

# Indian Economy And Women Empowerment

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**Abstract-** *Economic development and women's empowerment are intimately associated: on the one hand, growth on its own can significantly reduce gender disparity; on the other hand, women's empowerment may contribute to development. Women are typically not seen as essential to the process of economic growth in development plans and programs. This is demonstrated by the increased funding, mostly in population programs that goes towards supporting women's reproductive rather than productive duties. Nonetheless, women in emerging nations work and are paid for their economic productivity. Their primary fields of employment are agriculture, the unorganized sector, and a growing number of official wage jobs. But usually speaking, they don't make much money. Since the 1950s. Development organizations have made relatively limited investments in income-generating projects in response to the need for impoverished women to have a source of income. Frequently, these initiatives fall short because their primary focus is welfare rather than growth, providing women with short-term, part-time work in traditionally feminine fields like sewing and knitting, which have small markets. On the other hand, because they began with the concept that women are essential to the process of economic growth, some non-governmental organizations, like the Self-Employed Women's Association in India, have been successful in improving women's economic standing during the past 20 years.*

**Keywords-** Gender and development, economic development, and women's empowerment economic growth, the role of women, employment of females.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The role of women in India is influenced by a number of factors, including geographic location, social standing, and level of education. Women's empowerment is the process of involving women in the nation's economic development. The definition of women's empowerment is expanding their access to the elements of progress, namely those related to their health, education, employment prospects, rights, and political engagement. The analysis of Women in Development (WID) in the 1980s gave rise to the Gender and Development (GAD) methodology. Gender and Development acknowledged that gender roles and relationships play a critical role in enhancing the lives of women; the term "gender" implies that both men and women must be given equal attention. The Gender and Development method tackles

the issue of not just include women and girls in current development processes but also addressing the need for their exclusion and the power disparities that underlie that exclusion. The 1990s saw the "rise of rising" as a large number of NGOs and agencies began to approach development from a rights-based perspective. The acknowledgment of women's demands as legitimate claims is enhanced by rights. The women's movement's most significant accomplishment. Additionally, the definition of development changed from emphasizing economic development to a more comprehensive social development focus; yet, economic growth continues to be the primary driver. Nonetheless, violence against women is still commonplace worldwide, and women's rights—particularly those related to sexual and reproductive health—are not recognized as fundamental human rights everywhere. Furthermore, women are still underrepresented in politics and the economy on a full and equal basis. Women's integration into development must continue to be prioritized since mainstreaming has not yet occurred.

## The Major Types of Empowerments:

**1. Education Empowerment:** Advancement in life depends on education. It empowers women by giving them knowledge, skills, and confidence in themselves. Complete participation in the development process is required. It recommends educating women about their rights and giving them the self-assurance to assert them.

**2.Social Women Empowerment:** Enhancing gender equality is a crucial component of women's social empowerment. Today's women confront a number of social obstacles, such as the need to make soap and obtain a license in order to provide for their families.

**3. Economic Empowerment:** It suggests a higher standard of living for women-owned and operated sustainable businesses. Women's legal rights and economic progress are strongly correlated. The enhancement of women's capacity through time freedom is known as women's empowerment, and it is correlated with economic progress in both directions. The role that women play in the Indian economy is not sufficiently acknowledged, and policymakers lack the insight to recognize the significance of women in the growth of the economy.

**4. Political Empowerment:** The presence of political women encourages women to take part in political governance and decision-making.

### **Role of Women in Economic Development**

In India, women perform multiple roles such as household tasks, wives, mothers, and producers of goods and services; nevertheless, their position in contributing to economic development has been overlooked.

The issues that were most frequently mentioned were education, health, malnutrition, and repeated childbirth. Women need to have easy access to low-interest loans, family planning services to limit childbearing, and training in income-generating activities in order to increase their participation in economic development.

India has experienced rapid development, albeit not always in a fair or inclusive manner. Our development model is still very much in its early stages, and there are still many ingrained issues. The nation's largest problem is the empowerment of women. Globally, women's education and empowerment have consistently been shown to be the driving force behind swift socioeconomic development.

In India, women comprise 7.5% of the global populace. As seen by certain development indices, their standard of living is rising.

That is, the rate of progress is heartbreakingly slow; maternal death rates are dropping, literacy rates are rising, and more women are gaining access to healthcare and education.

In addition to providing women with greater socioeconomic prospects, societies with stronger gender equality also typically expand more quickly and fairly.

Gains are seen in the decrease of poverty, environmental sustainability, innovation in consumer choice, and decision-making across a wider range of topics. Gender equality and economic progress go hand in hand.

Because removing obstacles for female entrepreneurs both domestically and abroad will promote the nation's development and inclusion while also assisting in the connection of global value chains.

Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are the primary business ventures of women entrepreneurs; over 30% of MSMEs are female-owned. There

are only five exporters that are woman-owned. Five Exporters is a company run by women.

Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is a goal of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, and it will be greatly aided by putting women at the centre of global governance. Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment: The process of giving women more financial clout is proceeding erratically and slowly. Women are just as capable as males in the export industry and other jobs that pay well; the problem is that they don't always have access to technology, financing, or information. To get past the early obstacles, they require some extra motivation.

### **Objective:**

- To research the relationship between economic progress and women's empowerment.
- To investigate the relationship between education and women's empowerment.
- To comprehend the connection between poverty levels and women's empowerment
- To investigate the main issues that Indian women are now facing.

### **Review of literature:**

According to Duflo (2000), girls have superior anthropometric status (weight for height and height for age) in households with a woman getting an old-age pension as opposed to households without a pension recipient. Atkin (2009) investigates the impact of mothers' manufacturing jobs on their children's age-appropriate height using data from Mexico. Cross-sectional data from Guatemala are presented by Engle (1993) to demonstrate the relationship between improved children's nutritional status (as determined by height for age, weight for age, and weight for height) and a larger budget share for women. Phipps and Burton (1998) concentrate on married-couple homes in which both partners work full-time, using data from the Canadian Expenditure Survey of 1992.

Kennedy and Peters (1992) compare families headed by women with households headed by men in Kenya and Malawi and discover that a greater portion of the budget is allocated to food in female headed households (usually headed by a widow, who is frequently the grandmother of the children in the household). Better anthropometric results—weight for age and height for age—are also reported in the paper. The study also shows lower spending shares for alcohol in Malawi. Interestingly, female-headed households have better child

anthropometric outcomes despite overall lower incomes, even though the econometric definition does not control for income. Thomas (1990) examines gender disparities in the effects of nonwage income on health and nutrition in Brazil using survey data from Brazil gathered in 1974–1975. He discovers that family nutrition is increased by mother income four to seven times more than by male income. Income for women has a greater impact on total caloric consumption and protein intake than does income for men. Mothers' unearned income has a strong positive correlation with child survival; this relationship is 20 times stronger than that of men's unearned income. Additionally, two anthropometric outcomes—weight for height and height for age—are more significantly impacted by maternal income. According to Thomas (1994), a good indicator of bargaining power is the wife's relative education level in comparison to her husband's.

### Research Methodology:

Secondary data served as the study's foundation. Several sources, including the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) website, provided the necessary data.

### Conclusion:

From the above discussions, it can be concluded that women's empowerment plays a significant role in developing nations like India because, by pursuing education, they maintain their status in every field and are prepared to address organizational issues as well, which lowers poverty rates and boosts economic growth.

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