



AN ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract

Women's strengthening and financial advancement are interrelated where the advancement plays a crucial role in decreasing disparity among men and women. On the contrary, enabling women can advantage the improvement. Women are often overlooked as a basic component of the method of financial growth in development strategies and programs. This can be illustrated by the increased funding, generally in population programs, for women's reproductive instead of productive duties. Nonetheless, women complete economically useful employment and receive compensation in all developing nations. Their primary jobs are in agriculture and the unorganized sector, though they are increasingly working for pay in the official economy as well. They do, however, typically make little money.

Advancement organizations have been contributing generally small in initiatives that generate income since 1950s in response to the need for impoverished women to have a source of income. These activities, which donate women transitory, part – time work in customarily female occupations like weaving and sewing, for which there are few markets, in some cases come up short since they are driven more by welfare issues than by improvement contemplations. Based on the thought that women are essential to the process of financial growth, some non-governmental groups, like the Self-Employed Women's Association in India, have been fruitful in raising the economic standing of women for the past 20 years.

Key Words: *Gender Discrimination, Women's empowerment, Economic development, Gender Inequality and Self-Assurance.*

Introduction

Women's strengthening and financial advancement are interrelated where the advancement plays a crucial role in decreasing disparity among men and women. On the contrary, enabling women can advantage the improvement. Women are often overlooked as a basic component of the method of financial growth in development strategies and programs. This can be illustrated by the increased funding, generally in population programs, for women's reproductive instead of productive duties. Nonetheless, women complete economically useful employment and receive compensation in all developing nations. Their primary jobs are in agriculture and the unorganized sector, though they are increasingly working for pay in the official economy as well. They do, however, typically make little money.

The problem of missing women shows very clearly that unfair treatment of women is still a big issue. According to the World Bank (2011), 6 million women are thought to disappear annually. Of them, 23% never come into the world, 10% go missing in early childhood, 21% go missing during the reproductive years, and 38% go missing at the age of 60 or beyond. Many women have denied the education, employment, or political responsibilities that male would have been granted for every absent woman. In a number of areas, it is clear how much women have improved over the past 20 years, as well as how disadvantaged they are compared to males. In terms of educational access in low- and middle-income

nations, the percentage of girls enrolled in secondary school was 34% in 2010, compared to 41% for boys. Nowadays, practically every boy and girl attends primary school. Labor market opportunities: Women are less likely to work, earn less for doing the same work as males, and are more likely to live in poverty even when they do work. Women spend almost half of their time working in the market, nearly twice as much time cleaning the house.

According to political representation, women only accounted for 19.4% of parliamentarians in both the lower and upper houses as of July 2011. Regarding legal rights: women still lack the autonomy to manage property, own land, operate enterprises, or even travel without their husbands' permission in many situations. Women's empowerment is defined as enhancing women's access to the elements of development, especially health, education, earning capacity, rights, and political engagement, is correlated with economic development. On the one hand, progress on its own can significantly contribute to the reduction of gender inequality. On the other hand, persistent prejudice against women can impede progress, as the senator has demonstrated persuasively. To put it another way, empowerment can hasten progress.

The evidence supporting both sides of the empowerment-development link is illustrated in this article. First, it demonstrates that poverty and a lack of opportunities contribute to gender inequality. Therefore, when economic development reduces poverty, women's circumstances improve in two ways: first, everyone's situation, including women's, improves if poverty is reduced; second, gender inequality decreases as poverty decreases, meaning that as development increases, women's circumstances improve more than men's, but this is insufficient to achieve complete equality between men and women. To put it another way, empowerment can hasten progress.

Objectives of The Study

1. To investigate the relationship between Economic Progress and Women's Empowerment.
2. To discuss the relationship between Education and Women's Employment.
3. To comprehend the relationship between Poverty levels and Women's Empowerment.
4. To analyze the primary issues that Indian women are currently facing.

Review of Literature

1. **Duflo** (2000) finds that girls in households where a woman receives an old age pension have better anthropometric status (weight for height and height for age) compared to households where no one receives a pension.
2. **Atkin** (2009) uses Mexican data to examine the effect of maternal employment in manufacturing on children's age-related height.
3. **Engle** (1993) provides cross-sectional data from Guatemala to show that higher female household share is associated with better nutritional status of children (measured by height-for-age, weight-for-age, and weight-for-height).
4. **Phipps and Burton** (1998) use data from the 1992 Canadian Expenditure Survey and focus on married couple households in which both spouses work full-time. The authors find that a higher share of wife's income is associated with higher spending on child care, children's clothing, women's clothing, and groceries.
5. **Kennedy and Peters** (1992) compare female-headed households with those headed by men in Kenya and Malawi and find that in households headed by women (usually headed by a widow, who is often the grandmother of the children in the household) a larger portion of the budget is spent on food. The paper also documents better anthropometric results (weight by age and height

by age). For Malawi, the paper also documents lower spending shares on alcohol. The econometric specification does not control for income, but interestingly, female-headed households have better anthropometric outcomes for children despite lower income overall.

