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यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते  
उमन्ते तत्र देवताः ॥

# स्त्रिभया

( Women Empowerment )



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## अनुक्रमणिका

**Women Empowerment : The Social Economical Perspectives**

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# Women Empowerment :

## The Socio-Economical Perspectives.

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Women Empowerment and the issue of women equality with men are widely discussed burning issues all over the world today. Both the concepts are interdependent but the former is more essential to be addressed by the society to bring the equality of with the men. Hence we have to understand the concept of women empowerment first.

What is the meaning of 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 and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure equal-right to women, and to make them confident enough to claim their rights, such as: 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, 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, 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, get safe and comfortable working environment, Women have the rights to get their voices heard.

Why Women Empowerment is so significant?

1. 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. (Also read: Paragraph on Women Employment)

2. Women are equally competent with men. Nowadays, women are even ahead of men in many socio-economic activities.

3. 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. 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. 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 earn 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. Women Empowerment leads to decrease in domestic violence. Uneducated women are at higher risk for domestic violence than an educated women.

7. 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. 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. Women are increasingly participating in the national development process. They are making the nation proud by their outstanding performances almost every sphere including medical science, social service, engineering, etc.

10. Women are considered irreplaceable for certain jobs. Educated women are capable of bringing socio-economic changes. The constitution of almost all democratic countries, including India, gives equal rights to both men and women. Primary education is now a fundamental right. When a woman (or a girl) is ensured of her rights, the society at large is ensured of its sustainability. Realizing the importance of women education, the government and many non-government organizations took a lot of projects to spread women education. Literacy programs are being taken in favor of women.

The importance of women education is briefly discussed below:

Education will empower women to come forward and contribute towards the development and prosperity of the country. Economic empowerment is essential as so long as women remain backward and economically dependent on men, the helpless condition of them cannot be changed. Economic empowerment and independence will only come through proper education and employment of women. Improved life style is the outcome of education which helps a woman to live a good life. Her identity as an individual would

never get lost. She can read and learn about her rights. Her rights would not get trodden down. The life or condition of women would improve a lot, if we take a broad outlook in the field of female education.

Educated girls and women are aware of the importance of health and hygiene. Through health education, they are empowered to lead a healthy life-style. Educated mothers can take better care of both herself and her baby.

Educated women are now being offered dignity and honour by the society. They are now source of inspiration for millions of young girls who make them their role-models.

Educated women are more informed of their rights for justice. It would eventually lead to decline in instances of violence and injustice against women such as dowry, forced-prostitution, child-marriage, female foeticide, etc.

Educated women can prove to be highly successful in the fields of life. A girl-child should get equal opportunity for education, so that, she can plan to become a successful doctor, engineer, nurse, air-hostess, cook, or choose a profession of her choice.

Women education is a pre-requisite to alleviate poverty. Women need to take equal burden of the massive task of eliminating poverty. This would demand massive contribution from educated women. There cannot be many social and economic changes unless girls and women are given their rights for education. How to Empower Women in India?

To "empower women" means to authorize power or increase the overall position, status and condition of women in every spheres of life.

Empowerment of Women would result in better and more developed society. When women contribute equally along with men for the benefit of society, the world would surely become a better place to live. Today more and more females are studying in schools and colleges and also go

abroad for higher studies. Women are increasing commanding better position in the society.

There are several ways to empower women; some of them are suggested below:

1. Create safe workplaces: Women can be empowered through the creation of safe working environment. The workplaces should be safe for the female members of the society. People will like to send their daughters and wives to work if they are assured of safe environment at workplaces.

2. Women education: By educating women, economy of the country increases. It has been seen from the last few decades that involvement of educated women in various activities helps the country to move towards economic and social development. Female education contributes to health and well-being of the family. By getting education, women also contribute to the national income of the country. They can afford to offer quality nutrition to their children. Educated women are considered active in politics as well. They know their rights and are able to defend themselves better.

3. Raise voice against gender inequality: Women can be empowered by decreasing the gender inequalities or disparities in all sectors of the society especially in education sectors.

4. Job skills (Vocational training): Proper training should be provided to women's for better results.

5. Create more part-time job opportunities: There should be greater number of part-time job opportunities. In India, mostly women are housewives so they do not get any opportunity for full-time work. Hence, more part-time and flexible jobs should be created so that more and more women get engaged into commercial activities.

