

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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### ABSTRACT

Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and communities of women. To acknowledge the social and gender injustice that still exists in our society, to spread awareness about it and to overcome the challenges Women needs to be empowered. Women empowerment in India is heavily dependent on many different varieties that includes geographical location (Urban/Rural), Education status, social status (Cast/Class) and Age. To fight against evils of societies like Child Marriage, Harassment against women, gender bias, and female genital mutilation (FGM) women needs to be aware of their rights and should be empowered through education. Swami Vivekananda has truly said that: “That country and that nation which do not respect the women have never become great, nor will ever be in future” And in the pursuit of making “INDIA” a great nation, let us work towards giving women the status that they deserve. True empowerment comes with Education, growth and Success into any field. Women Entrepreneurship being one of the best example of Women empowerment needs to get a boost in our country so that our country can reach new heights. Women entrepreneurship is the process in which women initiate a business, gather all resources, undertake risks, face challenges, provides employment to others and manages the business independently. Approximately 33% of the entrepreneurs in the world are women entrepreneurs. But in India, Women constitute only 13.76% of the total entrepreneurs, i.e., 8.05 million out of the 58.5 million entrepreneurs. So it is very important that the awareness spreads across our country and Women rise and take the roles and responsibilities that she deserves.

**Keywords:** FGM, Nikah halala, UNICEF, Gender equality, Fatwa, Nuclei, Catalyst

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Women empowerment is the process in which women expand and recreate what it is that they can do and accomplish in a circumstance that they previously were denied.

It is actually making of the women more powerful. So that they will be able to take their own decisions regarding their lives and well-being of their families and society.

Gender inequality is the main social issue in which women are put back in the male dominated society. We can now see the women in almost every field like architecture, law, medical, engineering, financial services and IT.

They have also entered the service occupation like Nurses, beautician, sales worker, waitress, etc. They are gradually and increasingly seen marching into the domains which were previously reserved for males.

Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and communities of women.

The principles emphasizes & the business case for corporate action to promote gender equality and women empowerment and are informed by real life business practices and input gathered from across the globe.

The principles seek to inform other stake holders, including governments, in their engagement with business.

- Establish high level corporate leadership for gender equality.
- Ensure the health, safety and well being of all women and men workers.
- Treat all women and men fairly at work.
- Promote education, training and professional development for women.
- Measure and publicity report on progress to achieve gender equality
- Implementation enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women.
- Promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy.

## 2. THE NEED OF STUDY

UNICEF had released a report stating that the number of girls getting married in India had halved. Despite this drop, nearly 1.5 million girls in India get married before they turn 18. In 26% of the cases the girls were younger than 15 years of age.

Child marriage take away the childhood of these little girls and push them under the responsibilities of married life. These young brides cannot continue their education and they have more health problems. FGM is Female genital mutilation. It is a procedure that intentionally alter/cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

UNICEF estimated in 2016 that 200 million women living today in 30 countries—27 African countries, Indonesia, Iraqi, Kurdistan and Yemen—have undergone the procedures.

Some people argue that the women empowerment has been achieved globally and there isn't much left to do but the fact of the matter is that Yes, Women are doing more social, political and economic work in the society more than ever but at Global level women are suffering because of street harassment, rape, honor killing, gender inequality, pay inequality, lack of education and resources and many other reasons.

There was a recent case of Triple Talaq and Nikah Halala of Nida Khan. She was divorced by her husband through instant triple Talaq in 2016. Her husband Sheeran Raza Khan is from the family of the head of Ala Hazrat. She took the matter to civil court and said that she had suffered a miscarriage after being assaulted by her husband in 2015.

She insisted that the government should take strict action against clerics who have been involved in issuing The Fatwa against her which asks the community and the society to boycott her.

According to The Supreme Court fatwas issued by Shariat courts had no legal sanctity and defiance of fatwas doesn't have any civil or criminal consequences. It is illegal to impose any religion-based opinions or personal issues on citizens and it is a violation of fundamental rights. Any person trying to enforce a fatwa by any method shall be illegal and has to be dealt with in accordance with law. (Reference 2)

### 3. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study in to analyze the factors contributing to women entrepreneurs in socio economic development and to find out the various personal and principal problems in their business.