6. **Thomas** (1990) uses Brazilian survey data from 1974/75 to examine gender differences in the impact of additional income on health and nutrition in Brazil. He finds that mother's income increases family nutrition four to seven times more than men's income. Both total calorie intake and protein intake are more influenced by women's income than men's income. Child survival is highly positively associated with mothers' unearned income, and the effect is 20 times larger when compared to men's unearned income. Maternal income also has a greater influence on two anthropometric outcomes (weight for height and height for age).
7. **Thomas** (1994) uses the relative level of education of the wife compared to the husband as an indicator of bargaining power. Based on data from the United States, Brazil and Ghana, the study documents that mother's education has a greater impact on girls' nutritional status (as measured by height and age) than father's education, while the opposite is true for the boys. Furthermore, recent randomized field experiments have found that transfers to men running small businesses lead to a significant increase in firm profits several years later, while no such effect is found for women (De Mel, McKenzie, and Woodruff 2009; Fafchamps et al . 2011).

Women Empowerment

Women's empowerment means that women have the ability to control daily actions in the social, political, and economic spheres and in the external environment. The new term in economic growth is "empowering women." Numerous academics and researchers have demonstrated that increased female empowerment causes a significant shift in economic progress. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the 2000s established gender equality and women's empowerment as global development initiatives. One of the most important ways to support women's growth is through their autonomy and freedom.

Women Empowerment And Economic Development

Indian women have broken free from the long-standing constraints of male dominance and serfdom. She started moving up the social ladder with dignity and pride after coming into her own. In India today, women are given equal standing and advancement alongside males in all areas of life, including politics, society, the home, and education. However, as women comprise around one-third of the general population, it is necessary to inspire and encourage them to engage in the activities. In order for women to participate in the nation's economic development, certain steps must be taken to empower them.

In order to increase women's empowerment and reduce poverty, development programs must concentrate on actual gender requirements, such as women's income and material possessions. Women's empowerment will start with this intervention and grow to its maximum potential. The rate of increase in women's empowerment will rise dramatically with the introduction of some new treatments. According to Duflo, there was a positive correlation between GDP per capita and women's rights when considering a cost-benefit analysis. From this vantage point, it was evident that increased female empowerment might support economic growth.

Women Empowerment And Economic Growth

In India, the majority of women often make their living via unorganized labor. There are many chances for economic progress when women are having more authority. There will be greater growth if the informal sector is involved in a large number of tasks and activities. Women's participation in groups, companies, and consultations has been shown to increase efficiency. For instance, Fortune 500

corporations have conducted research on the financial impact of an empowered woman. Significantly, higher financial returns were attained by those with more women on the board, including 53% higher returns on equity, 24% higher returns on sales, and 67% higher returns on invested capital (OECD, 2008). This study demonstrates how women affected the company's total financial gains. Women in the formal labor have the potential to improve a country's economic performance if they are introduced globally. This boosts the country's economic expansion.

Women Empowerment And Education

The most crucial way to provide women the information, abilities, and self-assurance they need to actively engage in the process of growth is through education. Since it serves as a gateway to additional opportunities, it is essential for everyone, but particularly for women and girls. Particularly, secondary education investments yield larger and greater returns. In terms of schooling, there is no distinction between males and girls in the twenty-first century. Girls with education are able to comprehend the value of health care and their children's demands. Women's literacy rates are lower than men's in developing nations like India are. Women's standing in the economy will improve as they eventually get education. As a result, they can seize more chances and grow stronger and more influential than they were previously.

Women Empowerment And Poverty

One of the best strategies to combat poverty is to fund women's education. Women will have more authority if income poverty decreases. Strengthening women's relevant capacities and making sure, they have the resources and social networks necessary to not just get over obstacles but also to have more control over their own destiny should be part of development initiatives. The journey to empowerment does not have to be difficult for women in extreme poverty. Engaging in economic activity or organizing against people in authority to demand their rights are two ways that this happens. For this, women must put forth a lot of effort. Extremely poor women first prioritize the practical necessities that affect day-to-day survival activities. Thus, employing women lowers the rate of poverty.

Conclusion

To sum up the conclusion that women's empowerment is crucial in developing nations like India because, via educating others. They uphold their significance in every field and are prepared to address organizational issues there by lowering Poverty is declining, and economic expansion is kept improving.

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