

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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**Abstract-** Our country is the land of colossal opportunities where the rhythm of life emanates from the lap of nature. This is the land where there is a unique harmony between tradition and modernity, scientific temper and spiritual philosophy, humility and pride. The sustainable development of the country depends on the full and equal participation of women and men. The overall development of a country depends upon the maximum utilization of her people, both men and women. Women empowerment can be considered as an important indicator for socio-economic development. There are various programs which aim at identifying ways in which improving rural women's economic and social empowerment. 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. Women empowerment involves the building up of a society, a political environment, wherein women can breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension and discrimination. Empowerment cannot be fully achieved without the women's full participation in education as well as employment. This article tries to discuss the importance of socio – economic empowerment of women towards Accelerating Rural Growth through Innovation and Technology as women empowerment very important for the socio-economic development.

**Keywords—** Empowerment; Education; Socio-economic development

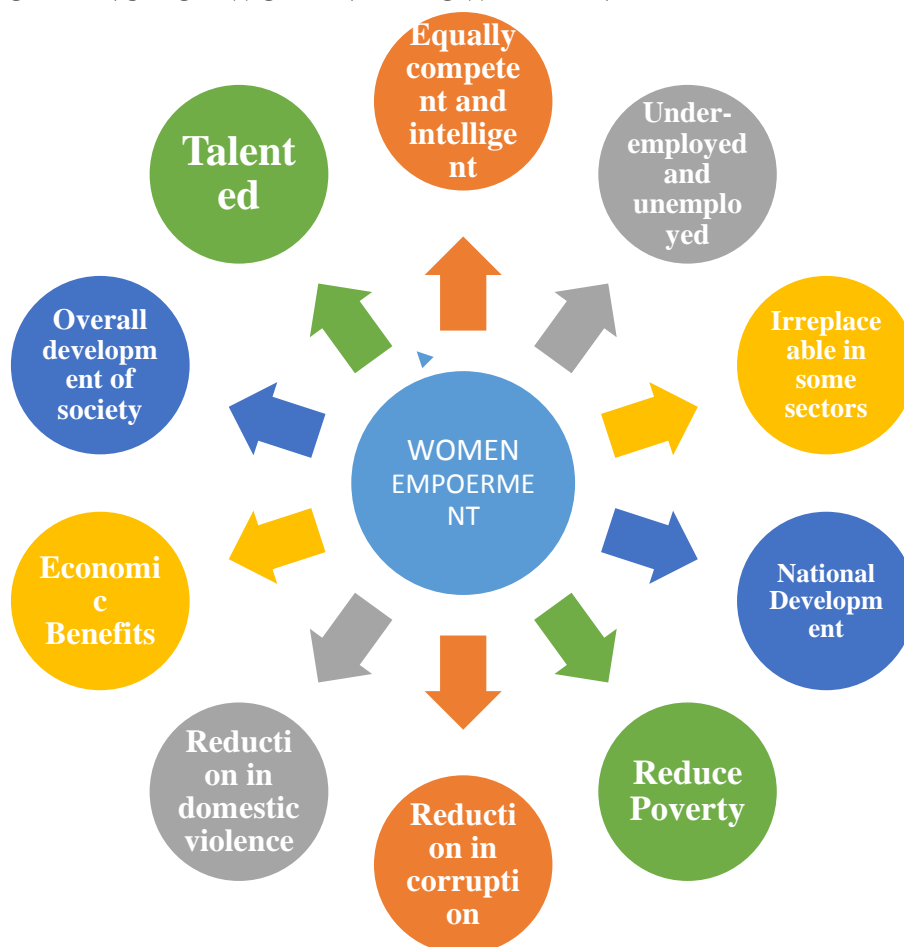
### I. INTRODUCTION

In the past, women were treated as mere slaves. They were denied freedom. They were kept like dumb cattle within the four walls of the house. Indeed, they had no rights. Their most sacred duty was to obey blindly. Though the conditions in the country are fast changing, yet women are still treated, in some respects, in the same old way. Even educated and modernized husbands want to see their wives confined within the four walls. The noble professions of the outside world are considered to be of no concern to them. Those changes are beneficial which come gradually. The scenario is changing now. It is changing politically, economically and socially, at a swift speed. The condition of women is also gradually changing. There are many stories and instances that women have been given equal right with men. Many a woman has begun to occupy high position in the life of our country. There are a number of lady minister and deputy ministers. She can no longer be dominated and driven like dumb cattle by man. She is on the march. She is now an equal partner in her family. Her future is bright. This article looks at how far the woman empowerment play an important role towards socio economic development in various ways. Drawing a theoretical framework, the article contributes to show that there is a relation between women education empowerment and socio-economic development. The article is divided into three major sections. The first section discusses the concept of women empowerment. The second section focuses on the relation between women education and empowerment. The socioeconomic development has been discussed in the third sections.

## II. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women Empowerment refers to the creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society. Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and communities of women. It refers to ensure equal-right to women, and to make them confident enough to claim their rights, such as: to make their own choices and decisions, have equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities, have equal social status in the society, freely live their life with a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity, have complete control of their life, both within and outside of their home and workplace, have equal rights for social and economic justice, determine financial and economic choices, get equal opportunity for education, get equal employment opportunity without any gender bias and get safe and comfortable working environment. Women have the rights to get their voices heard.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



- 1. Under-employed and unemployed:** Women population constitutes around 50% of the world population. A large number of women around the world are unemployed. The world economy suffers a lot because of the unequal opportunity for women at workplaces.
