

**CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
TRANSFORMATION: IN CONTEXT OF INDIA**Dr. D. K. Parmar<sup>1</sup>·Prof. V. K. Modi<sup>2</sup>,<sup>1</sup>Lecturer, Applied Mechanics Dept., BBIT, V.V.Nagar, Gujarat, India<sup>2</sup>Lecturer, Mechanical Engineering Dept., BBIT, V.V.Nagar, Gujarat, India

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**Abstract** -In Indian Philosophy women are the embodiment of Shakti. In the early Vedic period men & women had equal right in all fields. Before independence Indian women faced many restrictions. So, we can say that the history of women in Indian has been pain full. The social & economic status of women is pre decided from ancient times. As we know our Indian society were completely male-dominated & women were exploited, oppressed and deprived in every sphere of life whether socially, economically, politically or culturally. She was totally depended on her family. The great socio-religious revolutionary saint-Swami Vivekananda observed Indian women Situation was very pain full. He said; the country which had no respect for women it could never become great. In 1964-1966 Kothari commission established & it recommended for equal education opportunity. That's why so many girls start to go school & become educated. If individual women became educated and give their contribution in the development of nation then India's grand past again flourish. The present study is carried out to check the contribution of women in social and economic change.

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**Introduction**

Women play a very important & strategic role in the development of society in particular and development of economy in general. Women contribute directly or indirectly for economic development. Women if is educated and empowered, her potential power can be utilized for the economic development. Mahatma Gandhiji says, "You educate a man, you educate an individual But, it you educate a woman, you educate an entire family".

The Indian development model has yet to fully incorporate the important role played by women for propelling the socio-economic growth of the country. Across the world, educating and empowering women has proven time and again to be the catalyst for rapid socio-economic growth.

Pro Women in India make up 7.5% of the world's total population. While certain development indicators show their quality of life is improving – maternal mortality rates declining; literacy rates increasing; more women gaining access to healthcare and education – the pace of change is heartbreakingly slow. The ranking of Indian women in economic empowerment is 0.3, where 1.0 means equality. This is a dangerous state of affairs for any society. Denying women opportunities to realize their potential is a waste of human capital and bar to economic progress. If we can harness these attributes effectively, India's growth can be more inclusive and equitable. The education of women is therefore key.<sup>[7]</sup>

**Dr.Ambedkar's Perspective for the Women development**

Dr.Ambedkar was not only the father of Indian Constitution; he was a great freedom fighter, political leader, philosopher, thinker, economist, editor, social reformer, revivalist of Buddhism and was first Indian to brake down the barriers in the way of advancement of women in India. He laid down the foundation of concrete and sincere efforts by codifying the common Civil Code for Hindus and other sections of the Indian society. He stated that women should be given all round development more importantly social education, their well being and socio-cultural rights. He emphasized that each and every section of Indian women be given their due share and it is a must to maintain and protect dignity and modesty of women. Dr. Ambedkar always believed in movements led by women. He also added that if the women from all walks of life are taken in to confidence, they may play a significant role in the social reforms. They have played very massive and active role to eradicate the social abuses. He insisted that every married woman must participate in her husband's activities as a friend. But she must show the courage to deny the life of slaves. She should insist on the principle of equality. If all the women follow it, they will get the real respect and their own identity.<sup>[5]</sup>

**Need of Women Empowerment in India**

In this contemporary world, women need to gain the same amount of power that men have. In India, women are still facing different obstacles in male-dominated cultures. The things are related to women's status and their future. The worth of civilization can be arbitrated by the place given to women in the society. In India women are still victim of

abuse and violent crimes. According to a global survey conducted by Thomson Reuters, India is the fourth most dangerous country in the world and worst country for women to live in amongst G20 countries. There is stalking, harassment in educational institutes and at work place & outright trafficking and forced prostitution. There were 56,000 maternal deaths in 2010-UN Population Fund 12 million girl-children were aborted in India in the last 3 decades-an estimate. There was 7.1% increase in crime against India in 2010-11 –N.C.R.B. Hence there is a need for upliftment of women socially, economically, politically simultaneously in a comprehensive manner to undo this vicious cycle & vice like grip in which women in India have been entrapped badly. The female literacy rate is also lower than the male literacy rate. The ground reality is deprivation, degradation and exploitation of women specially women from rural areas and those belonging to deprived sectors of the society.<sup>[6]</sup>

### **Women's Economic and social empowerment**

Swami Vivekananda, one 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 to fly on only one wing. ”So that, the addition of “Women Empowerment’ as one of the prime goals in

Current era,

Women's economic empowerment – that is, their capacity to bring about economic change for themselves – is increasingly viewed as the most important contributing factor to achieving equality between women and men. Some of the positive outcomes of women's economic empowerment:<sup>[1,2,&6]</sup>

