

Women Empowerment in India: A Case Study of Delhi

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Abstract

Here a research paper having entitled as "Women Empowerment in India: A Case Study of Delhi" in which we have to explore the meaning and concept, challenges about the empowerment of women in India. What are the privileges provided by the Government of Delhi for the upliftment of women of Delhi? We will discuss about the all privileges provided by the Delhi Government to women in details. The topic of women's empowerment is urgent and receiving attention on a global scale. Without giving women, who make up more than 50% of the population, an equal opportunity to develop their personalities through the provision of equal authority, same rights, and equal freedom, no society or democracy can be referred to as developed. One of the most frequently used development words is "empowerment." Women's organizations, non-governmental development organizations, activists, politicians, governments, and international organizations all say that one of their objectives is empowerment, yet this concept is still not well understood. In the simplest terms possible, it essentially involves creating an atmosphere in which women may independently decide on their own personal development and excel as equals in society.

Keyword: Empowerment, Women, Delhi, Democracy, Challenges.

Introduction:

The concept of empowerment is as old as human civilization itself. Because individuals have been involved in conflict to gain power since the dawn of human civilization. Together, men and women have contributed to the advancement of human civilization. Without the assistance of both genders, it is impossible to continue the production of new generations. We can therefore conclude that both men and women are equally crucial to the advancement of human civilization worldwide. Men and women must therefore be treated equally. It has been observed that women's situation in terms of economic empowerment in our society is relatively poor. With reference to Delhi, the current study looked for the cause and a fix for the improvement of women's empowerment.

The idea of empowerment guarantees a person's freedom and ability to make decisions regarding anything that affects their day-to-day lives. In layman's terms, we may state that empowerment is a problem that gives people the chance to make wise decisions that have an impact on their daily lives. Different aspects of empowerment exist in our culture or state. Comparable to social, political, and economic empowerment. Economic empowerment refers to the ability to manage

economic elements that have an impact on our daily lives in accordance with our demands.

Behind us, a discussion about women's empowerment with a focus on Delhi was going on. One of the most important issues for humans has long been considered to be empowerment. There are both live things and non-living things in the world. The human person has been considered one of the most significant living things in the planet out of these two categories. Both male and female individuals have contributed to the development of human civilization. They must be treated equally as a result. Therefore, there is no reason to discriminate between them because both men and women must work together to create the next generation of human beings. Women, however, have not been treated equally with males from the dawn of human civilization. In those days, women's primary responsibilities were to take care of the home and the children while also participating in domestic work. They had been treated like slaves, and today's women are still subject to social and familial bonds. In the twenty-first century, women's empowerment primarily focuses on their overall development. As we all know, progress of any type is feasible if we have the ability to manage our finances and property. Money problems and women's economic empowerment in India are related.

The Indian government has been empowering women in various ways ever since its independence. The concerns relating to women's empowerment have been accorded top importance across numerous plan periods. There has been a striking transition from a welfare-oriented approach to women's empowerment to a development-oriented strategy starting with the fifth five-year plan. To protect women's rights, the National Commission for Women was established by a law passed by parliament in 1990. The 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Indian Constitution gave women the chance to participate in active politics.

Women's Empowerment: A Guide to Action Still an Illusion of Reality

There is still a significant gap between the constitutional position and the stark reality of hardship and degradation, despite the extraordinary advancements in women's status in modern India. The urban women in India have breathed in and savored whatever emancipation-related breeze has blown through society, but the country's rural residents have thus far been completely unaffected. They continue to endure appalling living conditions, which are fueled by poverty, illiteracy, superstition, and servitude. The objectives set forth in the Constitution, laws, regulations, policies, plans, programs, and associated processes nevertheless stand in stark contrast to the situational reality of women's status in India.

The state of human rights in the nation is still gloomy and depressing. Human exploitation and discrimination involve the brutalization, commodification, materialization, and exposure of women. Despite the fact that the Constitution forbids gender discrimination and guarantees women's political equality with men, there remains a disconnect between women's constitutional rights and their actual access to those rights. Women want to be treated equally so badly that if a woman achieves success in her area, it should be expected and cause no more than a raised eyebrow. This is only possible if there is a focused path for women's empowerment.

