



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century : Changing trends in the role of women- Impact in various fields

Challenges, Issues and Status of women in Present Scenario.

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper attempts to analyze the status of Women Empowerment in India and highlights the Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment. Today the empowerment of women has been one of the most important concerns of 21<sup>st</sup> 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 choice. Empowerment 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 commission is a tool to eradicate various women problem and provide right track for them. In this article the main focus has been given on status, role, situation, authority and problems with the role of women empowerment of India. The various suggestions have been inserted as a part of eradication plan to make successful to Indian women.*

Key Words : Challenges, Empowerment, Plans, Problems, Status

### **Introduction**

Swami Vivekananda, one of the greatest sons of India, Quoted that: ***There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved, It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.*** Therefore, the inclusion of "Women Empowerment" as one of the prime goals in the eight Millennium Development Goals underscores the relevance of this fact. Thus, in order to achieve the status of a developed country, India needs to transform its colossal women force into an effective human resource and this is possible only through the empowerment of women.

Women are the backbone of the society. Society never complete without women. Men and women are the two wheels of life. There should be uniformity in both parties. But when we see the structure of Indian society, it always gives the secondary status to the women. As per the development of education, the changes have been taking place in the position of women. After independence in India, there are the special women related articles created by experts. In the Indian constitutions, the principle of gender equality is enshrined with preamble, fundamental rights, fundamental duties and directive principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women. Empowerment is the one of the key factors in determining the success of development is status and position of women in the society. For the healthy development of society there is a need to special focus on social, economical and political overall development of women. It is our moral, social and constitutional responsibility to ensure their progress by providing them with equal rights and opportunities. Today women with their smartness, grace and elegance have conquered the whole world.

### **Position of women in current scenario**

In the contemporary world, women need to gain the same amount of power that men have. Now, it is time to forget that men are the only holders of power. In India, women are still facing different obstacles in male-dominated cultures. Now a day's women are coming the main stream of development. The government of India established a special commission for the women development.

The Position and status of today's Women in India is considered high in modern Indian society. The population of women is almost half of the total population of India. A country or a community cannot be considered civilized where women are not honored. Indian laws have been made without discrimination against women. As a result Indian women enjoy high position in our society. Women today occupy high ranking posts like, I.A.S. I.F.S. Indian women are also in our Defense Service. The modern Indian women participate in various sports and games. The Contemporary Indian Women serve as M.P.,M.L.A. governors and ministers. Women have also achieved high fame in the areas of literature, music and acting. More and more women are joining the field of science and technology. In fact there is no sphere of activity in which women are unsuitable or incompetent

Lets now have a look at the darker side. Though the Indian law does not discriminate between men and women, the status of women of our country today is practically far below the status of men.

**Though the status of today's Women on India is high, the overall picture of women's position in India is not satisfactory**

### **Various Problems faced by Indian Women**

There are various issues and problems which women generally face in the society in India. Some of the problems are mentioned and described below :

**Selective abortion and female infanticide :** It is the most common practice for years in India in which abortion of female fetus is performed in the womb of mother after the fetal sex determination and sex selective abortion by the medical professionals.

**Sexual harassment :** It is the form of sexual exploitation of a girl child at home, streets, public places, transport, offices etc ,by the family members, neighbors, friends or relatives.

**Dowry and Bride burning :** It is another problem generally faced by women of low or middle class family during of after the marriage. Parents of boys demands a lot of money from the bride's family to be rich in one time.

**Disparity in education :** The level of women education is less than men still in the modern age. Female illiteracy is higher in the rural areas, Where over 63% or more women remain unlettered.

**Domestic violence :** it is like endemic and widespread disease affects almost 70% of Indian women according to the women and child development official. It is performed by the husband, relative or other family member,

Girls have no property rights like boys forever.

**Child Marriage :** Early marriage of the girls by their parents in order to be escaped from dowry. It is highly practiced in the rural India.

**Inadequate Nutrition :** Inadequate nutrition in the childhood affects women in their later life especially women belonging to the lower middle class and poor families.

Domestic violence and status in the family : It is the abuse or violence against women.

**Status of Widows :** Widows are considered as worthless in the Indian society. They are treated poorly and forced to wear white clothes.

**Problems related to unemployment :** Women are getting more problem in searching their suitable work. They become more prone to the exploitation and harassment in the work areas.

### **Following are some plan for the women development and empowerment**

Indian Government is always few rebel and conscious about women development. Time to time different schemes and plans has been implemented for the success of women.

1. Mahila cosh yojana
2. Training and employment programme for women (TEPW)
3. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)
4. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)

5. Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)
6. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana
7. Short Stay Home for Women and Girls
8. Swadhar

### **Conclusion**

Community awareness on the benefits of empowering women should be carried out in order that the empowerment may be supported by the community as whole. for the suitable construction of society, there is need to give special attention on women empowerment in India. Also traditional attitude has to change regarding women. Awareness programme, education and positive role of every indivisible will help to development the status of women in India. Strictly implementation, creation and support of legislative, judiciary will be beneficial to sort out the women related problems in India. To stop the women exploitation, rap sexually harassment, acid throwing, domestic violence, child marriages and female feticide with effective instruments and control on these problems.

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