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INDIRABAI MEGHE MAHILA
MAHAVIDYALAYA, AMRAVATI



AND

AADHAR SOCIAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND
TRAINING INSTITUTE, AMRAVATI

ORGANIZE

ONE DAY INTERDISCIPLINARY
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO
MODERN INDIAN SOCIETY

Date : 7th of November, 2022



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"Women's Contribution to Modern Indian Society"
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Message from the Principal's Desk:

It is a pleasure to bring out this issue of a interdisciplinary peer reviewed and refereed journal on research papers for the one day interdisciplinary National conference on "Women's Contribution to Modern Indian Society" organized on 7th of November 2022. We thank the authors of all the research papers for their valuable contributions to the journal. We hope that the deliberations of the learned resource persons and researchers at the conference will bring new perspectives and that the papers in this journal will prove to be a good source for research on different topics.

Dr. Leena Kandlkar
Principal

Indirabai Meghe Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Irwin Chowk,
Morshi Road, Amravati, Maharashtra 444603.



Editorial

Dear Friends, teachers & Fellow Delegates, Greetings from Indirabai Meghe Mahila Mahavidyalaya Amravati. Wish you all a healthy and professionally fulfilling year.

At the outset, let me share with you some of the experiences that we had during preparation of this Conference. When we were given the charge of organizing this National conference event, we were very nervous! More so, because these days teaching fraternity and scholars had set a very high standard of education. We were little bit nervous because Amravati does not have direct commercial flight connection, no big hotels etc. But, two things that kept us convincing in accepting this big task boldly, were a guaranteed unrelenting support from our colleagues and from our society.

Today, I have no hesitation in telling you that everyone has proved themselves beyond our expectations and have backed solidly in making this conference 'successful', if you believe so!

There were some impediments and setbacks, too. While we were in a full swing in preparations, our conference had to postpone due to University level workshop. This had almost shattered us and with untiring zeal and dedication we came on track.

Somebody has said that preparing a conference is like making a movie. There are so many things to be worked out in detail before you really go to the floor. To keep all the speakers happy about their topics, timings, slots and simultaneously trying to keep the audience engrossed to their deliberations is a challenging task. Anyway, this conference is before you to decide. I can only hope that you would go back happily and wisely.

Prof. Dr. Punam Choudhary
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**Women Empowerment: Concept and Significance****Dr Minal Anand Mapuskar and Ms Janhavi Rajesh Kolte**Institution/ College- Kirti M Doongursee College (Autonomous), Kashinath Dhuru Road
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Abstract- All over the world, sustained and inclusive economic growth are considered as the gateway towards a progressive country that can create decent jobs for all and improve living standards. The disastrous pandemic of COVID-19 has disrupted billions of lives and endangered the global economy. It has led to loss of jobs and many are yet to recover from its aftermaths despite venturing into 2022. Empowerment is about people- together women and men - taking control over their lives; becoming conscious of their own situation and position, setting their own schedules, creating space for themselves, attainment of skills, constructing self confidence, building relationships, resolving problem and developing self-assurance. UNDP (1995) proposed that empowerment is about participation. Empowerment means development must be by people, not only for them. People must contribute fully in the conclusions and methods that figure their lives. Empowerment has been well-defined as a modification in the context of a woman's life, which empowers her increased capacity for advancing a fulfilling human life. It gets imitated in external qualities such as health, mobility, education and awareness, status in the family, participation in decision making, and also at the level of material security. It also comprises internal abilities such as self-awareness and self-confidence. According to Oxfam (1995:11), "empowerment is a process in which people start taking control over their lives. It is about people chasing their own goals, living according to their own values, developing self-reliance, and being able to make choices and influence - both individually and mutually - the decisions that affect their lives. Empowerment is a complex and long term process. For women and men to be empowered conditions have to be formed to qualify them to attain the necessary resources, knowledge, political voice and organizational capacity". Empowerment can be defined as a "multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives. It is a process that fosters power (that is, the capacity to implement) in people, for use in their own lives, their communities, and in their society, by acting on issues that they define as important" (Page and Czuba, 1999) What is expected of a man or a woman, a girl or a boy, differs depending on the socio-cultural context in which they live.845. The gendered division of labour in everyday life is an example: women continue to play a dominant role in providing unpaid care to family members and taking care of domestic chores but they play a subordinate role in political and economic life. As women dedicate more time to unpaid activities, they are often dependent on men's income and less protected through financial savings, pension entitlements and property in their name. The general understanding is therefore that women need to be "empowered" in order to narrow the "gender gap" and to create an equal playing field between women and men before gender equality can be reached and maintained. But what does it mean for a woman to be empowered?. This paper contributes to the literature on women empowerment making a step forward in causal inference by focusing on the core concept and significance as well as looking at empowerment as a holistic concept.

According to the United Nations Population Fund, an empowered woman has a sense of self worth. She can determine her own choices, and has access to opportunities and resources providing her with an array of options she can pursue. She has control over her own life, both within and outside the home and she has the ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, both nationally and internationally (UNDP, 2008). In the late 1980s the report Our Common Future by the World Commission on Environment and Development defined the concept "sustainable development" as development which "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". While aiming to maximize the well-being of today's generation, it is important to take a long-term perspective, taking into account the consequences of our actions for our children, their children and grandchildren, ensuring that the resources they will require for their own well-being are not depleted, and that the natural environment into which they will be born will not be polluted or destroyed.