- Advancement and development of women in every walk of life.
- Strengthening Legal system
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process
- Equal access to women in all levels
- Enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom

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### 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of the present study data has been collected from secondary sources. It is collected from journals, magazines, including the reports and documents of ministry of human resource development, Government of india National family health survey report etc. and various other publications.

### 5. LITERATURE REVIEW

*“You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of women”*

**—Jawaharlal Nehru**

Women have been regarded as the nuclei of the nation and molder of its destiny. It is a well said fact that – ‘When there is development of women, family develops, the society develops and the country develops.’ They are the catalyst of the development and with them we prosper but without them we are poor. Entrepreneurship Development focuses on the individual who wishes to start or expand a business. To develop entrepreneurship in a country requires comprehensive effort that covers various activities right from the situation to its long term survival.

- Entrepreneurship Development refers to the process of enhancing and entrepreneurial skills and knowledge through structured training and institution building programs.
- Entrepreneurship Development aims to enlarge the base of entrepreneurs in order to hasten the pace at which new ventures are created. This accelerates employment generation and economic development.
- Increased **self-confidence** through entrepreneurship development gave the women prosperous future.
- The most important changes come through increase in income which not only upgrades the individual's life but also increases her standard of living and also bringing economic solvency within the family.  
Other than this the right to free choice of profession and employment, the right to promotion, job security, all benefits, conditions of service and right to receive vocational training and retraining too.  
The long struggle over a century has brought the women their voting rights, property rights, an equality in civil rights before the law, in matters of marriage and employment (In India women had not struggled for voting rights as we find in other countries)
- The right to work as a human being.
- The right to the same employment opportunities.
- The right to equal remuneration.
- The right to protection of health and to safety.

## 6. RATIONALE OF STUDY

### 6.1 LEGISLATIVE ACTS IN INDIA FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

#### Constitution of India, 1950

##### A. Article 14-equality.

Article 14 of the constitution of India provides for equality before the law or equal protection within the territory of India the state shall not deny to any person equality before the law & equal protection of law.

##### B. Article 15- prohibits discrimination of sex.

No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race caste ,sex place of birth or any of them , be subject to any disability, liability restriction or condition –

##### C. Article 16- equality of opportunity for employment.

Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment. There shall be equality of opportunity all citizens & in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state.

##### D. The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendments to the constitution of India provided for reservation of seats

## 6.2 BENEFITS OF THE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN THE SOCIETY

The major benefits of women empowerment are-

- Next generation will be empowered because of her.
- If a women is empowered she won't be a burden on anyone.
- Financial burden of a family can be shared with her support.
- Decision making power on their own.
- Ability to learn and teach new skills.
- Ability to change other's perception.
- Increasing One's positive self-image and overcoming social stigma.
- If a women is empowered she can be looked upon as a Role Model in the society.

## 6.3 ISSUES TO BE TACKLED FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDR EQUALITY

In India women are discriminated and marginalized at every level of the society whether it is social participation, economic opportunity and economic participation, political participation, access to education or access to resources etc. Majority of women in India are poor, uneducated and insufficiently trained . they often end up in the daily struggle of managing an ill equipped family are not in a position to propel out themselves of the oppressive and regressive socio –economic conditions. Although lots of things are happening and large amount of resources are being spent in the name of women empowerment In India, the actual situation however, just remains the same and in many instances worsens further.

## 7. CONCLUSION

The subject of empowerment of women has becoming a burning issue all over the world including India since last few decades. Inequalities between men and women and discrimination against women have also been age-old issues all over the world. Thus, women's quest for equality with man is a universal phenomenon. They have demanded equality with men in matters of education, employment, inheritance, marriage, and even in politics. Women want to have for themselves the same strategies of change which Men folk have had over the centuries such as equal pay for equal work. As women constitute almost one- half of India's population, without their engagement and empowerment, rapid economic progress is out of the question. For economic growth to be really inclusive, women empowerment is of utmost value. It is crucial for achieving sustainable economic development of our country and even beyond. Still a large part of women do not have sufficient autonomy regarding the value choices for their own life. The data also revealed that there is a necessity to look beyond economic resources or material prosperity and into cultural and social influences, which are playing a significant role in shaping the women's autonomy and empowerment.

Along with government, civil society organizations and all other stake holders must come forward and involve in the women empowerment process is thee need of the hour.

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