



## THE STUDY OF THE PERCEPTION OF WOMEN TOWARDS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

\* *Dr. Rukmini Jamdar,*

\* *Assistant Professor, Seva Sadan's College of Education, Ulhasnagar-3*

### Abstract:

*Empowerment of any section of a society is a myth until they are conferred equality before law. Equality of women is a basic condition of the development of the nation? The need is to enhance the ability of women , generate willingness among them and make them able to avail opportunities to play a very significant role in the development of the nation as a whole. The role and status of women is a widely discussed and debatable issue in our country. Nowadays women are becoming more conscious of their rights, society as a whole has began to respond.*

*Women empowerment is a dynamic process that consists of an awareness-attainment –actualization cycle. Again it is a growth process that involves intellectual enlightenment, economic enrichment and social emancipation on the part of the women. There are different dimensions in which women needs to be empowered. The different dimensions are personal, , economic, legal, vocational, recreational and economical aspects . This paper assess the perceptions of women towards women empowerment with respect to personal, economical, vocational, health, legal and recreational dimensions..*

**Keywords:** *Personal, Economical, Legal, Vocational, Health , Recreational, Women Empowerment.*

**Copyright © 2023 The Author(s):** This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial Use Provided the Original Author and Source Are Credited.

### INTRODUCTION:

The status of a women has changed over a period of time. Women have gained respect from their counterparts in all walks of life. "Mikhail Gorbachow said," Women is a barometer of the democratism of any state, an indicator of how human rights are respected in it." Mahatma Gandhi said, "Swaraj would be meaningless without reforms of the social structure and up liftment of the weaker sections namely the women and the lower social to a position of equality with others ". Empowerment of women is one of the latest concept that has developed in connection with improving status of

women . Empowerment is a very broad term encompassing all types of empowerment such as educational, social, cultural, political, legal and economic empowerment of women. Empowerment is an on going and dynamic process, which enhances women's and any other marginalized and alienated groups abilities to change the structures and ideologies that keep them subordinate. It is the process of making present power structures more inclusive, including all women and the, senior citizens etc. Empowerment of women may also mean equal status to the women, opportunity and freedom to develop her.



## OBJECTIVES OF WOMEN

### EMPOWERMENT:

- 1) To increase awareness in women, for their development to use their talent optimally not only for themselves, but also for the society as a whole.
- 2) To develop the skills for self-decision taking capabilities in women and them to present their point of view effectively in society.
- 3) To create sound and proper environment for women's pride, prestige and healthy physical and mental development.
- 4) To make efforts in organizing the women for fighting against the problem and difficulties related to them.
- 5) To create awareness among women to be truly ambitious and to dream for betterment.

The international woman's day celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> march every year has become a day of demonstrations for equal opportunity and solidarity. But the question arises how relevant is celebrating women's day in view of the fact that their position in the society has not changed much. They are still treated as "weaker sex", disadvantaged group".

**Women empowerment is today's vision for tomorrow's mission.** Women empowerment is aimed at striving towards acquisition of the following:

- 1) Awareness of their rights
- 2) Improved standard of living
- 3) Equal ownership of productive resources
- 4) Better health care for her children
- 5) Higher literacy level and education
- 6) Increased participation in economic and commercial sectors

- 7) Achieve self reliance,,self confidence and self respect amongst women.

Empowerment of women would mean equipping women to be economically independent and personally self reliant, with a positive self esteem to enable them to face any difficult situation. The empowered women should be able to contribute to the economic development of the country. The empowered women should be able participate in the process of decision making. Women empowerment is a dynamic process that consists of an awareness-attainment –actualization cycle. Again it is a growth process that involves intellectual enlightenment, economic enrichment and social emancipation on the part of the women.

### WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT HAS FIVE COMPONENTS:

- 1) Women's sense of self-worth
- 2) Their right to have and to determine choices
- 3) Their right to have access to opportunities and resources
- 4) Their right to have the power to control their own lives-both within and outside the home
- 5) Their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

### ELEMENTS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

- Equal opportunity to women for active participation in decision making process at par with men in all walks of life.
- Independent recognition of women for developing and civilizing the full talent of women.
- Elimination of any kind of discrimination economic and non-economic, based on sex such



as wages, employment share in property, status in family and society etc.

