



# **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

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**EDITED BOOK**



**DR.K.SAILEELA**

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**2022**

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## Preface

**Dr.K.SAILEELA**  
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In recent years, it has been clear that the key concern in determining the position of women is their empowerment. The Indian constitution forbids sex-based discrimination and gives the government the authority to take particular actions to protect those who are the subject of it. In India, many statutes that protect women's rights are in addition to the Constitution's provisions guaranteeing them equality, dignity, and freedom from discrimination. Women's empowerment is the process of giving women the freedom to make their own decisions by removing all social and familial restrictions. Women's empowerment itself explains that women should have equal access to social rights, political rights, economic stability, judicial strength, and all other rights. Men and women shouldn't be treated differently from one another. In order to establish the strongest economy, enhance their quality of life, and bring about gender equality, it is to empower women by encouraging their participation in all areas and sectors. This entails encouraging and assisting them in making decisions about their capacity to recognise their flaws, conquer them, and inspire them to make a stand for themselves in society. Making women independent in every way—from their minds to their thoughts to their rights to their decisions—and removing all social and familial constraints is what it means to empower them. This will lead to equality in society for men and women in all spheres. It is necessary to have a deeper and more thorough awareness of the issues unique to women in order to find a solution. Given that inequality is at the core of these issues, initiatives should be done to advance gender equality and women's full inclusion in the nation's overall development efforts. For the family, society, and nation to have a bright future, women must be empowered. In order for women to make the best decisions for themselves, their families, society, and the nation as a whole, they need a new environment that is more capable. Women's empowerment is a crucial tool to achieve the objective of development in order to make the nation fully developed. This edited book is a collection of various articles from different authors about Women's Empowerment.

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## A STUDY OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

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### Abstract

Women's Empowerment has become a relevant subject of discussion in development of economy. Empowerment of women means enhancing the social, cultural, political and economic status of women. It means establishing an environment where women are free from any kind of physical pressure, mental abuse, exploitation and prejudice that they are the most vulnerable section in the society. Women Empowerment can be explained as to making women strong and powerful so that they can their own decisions regarding their welfare and well-being in the society. Empowering women to participate in economic and political life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economics, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and enhance the well-being for women, men, families and communities. The Government of India has been taking several efforts to encourage the importance of women in the economic growth of the nation. The main objective of Government is to promoting women entrepreneurship to motivate and gives direction to participate in the economic activities. This study attempts to analyze the need of Women Empowerment in India and highlights the methods and policies of Women Empowerment. Women Empowerment is the important aspect to expand women's ability to have resources and to make strategic life choices. The study is based on secondary sources and purely theoretical. The information collected about the Women Empowerment Schemes in India and its various contents are collected from Books, Journals, Internet sources or related topic.

### Keywords

Women Empowerment, Basic Rights, Welfare Scheme, Socio Economic Status, Scheme Implementation.

### Introduction

India is the second largest country in the world. Our country is blessed with different natural and man-made resources. Man can develop the resources when he is wise, healthy and educated in different scenarios. Thus, the country real resources are its people i.e. human resources and women are the most important part of our resources. India is a country providing the common proverb like 'unity is diversity', where people of many religious beliefs are live in Indian society. Women have given a special status in every society and religion. There is a tradition of worshipping many female goddesses in India including giving honour to the women forms in the society like mother, sister, wife, daughter and other female relatives or friends. But it does not indicate that only respecting or honouring women can fulfill the development and encouragement in the well-being of the country. Today the women empowerment has become one of the most important concerns of 21<sup>st</sup> century. Women are an integral part of our economy.

Empowerment can be reviewed as means of creating a social environment in which one can make decisions and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation. Women Empowerment is not limited only for the Indian society but women are being given equal treatment in developed nations. Empowering women may easily help to

develop and grow each and every family member as per requirement. Women Empowerment is the better treatment of problems related to the human being, economy or environment. In past scenario, women are being more conscious about their health, education, career, job and responsibilities towards their family and society. They are taking initiatives in the every area and showing their talents in every field. Government of India took so may initiatives programmers' and policies to empower the women in India.

