

A 21st-Century Study on Women's Empowerment

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Abstract

The current study focuses on women's empowerment in the twenty-first century. The goals of this research are to learn more about female rights in pre-colonial, colonial, and advanced India, the ways in which women are empowered, violence against women, equality, and the protection under the law of females in the Indian constitution, as well as the role of Non-Government Organizations and government initiatives for women's empowerment, the contribution of schooling to women's rights, and how women's rights are changing Indian society in the twenty-first century (Hazarika, 2016). As a result, it can be seen that female rights in Indian society throughout the Vedic era were of high quality. This study also demonstrates that women's rights refer to enhancing and strengthening the cultural, financial, political, and judicial power of females to provide a guarantee with their parity and offer them the confidence to declare their privileges (*Women Empowerment in India by Purusottam Nayak, Bidisha Mahanta :: SSRN*, 2016). It is only feasible for a nation to grow fully whenever its women rise to prominence. In addition, this study highlights the advantages offered by numerous NGOs, national organizations, etc., as well as the fundamental rights of women. To order to revive woman's empowerment, women must be educated. Due to their education, women will become financially, politically, and culturally concerned. This study's key findings demonstrate how women's rights have helped Indian society advance and change in the twenty-first century.

Keywords: Women's Empowerment; Indian Government; Rights, Non-Government Organizations.

I. Introduction

The globe is eagerly developing in the twenty-first century, and women are being included in efforts to improve the global economy as well as society. The most crucial factor in socioeconomic development is the participation of women in decision-making, which must be strengthened. India is a developing nation, and because it is a nation where men predominate, its economic situation is also very poor. A majority of the country's women remain financially reliant and unemployed, making up about 50% of the population. For the relations, civilization, and nation to have a dazzling prospect, women should be empowered. Women's rights would entail promoting their economic independence, high self-esteem, courage in the face of adversity, and active involvement in a wide range of community and political developmental activities. Only when women receive an education will women's rights become more important. Education is a crucial component of women's rights, prosperity, progress, and welfare. In every community and nation, schooling has been acknowledged as a crucial force for social transformation and progress. Education is crucial for empowering women and giving them the information, capabilities, and self-assurance, they require to fully participating in development. The existence and empowerment of females depend on learning, which is critical for everyone. The empowerment of women via education contributes to the eradication of numerous societal ills like dowry issues, unemployment issues, etc. Moreover, social harmony is simple to develop. Subsequent generations will lack education if women don't receive an education. Napoleon, a Greek warrior, famously remarked, "Give me a few knowledgeable moms, and I shall give you a heroic race," for this reason. In order to eradicate unfair practices and sexual discrimination against women, the Indian government has recently adopted a number of constitutional and legal protections. In order to protect women from all forms of crimes against them, there is a list of safety laws for women in India. Human rights include equality between men and women. Hygiene, literacy, political participation, financial stability, and the absence of violence are just a few of the numerous topics they cover. In order to achieve human rights, peace, stability, and environmental sustainability, women must be allowed to fully and equally enjoy all forms of prejudice. Different NGOs have an important effect on the empowerment of females. The government offers numerous plans and initiatives for women's empowerment. India's entire

development is greatly impacted by the empowerment of women. Women's rights are therefore a crucial instrument for the nation in the twenty-first century if it is to completely develop.

II. A Review Of Related Works

Research on "Women Empowerment in India: Logical and Current status" was conducted by Panda, D. (2017). He has discovered that while women's rights may not be essential for our country, it is essential for the long-term growth of a country. So let's start empowering women right away for our future security. It is necessary to alter Indian society's mentality towards women. A man ought to believe that equality and fairness are becoming more prevalent in the world. Hence, empowering women will result in wealth for the next generations. In her work titled "A Research on the Issues and Obstacles of Women's Empowerment in India," Shettar, R. M. (2015) argued that female liberation could only be accomplished if their economic and social standing was raised. It could only be accomplished by implementing clear social and economic policies with the goal of promoting the overall development of women and educating them about their capacity to be resilient human beings. A significant percentage of the population has experienced some relief as a result of globalization, liberalization, and other socioeconomic influences. Women's rights in India still needs a lot of work in a number of areas, nevertheless.

In her article titled "The Role of Learning toward such Women Empowerment in India" published in 2016, Khatri, R., focuses on how education and literacy affect women's empowerment. She also makes improvements to the changes that should be taken into account for women's empowerment and economic growth. Women Independence in India- A Shifting Situation was the title of an article written by Suresh, P., and Sivakumar, T. in 2017. They discovered that empowering women primarily involves improving the economic, social, and political standing of women, who have historically been marginalized in society. It entails protecting kids from all sorts of assault.

III. Importance And Demand For The Survey

Empowering women has the potential to transform many aspects of society and the nation. First and foremost, it is crucial that men, the government, society, and women all work together to strengthen women so as to transform our nation into a developed one. Due to male dominance and gender inequality in Indian society, female equality became necessary. Empowering women

is crucial if you want your families, community, and nation to have a great future.

