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# Indian Streams Research Journal

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## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA : AN OVERVIEW



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### ABSTRACT:

Empowerment of women is an issue of global importance today. Women empowerment means empowering women socially, economically, politically and legally. In short, empowerment of women means full realization of all women right and fundamental freedoms, their full and equal participation in political, civil economic, social and cultural life and eradication of all forms of discrimination on the ground of sex. The socio-economic empowerment of women in the family and in the society in reality is the need of the day. But the issue of women involvement in social and economic development process remained indicators re-enforce the fact that women are far behind them.

**KEY WORDS:** *Empowerment Of Women, Women Right, Fundamental Freedoms, Socio-economic, Etc.*

### INTRODUCTION

Ladies constitute just about half of the world's populace. According to as their societal position is concerned, they are not regarded as equivalent to men in all spots, through in the western nations ladies are dealt with on with men in the greater part of the fields, their partner in the east experiences numerous handicaps. The incapacities from one perspective and the disparities in the middle of men and ladies on the other, have offered ascend to what is known as "Sexual orientation issue". Everywhere throughout the word and especially in south East Asia and Africa the sexual orientation issue has expected significance amid the late years the sexual orientation issue has turned out to be for all intents and purposes a urgent purpose of contention.

Empowerment means to make strength full, say the persons people of some casts and which are neglected are made strength full so that they constant at par with are neglected are made strength



full so that they can stand at par with other persons and people of the society. The women in India are also facing the same neglect. Before independence the women and people of some lower casts were seen with hated eyes. After independence some improvement has been seen but still the women's are not been treated at par with men. Every day in newspaper and electronic media there is news of crime against women like rape kidnapping, teasing and indecent exposure.

Women are taken as a weaker sex of the society and are used only as a tool to run the house and give birth to children especially sons if there is daughter in the womb of a lady she has to face negative behavior of the family members. The elders in the family worship and pray to god to give birth to a male child in the family and not a daughter. Even after the birth she is not treated at par with his brothers in wearing education and playing and other items of the livelihood. The lady is expected to be a good worker of the house and having tolerance power and should be thoughtful to think about the welfare of the members of the family. Instead of having all such qualities tears are seen in the eyes of women. Not only in the house but in the work place i.e. is agriculture field and construction of building women are ill treated by paying them less wages of that of men. They have even to face teasing at work places and even open place like roads, bazaar etc. The disease is spreading like a chronic disease in the country. It is not understand why people are getting the slaying of Manu Samirrit that where women are respected god fal happy and where they are not all work may result in sadness. Ladies constitute just about half of the world's populace. According to as their societal position is concerned, they are not regarded as equivalent to men in all spots, through in the western nations ladies are dealt with on with men in the greater part of the fields, their partner in the east experiences numerous handicaps. The incapacities from one perspective and the disparities in the middle of men and ladies on the other, have offered ascend to what is known as "Sexual orientation issue". Everywhere throughout the word and especially in south East Asia and Africa the sexual orientation issue has expected significance amid the late years the sexual orientation issue has turned out to be for all intents and purposes a urgent purpose of contention. women's advancement in different spheres from the fifth five year plan onwards there has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central in determining the status of women. The national commission for ladies was set up by a demonstration of parliament in 1990 to shield the rights and legitimate qualifications of ladies.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> alterations (1993) to the constitution of India have accommodated reservation of seats in the nearby assortments of Panchayats and Municipalities for ladies, establishing a solid framework for their interest in choice making at the local levels.

### Concept of Empowerment

The concept of empowerment comes from the word power. In the broad sense, the term 'power' is understood as the intelligence to do anything. Empowerment is that it is an environment of freedom, choice, quality and respect for individual a life with dignity. Empowerment is that it is an environment now seen as a process by which the power less achieve good control over their circumstance. It develops participation of a weak, dependent in the process of development. Empowerment is an awareness, of one's right.