"Arise away and stop not until the goal is reached," advised Swami Vivekananda once. As a result, our nation ought to soar towards the horizon of women's emancipation and bask in its beauty. With a few notable exceptions, women have largely stayed outside the realm of power

and political authority even after half a century of independence. Although they make up over half of the population and have improved their voting participation over time, their representation in organizations that make and carry out laws is not very adequate. When a man makes a proposal in politics, they remove themselves.

In actuality, female representatives are ornamental in character, and it is discovered that among them, political consciousness is nonexistent. They are impacted by social, environmental, ethnic, and religious separatism as well as caste and class differences, feudal mindsets, patriarchal family structures, and other factors. They are just members on the books. However, they are not included in the decision-making process. As a result, male dominance in village administration still affects women representatives, and there has been little shift in the power balance in the villages.

The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment acts undoubtedly gave women access to local decision-making, but their participation in the Parliament and State Legislatures is appallingly low. Women leaders are unable to recognize leadership at the grassroots level due to insecurity. Most women stay away from politics in today's corrupt political climate due to the growing influence of money and the mafia in electoral politics. Women are being subjected to an increase in violence and vulgarity, and as a result, they would prefer to avoid politics.

The social, economic, and political under-empowerment of women around the world must be taken into consideration if laws intended to address their concerns are to have a significant and positive impact on women's life. Due to the chances that are denied to them, they are also denied the sense of pride in their achievements that others who have access to such opportunities can experience. This can then result in issues with psychological, social, and even mental health.

Women want to be recognized as equals so badly that if a woman achieves success in her industry, it should be expected and cause no more than a raised eyebrow. This is only possible if there is a focused path for women's empowerment. The majority of women around the world rely on the unorganized employment sector for their income. The potential for economic growth becomes clear if women are given the freedom to do and be more.

Since women make up the majority of the world's impoverished, it is imperative to empower women in developing nations in order to fight global poverty. The economy of a country may suffer if a sizable portion of its labor force were to be eliminated on the basis of gender alone. Additionally, it is believed that having more women in boards, groups, and businesses will improve efficiency.

Challenges:

The situation of women's rights in India is now plagued by a number of concerns. Below are a couple of these difficulties. The general position of women in India is influenced by many of these problems, even if many of them are redundant and relatively fundamental and are experienced throughout the nation. Taking on these problems will notably contribute to the empowerment of women in India. For business-related operations, there is hardly any time or energy left.

A married lady must strike the ideal balance between her domestic and professional responsibilities. Without the support and endorsement of the husband, the woman cannot succeed. The support of the husband and family is equally necessary for their achievement in this area. Therefore, the educational level of husbands and the occupational backgrounds of families have a significant impact on the development of women.

Due to their limited availability to spend enough time with their families, women also struggle to fulfill their domestic responsibilities. They work long hours at their businesses, making it challenging for them to balance work, family, and social responsibilities. Conflicts arise from their inability to take care of household duties, devote time to children's education, engage in personal interests, or find entertainment. The following are a few challenges:-

Education:

Education for women is crucial on an intrinsic level since it is a fundamental human right and is necessary for the full development of a wide range of abilities. However, it has been observed that the majority of programs in India for the education of girls and women have reinforced gendered roles, particularly motherhood, in the curriculum and effect assessments.

The academic gap between men and women remains wide despite the fact that the nation has made great strides since gaining its freedom. In India, just 65.88% of adult women are known to be literate, compared to 83.46% of adult men. An illiterate woman is not only at the mercy of her husband or father, but she is also unaware that this is not the way women live all across the world.

Additionally, the culture's expectations that the head of the household should make all family decisions are slowly ruining the nation's society. Women must learn to read and write because education benefits both them and their families. The women are the center of the family's web. She must be competent and educated in order to be able to care for herself and her family in an emergency.

Only if women educate themselves and seize every chance to grow stronger and more powerful than they already are will their status improve. Lack of or insufficient educational resources leads to ignorance of the availability of raw materials, access to funding, government programs, and facilities, as well as other current or upcoming prospects.

Violence:

Given that most crimes against women are perpetrated within the family, this topic is particularly contentious. In Uttar Pradesh, torture accounts for 38% of all crimes against women, followed by molestation (22.5%), rape (11.8%), kidnapping (8.8%), immoral traffic (3.7%), dowry and death (4.6%), and eve-teasing (6.5%). Women are not safe at any age. In Uttar Pradesh, husbands and family members were responsible for roughly 32% of crimes against women.