Development of a country and the state is directly linked with the advancement of women. Further, advancement is linked with the level of empowerment to the women. If women enjoy an equal and rightful position in society and get a fair share of the economy, then women are empowered in that particular country. "Empowerment and development are both closely linked to each other. Development and advancement, as per the oxford dictionary meaning, is said to be progressing towards easy access to all required facilities such as water, sanitation, health, education, all means of communication, modern technology, an opportunity for better livelihood, entertainment, etc. Women's access to these developments on par with the men is the main concern that has been raised often since 1947. According to World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap report 2021, India was ranked 148th amongst 158 nations. In case of political empowerment, educational attainment, economic participation and opportunity and health and survival the scores are quite worrisome. Addressing the constraints to women's economic empowerment is fundamental to poverty reduction and food security, lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and the achievement of gender equality. Approaches to economic empowerment includes increasing skills and access to productive resources, improving the enabling and institutional environment, and assisting women in their ability to make and act upon decisions regarding economic growth and development. Women empowerment and economic development are closely related. Development can bring down inequalities in society; however, gender inequalities can only be brought down by ensuring women's participation. Women's economic participation is fundamental to strengthen their rights and enable them to have control over their lives and establish a place for themselves in society. An inclusive development, therefore, can happen if the participation of women is ensured. In this context of discrimination and inequalities against women, Amartya Sen coined the term, "missing women," which aptly sums up the society we live in. This term focuses on the persistence of gender inequalities in societies. According to a World Bank report (2011), six million women go missing every year; of these twenty-three percent are never born, ten percent go missing in early childhood, twenty-one percent in the reproductive years, and thirty-eight percent above the age of 60.

Women empowerment would pertain to capacity for self-action and the transformation of self. It is inextricably linked to both the ability and opportunity to make decisions and to act for one self, at the same time it can be referred as an active, multidimensional process, which should enable them to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life. It consists of women's greater access to knowledge and resources, greater ability to plan their lives, greater control over their circumstances, and the power to free themselves from the shackles of custom, belief and practice. The fact that there is still discussion on "**Women Empowerment**" shows that all is still not well with women in the country. Women are struggling for their dignity within family and the community. Empowerment of women is essential as their thoughts and their value systems lead to the development of a good family, good society and ultimately good nation". Women are not only important but also equal stakeholder of the society.

Empowerment as a word is widely used and recently included in the vocabulary of government and non-government organisations, developing agencies including the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and other International Organisations. There are multiple reports, conferences, summits, policies discussing and debating the status of women empowerment often. But this word seldom defined, as particularly women's Empowerment, so before discussing Empowerment of women; firstly the concept of 'empowerment' needs to be understood. Empowerment means to acquire power in the field of social, economic and political arena. It should come from within. It cannot be imposed.

Wilkinson (1990) described that empowerment increased the people's involvement in defining and promoting their agenda for social, economic and political strength. Hence, it's simple meaning is to change the entire life. Oakley (1991) defines that "Empowerment is a process to develop the skills, to enable people to manage a better way of life". Sharma (1992) has explained that process of empowerment changed the nature and direction of women and other weaker sections. Pandey (1993) mentions that empowerment is a procedure of building capacity, enhancing confidence and gaining control over productive resources. Batliwala (1994) said, empowerment is course of action that challenges existing power structure and sources. According to Hape (1994), Empowerment holds several mutually strong elements. It includes access and control over productive resources & socio-economic resources, to fulfill personal needs, to increase confidence among the individual to take



decision, to enhance knowledge and awareness among the people etc. are the main elements of Empowerment. Banerjee (1995) said that empowerment is a process of equality enrichment and can achieve during disempowering some structure, organism, method and institutions. It helps the people to access equality and liberty. It also enables and realizes the weaker section of the society for their existence.

“Empowerment is a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and multi-layered concept. Women's empowerment is a process through which women achieve superior share of control over assets like - material, human and logical like knowledge, information, ideas and financial resources like money & access to money and control over decision making in the family, community, society and nation, and to gain power” as said by (Jyoti 2016:15).

Women's empowerment is a part to encourage women to feel strong by telling them that they can do everything that they want to do. Women can work outside their home, have opportunity to make up their mind. Women are not dependent on men. They can earn money to support their family by working through their abilities. As some women are not confident to work in a hard condition or a high position because they still determine that it's not women's job.

Empowerment helps to reduce in domestic violence due people promote and give the value to women. Women are not abused by any factors such as sexual abuse, emotion abuse and physical abuse. Since the beginning of civilization, there has been bulk evidence of women being considered inferior to men. Almost every country, no matter how progressive has a history of ill-treating women. This has eventually nudged women to retrospect their status in society and has even led women from all over the world to be rebellious to reach the status they have today. Since then, women have been vocal about gender equality and have continuously made efforts to empower themselves to achieve that equality. The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic, and health status is a highly important end in itself.

“A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform.”

— Diane Mariechild

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