal of the Modular Employable Skills initiative. Upon successful completion of the certification, the program's training costs are reimbursed. Additionally, discounts are offered to female applicants from lower castes to promote participation.

### **Conclusion**

According to the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, 291 million more workers would be needed in 2022–2023. To close the deficit, the government tried to increase VET nationwide and upskill 500 million workers. According to a study on vocational education and training in India, 11% of people aged 15 to 29 who have completed such programs are unemployed. Though it is slowly changing, this trend is still present. The International Labor Organization's study demonstrates the potential economic impact of apprenticeships. It

claimed that small enterprises discovered that the cost of training outweighed the benefits of higher revenues. The NPSD acknowledged that the informal sector had the potential to be a sizable portion of the economy.

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