Studies concerning women's rights in Indian are quite rare. There is no research on women's rights in the twenty-first century. Now, one of the most crucial issues of the 21st century is the empowerment of women. As a result, the study investigated that "A Research about Women's rights in the twenty - first century" should be conducted.

IV. Aim of the Study: The article's precise goals are as follows:

1. To learn more about female rights in ancient, medieval, and contemporary India.
2. To understand how women can be empowered.
3. To learn about violence toward women.
4. To examine the Indian American constitution's treatment of female's rights as well as the security of women.

V. Research Methodology

The current research is qualitative in nature. The investigators conducting this research gathered information from a variety of credible data, including websites, publications, periodicals, periodicals, and various government agencies(Bhumeeka et al., n.d.).

Women's Learning in the Or before Period: Review of Objective 1: Women's Training in Which was before, Colonial, and Revolutionary India

From the olden times to the early British period, the well before period is diverse(Panda, 2017). There really are 3 different sorts of women's school systems, then, based on pre-colonial practices:

1. Female's education from the Early Vedic Era.
2. Women are learning throughout the era of Buddhism.
3. Teaching of Muslim-era women.

1. Women are learning in the Early Vedic Era:

Women had excellent education throughout the Ancient Vedic Era. Ancient India provided free education for women. They were required to recite chants and take part in Vedic rituals. Girls were allowed to take part in the Upanayana ceremony, lead a single life, and study the Vedas, Vedangas, and other disciplines alongside their brother students during the later Veda and Upanishad era. The Vedas accord women a very noble and revered standing(Mandal, 2013). The

reading of the Vedas qualified them for further knowledge. The Rig Veda's artists include at least 15 to 20 women. The most notable ones are Opamudra, Visavara, Sikata, Nivavari, and Ghosha. Vedic history is full of educated women who's worked hard to achieve perfection. Maitreyee was interested in the idea of life, Gargi represented scholars at the palace of Emperor Janak, and Atreyi was a devoted pupil of the elders Valmiki and Agastya. Female rights culminated in the Vedic period. Women engaged in intellectual discussions and received the same training as males.

2. Female rights in the Buddhist Period:

Female rights were at its lowest point in during Buddhist age because Lord Buddha disliked women and believed they were the root of all evils. He therefore advocated against allowing women to enter temples throughout his time. Yet after much years, under the pressure of his beloved pupil Ananda, Buddha agreed to several conditions and limits as well as allowed his stepdaughter and roughly 500 additional women to enroll in Bihar.

3. Female rights in Muslim Times:

In theory, both men and women in Muslim society had to be educated. Yet, Muslim girls generally missed the time and opportunities to pursue a degree. Middle-eastern Muslims became traditionalists in their viewpoint. They opposed putting their kids through college. Women's learning was viewed as useless by them. Their plan was to get the little girls ready for housekeeping. In addition, the 'purdah' system inherently limited Muslim women's opportunities unity for learning. Yet, some wealthy individuals took care of their daughters' schooling at home with the aid of tutors. Around the turn of the century, Muslim women of higher and more affluent groups achieved significant advancements in their training. Certain women in the "harems" of the rich and powerful were learned, and a few of them even achieved prominence, but the proportion of these educated women made up a microscopic portion of all Muslim women. Sultana Razia, Iltutmish's daughter and successor, had a master's degree. The bright and accomplished Gulbadan Begum has been Babar's child. The Humayun Nama, a very important and educational work she composed in Persian, is one of her works (Kishore and Gupta, 2004). Hamida Banu Begum, Akbar's parent, was a well-educated lady. Jahangir's famous wife, Nur Jahan, had a special talent and ability. She was well-versed in Arabic and Persian literature.

Women were instructed in dance, singing, stitching, spinning, flooring, army knowledge, domestic science, etc., as per Ferishta.

The theories and pedagogical approaches used in schooling throughout the colonial era,

which lasted from 1757 to 1947, were hotly debated. From 1764 to 1858, the commercial British East India Company controlled over several regions of India. In the British era, the notion of educating women first evolved. In the past, it was nearly unanimously praised that women didn't need an education because they didn't need to work for a living (Shetty & Hans, 2015). Following the Bhakti Movement, Christian missionaries became interested in females' learning. Whatever their motivation, the Christian missionaries were the ones who founded the Calcutta Female Juvenile Civilization in 1819. In Bengal, Vidyasagar founded no fewer than 35 institutions for girls. Charles Wood's learning dispatch from 1854 placed a lot of emphasis on Since then, there's been constant advancement in the expansion of female education. Female's organisations like the Bharat Mohila Parishad (1904), Bharat Stree Mahamandal (1910), Women's Indian Association (1917), National Council of Women India (1925), and All Bharat Women's Seminar (1927) addressed issues like female rights, equitable freedoms and possibilities for everyone, the eradication of social ills, and female empowerment. The commission also made lengthy observations about the state of women's schooling at that point in time. It advised the rapid allocation of public finances for new girls' institutions, the hiring of female instructors, the creation of a distinct syllabus for girls, the construction of girls-only apartments, and plans for further study.