- 2. Equally competent and intelligent:** Women are equally competent. Nowadays, women are even ahead of men in many socio-economic activities.
- 3. Talented:** Women are as talented as men. Previously, women were not allowed higher education like men and hence their talents were wasted. But nowadays, they are also allowed to go for higher studies and it encourages women to show their talents which will not only benefit her individually but to the whole world at large.
- 4. Overall development of society:** The main advantage of Women Empowerment is that there will be an overall development of the society. The money that women earn does not only help them and or their family, but it also help develop the society.
- 5. Economic Benefits:** Women Empowerment also leads to more economic benefits not to the individuals but to the society as well. Unlike earlier days when they stayed at home only and do only kitchen stuffs, nowadays, they roam outside and also earns money like the male members of the society. Women empowerment helps women to stand on their own legs, become independent and also to earn for their family which grows country's economy.
- 6. Reduction in domestic violence:** Women Empowerment leads to decrease in domestic violence. Uneducated women are at higher risk for domestic violence than an educated women.
- 7. Reduction in corruption:** Women Empowerment is also advantageous in case of corruption. Women empowerment helps women to get educated and know their rights and duties and hence can stop corruption.
- 8. Reduce Poverty:** Women Empowerment also reduces poverty. Sometimes, the money earned by the male member of the family is not sufficient to meet the demands of the family. The added earnings of women helps the family to come out of poverty trap.
- 9. National Development:** Women are increasingly participating in the national development process. They are making the nation proud by their outstanding performances almost every spheres including medical science, social service, engineering, etc.
- 10. Irreplaceable in some sectors:** Women are considered irreplaceable for certain jobs

### III. WOMEN EDUCATION

Women education and empowerment have been identified as an important resource for socioeconomic development. In recent years, women's education and empowerment have been given high priority. The relationships between women education and development have received much attention in the development literature. It is argued that women's education and empowerment have been strongly linked to poverty eradication strategies. Higher levels of education equip women with the skills and knowledge which help them to get an employment and income. Similarly, the contribution of the women to the family helps to reduce economic crisis in the family. The following statement can be stated on how women educations play an important role in reducing poverty: "there are very high benefits to be gained from girls and women's education. An educated woman is likely to have fewer and healthier children: she will encourage her own children to become educated, thus making it possible for the next generation to learn and make a better contribution to society. A better educated woman is also more able to earn a living for herself and her family. In the poorest regions of the world...developing women's education and training is likely to be a very powerful way of fighting against poverty."It is also argued that education plays an important role to overcome cultural constraints. Many researches contribute to show that women with higher levels of education are more likely to reject a strong societal preference

for a son. Education is the most powerful instrument for the empowerment women. Empirical evidence shows that there is also a positive relationship between education and empowerment. It is noted that higher level education provides better employment opportunities and enhances income.

