



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Women are a great human resource and the role of women in society is absolutely vital for its progress. The sustainable development of the country depends upon the maximum utilization of her people, both men and women. Our goal in this paper is to examine the role and influence of women empowerment can be considered as an important indicator for socio – economic development. Inclusive development must involve women since poverty is particularly acute for women living in rural households. There is a need to empower these poor women through science and Technology (S & T). Discussions on the recently announced Science, Technology and Innovation policy, 2013, however, have not deliberated what the policy entails not only for women involved in S & T but also what S & T has to offer to the poor rural women and improve their lives.

INTRODUCTION

In the past, women were treated as mere slaves. They were denied freedom. They were kept like dumb cattle within the four walls of the house. Indeed, they had no rights. Their most sacred duty was to obey changing, yet women are still treated, in some respects, in the same old way. The condition of women is also gradually changing. There are many stories and instances that women have been given equal right with men. This article/paper looks at how for the Women

empowerment play an important role towards socio economic development in various ways.

Women in general do not have a strong presence in science and technology. Women's involvement in science and technology encounters bias in regard to disciplines and academic or professional level of responsibility. Women are divided between two spheres; the management of the home & family and the fulfillment of job responsibilities. The reality of women's lives remains invisible to



men & women alike & this invisibility persists at all levels beginning with the family to the nation. Although geographically men & women share the same space, they live in different worlds.

Women in India

In India, women constitute a distinct group of minority in Science and Technology. Many highly qualified women drop out of the workforce, thus constituting a considerable depletion of natural resources in Science and Technology. Women and men have been active in science from the inception of human civilization. Women and Men have researched and solved each emerging need. At a glance, women in general might look like one of the many housewives – simple, docile, humble and unassuming. But make no mistake, for behind this simple straight face is a razor sharp brain sharp brain, and an uncanny ability to execute to convert thought into action without much ado. Indian is one of the world's fastest growing economics, with women mainly

from the middle class increasingly entering the workforce. In India, the status of women in science did not receive adequate attention. \Women in all professions perform a double role of managing job and domestic responsibilities, which has been commonly referred to as a 'dual burden'. In science, the dual burden is combined with various problems that are specific to the scientific profession women work two thirds of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, yet earth only 10 percent of the world's income and own less than 1 percent of the world's property. More than 850 million people must of them women and children suffer from chronic hunger as malnutrition. Women in the developing world bear a heavy burden of preventable illness. Each year, more than half a million women die from the complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

Women Empowerment

women empowerment is not a new concept it is quite a well known concept around the globe.



Women all over the world have been challenging and changing gender inequalities since the beginning of history. Swami Vivekanand and of the greatest sons of India, quoted that, “There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved, It is not possible for a bird of fly on only one wing.” 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 is a process in which women gain greater share of control over resources material, human and intellectual like knowledge, information, ideas and financial resources like money and access to money and control over decision – making in the home, community, society, nation and to gain power. According to the country Report of Government of India, Empowerment means moving from a position of enforced powerlessness to one of power.

Empowerment as the expansion in people’s ability to make strategic like choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them. For women in India, this suggests empowerment in several realms : personal, familiar, economic and political. There we talk of empowerment.

- 1) Can women, decide, with dignity and without any fear their own goals & have the freedom & capability to act towards them ?
- 2) Do they have access to means of production to ensure economic independence and physical security outside the house as a precondition to freedom of movement ?
- 3) Do their opinions & desires count at the level of family, the society and the country ?
- 4) How do we provide opportunities to enhance their capabilities ?
- 5) Does she have the right to own and enjoy property ?



6) Is she able to freely participate in the development and status building of the nation?

Women can be empowered only if they are given education and made aware of their rights and hence they themselves priorities their lives. Violence has to be completely eradicated from her life, then and only then can the dream of empowerment becomes a reality. Women have to be given due respect in a society to have actual empowerment. As unskilled and semiliterate women are exploited everywhere. But the society having developed is still not safe for its female citizens. A woman's safety is not only her family's responsibility but the country as well women's empowerment in India is heavily dependent on many different variables that include geographical location, education status, social status and age. Policies on women's empowerment exist at the national, state, and local levels in many sectors, including health, education, economic opportunities, gender based violence and political

participation. However, there are significant gaps between policy advancements and actual practice at the community level.

Surprisingly, the empowerment of women is one of the central issues in the process of development of countries all over the world, not just India. Women development and empowerment has been one of the priority areas in the agenda of the Government, various programmers have been initiated and are executed to achieve the objectives. The time has come when it becomes necessary that a woman is viewed as one person and all the programmers whether it is in health sector or in education sector as in economic sector as are meant for providing protection from adverse situations is planned & executed in integrated and holistic manner. These programmers will need to be so focused that they ultimately enhance the dignity of women & also associate value to their socio – economic participation.

Science and Technology for Women's empowerment



Since Independence, Indians have been promoting science and Technology as one of the most important elements of national development. The national policy for Empowerment of women, 2001 adopted in the Ninth Five Year plan stated that the 'Application of science and technology is vital for the advancement of women.' Particularly the policy entails not only for women involved in S & T, but also what S & T has to offer to the poor rural women.

Key features of STI policy, 2013 for women.

- Enhancing skills for applications of science among the young from all social sectors and linking contributions of STI with inclusive growth agenda.
- Increasing accessibility, availability and affordability of STI, especially for women, differentially able and disadvantaged sections of society.
- Wide range of mechanisms is envisaged to be deployed to realize these policy aspirations,

specifically for empowering women through appropriate STI inputs.

Women contribute to the economy through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace, science and Technology can help in creating opportunities to enable them to acquire the skills necessary for entering these newly emerging occupations. Science and Technology can be a powerful tool in bridging the gender divide and achieving inclusive development, if effectively and universally adopted. S & T offer solutions to many challenges faced by rural women; it can contribute to food security by boosting crop yields, increasing women's performance by introducing labor saving technologies and increase their participation in the rural market through better communications. Women can greatly benefit from a combination of ICT and space technology.



Realizing the need for science and Technology to play an important role in poverty alleviation and economic empowerment of women, gender mainstreaming of Science & Technology programmers for socio economic development of women is the only way forward. There is a pressing need to address the challenges hampering the access of S & T to women in the country. Empowering rural women would ultimately lead to empowering the nation.

CONCLUSION

Women should be encouraged to bring their Vision and leadership, knowledge and skills, views and aspirations into the development agenda from the grassroots to international levels. Science and Technology brings economic growth and well being to people and it is not only the empowerment of women through science and technology, but also the enrichment of science and technology through women's participation. It is not the concern of one nation only, but there are

many players & stake holders in the aim to reach this millennium goal. We just hope that women become empowered at 100 % and become equal to men so that both of them may work side by side for a better world of today.

It is necessary to recognize that the participation of women in science and technology is no longer simply an issue of gender equity; it is also an issue that should be considered in national economic development. Women are both consumers and producers, they can make a difference if they are involved and considered in economic development plans with science and technology at the heart of economic development, women's participation in science and technology is therefore an essential part of economic development strategies.

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