Women in India: Role and Status of Women in India Traditionally, an Indian woman had four fold status-role sequences. These were her role as a

daughter, wife, housewife (homemaker), and mother. The woman, whose status and role traditionally was well defined and almost fixed in the society, is now experiencing far-reaching changes.

The woman in modern times is entering into certain new fields that were unknown to the woman's sphere of role-sets. They are activating participating in social, economic, and political activities. The women of the present generation have generally received higher education than the women of their preceding generation. There have been far reaching consequences in the economic status of their families.

#### **Women's Role in Society:**

The modern women are inclined towards the social issues, and trying hard to improve the social status of women at large. Increased awareness and education has inspired women to come out of the four walls of the home. Many women actively supported and participated in the nationalist movement and secured eminent positions and offices in administration and public life in free India. Traditionally Indian women exist because of the family and for the family. Just like their man counterpart, women are also fond of attending social functions and value her social life quite a lot. Previously, men-folk used to discourage women from leaving their households for attending social functions. Now the spread of education, especially that of women, and with that the changing social attitudes of educated women have changed the order. The modern woman has started caring for her health, figure, cultural needs and interests, academic pursuits, social intercourse, religious activities recreational needs, etc.

Woman as a wife: Woman as a wife enjoyed ideally a status almost equally to that of her husband and performed both social as well as biological functions. Even today, the Indian girls are still brought up on models portraying selflessness, self-denial, and sacrifice. The desire

for mutual affection and love is beginning to appear in their conception of their relationship with their husbands. The husband-wife relationship has become more equalitarian in character and much more companionable. More freedom of choice in marriage is thus an accompaniment to the change in form of the family. Women's role in politics: Education of women has not only helped them to become aware of the political problems, but they are gradually becoming active participants in the political life. Some are enrolling themselves as members of political parties, attending party meetings, conventions, and carrying out political programs. Some women are attaining influential political stature of their own and have become instrumental in shaping the public opinion for the betterment of women's conditions in society.

Participation of Women in Socio-economic activities: The woman in modern times is entering into certain new fields that were unknown to the woman's sphere of role-sets. These are the woman's participation in economic, political, and social life. The modern woman keenly desires to enter into a work career because of the pressing economic needs of the family. In middle class families, much emphasis is given to the maintenance of high standard of living. To fulfill the economic needs of the family and to achieve higher standard of living the woman participates in economic activities.

Marriage: Most women, even the educated, regard marriage as a matter of parental choice. Many young girls of the middle and upper classes are educated with a view to marriage rather than to careers. Again, many girls enter into careers apparently not because they want them, but because there is nothing else to be done until their parents find them husbands.

Women equality is not universal: Women's equality in terms of education, employment, and power is still an individual rather than a universal achievement. The majority of our

women are still content to accept an inferior status. This is by and large due to the fact that, although legally women have equal rights with men, there are not enough jobs for women and working women are not adequately protected from exploitation. Unaware of their legal status: Women are generally not aware of the provisions related to the improvement of their own position. Even if they know about some of the provisions related to their rights of succession, marriage, or family, they do not desire to invoke them. Traditional dominance of the authority of the male parents, husband, and other elder members of the family often restricts the enjoyment of their legal rights by the women. The materialization of these problems still depends largely upon the attitudinal changes in society. Rural women: Gandhiji's vision that women must play an equal and important role in national development. However, the movement for raising the socio-economic status of women had involved generally the middle-class educated women in major urban centers while the great mass of rural women are yet to enjoy the rights and privileges as enshrined in the Constitution.

Conclusion:

Until the middle of nineteenth century, girls and women were educated only for traditional household works. Now, the society is witnessing changes in the role-status of women. There is greater emphasis on education girls and women in the same way as we educate boys and men. The modern day parents want to fulfill the aspiration of their children without gender parity. The educated women should insist on exercising their civil, social, political and economic rights. This will help improve the overall condition of women in the society. We can hope for better days while all women of our country will be enlightened and educated.

Educated women are just on the threshold of transition from tradition to modernity. The women themselves desire that their status and position

in society should rise higher. Though a proper climate for such a change is still wanting, yet there have been many structural and statutory innovations for the improvement of their position. The traditional status and role sets of women are breaking up and new role-sets based on achievement, independence and equality are gradually coming up.



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