Health and Safety:

Women's health and safety are crucial for a nation's prosperity and play a significant role in determining how empowered women are in a given society. But when it comes to maternity healthcare, there are grave worries.

UNICEF revealed startling statistics about the plight of new moms in India in its 2009 report. In India, the maternal death rate is 301 per 1000, and up to 78,000 women died from problems during childbirth in that year. That figure is

certain to have greatly increased now due to the country's expanding population.

In Orissa and Gujarat, more over 40% of married women and almost one-third of males are underweight for their height; this percentage is substantially lower in Punjab. Overweight affects 38% of women. The percentage of overweight or obese women has climbed over the past seven years, rising from 16 to 20 percent in Gujarat to 12 to 17 percent in Maharashtra to 4 to 7 percent in Orissa. Overweight is more prevalent among women than among males. 15.8% of women are obese overall.

The main causes of maternal mortality are:-

1. Haemorrhage: 30%
2. Anaemia: 19%
3. Sepsis: 16%
4. Obstructed Labour: 10%
5. Abortion: 8%
6. Toxaemia: 8%

Ministry of Women's and Child Development:

The state must enact laws and enforce them so that women's place in society is upheld by the full power of the law. A distinct Department of Women and Child Development was established in 1985. A specific chapter on women and development was included in the sixth five-year plan. Major government initiatives including Mahilakosh, the Women's Development Corporation, and Support to Training and Employment for Women (STEW) were launched and put into action.

The state's initiatives and laws, though, have not penetrated the rural and urban areas more deeply. For instance, despite the 1994 Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act's implementation, fetal sex determination still takes place in all of the nation's rural areas.

Women in India must protest sex determination of fetuses, eve-teasing, bride burning, child marriage, workplace exploitation, lower remuneration for labor, and other issues. Women from all backgrounds must come together and prioritize their own development, growth, and the well-being of their families. More women should be hired as police officers and constables so that they can assist the female victims of our society. The nation needs to outlaw sati, dowry, female infanticide, and female torture.

In order to force the government to empower women from above, women will need to first

empower themselves. Additionally, there is a need for positive sociocultural and economic empowerment and, more importantly, for women to have the will and the tenacity to enter politics. When it comes to knowledge, competence, and the ability to handle various political issues, education can be a crucial factor in bringing about the desired behavioral changes in women.

The Status of Women in India:

Families may decide not to send their daughters to school for a variety of reasons. One factor is that parents receive little benefit from their daughters' schooling. The fact that all the ladies in a household are responsible for doing the housework is another factor. Therefore, even while schooling does not put a strain on the family's finances, it costs them because of the time she spends at school rather than doing housework. Women often take on the most physically demanding and unattractive tasks since they lack education and are unable to hold important positions.

With only an hour break in the middle, a normal day for a woman working in agriculture runs from 4 am to 8 pm. The majority of women work too much without maternity leave or other breaks. However, because the labor done by women does not involve a great deal of talent and is constrained by tradition, it is unnoticed and underappreciated.

Any civilization's position as a whole can be used to determine where it is in its evolution. Status encompasses obligations, liabilities, and disabilities in addition to personal and property rights. In Indian culture, men are held in high regard. Malnutrition is brought on by women's lack of nutrient-rich diets, especially in pregnant women.

Due to the misconception that pregnancy is a transient ailment, very few women seek medical attention while expecting. This is one of the key causes of the rising incidence of maternal and newborn mortality. Girls are not given from birth since women's literacy rates are lower than those of men.

The IT-enabled occupations in call centers, BPOs, and medical transcription attract a lot of young women who previously remained unemployed and without hope. The availability of more jobs has improved girls' and women's self-esteem and sense of independence. Traditional women's image of being exploited socially and economically has significantly evolved, at least in urban areas.

The amount to which they enable women to interpret, apply, and enforce rules of their own design, taking into account their own voices, values, and concerns, should be the most essential metric of their success. The act of acquiring these fundamental possibilities for marginalized people is known as empowerment. This can be done either directly by the marginalized individuals themselves or with the assistance of others who are not marginalized but have access to the same opportunities. It is only now that a significant segment of the population has experienced some relief due to globalization, liberalization, and other socioeconomic forces.

