

# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: A CRITICAL REVIEW

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## ABSTRACT

Women Empowerment is dependent on various factors. This paper is an attempt to analyze the status of the Women empowerment in India. The study concludes that access to education and employment are the most enabling aspects to empowerment, accomplishment towards the objectives. This paper embraces discussion on various aspects related to the Empowerment of Women and discovers factors that are influential for Women Empowerment.

Key Words- Women Empowerment, Education, Gender Equality, Rights, Participation.

## INTRODUCTION

The concept of the Women empowerment is very essential for the improvement of the society. 'EMPOWERMENT' may be defined as a procedure which assistances individuals to emphasize their control over the issues which distress their lives. Empowerment of women means evolving them as more attentive individuals, who are administratively energetic, economically dynamic and independent and are capable to make intellectual conversation in matters that affect them. Empowerment is a multi- dimensional societal practice that supports individuals increase control over their lives, societies, and in their culture, by acting on matters that they define and as significant. Empowerment transpires within sociological, emotional, financial domains and at several levels such as: specific; group, and communal, and encounters our conventions about status quo, disproportionate power association, and social upsurges. Empowering women puts the limelight on education and employment, which are crucial fundamentals to secure sustainable progress. The concept of empowerment flows from the power.

Women empowerment as a concept was presented at the International women Conference in 1985 at Nairobi, which explained it as reallocation of societal power and control of properties in favour of women. Women empowerment is the endowment of women to implement comprehensive control over one's accomplishments. Their privileges and concerns have continuously been a matter of serious alarm of academicians, intellectuals and strategy makers. Empowerment of women is basically the technique of upliftment of financial, societal and administrative prestige of women, the traditionally deprived ones, in the society. It is the procedure of safeguarding them against all forms of violence.

Women empowerment embraces women responsiveness of their legal rights, self-assurance, to have a control over individual and professional lives and their competence to bring a transformation in the people. Empowerment has many essentials i.e. financial, societal, administrative and individual. Economic empowerment means to provide woman her privileges in the economy. Social empowerment explains prestige of woman in the culture should be equivalent to man by eradicating prejudice and injustice. Administrative empowerment states that women should have seats in district and nationwide associations. Individual empowerment means women should have liberty in their private matters. Women contribute to their relations, cultures and nations economically. This conveys progress and advancement in the economy.

Education is the most significant prerequisite and the fundamental right for any inhabitant. It helps the individual to diminish inequality and play a dominant role in human development that influences the global social financial development. A sophisticated women literacy rate progresses the superiority of life both at home and outside house, by boosting and encouraging education of youngsters, specifically female children, and aids in dropping the infant mortality amount. It is accurate that empowerment can be expanded with the support of education because it gives the information about right and wrong, truth and lie.

The Women empowerment is now one of the most significant concerns of 21st century in not only domestic level, in fact at the universal level also. Mostly use the word empowerment without knowing what it actually means. Rapport (1984) defined that it is easy to describe empowerment by its nonexistence but challenging to describe in accomplishment as it takes on diverse forms in different persons and frameworks. Zimmerman (1984) has specified that emphasizing a single description of empowerment may make endeavors to accomplish it systematic or prescription-like, controverting the very thought of empowerment.

With the progression of Development, Transformation and Globalization presenting its bottomless influence on the human community all over the world, the roles and duties of women has conquered new explanation and viewpoint. The women concerns have acknowledged tremendous consideration in the forecasting circle and in extensive intellectual considerations and forums at nationwide and global stages.

The factors of women empowerment are:

- Rising self-respect and self-assurance of women.
- Abolition of discernment and all types of violence against females and girl child.
- Constructing and establishing business with political society particularly women's administrations.
- Implementation of legal and authorized provisions and protection of rights of women.
- Nurturing decision-making and combined accomplishment.
- Empowering women to make conversant choices.
- Safeguarding women's contribution in all areas of life.
- Building a optimistic appearance of women in the society and identifying their assistances in societal, financial and administrative sphere.
- Evolving ability amongst women to think analytically.

- Providing evidence, information, assistances for self-employment.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the conception of Women Empowerment.
2. To recognize the necessity of Women Empowerment.
3. To examine the importance of education in women empowerment.
4. To analyze the factors responsible for women empowerment.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Purusottam Nayak, Bidisha Mahanta (2009)** analyzed the status of women empowerment in India using various pointers based on information from secondary sources. The study exposed that women of India are comparatively disempowered and they relish lower position than that of men. It was found that acceptance of unsatisfactory gender rules by women are still dominant in the culture. Women's disclosure to broadcasting is relatively less as compared to men. Rural women are more disposed to domestic violence as compared to urban women. The study concluded that education and occupation are only the empowering aspects to empowerment.

