

## SOCIO ECONOMIC WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA - A DISTANT DREAM INSPIRE OF VARIOUS WELFARE SCHEMES

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**Abstract:** Women Empowerment is the process of treating the women with same status with that of men in all the fields of the society. Women Empowerment has become a movement now but in our country, it only seems a distant dream. Although the Government of India and Welfare Societies are running various schemes and policies, both at state and central levels for the empowerment of women like - 1. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, 2. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana, 3. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, 4. Working Women Hostel, 5. Women Helpline Scheme etc. How they affect the progress of women. The paper looks into commonly the women are fight with the basic problems of education, poverty, safety and health even today. The study links to the schemes of Government & Welfare societies, who implemented so many programmes and policies for women both are living in rural & urban areas.

Thus, it is no real surprise that women empowerment in India is a hotly discussed topic with no real solution looming in the horizon except to doubly redouble our efforts and continue to target the sources of all the violence and ill-will towards women.

**Keywords:** Treating, women, movement, distant dream, hotly discussed, looming, horizon, ill-will

**Introduction:** Women empowerment is a burning issue all over the world. Women empowerment and women equality with men is a universal issue. Women empowerment means their capacity to participate as equal partners in cultural, social, economic and political system of a society. Even though the world economy has developed into global economy, in both developed and developing countries women have been suppressed in all walks of life for generations. Women empowerment is far easier said than done. This in a certain respect demands a revolutionary change in the socio cultural values of the society. In USA & Western countries the education and health of a woman is much higher comparatively with developing countries. Still gender bias and beliefs are playing as chief obstacles for the growth of women empowerment worldwide. In India also, in spite of various laws that protect women's rights, the gender inequalities are one of the highest in the world.

Women empowerment is the process of treating the women with same status with that of men in all the fields of the society. It has become a movement now but in our country it only seems a distant dream. We have restricted our perceptions to only upliftment of women from the value of an object to the value of a living being. We make a great show of whenever a woman makes high achievements but instead of showing off why not accept it to be natural and normal like we do with men doing the same. Contrary to today's scenario, even during Vedic Era, women had enjoyed equal status with men. Various modes were also adopted to ensure that this stature continues. Stridhan and the description of women scholars like Maitray, Gargi shows the importance a

woman hold during that period. However this could not continue for long and women lost their value.

New the basic problem a woman faces, is that of education, poverty, safety and health. There are many different categories of women living in India. These are some illiterate, some educate, some working women and some housewives, The Government and welfare societies in order to tackle it various schemes and policies are drafted and implemented from them like -

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
2. Women Helpline Scheme
3. Working Women Hostel
4. Nari Shakti Puraskar
5. Mahila Police Volunteers
6. Indira Ganshi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (ISMSY)
7. Ujjawalla Scheme
8. Mahila Samakhya
9. Self Help Group
10. Indira Awaas Yojana
11. Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) etc.

Coming back to women empowerment, in the simple words it is the creation of an environment where women can make independent decisions on their personal development as well as shine as equals so much so that if a woman rises to the top of her field it should be common place occurrence that draws nothing more than a raised eyebrow at the gender. This can only happen if there is a channelized route for the empowerment of women.

**Objective:** To have the bright future in family, society and country empowerment of women is essential. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said that "to awaken the people, we should first awaken the

women, because once a women has been awakened then the whole nation and family gets awakened with her". In India, women have been always made subject of honour killings and they have never been given their basic rights for proper education and freedom. The real objective of women empowerment is to make them well educated and leave them free so that they are capable to take their own decisions in any field. Decision making in national topic or any other topics of our society should also encourage participation of women. And these are the objective of women empowerment.

1. Freely live their life with a sense of self worth, respect and dignity.
2. Make them aware for their own choices and decision.
3. Make them aware for equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities.
4. Make them aware for equal social and political status in the country and society.
5. Make them aware for equal rights to social and economic justice.
6. Make them aware for the financial and economic decision.
7. Make them aware for equal opportunity for education.
8. Make them aware for equal employment opportunity without any gender bias.
9. Make them aware about self-respect and security.
10. They can take decision in agricultural land.
11. They can take self decisions in all matters who relate with them.

**Methods:** We used **Stratified Random Sampling Method** in this research to select the category of women and the data were collected with the help of **Validated Interview Schedule** and also collected with the **Group Interview Method**. Keeping in view the type and nature of the respondents, interview schedule was developed by the researcher, having close ended questions for women. These methods were based on the literature, reviewed, personal experience and close study of the different types of women. Important aspects of biographical information of the respondents like age, education, field of specialization. etc. were included in interview schedules and Group Interviews. The data, thus collected was analyzed by using statistical package for social sciences for drawing appropriate conclusions.

**Conclusion and Suggestions:** According to a report by UNICEF, literacy position of women in some countries are as under :-

Sr. No.	Country	Literacy Percentage
1	Brazil	97.90
2	Russia	99.80
3	Nigeria	86.50
4	China	98.50
5	India	65.46

Sex-Ratio Position of women some countries are as under :-

Sr. No.	Country	Sexuality Position
1	India	940
2	Nepal	1041
3	Brazil	1025
4	Japan	1041
5	Vietnam	1020
6	China	944
7	America	1029
8	Nigeria	1016
9	Israel	1000
10	Russia	1140
11	France	1041

The Government of India is running various welfare schemes and policies, both at state and central levels for the empowerment of women. Some of the major programmes like Swadhar (1995), Swayam Siddha (2001), Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP - 2003), Sabla Scheme (2010), National Mission for Empowerment of Women (2010) etc. All such policies and programmes focus on Social, Economic and Educational Empowerment of Women across various of groups. Yet, women in India continue to face atrocities such as rape, dowry killing, acid attacks, human trafficking etc. According to a global poll conducted by Reuters, India is the "fourth most dangerous country in the world for women". It is not going to be easy to change the culture of disregard for women which are so deep rooted in Indian society. But it does not mean that it is impossible. Only revolutions bring changes in a day, but reforms take their time. This one, in particular, will take its time as well. The idea of women empowerment might sound hard by the yard, but by the inch, it is just a cinch.

And In India the female literary rate is eventually improving but even then many young girls are not admitted in schools. Education can play a most important and vital role in bringing about the required behavioural changes among women and make them well updated and capacity to deal with different problems. Concentrated effort focused in the right direction that would rest only with the liberation of women from all forms of evil.

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