Female rights in Modern India

With Indian Independence, women's rights began to take off in contemporary India. Important women should have an education, according to recommendations made by the University Degree Council (1948–1949), Modular Committee (1952–1953), Kothari Commission (1964–1966), National Strategy in Training (1968), and National Strategy for Learning (1986). The Indian government is at present taking steps to ensure that all Indian women have access to education. When schooling became mandatory in India in the contemporary era, women's literacy rates have reportedly increased, surpassing those of men. The Indian Constitution currently guarantees free elementary education for the both boys and girls up to the age of 14. Many initiatives were

established after freedom to advance female rights.

Literacy Rate in India: 1901-2011

Literacy Rate (%) in India, 1901-2011

Sl. No.	Census Year	Persons	Males	Females	Male-Female gap in literacy rate
1.	1901	5.35	9.83	0.60	9.23
2.	1911	5.92	10.56	1.05	9.51
3.	1921	7.16	12.21	1.81	10.40
4.	1931	9.50	15.59	2.93	12.66
5.	1941	16.10	24.90	7.30	17.60
6.	1951	18.33	27.16	8.86	18.30
7.	1961	28.30	40.40	15.35	25.05
8.	1971	34.45	45.96	21.97	23.99
9.	1981	43.57	56.38	29.76	26.62
10.	1991	52.21	64.13	39.29	24.84
11.	2001	64.83	75.26	53.67	21.59
12.	2011	74.04	82.14	65.46	16.68

Obj2. Women's Empowerment in Several Ways:

Women's rights refer to their increased power and autonomy. The advancement of women's status in politics, society, the economy, and wellness is crucial in and of itself. Furthermore, it is crucial for achieving environmental sustainability.

Women's rights mean the full emancipation of women from of the cultural chains of reliance and deprivations if anything further needs to be clarified beyond the two ego definitions. To equalize the worth from both sexes in this society, female equality must advance quickly. Each woman must be informed of her own rights in order to truly achieve freedom. Female equality comes in a variety of forms. Here are several examples:

Economic Employment

Increasing women's utilization of financial possibilities and assets such employment, banking services, real estate and other types of productive assets, skill-building possibilities, and market data. Healthy growth is essential for poverty emancipation.

Political emancipation

Ensuring full and equal engagement of women in the judgement process across all sectors of life by establishing systems for their full equality and equitable representation action at all stages of the political processes and public life in each group and society(Arora & Jainani, 2016).

Empowerment through education: One of the most effective ways to equip women with the information, abilities, and confidence they need to fully engage in the development phase is through education. Women's empowerment, prosperity, progress, and welfare all heavily depend on education. The general growth of India is greatly impacted by the education of women. The independence and empowerment of women can be greatly aided through education.

Objection 3: Violence against women: Due to the male-dominated culture in India, there is a lot of violence against women. Women frequently experience several types of crime, such as dowry murder, sexual assault, lying, murder, girl child molestation, theft, etc(Suguna, 2011). Rape, abduction, physical and mental torture, murder for dowry, spouse battering, inappropriate touching, smuggling, molestation, bringing in girls, etc. are all forms of violence against women that are punishable under the Indian penal code. Violence against women is spreading too far and getting more prevalent every day. However, as the extent of assault against women increased, they began to lose access to social, political, financial, and social opportunities in society.

Crime against women-2016

Sl. No	Crime Head	Total Cases Reported	Major State /UT During 2016		
			West Bengal (19,302)	Rajasthan (13,811)	Uttar Pradesh (11,156)
1.	Cruelty by husband or his relatives	1,10,378	Maharashtra (11,396)	Uttar Pradesh (11,335)	Madhya Pradesh (8,717)
2.	Assault on women with intent outrage her modesty	84,746	Uttar Pradesh (12,994)	Maharashtra (6,170)	Bihar (5,496)
3.	Kidnapping & Abduction	64,519	Madhya Pradesh (4,882)	Uttar Pradesh (4,816)	Maharashtra (4,189)
4.	Rape	38,947			

source: Crime in India 2016.

Obj4. Rights of women, The Indian Constitution provides women with legal protection. Basic rights and legal rights are the two types of rights that women in India have access to. The rights guaranteed by the constitution are those that are outlined in its many clauses. On the opposite hand, legal rights are those that are stipulated in the numerous laws (acts) passed by the legislatures of the states and parliaments(Agarwal & Sagar, 2016).

VI. Conclusion

As a result, we observe that 21st century civilizations recognize the empowerment of women for global development, as well as women's active role as agents of development and their involvement and direction of their own growth. In the twenty-first century, women's education is

crucial for their empowerment. Education is a crucial tool for empowering women and girls to take part in decisions that will affect their lives and help them rise in society. Women who are empowered become autonomous decision-makers. A nation may prosper socially, politically, and economically by empowering its women. A rural woman needs to be empowered from all angles in order to develop. For this, women should be given additional opportunities and benefits.

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