**Anu Singh Lather, Shilpa Jain, Sona Vikas (2009)** conducted an investigation and observed that the condition of females and girl child is enlightening in India. The schooling for girl child is unrestricted till secondary school and particularly in capital zone the state government pays a specific amount to the guardians of girl child in lower strata of society for their childhood. Her upbringing needs to be transformed. The girl child needs to grow learning that she is no less than her sibling and needs to perceive that a wide gathering of avenues wait for her to be reconnoitered in this world of hi tech lifestyle. The administration and NGOs are doing their absolute best to bring out variations in these territories. But the genuine modification will originate only once the groundwork of general public experiences intense transformation.

**Soumitro Chakravarty, Anant Kumar, Amar Nath Jha (2013)** conducted a study to evaluate the influence of SHGs on women empowerment and define the existing eminence of SHGs as far as their influence upon women empowerment is concerned. Study shows that a most of the women linked to SHGs for getting involved in revenue engendering activities to enhance their

family revenue. Most of the contributing women exposed that they had no expenditure rights over the revenue that they generated themselves after connecting the group.

**Manav Aggarwal (2014)** has conducted a study on challenges in women empowerment and observed that higher Learning of women plays a very significant role in emancipating their imagination and empowering them to face challenges. It assistances in diminishing dissimilarities and purposes as a means for enlightening their prestige within the family. The advanced education upsurges the women to to condense violence, take their own decisions, women's ability to privilege legal rights, contribution in public society, financial independence and many more.

**Rajeshwari M. Shettar (2015)** carried a study to analyze the necessity of women empowerment. The researcher found that Empowerment of Women would only be accomplished if their financial and societal position is upgraded. This can be possible only by implementing societal and financial strategies with a view of overall development of women. The researcher suggested that significance ought to be given to the education of women, which is the basic issue. Awareness programmes needs to be planned among women especially to weaker areas about their rights. They should be permitted to work with proper wages and safety and support to work. She concluded that there is an urgency to recognize those loopholes which are observing the realization of strengthening of women and women should take this initiative all alone.

**Rita Khatri (2016)** examined a study to comprehend the conception of women empowerment and concluded that education plays a significant role to empowerment. Women must pursue her education and business prospects. Women empowerment is an indispensable component in country's development. The effective administration and expansion of women's properties, their competences, interests and skills are of supreme prominence for the utilization of human resources.

**Srinivasa Murthy A T (2017)** witnessed that most of the strategies and curriculums interpret empowerment in the monetary sense only occupied in the acceptance that economic self-reliance authorizes women disregarding other variables like wellbeing, instruction, proficiency and so forth. In the relic of human advancement, women has been as noteworthy as man. In fact, the status, business and work achieved by ladies in the public eye is the pointer of a country's general improvement. Without the support of women in national achievements, the social, moderate or political advancement of a nation will be stagnated. Women establish half of the humankind, notwithstanding financing two-thirds of world's work hours.

**Nabanita Dutta, Kaushik Bhakta (2017)** conducted a study to recognize historical, sociological, economical and political dimensions ,role of education, hurdles in achieving women empowerment and measures for ensuring women empowerment by undertaking a qualitative study. They suggested that people should take initiative to create an environment in which there is no sex discrimination and women must have equal opportunities in decision making and participation in societal, administrative and financial life of the nation.

**Dr. P. SURESH , MR. T. SIVAKUMAR (2017)** examined a study on women empowerment in India. The conclusions drawn are empowerment of women can only be achieved if their financial and societal status is improved. The first attention should be provided to the education of females, which is the major issue. Women empowerment is necessary element in country's progress. Meanwhile women comprises of half of the inhabitants of the nation and there will be no development unless the needs and welfare of women should be taken into consideration.

**Mamatha BS (2018)** analyzed the prestige of the Women empowerment in India by using several pointers like women empowerment, contribution in India. In rural India, women were facing the illiteracy, lack of awareness, poverty, caste and class problems. Government policies are failure to stabilize the gender equality. Society should take initiative to generate an environment so that there is no gender discernment and women have complete prospects of decision making and contributing in societal, administrative and financial life of the county. Empowerment is not going to be change the culture of disrespects for women which are so deep-seated in Indian society. Women empowerment cannot be imaginable if women will help to self-empower themselves. There is a necessity to formulate dropping poverty, endorsing education and avoidance and eradication of violence against women.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Education for Women should be given extraordinary attention. A record has to be maintained on dropout rate of females and actions should be taken identify the reasons.
2. Educating women is the significant contrivance of attaining influence in the society.
3. Society must take initiative to diminish sex discrimination and women should have equal opportunities in decision making and participation in various aspects.
4. Steps should be taken reduce poverty, promote education and prevention and elimination of violence against women.

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