- Inculcation of feeling for self pride by women themselves so they should not feel weak, helpless, powerless comparatively with men.
- To provide opportunity of women to determine her own way of life based on her talent, capabilities, virtues and likings. Her position should not be determined by her husband, father, brother and son

**NEED AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY:**

Women are important persons in our society. They play different roles in their day to day life.. The researcher wanted to know their perception on women empowerment. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century it is a fact that women face different types of problems in their day to day life. In spite of such problem are the women empowered? Do the women enjoy the different rights? Are they aware about their contribution to the economy? Are they empowered in different dimensions?, Do they get time for recreation? These are the questions which are addressed in this paper. It would highlight how the women perceive the women empowerment in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM :**

A study of the perceptions of women towards women empowerment.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) To study the perception of women towards women empowerment on personal dimensions
- 2) To study the perception of women towards women empowerment on economic dimensions
- 3) To study the perception of women towards women empowerment on vocational dimensions

- 4) To study the perception of women towards women empowerment on health dimensions
- 5) To study the perception of women towards women empowerment on legal dimensions
- 6) To study the perception of women towards women empowerment on recreational dimensions

**METHODOLOGY:**

It is descriptive survey method.

**SAMPLE :**

The sample were the women residing in one society comprising 8 buildings in the same complex.

**SIZE OF THE SAMPLE|:**

75 women from among the women community in the complex.

**COMPOSITION OF SAMPLE:**

Table size of sample age wise

S, n	Age group	Number
1	20- 25 years	15
2	26 to 50 years	40
3	51 and above years	20

Table size of sample in terms of marital status

s.no	Marital status	Number
1	Married	60
2	Unmarried	15

**TOOL USED:** A rating scale was prepared to measure the perceptions of women. by the researcher. It was five point rating scale with five columns namely strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. There were 6 dimensions included in the tool namely, personal, economic, vocational, legal, health and recreational .There were in all 36 questions with 6 questions related to each dimension.. Both positive and



negative statements were included. The positive statements were assigned 1,2,3,4,5 and 5,4,3,2,1,'for negative statements. The tool was given to experts for content validity. Reliability test was conducted

and the value obtained using Cronbach's Alpha was 0.673

Statistical technique used- percentage analysis.

**ANALYSIS OF DATA :**

**Table no. 1 showing perceptions of women towards women empowerment on personal dimensions**

s.no	Description /statement	SA	A	UD	D	SD
1	Women are not given freedom to decide menu for lunch and dinner on her own	3 23%	14	6	32	20 69%
2	Women are not given freedom to do shopping	9 20%	6	3	37	29 88%
3	Women take the studies of her children all by herself	3 25%	16	13	31	12 60%
4	Women brings up her children with great responsibility all alone.	9 43%	23	9	20	14 45%
5	Women are assumed to adjust in different situations	1 9%	6	1	39	28 89%
6	Women are not allowed to dress as per their wish.	7 47%	28	10	17	13 40%

The above table no.1 shows that 69% women disagreed that Women are not given freedom to decide menu for lunch and dinner on her own. 88% women disagreed that Women are not given freedom to do shopping,60% women disagreed that Women take the studies of her children all by herself,89% women disagreed that Women are assumed to adjust in different situations, 47% agreed that Women are not allowed to dress as per their wish.

**Table no. 2 showing perceptions of women towards women empowerment on economical I dimensions**

s.no	Description /statement	SA	A	UD	D	SD
7	Women are not allowed to take decisions on any family matters	6 35%	20	12	27	10 49%
8	Women does not have freedom to spend the money as per her wish.	8 33%	17	5	31	14 60%
9	Women is economically independent in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century .	1 7%	4	15	32	23 73%
10	Women does not save money for future	4 8%	2	4	23	42 87%
11	Women plans for the expenses in advance	1 5%	3	6	38	27 87%
12	Women are responsible for preparing family budget	2 15%	9	17	23	24 63%

The above table no.2 shows that 49% of the women disagreed that Women are not allowed to take decisions on any family matters,60% of the women disagreed that Women does not have freedom to spend the money as per



her wish,73% of the women disagreed that Women is economically independent in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,87% of the women disagreed that Women does not save money for future, 87% of the women disagreed that Women plans for the expenses in advance,63% of the women disagreed that Women are responsible for preparing family budget.

**Table no. 3 showing perceptions of women towards women empowerment on vocational dimensions**

s.no	Description /statement	SA	A	UD	D	SD
13	Working women are more independent than housewives	3	9	6	33	23
		16%			75%	
14	Women are not allowed to select their own occupation/profession	5	20	8	30	12
		33%			56%	
15	Working women do not hand over her salary to her husband every month	2	13	31	19	10
		20%			39%	
16	Women entrepreneurs have increased in recent times.	-	3	9	42	21
		4%			84%	
17	Women are not involved in any kind of decision making regarding her career	3	9	6	37	20
		16%			76%	
18	Women are not able to manage their time properly in the career.	4	16	7	37	11
		27%			64%	

The above table no.3 shows that75% of the women disagreed that Working women are more independent than housewives,56% of women disagreed that Women are not allowed to select their own occupation/profession,41% were undecided that working women do not hand over her salary to her husband every month , 84% disagreed that women entrepreneurs have increased in recent times,76% disagreed that Women are not involved in any kind of decision making regarding her career, and 64% disagreed that women are not able to manage their time properly in the career.

