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## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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*“Woman is an incarnation of ‘Shakti’- the Goddess of Power. If she is bestowed with education, India’s strength will double. Let the campaign of ‘Kanya Kelavni’ be spread in every home; let the lamp of educating daughters be lit up in every heart”*

- Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi

### *Abstract*

*Empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation, greater decision-making power and control and transformative action. Empowerment of women signifies harnessing women power by conscientizing their tremendous potential and encouraging them to work towards attaining a dignified and satisfying way of life through confidence and competence as person with self-respect, rights and responsibilities. The progress of any nation is inevitably linked with social and economic plight of women in that particular country. Educating a woman brings about self-esteem and confidence and also promotes active participation in society which in itself reduces poverty. Women can be empowered only when they are literate and women education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom for development. The present study has been planned with a view to discuss the various issues related to Education and Empowerment of Women in India and to suggest measures for achieving this end.*

**Keywords:** Women Empowerment, Gender Inequalities, Self-Respect, and Women Education

### INTRODUCTION

Women education in India assumes an essential part in the general advancement of the nation. It not just aides in the improvement of half of the human resources, however in enhancing the personal satisfaction at home and outside. Educated women not just have a tendency to advance education of their young lady kids; additionally, can give better direction to every one of their youngsters. In addition, educated ladies can likewise help in the diminishment of newborn child death rate and development of the populace. Women empowerment and education are fundamental pillars for the advancement of societies worldwide. Empowering women involves

creating an environment where women can make decisions, access opportunities, and exercise their rights equally with men. Education plays a crucial role in this process by providing women with the knowledge, skills, and confidence necessary to participate fully in all aspects of life.

**Research Methodology:** This research on women empowerment employs a qualitative methodology, drawing on a comprehensive review of existing literature, including scholarly articles, research papers and books. The study synthesizes findings from these sources to understand the various dimensions of women's empowerment. The methodology ensures a robust and well rounded examination of the topic through diverse academic perspective.

**Objectives:** This particular articles have following objectives

1. To assess the empowerment of women through history
2. What is the need of women empowerment .
3. Role of Education in empowering women.

## HISTORICAL EXAMPLE OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN INDIA

If we will look into the age of Vedic period, women had permission to education but they had bit by bit lost this privilege. Vedic age women had the privilege to get themselves studied in various field whether it is higher education, whether in the field of science, whether in the field of archery and in many others field also. They had right to choose their profession. But later on with the coming of later vedic period and in continuity had very ups and downs in their life, as well as in educational field also. Same as in the medieval phase also. Except few women, the number was very less. No much focus was made in terms of women education. The position of women in medieval India varied significantly across different regions, communities, and social strata. This period, roughly spanning from the 6th to the 18th centuries, was marked by a mixture of traditions and influences that shaped women's lives in complex ways.

The status of women in medieval India was not uniform. While some women from royal and noble families enjoyed considerable power and influence, the majority faced restrictions and were subject to patriarchal norms. Child marriage was common, and women were often married off at a very young age. Sati (self-immolation of a widow on her husband's pyre) was practiced in certain communities, although it was not universally accepted.

Access to education for women was generally restricted. However, women in royal and elite families often received education in literature, music, and the arts. Notable women like poetsaints Andal and Mirabai made significant contributions to literature and spirituality.

The patriarchal nature of society imposed numerous restrictions on women's freedom. Practices like purdah (veiling) and seclusion limited their mobility and participation in public life. Due to rising patriarchy and constrictive customs, women's standing significantly declined during the medieval era. Foreign invasions at this time caused social unrest and political upheaval as well as changes in social institutions. Child marriage, self-immolation (sati), and purdah (veiling) were among the common practices that severely limited the freedom and rights of women.

In the British time frame, there was augmentation of enthusiasm for women's education in India. Amid this period, different socio religious operations flock by prominent people like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar highlighted on women's education and connection with external world in India. However, women's education got a quick augmentation after the nation got autonomy in 1947 and the government has taken different measures and activities to give education to all Indian ladies. Subsequently women's

proficiency rate has become over the three decades and the development of female proficiency has in certainty been higher than that of men education rate for little a long time. While in 1971 just 22% of Indian women were proficient, before the end of 2001 54.16% female were proficient.