### Meaning of Women Empowerment

Women Empowerment defines to promote women's sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices and their right to influence social change for themselves and others. Women empowerment refers to develop the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individual and communities of women. When women give same opportunities as compared to men, the all round development and harmonious growth of a nation would be possible.



Women Empowerment in India depends on different variables such as geographical location (urban/ rural), educational status, social status and age. There are many policies and initiatives taken by government on national, state and local levels in many sectors, including health, education, economic opportunities and political participation. The empowered women become their own self-identity to develop, able to control their own choices and be strong enough to make their position in the society. Women in rural areas have least possessions, skills, education, social status and capabilities for mobilization, which determines the degree of decision making and power and as a result, their dependence of men increases. Empowerment of women is essentially the process of development of economic, social and political status of women in both the sectors (urban and rural). The empowerment of women include creating awareness and consciousness about the rights of women, opportunities and capabilities of women, importance of gender equality, skill development, ability to plan and implement, ability to manage, ability to carry out activities, ability to deal with people in global world etc. Empowerment refers the process by which women's power of self-realization is promoted and motivated. Empowerment includes the action of raising the status of women through education, raising awareness, literacy and training.

### Importance of Women Empowerment

- **Sustainable Development:** Without women empowerment, sustainable development is impossible. Consequently, it is asserted that equality is both a human right issue and a precondition for, and indicator of sustainable development.
- **Economic Growth:** Economic growth of the society depends on the sustainable development. When every woman will have an opportunity for compulsory education and employment without any gender bias, automatically country will develop, and economic growth of the country takes place.

- **Social Development:** Women is the most important part of our society. With the development of women skills and capabilities, society will move on the direction of growth. The education of girls is equivalent to the education of a nation. With the development of women education, they can change their society and develop their nation.
- **Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment:** It is important that women can understand their rights and duties and fight against the unacceptable behavior in order to fight against it. This is why education is compulsory for all the girls and women for fight against violence and sexual harassment.
- **Other factors:**
  - ✓ If women are not empowered, they cannot enjoy security and protection in life.
  - ✓ It also provides a safe and healthy working environment and our surroundings.
  - ✓ Empowerment acts as a powerful tool against exploitation and harassment of women.
  - ✓ Women are creative and intelligent which makes it imperative to receive their contribution in socio-economic activities.
  - ✓ For development of society, women need to be provided equal opportunities.

#### **Women Empowerment Schemes Initiated By Government**

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme:** Central Government sponsored scheme Save Girl Child, Educate Girl Child. The main objective of this scheme is to generate awareness and improving the efficiency of welfare services meant for women. It aims to celebrate the girl child and educate them. This Scheme is introduced by the joint initiative of Ministry of Women and and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. Prime Minister Modi introduced the programme on 22 January 2015 from Panipat, Haryana on the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child. The objective of this scheme are to prevent gender biased sex selective elimination, to ensure survival & protection of the girl child and to provide compulsory education for girls.
- **The Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana:** This scheme is sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for first two live births to contribute to a better enabling environment by providing conditional cash transfer for improved health and nutrition and to also promote health and nutrition seeking behavior in them. It supports to women by providing wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare and to provide facilities for safe delivery and good nutrition and feeding practices. The main objective of this scheme to promoting appropriate practice, care and institutional service utilization during pregnancy, safe-delivery and lactation. It also encourage women to follow nutritional and young child feeding practices, including early and exclusive child breastfeeding for six months.
- **One Stop Centre for Women:** The Ministry has approved for setting up One Stop Centre to support women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace. This scheme promoted to an integrated range of services including medical facilities, police assistance, legal aid, case management, psychological



counseling, and temporary support services to women affected by violence. OSC are setup in each State/UT. The main objective of this scheme to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof. It also provide immediate emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including medical, legal, psychological and counseling support under one roof to fight against any form of violence against women.

