

## SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

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*“Once a woman is on the move, the whole family moves, then the village moves, at last, the nation also moves.”*

*- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, 1951*

### INTRODUCTION

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From the inception of the time, women have lived a life of deprivation, discrimination, and bias. They are constantly exposed to threats such as abuse, molestation, rape, poverty, malnutrition, ill-treatment. Women have been suffering for ages and this is caused by those whom we expect protection i.e., brothers, fathers, uncles, neighbours, and others from childhood; boyfriends and lovers from youth; husband, etc. and finally from offsprings when they grow up. The patriarchal society behaved badly with women. Thus, the Empowerment of women is essential for boosting the social, economic, and political status of women.

### MEANING AND DEFINITION OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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It's defined as a “multi-dimensional social process which helps people to get control over their own lives. It is a process that gives power to people, to use in their own lives, in their communities, and their respective society, by acting on the issues which they mark as important”.

Women empowerment means improving the ability of a woman to access different sectors of development-in particular, education, health, economy, and politics. Empowerment enables a person to have the ability to be independent, to do everything on their own.

### WHY THERE IS A NEED FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT?

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The need for women's empowerment comes from the position of dis-empowerment. Women have a long history of ill-treatment all over the world. Whether a country is developed or not, women have been the constant subject of discrimination. Discrimination and domination against women hold no boundaries. It arises out of society's inability to accept the fact that

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men and women should be equal. To start with there are a lot of stereotypes and misconceptions in society, which gives rise to misogyny in society. Women are considered incapable of making decisions for themselves and their families, they have always been confined to four walls of the house where their only job was to cook food, clean house, and raise children. No rights were given to them. They are considered as the weaker sex. Many people think that certain jobs need to be done by men only and women should be prohibited even from pursuing education. Prohibiting women from getting an education means a violation of their human rights. All these factors are a serious deterrent to development and encourage the need for empowerment.

### **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ACCOMPLISHES THE GOAL OF GENDER EQUALITY**

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Ironically, India is acknowledged as a leading economy, one of the largest democracies, and an emerging superpower but after nearly 73 years of independence, it is still battling for equivalent rights for people. Gender equality is considered to exist when all genders have access to equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. The success of a nation depends upon both men and women, solely focusing on women for gender parity or just creating a balanced representation of all the genders in an institution's staff, is not enough. Promoting equality between the members of the two sexes means strategizing and programming models where they both can perform and co-exist side by side with more efficiency. Encouraging people to live as they please, without concern for limiting and regressive gender roles has been a major cause that the feminist movement is fighting for. Sexual violence against women won't go away until both the perpetrators and those who become prey combine to get a collective solution. The way to look at things of these females and their commitments and first choices won't be heard until their voices come in cohesion and not as noisy as the perpetrators also exist in the same environment and they won't allow such confessions until their mindsets change. Likewise, the strategies which promote gender equality succeed only when the single goal is the needs and priorities of women.

### **SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT**

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Women's participation in greater numbers in the social, as well as in the political domain, is indispensable for getting sociological and institutional politics more demonstrative. It works as something that gives strength to females and gives a viewpoint to sex-appropriate decision

making. Social empowerment gives power to relation making abilities of females and puts them in a better stand in the social structure. "Education" is the best tool for social empowerment.

*"I am not only a passionate advocate of this belief but stand before you as proof of it too. Universities are great hubs of ideas, but they are not ivory towers. They are part of the society and thus remain engaged with social change,"*

*-President Ram Nath Kovind*

One of the single most essential factors to equality between members of different genders is Education. Without education for all children including girls, gender equality will be a dream and therefore, the Enrolment of girls in school will lead to reducing gender parity. Educated women will not only promote education but can also guide other children. Moreover, it plays a significant part in reducing the IMR and increase of the number of people steadily. The health and safety issues of women are of supreme consideration as it's an imp. facet in measuring the strength of the females of our nation. A woman needs to be physically healthy to take the challenges of equality, to confront their roles, and transform their lives. Thus, Females should necessarily have the means to cheap, reasonable, and best quality health plans.

By joining politics, the women usually feel empowered. It is considered as a stepladder for moving upward in society. It is a path of giving strength to the downtrodden and the ones who're left to remain weak. In politics, women have very limited decision-making power. Their involvement in politics and various head orgs. is a tool for gender empowerment. It's fundamental to the accomplishment of the aspirations of being equal, giving more space to develop, and content ness." With this not being there, it will increase the problems and will make it much worse to increase effectivity, space, and remain old in structure and dynamics, and patriarchal ideology. Female representatives are very few in our nation. So, to increase women's representation in legislative and State Assemblies and in-state councils' necessary measures should be taken.