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

**Meaning or definition of empowerment:** In terms of people and communities, empowerment refers to the extent of autonomy and self-determination. Their ability to behave independently and responsibly while representing their interests is facilitated by this. It's the process of growing stronger and more self-assured, particularly when it comes to taking charge of one's life and standing up for what's right. In order to help

individuals overcome their sense of helplessness and lack of influence and to identify and make use of their resources, professional support and the process of self-empowerment are both considered forms of empowerment as action.

Women empowerment is a transformative process aimed at enhancing the social, economic, political, and legal strength of women, ensuring equal rights and opportunities. It is about enabling women to make choices, exercise control over their lives, and participate fully in all spheres of society. Empowering women is not just a goal in itself but a crucial step towards achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication, and overall societal progress.

India, the concept of women's empowerment, which refers to measures taken to strengthen women's social, economic, political, and legal standing, has a long history and has developed dramatically over many centuries. This whole trip may be followed through the ages of antiquity, mediaeval times, and modern times, each in of which denotes a unique stage in the standing and function of women in Indian culture. Gaining an appreciation of this progression is essential to understanding the current endeavors and obstacles in the pursuit of gender equality in India. Women's empowerment was accelerated by the Indian independence struggle, with important contributions from individuals like Annie Besant, Kasturba Gandhi, and Sarojini Naidu. Due to the national movement's emphasis on the necessity of an equitable society, the battle for women's rights and freedom became linked. Following independence, the Indian Constitution established equality by outlawing gender-based discrimination and ensuring basic fundamental rights to women. Women in contemporary India have achieved great progress in a variety of sectors, including business, politics, science, and the arts. Women's rights have been protected in large part by laws like the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, the Hindu Code Bill, and the Dowry Prohibition Act. Women are now more equipped than ever to seek employment and become financially independent thanks to economic and educational measures. Even with these developments, problems still exist. Women's complete empowerment is nevertheless hampered by problems like gender-based violence, pay inequality, and underrepresentation in business and political leadership. Women's freedom and choices are still restricted by social conventions and cultural practices, which makes it necessary to continue working to change societal attitudes and institutions. Women's status has changed throughout time. They have made substantial contributions to religion, politics, culture, the economy, and society. The number of women who engage in educational programs has increased access to higher education. In addition to obtaining bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, they are also receiving employment opportunities. Trustworthy businesses, educational institutions, and other fields employ women. These careers span a wide range of fields, including engineering, politics, law, science, education, management, and administration.

## **NEED OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

The advancement of women's empowerment in the nation is nevertheless impacted by a robust patriarchal culture with deeply ingrained sociocultural beliefs. Gender supremacy should not exist in an equitable society, which is urgently needed. The goal of government actions need to be to pinpoint and eradicate the factors that work to perpetuate the male-female dominance legacy.

Women make up around half of the population of the nation, and the majority of them are still dependent on the economy and unemployed. Many of them are just unaware that they may fill jobs that have historically been filled by men. The nation's economy is unbalanced as a result of the underutilization of its human resource base. Women are known to be less mentally and physically competent than men. The opportunities that are presented to them end up being biased and invasive in the absence of an accurate evaluation of their ability.

Even though they are capable of pursuing higher education, women are still denied access to basic education in many parts of India and the rest of the world. Without a doubt, this enormous waste of potential is preventing economies from growing.

Empowerment of women and the overall growth of society are, in fact, mutually exclusive. An educated lady who knows her health, hygiene, and sanitation practices may be able to keep her family healthier. In addition to raising the GDP of the country, women who work for themselves may also help their families financially. A family with two salaries is often able to elevate their level of life above that of a single-income home and break free from the poverty cycle. Women who are aware of their rights are less vulnerable to domestic violence and exploitation. They are especially well-suited for leadership positions in

politics and civicsociety because of their innate ability for organizing and well-rounded home upkeep.