- **Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for children:** This scheme is sponsored by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. With rising employment opportunities for women and the growing need to survive in this economy, more and more women are entering the job market. With the breaking up of joint family system and the increasing number of nuclear families, working women need help for care and love for their children while they are at work. Creche and Day care services are not only required by working mothers but also women belonging to poor families who required support and relief for childcare. Therefore, women need a safe and secure place for their children in their absence. A crèche is a facility which supports parents to leave their children while they are at work. The main objectives of this scheme to provide day care facilities and physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of children. It also improves nutrition and health status of the children.
- **Shree Shakti Package for Women Entrepreneurs:** There is a lot of focus on promoting women entrepreneurship in India. One scheme promoted by the State Bank of India (SBI) is Stree Shakti Package for Women Entrepreneurs. In this scheme, women are eligible to receive a loan for operating their business. Women professionals like Doctors, Beauticians, Architects and Chartered Accountants can avail loan under the Stree Shakti Package.
- **Support to training and Employment Programme:** This scheme is sponsored by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Under this scheme, training is provided to poor and marginalized women in traditional trades which are largely in the informal sector. The objective of STEP programme to upgrading skills and employment opportunities for women through a variety of action-oriented objectives. This scheme encourages skill development for self and wage employment because skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development of a country. The main objective of this scheme to provide skills that give employability to women, to provide competencies and skills that enable women to become self-employed, to upgrade the skills of poor and knowledge of women, and to provide employment to them on a sustainable basis.
- **Shadi Shagun Yojna:** This was launched on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 by the Prime Minister of India. In this scheme, all the graduate Muslim girls completing their graduation in any of the streams before their marriage. To motivate girls from minority groups to pursue higher education was also under initiative.
- **Mahila E-Haat:** The Ministry of Women & Child Development launched Mahila E-Haat. It is a bilingual portal on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. Under this scheme, the direct online marketing platform leveraging technology for supporting women entrepreneurs/ SHGs/ NGOs for showcasing the products and services which are prepared by them. It is an initiative for meeting aspirations and need of women. Digital Media is a critical component for business

efficiency and thus it should be made available to the majority of Indian women entrepreneurs. Women Entrepreneurs/ SHGs/NGOs from all states are showcasing their products and services across 18 categories such as Clothing, Bags, Fashion Accessories, Jewellery, Home Décor, Basket, Carpet, Educational Aids, Industrial Products, Natural Products and Miscellaneous.

- **Scheme for Working Women Hostel, Day Care Centre and Medical Aid:** There are many women are leaving their home in search for employment in urban and rural industrial clusters. One of the primary problems faced by women is lack of safety and accommodation. This scheme initiated by Government of India to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women who need to live away from their families due to their professional commitments. The main goal of this scheme is to promote availability of safe and conveniently locate accommodation for working women, with day care facilities for their children in urban and urban areas.

**Benefits:**

Women empowerment adds to confidence of women in their ability to lead meaningful and purposeful lives. It removes their dependence on others and makes them individuals in their own rights and decisions. There are some benefits of Women Empowerment are as follows:

- They are able to lead their lives with dignity and freedom.
- It adds to their self-esteem and distinct identity.
- They are able to gain positions of respect in society.
- As they are financially independent they are able to spend on all their requirements and desires.
- They are able to make meaningful contribution to the growth and development of the society.
- They get fair and equitable access to resources of the country.

**Conclusion**

Woman plays an important role in development of nation across the world. The education of women is the most powerful tool to promote and development of society. Woman Empowerment is empowering the women to take their own decisions in every area whether for themselves, family, society or country. In order to developed country, women empowerment is an essential step for goal of development. Women need to be given equal opportunities for education to develop their skill without any sense of discrimination.

The government has initiated some really good schemes for women empowerment in the Indian society. But more than schemes and laws, it is compulsory to provide rights and equality to women in every sectors of society. The day, when these schemes and programmes will reach each and every corner of our country, then our developing country will emerge as a developed and prosperous nation. The Government of India has sponsored may schemes for child development and Women Empowerment.

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