

## A REVIEW ON: ROLE OF WOMEN IN INDIAN ECONOMY

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### **Abstract:**

Despite rapid economic growth, gender disparities in women's economic participation have remained deep and persistent in India. Considering the facts and figures, it can be easily said that women's contribution in India's economy has been astonishing, and they are going from strength to strength in every sphere of life. THE WOMEN workforce has been playing a very significant role in the expansion and growth of the Indian economy, and is now a force to reckon with. Over the years their contribution has been increasing - vindicating the hypothesis of leading feminists that women are second to none in the world. Women play a vital role in village centric community activities, protecting our culture and in determining the consumption attitude makes her special for the economy and society of India.

**Keywords:** Economic growth, women contribution, empowerment, Indian economy, leadership

### **Introduction:**

**“You can tell the condition of nation by looking the status of the women”**

– Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

In the era of globalization, the role of Indian women at home and work has taken a multifaceted dimension. India being one of the fastest growing economies, the contribution of women is growing at a steady pace. Most Indian women by and large undertake “productive work” only under the economic compulsion. Most of the women are found to be employed in agricultural activities and in the unorganized sector, the employment of women is high in certain works such as part time helpers in households, construction centers, tanneries, match box etc. A central driver of economic growth over the past century has been the increased role of women. This empowerment comes in many forms: increased female labor force participation, reduced discrimination and wage differentials that encourage greater effort, and improved advancement practices that promote talented women into leadership and managerial roles. Empowerment of women needs to begin with her participation in different spheres of life. Education is a great determinant in this regard. To achieve empowerment, women have to be educated to be aware of their rights and privileges in a modern society. It is education which can bring about awareness in them related to their social status, injustice and differentiation meted out to them. Besides, economic independence is a major factor which can contribute in empowering women.

### **Women: Spirit of Indian Savings**

The high growth figures of 8 to 9 percent of Indian economy depend basically on high rates of savings and capital formation. It is remarkable that India could reach a saving rate of 33 percent of its GDP of which 70 percent comes from household saving, 20 percent from private corporate sector and rest 10 percent from public sector undertakings. Household saving in the country is all due to women as it is part of the culture of the Indian society to save.

### **Women: What problems do they face?**

Despite their immensely important role in the economic development of the country, women are facing severe problems in the Indian economy. Women in Indian society do not enjoy any financial security.

## **Malnutrition**

Although the GDP growth rate of the India is 9%, and women are able to subsidize the cost of agricultural products by Rs. 93000 crores per year, we see that 52% of women face the problem of malnutrition. When the whole of the nation enjoys subsidized food, the actual producers of the grain remain deprived of it.

## **Lack of recognition**

Much of the work done by women is not put in black and white in the official statistics. It is truly unjustified to ignore the large share of contribution made by the women, as a large number of women are employed in several sectors such as laborers, domestic workers, and small traders. Official records must be gathered in this regard.

## **Conclusion:**

Women play a substantial role in the economy of India, and their contribution must be recognized with full appreciation. Women must be empowered and facilitated, so that their productivity may be increased.

Women workers face serious problems and constraints related to work such as lack of continuity, insecurity, wage discrimination, unhealthy job relationship, absence of medical and accident care etc. The exploitation of female laborers in rural regions happens both horizontally and vertically. There is a severe need to recognize their work and give a safe environment to women workers. The most important determining factor to such in access and denial primarily evolves out of poor literacy and lack of awareness resulting in self-exclusion from the mainstream opportunities.

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