### Concept of Women Empowerment:

A concept of women empowerment is a global issue. Discrimination of women is well known all over the world. Women are not treated at par with the men women are usually seen more deprived status in every field of life. To empower owmen is simply meaning to give power to women of freedom,

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Choice, equality, a life with dignity. Govt. of India report states that empowerment means to give power to a powerless person. This will improve women strength and self image.

Engaging might be comprehended as empowering individuals, particularly ladies to gain and have power assets so as to settle on choice all alone or oppose choices that are made by others that impact them. A man might said to be effective when he/she has control over an extensive segment of force assets in the public arena. The degree of ownership of different assets, for example, individual riches, for example, land abilities, instruction, data, learning, economic wellbeing, position held, initiative trains, capacities of activation.

The national approach on training (1986) proposed certain procedures to enable ladies. As needs be, ladies gotten to be engaged through aggregate reflections and choice making empower them to wind up engaged through aggregate reflections and choice making empower them to ended up engaged through aggregate reflections and choice making empower them to turn into engaged through aggregate reflections and choice making empower them to end up organization of social change. The worldwide gathering on ladies strengthening (1988), highlighted strengthening as the most ideal method for making own accomplices being developed. The improvement of ladies and kids in Rustic ranges (DWCRA) system was started as a sub plan of the national wide neediness lightening program i.e. the incorporated Rural improvement (IRDP). It goes for conferring independence to rustic zones through salary producing abilities an alongside gathering association aptitudes. Keeping in this way in perspective the year 2001 was commended s ♦ the ladies strengthening year ♦. Human asset improvement and strengthening of ladies open the entryway for modernization of society. Introduced of staying as aloof recipients, ladies must get to be dynamic accomplice. Cooperation and control over assets of force are considered as the basic pointers during the time spent advancement released ladies particularly in country regions, have minimal extent of these assets and accordingly they are frail and subject to the effective and well off.

### Empowerment of Women:

Women empowerment is a stage of acquiring power for women in order to understand her rights and also to perform here responsibilities towards one self and others in a most effective ways. According to international encycopaedia of women (1999) empowerment enables women to gain relative strength as a result of having choices and bargaining power. It enables an access to and control over means and resources. Empowerment of women mean developing them as more enlightened individuals, who are politically active, economically productive and independent and are able to make intelligent decisions in matters that affect them.

The Indian constitution in its fundamental right has provisions for equality, social justice and protection of women. These goals are yet to be realized. Women still continue to be discriminated against, exploited and exposed to inequalities at various levels. So the concept of empowerment as a goal of development projects and programmes has been gaining wider acceptance. Empowerment of women has become a burning question of the day and is being seen as a useful weapon by the government, newspapers, and electronic media and even by the court of law.

Empowerment of women mean being able to make a contribution at all levels of society and not such in the home.” Women feel empower when there as gender justice and equality and women rights are not violated.

### Type of Empowerment: Personal Empowerment

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The Women are required to be made self dependent so that may not remain dependent upon others.

### **Social Empowerment:**

In social field she may be made social empowered by making social atmosphere for woman and discouraging the ill social atmosphere towards ladies.

### **Economic Empowerment:**

Women's perspective should be included in designing and implementing macroeconomic and social policies by institutionalizing their participation in such process. Their contribution to socio-economic development as producers and workers should be recognized in the formal and informal sectors and appropriate policies relating to employment and to her working conditions should be drawn up. Such measures could include reinterpretation and redefinition of conventional concepts of work wherever necessary e.g. in the census records, to reflect women's contribution as producers and workers. The women should be made economically should and they are paid equal wages against equal work as for with men.

### **Political Empowerment:**

Political empowerment of women is an essential component of women empowerment because it provides power to women to make decisions and influence the course of implementation of women oriented development programmes. The issue of women political status and role in politics needs priority because politics is central to every thing in democratic society. No doubt, women participation in political decision making is gradually improving in India but still it is far from being satisfactory. Still women have very low space in politics.