The 1993 Indian Constitution's 73rd and 74th Amendments, which granted women certain rights, are among the primary instances of the subject under discussion. Among these were the seats, with thirty-three percent reserved, and the "New Panchayati Raj," an initiative to empower women at least in communes. There is also a clear reduction in corruption in areas where women hold political and social sway, which is another advantage of women's empowerment.

Approaches on Women empowerment exist at the national, state and nearby (Panchayat) levels in numerous divisions, including wellbeing, training, monetary open doors, sexual orientation based viciousness and political interest. However, there are huge hole between strategy headways and genuine practice at the group level. Women empowerment is basically the procedure of upliftment of financial, social and political status of ladies, the generally underprivileged ones, in the general public. Women constitute just about half of the total populace and yet they are having lower status than males. To the extent their societal position is concerned, they are not regarded as equivalent to men in every arena of life. In the Western social orders, the women have measure up to right and status with men in all kinds of different backgrounds. Empowered women contribute to economic development by participating in the workforce, starting businesses, and driving innovation. Women who are educated and empowered make better health and education choices for themselves and their families, leading to healthier and better-educated communities.

### Strategies for Promoting Women Empowerment

1. **Education and Awareness:** Implementing educational programs and awareness campaigns to promote gender equality and women's rights. Women should be more attentive in knowing their rights. Women in every house should properly educated so that they could have better knowledge in terms of their children. Because when they will educate their children then only, we will have better today and better tomorrow.
2. **Policy and Legal Reforms:** Advocating for and implementing policy and legal reforms that ensure equal rights and opportunities for women.
3. **Economic Initiatives:** Providing financial services, vocational training, and support for women entrepreneurs. By providing economically stronger we can actually empower women in their respective fields.
4. **Support Systems:** Establishing support networks, mentoring programs, and safe spaces for women.
5. **Community Engagement:** Engaging communities, including men and boys, in promoting gender equality and challenging discriminatory practices.

### Importance of Women Empowerment

Women empowerment is essential for several reasons:

1. **Economic Growth:** Empowered women contribute significantly to economic development. When women are educated and employed, they bring diverse perspectives, drive innovation, and enhance productivity in the workforce.
2. **Social Progress:** Empowered women lead to healthier, better-educated families and communities. They can advocate for better healthcare, education, and social policies, creating a ripple effect that benefits society as a whole.
3. **Political Stability:** Women's participation in politics and leadership roles leads to more inclusive and representative governance. It helps ensure that the interests and needs of all citizens, including women and children, are addressed.
4. **Human Rights:** Empowering women is a matter of human rights. Every woman deserves the opportunity to live free from discrimination, violence, and oppression, and to pursue her ambitions.

### Role of Education in Women Empowerment

Education is a powerful tool for empowering women. It provides them with the skills and knowledge necessary to improve their lives and contribute to society. The role of education in women empowerment includes:

1. **Enhancing Skills and Knowledge:** Education equips women with the skills needed for various professions and trades. It also imparts critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and knowledge about health, rights, and civic responsibilities.
2. **Promoting Gender Equality:** Education challenges traditional gender roles and stereotypes, promoting a culture of equality. It encourages both men and women to value and respect each other's contributions.
3. **Reducing Poverty:** Educated women are more likely to find employment, start businesses, and contribute to the economy, which helps lift families and communities out of poverty.
4. **Improving Health Outcomes:** Educated women are more likely to make informed health decisions, leading to better health outcomes for themselves and their families. They are also more likely to advocate for health services and policies.
5. **Encouraging Political Participation:** Education empowers women to engage in political processes, advocate for their rights, and take on leadership roles in their communities and countries.

## Conclusion

Women empowerment and education are intertwined and mutually reinforcing. By investing in women's education, societies lay the groundwork for a more equitable, prosperous, and stable future. Empowered women contribute to every sector of society, and their participation is crucial for achieving sustainable development goals and creating a just world for all.

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