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## AMPLIFYING WOMEN ARTISANS IN INDIA

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**Dr. Mithilesh Kumar**

*Ph.D. VKSU. Ara. Bihar.*

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*Empowerment refers to the process of enabling women to have greater control over their lives and to be able to make their own decisions. This can include empowering women to participate fully in the economy and in the political process, as well as empowering them to make decisions about their own health and well-being. Women's empowerment is important because it can lead to a range of positive outcomes, including increased economic growth and development, improved health and well-being, and greater gender equality. In India, women's empowerment has been a key issue for many years. Despite some progress in recent decades, women in India continue to face significant challenges when it comes to gender equality. These challenges include discrimination, lack of access to education and employment, and gender-based violence.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

We provide craft training and educational programs to promote women's economic and personal independence, since 2016. We believe that providing education on fair trade and self-sufficiency is key to creating new life-changing economic and social opportunities. We train our women primarily in textile processing and decor making. In addition to craft training, we educate our women in finance, fair trade, sales, and support them on their path to becoming independent entrepreneurs.

**Discrimination:** Women in India often face discrimination in many areas of life, including in the home and in the workplace. This can make it difficult for them to access education and employment opportunities, and can lead to unequal treatment and lower pay.

**Lack of access to education and employment:** Women in India face significant barriers when it comes to accessing education and employment. For example, data from the World Bank shows that only around 50% of women in India participate in the labour force, compared to around 80% of men. This is due in part to cultural and social barriers that prevent women from participating in

the workforce, as well as lack of access to education and training. Lack of access to education and employment: Women in India face significant barriers when it comes to accessing education and employment. For example, data from the World Bank shows that only around 50% of women in India participate in the labour force, compared to around 80% of men. This is due in part to cultural and social barriers that prevent women from participating in the workforce, as well as lack of access to education and training.

Gender-based violence is a major problem in India. The National Crime Records Bureau reports that in 2021, there were over 428,278 reported cases of violence against women in India. This included incidents of physical and sexual assault, as well as dowry-related violence and female infanticide. The statistics are alarming, with 31,677 reported rapes against women in 2021 alone.

Poverty: Many women in India live in poverty, particularly in rural areas. Poverty can make it difficult for women to access education and employment, and can lead to other challenges such as poor health and malnutrition.

Disparities between urban and rural areas: Women in rural areas of India often face greater challenges when it comes to empowerment. For example, they may have less access to education and health care, and may be more isolated and vulnerable to gender-based violence.

Women's empowerment can have a range of positive impacts on women's lives, including improved economic opportunities, greater control over their own lives, increased political participation, and greater gender equality. By empowering women to participate fully in the economy, women can have access to better paying jobs, which can help to lift them and their families out of poverty. Empowering women can also give them more control over their own lives, allowing them to make decisions about their own health, well-being, and future, which can lead to increased self-esteem and confidence, as well as improved mental and physical health. When women are empowered to participate in the political process, they can have a greater say in the decisions that affect their lives and their communities, leading to more inclusive and representative decision-making and policies and programs that better address the needs of women and girls. Women's empowerment can also help to reduce gender inequality and promote greater gender equality, leading to more balanced relationships between men and women and positive impacts on women's health, well-being, and overall quality of life.

As you read about the challenges facing women in India, we hope that you are inspired to take action and make a difference. One way to support women's

empowerment in India is by making a donation to organisations that are dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in India through education and health care. Naarisamata is one such organisation that is committed to this cause. Your donation can help to provide these vital services and make a real difference in the lives of women and girls in India. Whether you can give a small or large amount, every donation makes a difference and can help to create a brighter future for women in India. Please consider making a donation to Naarisamata today and join us in the fight for gender equality and women's empowerment in India.

**CHALLENGE:**

Project Tres helps women in India Kenya on their way to economic and personal independence. We provide handcraft training and educate our women to become independent entrepreneurs. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many of our mothers' families lost the sources of income they had outside of Project Tres, making our organization the only source of income and support. Our previous five years of hard work have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, undermining their progress and development.

**SOLUTION:**

We will support them financially with rent, food, water, medical care, and school fees for the children whose families are unable to pay for their school. Additionally, we will continue having our both centers in India and Kenya as a place for them to eventually visit, work, or even use as shelters in case of emergencies.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:****Long-Term Impact:**

Continuing to invest in leadership, female entrepreneurship, professional training, and personal growth, skills training, and group activities. In doing so, the women and the communities impacted by our work will become stronger and resilient members with the capabilities to become future transformational agents of their own communities, with a potential global impact. Empowering women means promoting women's sense of self-worth. This means promoting and helping them decide their ability to identify their weaknesses and overcome them. Empowering women leads them to take a step for themselves in society. Woman Empowerment is used to give the power of equal opportunity in all fields

to women irrespective of all caste, creeds, and colours. Women empowerment is considered to make them powerful so that they can decide what is right and wrong for them. Earlier, men in society were considered to be supreme. All decisions were taken by the man and he would be the sole bread owner for the family. Women were considered to be responsible for upbringing the children and looking after the household work. Women were not allowed to work or even study after a certain age. They would be married at a tender age and then have to look after the family of their husband. Work used to be divided according to gender and not for skills.... Girls education should be made compulsory until graduation. A literate girl can provide education to her neighbouring kids as well resulting in a more literate society. She will know the difference between what is right and what isn't. She will also be able to pass on the legacy to her next generation.

Equal opportunities in all sectors should be provided to them. Even now we see few sectors consider only men to hold the top positions. Recently even the Indian Army included females to appear for SSB interviews which were till now limited to only male aspirants. We can look up to the Indian Army for taking inspiration.

The abuse of single women and divorced ones should be considered as a society's issue and should be tried to solve rather than blaming the women. Even now, women fear to leave a failed marriage as they consider the society and how the society may treat her as she leaves her married life behind. Parents should tell their girl child that it is absolutely OK to move back to their parent's house rather than having a toxic relationship.

### References:

1. International Monetary Fund (2018). *Pursuing Women's Economic Empowerment*.
2. Moody's Analytics, *Close the Gender Gap to Unlock Productivity Gains*.
3. UN Women, *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016*. Chapter 2, p. 69.