## **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

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“You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women”

– *Pt. Nehru.*

Even though India is in some of the fastest-growing nations in the world. The female working class's rate of participation is very low this is due to lack of employment chances. Their inclusiveness would mean lesser partiality and increase the empowerment of women. The economic development of a country substantially depends upon women's access and control over economic opportunities and benefits. Despite some government efforts, it did not rise. Also, inadequate access to the right to education has deprived them of employment opportunities. Economic empowerment enhances the female movement, their talks with the surroundings, and involvement in making the imp. Stands. Financial development exclusively gives a significant impact on reducing inequality between men and women. It is evident that countries with a higher level of gender equality, tend to have better education, better health, and better healthcare facilities, faster economic growth, higher per capita income, and higher international competitiveness. Furthermore, women's economic power plays a significant role in achieving a pillar of sustainable development. For economic empowerment training programs for females in agribusiness & allied jobs must be expanded to benefit these females who work in the given sector. Through jobs and businesses women can earn money and it will enable them to become the 'bread earners' of the family, with strong economic independence. Equal wages and recognition for equal work should be provided to elevate their status in society.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN IN INDIA**

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There is no doubt that there is a great change in the status of women. The constitution of India has given women equal rights to men thereby putting them at par with men socially, politically, and economically.

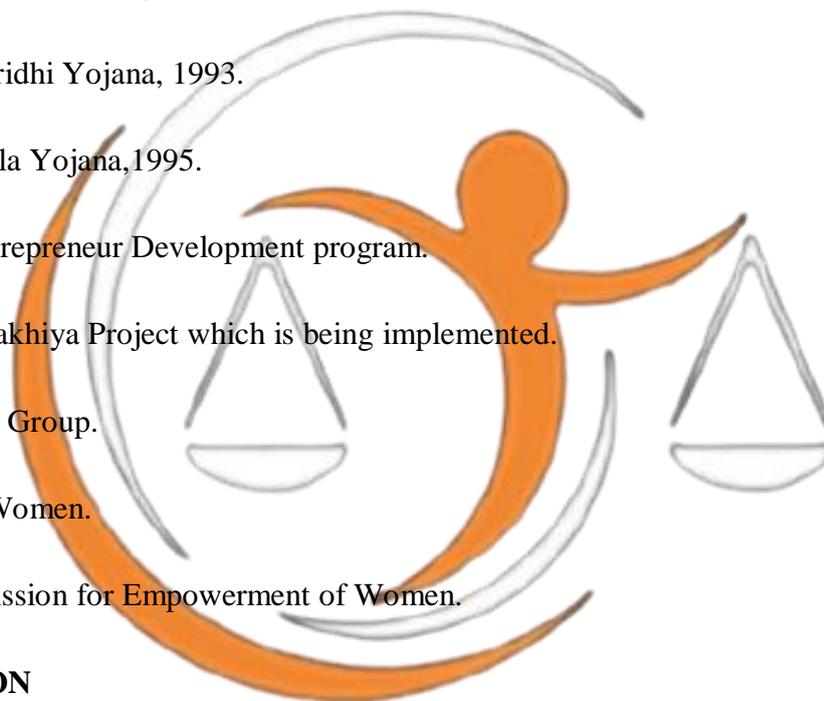
❖ Art. 14.

❖ Article 15(1) there must be no discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. Whereas some special provisions have been made by the state regarding women and children Article 15(3)

- ✧ Article 16 - There must be equal opportunities for employment or an appointment in any office in the state to all the citizens of India.
- ✧ Art. 39(a).
- ✧ Art. 39(d).
- ✧ Art. 42.

**To empower women, The Government of India has made the following schemes for women, launched by different governmental departments and ministries:**

1. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, 1992-93.
2. Mahila Samridhi Yojana, 1993.
3. Indira Mahila Yojana, 1995.
4. Women Entrepreneur Development program.
5. Mahila Samakhiya Project which is being implemented.
6. Swa Shakti Group.
7. STEP for Women.
8. National Mission for Empowerment of Women.



## **CONCLUSION**

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Women in the 21st century have proved that they are no less than men in any field. Females have been in big posts since the start of our independence. However, still, there are numbers of women who are powerless and who get somewhat lower status than men in our society, despite all the rights provided by the constitution. Women's empowerment will bring positive reforms in the society which will have a direct effect on the growth of a country. Female empowerment will also lead to a reduced rate of domestic violence because the females who have not been granted the basics to deal with these scenarios are more vulnerable than the ones that know.

For women's empowerment, different programs need to be conducted to raise awareness among women about their rights, particularly those belonging to the weaker sections. Campaigns to fight discrimination and violence against women are an important part of Women's Empowerment.

Women empowerment is the best way to solve all the problems faced by developing countries. An environment must be created whereupon women have complete freedom for decision making and have access to social, political as well as economic upliftment of the nation.

