



CHALLENGES IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Abstract:

This paper emphasises the status of women empowerment in India and highlights the challenges of Women Empowerment. Today the empowerment of Women has become one of the most important concerns of 21st century. Women Empowerment means emancipation of women from the vicious grips of social, economical, political, caste and gender based discrimination. We can analyse their conditions through a number of parameters like their involvement in household decision making right, freedom of thought, financial authority, gender equality, political participation, media exposure, access to education, etc. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. The study is based on purely from secondary sources. The study reveals that women of India are relatively disempowered and they enjoy somewhat lower status than that of the men inspite of many efforts undertaken by the Government. The study concludes by an observation that access to Education, Employment and change in social structure are only the enabling factors to Women Empowerment.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Education, Gender Discrimination, Health, Socio - Economic

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INTRODUCTION:

Since ages, the situation of women has not been worthy in over society. They had faced biases, discrimination, exploitation and much more which always left them miserable. Although from time to time many activist, social workers did their best for their upliftment but there has been a huge gap between what policies were planned and what actually has been implemented. Government of India always launched many schemes for their upliftment and betterment. The male dominated society acted as a barrier for their growth.

Women Empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economical strength of individuals and communities

of women. Empowerment means women must exercise full participation in decision making process in all walks of life, and full participation with men in finding equitable and practical solution to issues in family and in society.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Doepke M. Tertilt M. (2011) Does Female Empowerment Promote Economic Development? This study is an empirical analysis suggesting that money in the hands of mother benefits her children. This study developed a service of non cooperative family bargaining models to understand what kind of frictions can give rise to observed empirical relationship.

M. Bhavani Shankara Rao (2011) has highlighted



the health of women members of SHG have certainly taken a turn to better. It clearly shows that health of women member discuss among themselves about the health related problems of other members and their children and make them aware of various provisions specially meant for them.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

A study of challenges in Women Empowerment

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To learn the need of Women Empowerment.
2. To analyse the factors influencing the Economic Empowerment of Women.
3. To study the Government schemes for Women Empowerment.
4. To give useful suggestions for the progress of Women Empowerment.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This paper is basically descriptive and analytical in nature. Hereby, we have tried to analyse the scenario of women empowerment from the information collected from journals, magazines, newspapers, internet, books, previous conducted research, etc.

CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN INDIA:

There are various issues and problems which Women generally face in the society in India. Some of the problems are mentioned and described below:

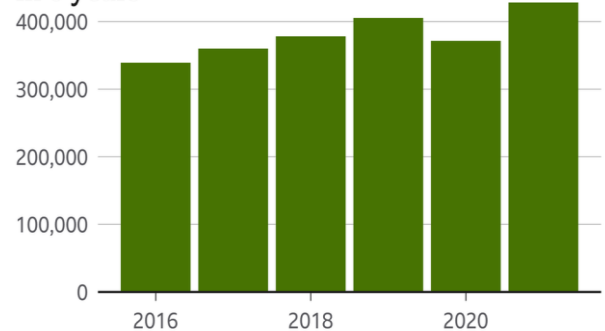
- **Gender Discrimination:** Indian Women face discrimination include less access to education and employment, under representation in political positions, poorer health and nutrition as compared to men, and the most obvious violence against women.
- **Disparity in Education:** As of 2021, India recorded a high nationwide share of men with at least 10 years of schooling than that of women.

Around half of the male population age between 15 and 49 years started in school for at least 10 years, compared to only 41 percent of their family counterparts. In rural India, with only one out of three women in this region receiving at least 10 years of schooling.

- **Female Foeticide:** It is the most common practice for years in India in which abortion of female foeticide is performed in the womb of mother after the foetus sex determination.
- **Sexual Harassment:** According to a survey in 2019, India ranked highest in the list of dangerous countries for women. This comes as no surprise, with over 400 thousand reported crimes against women in that year alone.

The rising graph

Incidents of crimes against women highest in 6 years



Source: National Crime Records Bureau (2016-2021)



Source: National Crime Records Bureau (2016 - 2021)

- **Social Status:** As per the last census carried out by the Government of India, there are 933 females for every 1000 males in our country. We can find superiority of men in every phase of our lives.



- **Family responsibility:** Women are subject to a patriarchal mindset that regards them as primary caregivers and homemakers and thus, they are burdened with an unequal share of family responsibilities. This brings a barrier in the career of female life.

NEEDS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

The word “Women Empowerment” itself implies that women are not powerful enough - they need to be empowered. This painful truth has been in existence for a long period of time. It is in recent years that noticeable work started beginning to lift women out of the abyss of insignificance and powerlessness. As more and more women started crossing the man-made barriers, the world began to witness the rise of women.

Women empowerment in India is required to overcome situations of above types and to provide them with their Independent role in Indian Society. Empowering Women is a necessary right of women. They should have proportional rights to contribute to society, economics, education and politics.

* Government Initiative to empower women in India
The Indian Government is also working to make India more suitable for women so they can also get equal opportunities and can grow themselves.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SCHEMES:

1. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme
2. Archive - One Stop Centre Scheme.
3. Archive - Women Helpline Scheme
4. UJJAWALA - A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation.
5. Sakhi Nivas

6. Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Schemes and continuous existing projects.
7. SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
8. NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR
9. Awardees of Stree Shakti Puraskar, 2014 and Awardees of Nari Shakti Puraskar.
10. Women Helpline Scheme
11. NIRBHAYA
12. Mahila Police Volunteers
13. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)

FINDING OF THE STUDY:

From this study, it is very well clear that women in today’s world are facing lot many challenges. The only way to overcome these problems is that every woman should be well educated, skilled and financially independent.

EDUCATION:

The education policy needs to be more inclusive to ensure girls right to education and their right to be free from discrimination within educational institutions. Reward should be given to villages, districts that are able to attain equal child sex ratio through education, information and communication campaigns.

SKILLING:

In order to make women self - dependent there is need to promote skill development among women in non traditional works like electricians, plumbers, etc. In addition to government efforts, NGOs and other institutions should provide employable skills and training to women to help them find alternative and dignified occupations to earn decently.

FINANCE:

* NGOs working for the empowerment of women need to take interventions on livelihood



development options related to the market and value chain.

- * Government should promote creation of Self Help Group (SHG) by women.
- * There is need for industry specific targets for women's employment and motivate their implementation by firm.
- * Tax benefits should be given to companies that provide employment to 30% women workers.

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