Women education plays an important role to socioeconomic development. Educating of women helps to socio-economic development through increased productivity and increased female autonomy. The significant benefit of educating women can be considered to reducing fertility. It is said that better-educated tend to have lower levels of morbidity, mortality and disability and have fewer children. Education teaches women cognitive skills that help them learn throughout their lives, which in turn helps them adopt healthier practices. However, it shows how the education is directly or indirectly contributes to socio-economic development. There is a relation between women education and socioeconomic development. Higher educational attainment increases women's employment and income opportunity. Education, employment and earning capacity has an impact on future generations and can accelerate socio-economic development. Higher educational attainment increases women's income-generating capacity. Women's income helps themselves to contribute to the economy of the family as well as to the country. It clearly shows that education, employment and income help to reduce poverty and increase socio-economic development of the country.

#### **IV. SCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN**

We have experienced rapid growth and development in the past years in many spheres. Gender equity is not one of them. This is deplorable considering the important role played by women in the socio-economic growth of the country. Current governments at state and central level must understand that no nation can progress unless its women are given equal access to opportunities and adequate safety and security.

Across the globe, educating women and giving them the ability to stand on their own feet has been a priority. If women are allowed to gain access to education, they can make a huge impact in enhancing the productivity of the economy. Empowered women can take initiatives for creating positive social change in rural or underdeveloped areas. Women can also contribute to the social welfare of the country. Noted lady activists have championed the cause of gender justice and equity. They are shining examples of what women can accomplish if they are leaders at the helm. Women-friendly policies and laws will be framed as a result of this. Women in urban and rural areas should be given access to good opportunities so that they can bring about positive social change and contribute to the growth of the country.

Women of the present day has extended her foot in every sphere and excelled through the same. She has broken the boundaries restricted to the house-hold work and has flourished throughout the world with flying colors. Though, education plays a major role in the development of the individual, but even the illiterate women with good intellect shows good attitude towards practical life. From house-hold work to agriculture, a woman has added to the productivity of the country without her literacy. Nevertheless, a literate woman has added much more to the economic development of the country by working at various field viz. business, finance, management, technology, medicine, handicraft works, small scale industries etc. The net productivity of the women is definitely much more than the men, as they manage both the home and outside work in a well-balanced way. With respect to the revenue generation of the country, encouragement of women definitely has helped with new innovative ideas for the implementation in various spheres of life, giving a better proposal at the international market. Hence, a women encouraged country is definitely a more developed one.

## V. CONCLUSION

The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Women play a crucial role in initiating the advancement and growth of any society, in nations across the world. The women of today have made significant contributions in several fields. They have broken the prejudice that women are a homemaker and that they cannot compete with men. Along with being homemakers, women have also become great achievers in the outside world. Women have made their presence felt in all fields be it Business, Education, Fashion, Entertainment, Finance, Information Technology. Earlier it was said that if a woman is working she is just fit to do administrative or lower management jobs. But women have proved them wrong and they have been successful leaders and mentors. The sharp mind and sympathetic nature of women has helped them achieve success in the business world. They successfully overcome any challenge posed their way. The contribution of women has always been omnipresent.

Women are undoubtedly the foundation of the basic unit of society – the family. Even in traditional roles they demonstrate great innovation, skill, intelligence, hard work and commitment. If we can harness these attributes effectively, India's growth can be more inclusive and equitable. The education of women is therefore key. When we educate and empower one woman, we set off a chain reaction that transforms the life of her family and the community she lives in.

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