**Table no. 4 showing perceptions of women towards women empowerment on Health dimensions**

s.no	Description /statement	SA	A	UD	D	SD
19	Women do not pay attention to their health.	9	27	6	25	8
		48%			61%	
20	Women gives priority to family health rather than herself.	4	8	6	32	26
		15%			77%	
21	Women do not take care of their looks.	2	16	8	39	10
		24%			65%	
22	Women go for regular health checkups.	11	27	12	20	5
		49%			33%	
23	Women do not take health insurance for herself	5	2	13	23	7
		7			40%	
		43%				
24	Women do not share their health problems with her family members.	5	24	12	25	10
		37%			47%	

The above table no.3 shows that 61% women disagreed that Women do not pay attention to their health.77% disagreed that Women gives priority to family health rather than herself,65% disagreed that Women do not



take care of their looks.,49% disagreed that women go for regular check ups.,43% disagreed that Women do not take health insurance for herself,47% disagreed that Women do not share their health problems with her family members.

**Table no. 4 showing perceptions of women towards women empowerment on legal dimensions**

s.no	Description /statement	SA	A	UD	D	SD
25	Women are not aware of her legal rights regarding her property.	6 40%	25	10	27	8 47%
26	Women provides legal advise to others	4 21%	12	16	29	14 57%
27	Women fight for their property rights.	4 33%	21	18	31	1 43%
28	Women do not fight for their marital rights.	3 39%	26	10	32	4 48%
29	Women file their case in the court if needed on legal affairs	1 16%	16	16	34	13 47%
30	Women are not independent in taking any legal decisions	7 43%	25	6	30	8 51%

The above table no.5 reveals that 47% of the women disagreed that Women are not aware of her legal rights regarding her property,57% of the women disagreed that Women provides legal advise to others, 48% disagreed that Women file their case in the court if needed on legal affairs,47% disagreed that Women file their case in the court if needed on legal affairs, 51% disagreed that Women are not independent in taking any legal decisions.

**Table no. 6 showing perceptions of women towards women empowerment on recreational dimensions**

s.no	Description /statement	SA	A	UD	D	S D
31	Women do not get time for her enjoyment and recreation	6 49%	31	6	25	7 47%
32	Women enjoys her life with her children	1 11%	7	9	33	25 66%
33	Women are not allowed to watch entertainment programmes as per her wish	2 12%	7	7	34	25 79%
34	Women are allowed to go for movies with her friends	7 43%	25	12	18	13 41%
35	Women cannot express her views for her entertainment	- 15%	11	11	38	15 71%
36	Women continue to pursue her hobbies after her marriage	5 24%	13	10	31	16 63%

The above table no. 6 reveals that 49% of the women disagreed that Women do not get time for her enjoyment and recreation, 66% agreed that Women enjoys her life with her children,79% of the women agreed that Women are not allowed to watch entertainment programmes as per her wish, 43% strongly disagreed that Women are



allowed to go for movies with her friends, 71% agreed that Women cannot express her views for her entertainment and 63% agreed that Women continue to pursue her hobbies after her marriage.

**MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY :**

- 1) On the personal dimensions it is found that women are independent in terms of cooking, bringing up the child, and adjustment.
- 2) On the economical dimensions women are strong in decision making with respect to savings, preparation of family budgets .
- 3) On the economical dimensions it is found that women are capable of selecting their own career, take their own decisions in the job and appropriate time management in the job.
- 4) On the health dimension women go for regular check up, looks after their health properly and takes insurance for herself too.
- 5) On the legal dimension women know their legal rights, they also fight for their legal rights, and also are independent in taking legal actions.
- 6) On the recreational dimension, women enjoy watching entertainment programmes, they also enjoy moving with friends.

**CONCLUSIONS :**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century women are empowered on different aspects. There is awareness among them about different problems and the ways of solving such problems by themselves. They need the support of their counterparts which will help them to raise higher in life.

**REFERENCES :**

- Best J and Khan J(2002), Research in Education, New Delhi: Prentice hall of India.
- Digumarti Bhaskara Rao, Women ,Education and Empowerment, Discovery publishing House, New Delhi.2004
- Menu Agarwal, Women Empowerment- Today's Vision for Tomorrow's Mission Mahamaya Publishing House, New Delhi,2007
- UNESCO ,The education and advancement of women,1970.
- B. M. Sharma, Women and Education, Commonwealth publishers New Delhi.2005.
- M. Lakshmikumari,-the role of women in society, Sterling Publishers private limited.

***Cite This Article:***

\* **Dr. Jamdar R., (2023).** *The Study of the Perception of Women Towards Women Empowerment, Educreator Research Journal, Volume-X, Issue-II, March –April 2023, 214-220.*