

## Women Empowerment in Indian Culture: A Review

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### ABSTRACT

In Indian Culture Women empowerment is a debatable subject. Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio whereby female's population has been comparatively lower than males. As far as their social status is concerned, they are not treated as equal to men in all the places. In the Western societies, the women have got equal right and status with men in all walks of life. But gender disabilities and discriminations are found in India even today. The paradoxical situation has such that she was sometimes concerned as Goddess and at other times merely as slave.

**Keywords:** *Women Empowerment, Indian Culture*

The economic, social, religious, cultural and psychological factors affect origination and success of women empowerment (Habib, Roni & Haque, 2005). The reasons and motivations for starting business or economic activities by rural women are enormous. The important reasons are earning money or attractive source of income, enjoying better life, availability of loans, favorable government policy, influence of success stories, personal satisfaction, desire to utilize own skill and talents, unfavorable present working environment, self-employment and employment to others, assurance of carrier and family security, fulfillment of creative urge of the borrowers' experience in family business, self-confidence, non-ability to find suitable job or work,

However, due to the traditional practices and customs the status of women has not improved much. Some women have felt that traditional values and practices are interfering and restrictive in the development of their personality. They have started protesting against the traditional values and are trying to break through the old values. The women who are actively engaged in protesting social norms and restrictions against women are the modern women. They have strong urge for social freedom. But there are a good number of women who have little urge for social freedom and are happy in leading a traditional way of life there is individual differences in the urge for social freedom in women. Free participation of women in the National Development Plan is the need of the hour. The modern women have changed their outlook and attitudes to

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social issues, norms etc. in the interest of the development of the nation. The urge for social freedom in women has its importance in the life of women as well as the nation.

Dr. Lakshmi Pandey and Bi. Shabila (2016) finding in their study, clearly indicate that all the respondents were expressed moderate level of WSF and eager to uplift their social status equal to men. They were also expressed moderate urge of power motive. These findings correspond with other research findings. There is no denying the fact that women in India have made a considerable progress in the last fifty years, but yet they have to struggle against many handicaps and social evils in the male dominated society. It also confirm to the image of women in a changing scenario. The liberating effect of economic independence and social change is revolutionizing their lives enormously. Hence, it is needless to say industrialization, globalization and liberalization has made a tremendous impact on women's status and empowerment.

According to Sneha Saha, Tanishka S. Safri (2016) Over the past three decades, there has been a recognition and acknowledgement of the differences between women and men. One difference is the way in which men and women develop psychologically. Jean Baker Miller posed the question of how women develop in her 1976 book, *Toward a New Psychology of Women*. Until then, traditional theories of psychology described development as a climb from childlike dependence to mature independence. A person's goal, according to these theories, was to become a self-sufficient, clearly differentiated, autonomous self. A person would spend his or her life separating and individuating until he or she reached maturity, at which point the person was equipped for intimacy. This kind of realization in 21st century women shows the lessened yet strong relevance of dependency in women psyche. It is important to conduct researches on women dependency, as the review found on this dimension is more than 15years old. As a part of targeted research, this concept should be thoroughly researched on Indian population, researches on this syndrome has not been conducted in India as of yet.

Empowerment in its emancipatory meaning is a serious word one which brings up the question of personal agency, one that links action to needs, and one that results in making significant collective change. It is also a concept that does not merely concern personal identity but brings out a broader analysis of human rights and social justice. Applied to gender issues, the discussion of empowerment brings women into the political sphere, both private and public. In this context, empowerment is a process to change the distribution of power between men and women, both in interpersonal relations and in institutions throughout society. The concept of women's empowerment emerged from several important critiques and debates generated by the women's movement throughout the world during the 1980s, when feminists, particularly in the Third World, were increasingly discontent with the largely apolitical and economist 'WID', 'WAD', and 'GAD' models in prevailing development interventions .

### CONCLUSIONS

The empowerment of women would result in overall development of society both at micro and macro level. Active participation of women in economic activities and decisions, would contribute towards overall economic development.

#### • Challenges

The challenges/ barriers of women empowerment are the following:

1. Because of the inherent superiority complex among the males, they often doesn't allow their female counter-part to rise as high as them.
2. High level of domestic responsibilities.
3. Restrictions to participate in social, economic and religious activities.
4. In our society, the boy-child often gets preference for education and healthy diet over the girl child.
5. Preference for male-child still exist among many families in the society.

#### • Solution

The solutions for empowerment of women includes the following:

1. Education through mass communication is very important. Both women and men should be made aware of their responsibilities to promote and practice gender-equality.
2. Gather national data and identify the areas where instances of violence and gender-inequality is the most. This data can be used by the Government, NGOs and field workers to raise the status of women.
3. The society should be made aware that both boy-child and girl-child are equal, and they both should have equal access to resources.

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