Women's empowerment in India still needs a lot of work in a number of areas, nevertheless. One could draw the conclusion that traditional perceptions of women's duties and skills have changed. A noticeable change has occurred, and it is for the better. However, many of its advantages have yet to reach the majority, and gender discrimination in various forms still affects all of us.

A Case Study of Delhi:

Women's empowerment is a primary focal area of Delhi's 2021-22 budgets, the AAP government said on March 10, 2021. This includes creating specialized "mohalla" clinics and dedicated support centers for women as well as enhancing their participation in the economy. The Delhi government stated in a statement that "the role of women is key to Delhi's progress and therefore, providing accessible healthcare, education, and social provisions is a priority." Manish Sisodia, the deputy chief minister of Delhi and minister of finance, allocated 4,750 crore for the department of social welfare, the development of women and children, and the welfare of SC/ST/OBC when he presented the budget.

The development of 500 anganwadi centers in various areas of the city is part of a new initiative the Delhi government will introduce to empower women and give them a bigger role in the economy. The government's primary proposals for this year, according to the statement, include 100 "Mahila Mohalla Clinics" that would provide every woman in the city with access to "special services of gynecologists and related diagnostic tests."

The Delhi government plans to take on the responsibility of having a "Mahila Mohalla Clinic" near every woman in Delhi because women are unable to discuss their health issues openly and healthcare is difficult to access for those from

middle-class and low-income families, it said. There will initially be 100 of these clinics set up throughout the city, and the number will rise to "at least one clinic in each ward" by the end.

During the budget presentation, Manish Sisodia, the deputy chief minister of Delhi, referred to the "Mahila Mohalla Clinic" initiative as a "revolutionary step." This year, the government has given the healthcare industry \$9,934 crore. The government will establish 500 angan-wadi hubs throughout Delhi as part of its "Saheli Samanvay Kendra" initiative to increase the contribution of women to the economy. According to the statement, "Special provisions will be made for women in these hubs and the necessary training will be imparted to open micro-economic units and hold meetings of self-help groups."

The continuation of free transportation in DTC and cluster buses, as well as their outfitting with CCTV cameras and marshals, are additional initiatives for the empowerment of women. The government is reportedly planning to install CCTV cameras and street lighting at popular tourist destinations and dimly lighted regions. The government plans to set up 33 "mahila" support centers to make sure that women in Delhi are aware of programs including the Delhi Pension Scheme for women in hardship, maternity plans, and the "Ladli Yojana" for school-aged girls, the statement added.

Since 1972, SEWA has served as both an association for low-wage female employees and a campaign for them to develop superior alternatives. SEWA Delhi is dedicated to advancing the cause of women employed in Delhi's unorganized sector of the economy by raising awareness of their problems on a national scale and enhancing the abilities of its underprivileged female members. In order to help women workers achieve full employment and independence, SEWA Delhi organizes them and links them to development projects.

Pattern of Financial Assistance:

The following stages of the program authorize financial assistance in the name of qualifying girls:

S. No.	Stage of Financial Assistance	Amount (in Rs.)
1.	For Institutional Delivery	11000/- (provided the girl is born in the last one year)
2.	For Delivery at Home	10000/- (provided the girl is born in the last one year)

3. On admission in Class I 5000/-
4. On admission in Class VI 5000/-
5. On admission in Class IX 5000/-
6. On passing Class X 5000/-
7. On admission in Class XII 5000/-

Depending on the stage at which each girl kid enrolls in the program and registers under it, the maturity amount at the end of the lock-in term will change.

Conclusion:

We can infer from the discussion above that progress in UP is uneven across different socio-economic areas. Despite considerable advancement in the economy throughout the years, there are still wide inequalities. The state does poorly when compared to other states and when compared to the national average for a number of key measures. Therefore, the administration of Uttar Pradesh must adopt a number of steps in order to move towards a higher growth trajectory and close the gap with the better performing states. But in addition to economic initiatives, UP must also take proactive steps to close the gender gap because achieving gender equality and empowering women are increasingly recognized as essential to advancing overall human development and fostering "inclusive growth," as stated in the 12th Five Year Plan. Women's empowerment and gender development were key elements of the inclusive growth narrative. It would be beneficial to quickly review several significant programs intended for overall female development and empowerment in this context.

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