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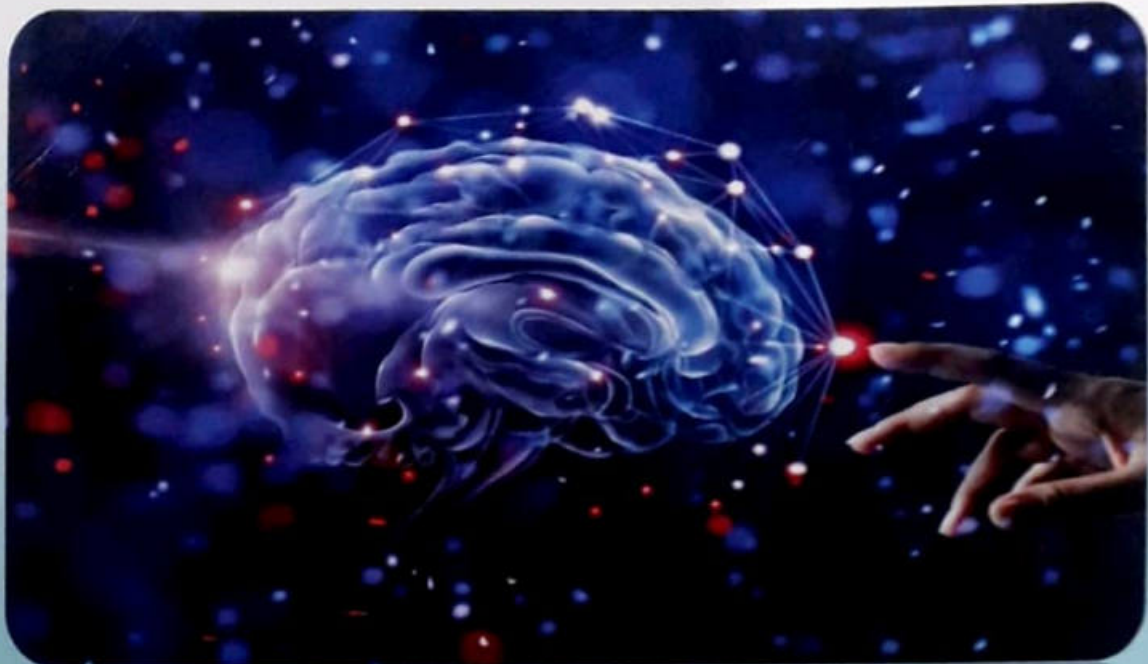
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## **Empowerment of Women in India**

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### **Introduction:**

In India women are still confined to four walls of home, children & family rituals. It is easy to build in empowerment as a goal of all development initiatives. Empowerment is the most frequently used term in development dialogue today. Deepa Narayan (2000) defines empowerment as a process, which increases the assets & capability of the poor people & other excluded groups to participate, negotiate, change & hold accountable institutions. Duffo E. (2011) Women's empowerment & economic development, National Bureau of Economic Research Cambridge the study argues that the inter relationship empowerment & development are probably too bring about equality between men & women.

In India the share of women entrepreneurs is not satisfactory & significant. However there has been a remarkable improvement in their share due to their increased literacy rate, urbanization & changing lifestyles etc. Women's social interaction is less when compared with men. They do not have enough practical knowledge about the society & other entrepreneurial related issues.

### **Objectives:**

1. To study the need & awareness of women empowerment in India.
2. To study the factors influencing the economic empowerment of women.
3. To study the Government schemes for women empowerment.

### **Methodology:**

Secondary sources were used for collection of data. The necessary information were collected from books, journals, Internet, etc.

### **Result & Discussion:**

Women empowerment is a critical aspect to achieving gender equality, where both men & Women have equal power & opportunities for education, healthcare, economic participation & personal development. Women's empowerment consists of four dimensions, each is equally important but none sufficient by itself to enable women to act on their own behalf (Stromquist, 1995).

### **Problems of Women Empowerment:**

Women were faced problems such as gender discrimination, lack of education, female infanticide, financial constraints, family responsibility, low mobility, low ability to bear risk, low need for achievement, Absence of ambition for the achievement, social status, dowry, marriage in same caste & Child marriage.

Gender based violence in the form of domestic, sexual & physical violence is particularly rampant in South Asia when the victims lack agency & power. In India alone crimes against women are around 53.9%. The hardest challenge will be to change attitudes, given that many barriers to women empowerment are deeply entrenched in many South Asian societies. Unemployment is one of the widespread problems that can be glimpsed in societies in the developing stage. Women are deprived of decision making power, freedom of movement, Access to education, access to employment, exposure to media domestic violence.

### **Factors affecting Women's Empowerment In India**

#### **Gender Discrimination**

The problem of gender discrimination has affected the pace of women empowerment in India. Gender discrimination in all realms of action must be checked. Women must be furnished with a resort to take an active part in decision making at every level & direction procedures to attain the motive of empowering Women. They need to get due admiration & prominence, which they rightfully earn on merit basis in the society.

#### **Educational Factor**

Education is the most vibrant factor of advancement & growth. It is the only significant tool for anticipating women empowerment in India & human resource development. Education will go an extended way in making Women familiar with their legal & personal rights & make them battle for their privileges, which will direct to protecting their right mentioned in the constitution.

