



## A REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Dr. Prashanth\*

### Introduction

Women's empowerment in India is heavily dependent on many different variables that include geographical location (urban/rural), educational status, social status (caste and class), and age. Policies on women's empowerment exist at the national, state, and local (Panchayat) levels in many sectors, including health, education, economic opportunities, gender-based violence, and political participation. However, there are significant gaps between policy advancements and actual practice at the community level. <sup>+</sup>

### Objectives

To do the review of literature on women empowerment

### Methodology

This paper is based review of literature study. Secondary sources of data and information were employed. The information and data were collected from various online papers from online journals. This paper is a descriptive paper

### LITERATURE REVIEW

**Rashmi Rani Agnihotri H.R and Malipatil, K.S.(2017)-** in their paper entitled 'A Study On Women Empowerment Schemes In India' express that "Women's' empowerment has become a significant topic of discussion in development and economics. It can also point to approaches regarding other trivialized genders in a particular political or social context. Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities. Give power or authority

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+ <https://asiafoundation.org/resources/pdfs/womensempowermentindiabriefs.pdf>

\* Assistant Professor in Economics, Canara College, Mangalore, Email: prashanthkumble@gmail.com

to; authorize, especially by legal or official means: I empowered my agent to make the deal for me. The local ordinance empowers the board of health to close unsanitary restaurants. Women empowerment can be defined in very simple words that it is making women powerful so that

they can take their own decisions regarding their lives and wellbeing in the family and society. It is empowering women to make them able to get their real rights in the society. Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business. Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities. As we all know that India is a male dominated country where males are dominated in every area and females are forced to be responsible for only family care and live in the home including other many restrictions. Almost 50% of the population in India is covered by the female only so the full development of the country depends on the half population means women, who are not empowered and still restricted by many social taboos. In such condition, we cannot say that our country would be a developed in the future without empowering its half population means women. If we want to make our country a developed country, first of all it is very necessary to empower women by the efforts of men, government, laws and women too. The Government of India initiated so many Schemes for empowerment of Women. Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has started so many Programmes".

**Esther Duflo(2012)**-in their paper entitled 'Women's Empowerment and Economic Development' opined that "Women's empowerment and economic development are closely related: in one direction, development alone can play a major role in driving down inequality between men and women; in the other direction, empowering women may benefit development. Does this imply that pushing just one of these two levers would set a virtuous circle in motion? This paper reviews the literature on both sides of the empowerment-development nexus, and argues that the inter-relationships are probably too weak to be self-sustaining, and that continuous policy commitment to equality for its own sake may be needed to bring about equality between men and women".

**Rama Devi(2017)**found that, "Gender equality is a human right which entitles all persons irrespective of their gender to live with dignity and with freedom. Gender equality is also a precondition for all round development and reducing poverty. Empowered women make invaluable contribution to the improvement of health conditions and educational status and productivity of whole families and communities, which in turn improve prospects for the next generation. The Millennium Development Goal also puts emphasis on gender equality and empowerment of women. It is now widely accepted that gender equality and women's

empowerment are fundamental cornerstones for achieving development results. Keeping the status of women empowerment and its determinants in India, in this paper an attempt is made to present some of the key determinants of inequalities that exist in our country so as to have an idea about to what extent the women are empowered”.

**Rajeshwari M. Shettar(2015)-** in her paper entitled ‘A Study on Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment in India’ attempts to analyse the “status of Women Empowerment in India and highlights the Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment. Today the empowerment of women has become one of the most important concerns of 21st century. But practically women empowerment is still an illusion of reality. We observe in our day-to-day life how women become victimized by various social evils. Women Empowerment is the vital instrument to expand women’s ability to have resources and to make strategic life choices. Empowerment of women is essentially the process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in the society. 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 men in spite of many efforts undertaken by Government. It is found that acceptance of unequal gender norms by women are still prevailing in the society. The study concludes by an observation that access to Education, Employment and Change in Social Structure are only the enabling factors to Women Empowerment”.

**Mariam Sohail(2014)-** in their paper entitled ‘Women Empowerment and Economic Development-An Exploratory Study in Pakistan’ found that “Women are the component of our society but still they have hindrances in getting their rights. Women should be empowered with their rights of education, health, security, jobs, skills, decision making authority, better living standard, and respect. The research question of this paper is: Is Woman Empowerment responsible for the development of the economy? Questionnaires were completed by thirty female participants having higher positions in Banking, Education, and Transport sectors. Demographics characteristics and open-ended questions were asked from the participants. Open-ended questions were: ‘Do you agree that women should be empowered?’ ‘What do you think are the main hindrances in empowering women?’ ‘Do you think that women empowerment leads to the development of economy?’ ‘What suggestions do you have regarding women empowerment?’ Findings indicate that

men want their dominancy so they are not willing to empower women. Both men and women should work together in the society to bring prosperity. Women must raise voice for their rights and they should be self-confident. Empowering women is essential for the development of the economy. Key terms: Women Empowerment, Gender, Economic Development, Inequality”

**Dhruba Hazarika(2011)**-in their paper entitled ‘Women Empowerment in India: A Brief Discussion’ found that “Women empowerment is a debatable subject. At earlier time they were getting equal status with men. But they had faced some difficulties during post-Vedic and epic ages. Many a time they were treated as slave. From early twenty century (national movement) their statuses have been changed slowly and gradually. In this regard, we may mention the name of the British people. After then, independence of India, the constitutional makers and national leaders strongly demand equal social position of women with men. Today we have seen the women occupied the respectable positions in all walks of the fields. Yet, they have not absolutely freed some discrimination and harassment of the society. A few numbers of women have been able to establish their potentialities. Therefore, each and every should be careful to promote the women statuses.”

**Manisha Desai (2010)** in their paper entitled ‘Hope in Hard Times: Women’s Empowerment and Human Development’ express that “conceptual and methodological issues related to women’s empowerment, the trends in women’s empowerment over the last 20 years in key areas such as education, health, economic and political participation, and finally the best practices of state and non-state actors in empowering women. Following a brief critique of human development, it begins with a discussion of the growing conceptual consensus around empowerment, i.e., empowerment being control over resources, women’s agency, a process and outcomes, to the methodological issues involved in its measurement, specifically focusing on the Gender Empowerment Measure and arguing that minimally the measure needs to move away from its urban, elite, and formal employment bias. The trends in women’s empowerment over the past 20 years show that while there have been gains in primary and secondary education, in political representation at the national level, and in waged labor, and a decline in fertility and maternal mortality, violence against women and HIV/AIDS continue to be endemic and these trends vary across regions and within countries urban and rural poor, ethnic minorities, and older and disabled women fare worse on all indicators with the current economic crisis reversing many gains. Furthermore, a decrease in measures of gender gap



do not translate into gender equality and positive trends are often accompanied by negative trends resulting from unintended consequences of development. Finally, it highlights some government best practices such as quotas, cash transfer programs, gender budgeting, and community based micro enterprises, some movement practices, i.e., local women run community-based programs to combat violence and HIV/AIDS and transnational exchanges, unions campaigns such as Decent Work for Women and corporate practices such as gender equality seals and corporate social responsibility.”

### **Conclusion**

Women's' empowerment has become a noteworthy topic of debate in development and economics. It can also point to approaches regarding other underestimated genders in a particular political or social context. Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability is required. The above review literature would provide a bird eye view on these subject matters and also paws a road to further investigation or reviews.

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