- Where women's participation in the labor force grew fastest, the economy experienced the largest reduction in poverty rates.
- When women farmers can access the resources they need, their production increases, making it less likely that their families are hungry and malnourished.
- When women own property and earn money from it, they may have more bargaining power at home.
- When women have access to time-saving technologies – such as a foot-pedaled water pump or a motorized scooter – economic benefits can follow.
- ICRW research has found that technology helps women increase their productivity as well as launch income-generating pursuits and entrepreneurial ventures.
- Empowered Indian women can also pioneer self help groups and initiatives for creating positive social change in rural or underdeveloped areas.
- With a vibrant women's rights movement in India, there are continuous demands for better laws, provisions, and accountability for implementation.<sup>[9]</sup>
- Policies relating to women's rights have a positive course in the past few decades with the central government articulating many progressive measures to advance gender equality in social, economic, and political arenas.
- The Government of India (GoI) has two main bodies to advance gender equality: the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Commission for Women, which is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.<sup>[9]</sup>
- The movement to assure women's economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCR) as basic human rights is now merging in India. ESCR can efforts to look at the broader problems facing women, namely poverty, housing, unemployment, education, water, food security, trade, etc.
- By concentrating on the need for VET for women, it was handled that VET can make a big change for many of the rural poor and women by improving household productivity, employability and income-earning opportunities and also for enhancing food security and encouraging environmentally sustainable development and livelihoods as VET develops craftsmanship, practical experience and practical problem solving in Women.<sup>[10]</sup>

**The following attempts should be made so that women can contribute more in social and economical field :**

- To bring awareness among men and women about development of abilities of women and their importance.
- To appreciate usefulness of women at various fields through mass media.

- To work in proper direction for woman empowerment so that they can contribute more in social and economical field.
  - Social approach towards women should be changed on the basis of ideological change.
  - To present before the world the translations of various literature of various languages and discuss various problems and questions related to women at world level.
  - To enhance girl enrolment in schools and colleges and give priority to woman education.
  - To enhance livelihood skills for women and provide opportunities and priorities in job and development.
  - In current times it is necessary to encourage women more for technical education. Attempts should be made so that women can participate in the industrial field.
  - Subjects in the polytechnic intuitions should be provided to girls according to their interest, fondness ability and need.
- To Developed Skill Based Program for Women programmes reach the poor and needy women.

The all state governments should frame their own Women Empowerment Policy (WEP) to integrate women more effectively into the process of socio-economic development. A holistic policy approach is necessary to consider all aspects of women's empowerment i.e. social, economic, political, education, cultural, security and decision-making as well as in policy making also.<sup>[8]</sup>

Women's contribution to socio-economic development as producers and workers should be accepted in all the sectors. Women must be given equal pays for equal work as that being given to men. Vocational training for women is required so that they do not remain in unskilled and semi-skilled jobs.<sup>[8]</sup>

The health status of women needs to be upgraded. For this, wide spread, reasonable and quality health care programmes for women are required. A complete approach to women's health which includes both nutrition and health services should be adopted and special responsiveness be given to the needs of women and the girls at all stages of their life cycle.<sup>[8]</sup>

### **Vocational Training for Women**

VET is important because it improves a person for life and it provides the capabilities which are essential in a democratic society. Societal and economic development depends on the strength of VET as it provides access to skills and entry routes into the labour market. For under-privileged, marginalized groups and women in the rural sector and, it can be an important route towards a better life. On the other hand, vocational education and training are powerful tools against poverty and hunger, and for women's empowerment.<sup>[12]</sup>

A policy of non-discrimination will be followed energetically to provide equal access for women to skill development and employment.<sup>[10]</sup>

Skill development for employability will be used as an agent of change in promoting women's employment. Women face a multitude of obstacles in accessing skills and productive employment, remaining on the job due to effect of globalization or otherwise and advancing to higher level jobs, as well as refunding to the labour market.<sup>[10]</sup>

Education and training are essential components of any strategy to improve agricultural and non-farm productivity and rural incomes. Learning about improved production technologies and methods, new products and markets, business skills, as well as life skills can make a big difference for many of the rural poor, particularly the women folk.<sup>[11]</sup>

Skills development for women is a key to improving household productivity, employability and income-earning opportunities for women and also for enhancing food security and promoting environmentally sustainable rural development and livings.<sup>[12]</sup>

Labor and Work force development and employment strategies are critical to assisting girls lift themselves and their families out of poverty. Although teen-age girls primarily enter the workforce to support their families financially, studies have shown that they also value mobility, opportunities for friendship, and greater autonomy that may derived with employment. So that safe and suitable employment opportunities can reinforce their economic status, while improving social welfare and future job prospects This can be possible through with better way by need based Skill & Vocational Training of Women at their place and time without barrier of pre education as well as age limit.

Women should be given priority in the curricula of degree and diploma level. Thus, keeping in mind the changing role of 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is our duty to make women self reliant at social and economic field and bring awareness by various schemes and programs at social, national and international level and work in the direction to bring up the position and status of women. We still need to do work in appropriate direction for the development of nation by making women more efficient at social and economical field.

### **Conclusion**

Women play various roles in her life from her birth to death in society. Now there are significant changes found in her life, though her traditional role in house regarding as daughter and a wife has continue to perform. Her social and

economic status has increase though society has not put her equal to male in many things. There are certain problems i.e. dowry marriage at younger age, widow remarriage are hurdle in their path, on other hand right in property, partnership has given her enough strength. Women got education, start earning, politics, family, marriage, have raised her status in urban area whereas in rural area many thing to be done yet.

Our weakness is that women's contribution has not been fully recognized, acknowledged or supported in government policies and programs. If, as a province, we are going to see growth in the economy, the development of new sectors and the return of young families, policies have to be developed that facilitate the balance of work and family, that reward individuals for the caring work they do and provide for the social and economic security of the aging population.

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