### **Legal Empowerment:**

The women should be made legally empowered by making such laws which may protect the rights of women. India constitutional not only grants equality to women but also empower the state to adopt measures favouring women, neutralizing the cumulative socioeconomic educational and social disadvantage. The state has both women specified and women related legislations to safeguard the rights and interest of women; besides protecting against social discrimination, violence and atrocities and also to prevent social evils like child marriage, dowry, rase practice of sati etc. Efforts of the government have been to review and amend these legislations from time to time to take care of the interest of women in changing situations and social demands/obligations.

As per the population data of 2011 the women in India are 48.46% of the total population. The constitution recognized the women as an important resource of humanity and made provision in the constitutions for equality to women and empowers the states to adopt measure for their socio-economic development and political right in policy making and decision taking. In pursuance of institutional provisions, the government of India introduced the following laws to safeguard the position of women.

### **Position of Women Under Socio-economic and Welfare Laws:**

A number of laws were also implement for liberating women from oppressive social customs and protecting their rights. Prominent of these laws are as follows:  
The Hindu Succession Act, 1956.

The Act confers property rights on women but the provisions of the act applied only to self-

earned property and equal share is not guaranteed for women in ancestral property.

**The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961:**

Which was passed to curb the dowry system and prevents the exploitation of women, sec. 304-B and sec. 498-A of the IPC.

**The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961:**

This act grants maternity leave with full pay for 135 days to women who have completed 80 working days in a given job and prohibits the dismissal or discharge of a woman during the leave period. This act extends to factories, mines, plantations, shops and establishments where or persons are employed.

**The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976**

Which provides for payment of equal wages to both men and women workers for the same work.

**The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986:**

(This Act prohibits indecent presentation of women in advertisements and media campaigns and makes it a punishable offence). Besides the acts referred to above, there are also many legislations such as Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956, The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act of 1956, the Family Courts Act of 1984 and the National Commission for Women Act of 1990 have been passed after the country became independent.

**The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1983:**

Which stops various types of crimes against women.

**The Family Court Act:**

Which provides justice to women who get involved in family disputes.

**The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitution Amendment Act, 1993:**

The National Commission for Women was set up by a resolution of Parliament in 1990 to protect the rights and lawful privileges of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Constitution of India have given to reservation of seats in the neighborhood groups of panchayats and regions for women, establishing a solid framework of their cooperation in choice making at the local levels.

**Violence Act, 2005**

Which provides safety to women from domestic violence.

**Some Suggestions for empowerment of women**

1. Society should recognize that women are entitled to equal rights as that of men.
2. The women should be free to take part in administrative process and as such they should be given political power so that they can raise their voice.
3. Economic freedom is must for women to lessen their dependence on men for this woman should get easy access to education and later on become employed.
4. They should have the right to decide whether they have to marry or not and after marriage how many

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children they should have.

5. 33% to 50% seats should be reserved for women at all level and priority should be given to SCs, STs, OBCs Urban poor and minorities.

6. All attitudes towards women prevailing in the society will have to curb and fresh atmosphere will have to be created where in women can live with respect and stand at par with men.

7. The laws for the welfare of women should not be only in the papers but it stick watch on their proper implication is must.

### CONCLUSION AND REMARKS

The findings of the study reveal that in India women are going to be empowered as their literacy rate is improving their participation in decision making process is also gradually being recognized and respected, their life expectancy has improved and mortality is falling. Now, laws are becoming more equitable and are increasing women access to money property, education, health and removing violence against them.

According to eminent thinker Arstus "A Progress of the country depends on the progress of a woman. Women are given equal right to men in every society, Indian society has placed the woman at a highest place of the society i.e. "matrishakti. In the house she has been taken as house wife, grab luxmi and Kulmata. Swami Vivekananda said that if he is given five hundred men he can change the nation in a year but if he is given five hundred women he can change it in a month. As such strengthen of women in the present day India is must. Every girls should be trained from the very beginning for her self defense, in school colleges and social organizations. Police department should also be vigilant about ladies complaints and court should deal cases in fast track courts.

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