#### **Mass Media is Bringing the Transformation**



The mass media is responsible for playing a significant function to project propagate associated issues, most specifically about women empowerment in India. The mass media performs a crucial role in repairing the attitude & way of conservation of husband & other family members towards women.

#### **Changes in women's Attitude**

Women should empower themselves by becoming aware of their oppression, indicating initiative & confiscating chances to bring a shift in their status. Empowerment must come from within the soul. Women need to empower themselves by bringing a major change in their attitude. It must be a leading concern of the Indian government to bring women into the force of the development strategy by empowering them via numerous development oriented schemes.

#### **Awareness Programs Organization:-**

State & National level commissions for women, Non-Governmental organisations, ICDS programs must undertake e-awareness, the task force for women & children development DWACRA concerning development of women & child in rural areas, women's rights, human rights & campaign about legal rights, education about saving schemas, population education, environmental education, rehabilitation program with all integrity & solemnity.

#### **Role of Entrepreneurship**

Women entrepreneurs are the dynamic element & an important component in the process of economic development. In India, very substantial portion of women are unemployed though they have the ability to undertake varied activities including industrial activity. To reduce the unemployment rate among women, it is essential to develop women entrepreneurship in order to expose women to the various employment & profit generating avenues.

Women are known for delivering multiple roles effortlessly per day & thus they are considered the backbone of every society. Women were living in male dominating societies, playing a wide range of roles such as caring mothers, loving daughters & capable colleagues. In India women entrepreneurs face several challenges like the problems of finance, marketing production, personal & social problems.

Women lack Knowledge & awareness of various aspects of enterprise. Also economic constraint is the major obstacle for their development (Anju Gupta, Indrajeet Khanna 1997). A large section of the women operate small businesses from their homes be it providing lunch to office goers & students or offices & industries. They start off in a small way with small shop snack Stalls at reasonable rates & expand as the business grows. The International Labour organization (ILO) states that though women constitute 50 percent of the world's population they own only less than 1% of the world's property. Hence, the officials in the financial institutions are hesitating to sanction loans to women entrepreneurs. It is obvious that availing the required financial assistance is the major problem faced by the women entrepreneurs in India.

#### **Government Schemes For Women Empowerment**

The government Programmes for women development began as early as 1954 in India but the actual participation began only in 1974. At present, the Government of India has over 34 schemes for women operated by different departments & ministries. These are Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) October, 1993, Swa Shakti Group, Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) 1995, Rastria Mahila Kosh (RMK) 1992-1993, Women Entrepreneur Development Programme given top priority in 1997-98, Mahila Samakhyia is being implemented in about 9000 villages, Swayamsiddha, Support to Training & Employment Programme For Women (STEP), Swalamban, Creches or Day Care Centre for the children of working & ailing mothers, Hostels for working women. Swadhar, National Mission For Empowerment of Women, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) 1975, The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescence Girls (RGSEAG) 2010, The Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for Children of Working mothers, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) 2009-2010, Dhanalakshmi 2008, Ujjawala 2007, Short Stay Homes, Scheme for Gender Budgeting, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Training of Rural Youth For Self Employment (TRYSEM), Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY), Women's Development Corporation Scheme (WDCS), Working Women's Forum, Indira Mahila Kendra, Mahila Samiti Yojana, Khadi & Village Industries Commission, Indira Priyadarshini Yojana, SBI's Sree Shakti Scheme, SIDBI's Mahila Udyam Nidhi Mahila Vikas Nidhi, NGO's Credit Schemes, National Banks for Agriculture and Rural Development's Schemes, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, One Stop Centre Scheme, Women



Helpline Scheme, Mahila Police Volunteers, Mahila Shakti Kendras, NIRBHAYA, Working Women Hostel like so many schemes are available for empowerment of women.

The National Policy on women Empowerment, 2002 recommended creating an environment for equal access to women & all fields by eliminating all kinds of discrimination in order to improve Women's bargaining power (Sukumar, 2005). Being an NGO for women empowerment in India, Hindrise foundation has designed our dynamic & transformation oriented programs in such a manner that the grooming of impoverished young girls will uplift the condition of the nation. It has commenced executing programs & campaigns concerning women empowerment through education & other essential rights. Empowering Women is the fundamental right of women. They can have equal rights to participate in education, society, economics & Politics. They are allowed to have equal education & treated in the way like men. Women empowerment is all about authority or the power embarked on women sharing indistinguishable rights. Women comprise around 50% of the country's population & a bulk of them stays economically dependent on each other without employment.

When women move forward the family, the village & nation moves forward. It is essential as their thought & their value systems lead the development of a good family, good society & ultimately a good nation. The best way of empowerment is perhaps through inducting women in the mainstream of development. Women empowerment will be read & effective only when they are endowed with income & property so that they may stand on their feet & build up their identity in the society. Empowerment in India is the most effective tool for development as these days. Women across the world are actively working as a leader & Surpassing others in all the spheres of life.

#### **Conclusion:**

Women had faces so many problems during empowerment. Empowering women is the Right of women. Gender equality is very important aspect in empowerment of women. Government Schemes are helpful for the women empowerment. Empowerment of women is essential for the development of the family, society as well as the Nation.

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