



ROLE OF WOMEN IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Women's roles and opportunities are largely defined by cultural norms and familial dynamics. If the women of a nation are progressive, then that country is progressive. Women are essential to the development of any community. The main aim of the study is Role of Women in economic development: An Analysis. The research included both secondary sources and original data gathered using quantitative and qualitative techniques. This presentation is dedicated to examining the impact that women have had on India's economic and social progress. About half of India's population consists of women.

Keywords: Progressive, Women, Economic, Development

INTRODUCTION

Women's roles and opportunities are largely defined by cultural norms and familial dynamics. If the women of a nation are progressive, then that country is progressive. Women are essential to the development of any community. The word "status" is used to describe a person's standing in a society. Power, authority, and social standing are all aspects of status that come with their own set of privileges and responsibilities. To understand the human behavior pattern in a social system of relationships, we must look at each status or position through the lens of a role. When it comes to rights and advantages, the Indian Constitution does not discriminate on the basis of gender. Women are not afforded the same opportunities as males, though. Women have played crucial roles in the history of our nation. They played a valiant part in the fight for independence. Even now, there are many professions in which remarkable women are only beginning to show their potential. But, the progress of a small number of women will not result in a change in the social position of women as a whole. The Government of India and its legislature have made several initiatives to improve women's equality. Syed Ahmad Khan, followed by many others including Zakir Hussain, led the movement of education among Muslims. Social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ranade, and Vivekananda were pioneers for the improvement of women's position among the Hindus. Raja Ram Mohan Roy's first move in social reform was the eradication of the Sati system, which was then followed by further improvements in the institution of marriage and the family.

Women and Family

Security, riches, power, shelter, love, affection, and protection from the troubles of the world all center on one's family. It's a group of people who share a home and a set of norms and expectations on how to behave as a society. It's a major part of the home since it's where everyone bonds emotionally. Members of the family are better able to achieve their goals and dreams when they are supported by one another. The family is the first organization that shapes people into functional members of society, and it is the primary vehicle via which historical knowledge, ethical principles, and religious beliefs are transmitted from one generation to the next.

In India, most households follow a patriarchal model. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that women suffer from a lack of access to resources like schools, workplaces, etc. due to their inferior social standing. A woman's contributions to society and the home are often overlooked, despite the fact that they are many. Despite all her efforts and commitment to her family, women continue to be underrepresented in positions of power. A male kid is seen as the family heir in patriarchal societies. In most families, a son's birth is cause for great celebration, while the arrival of a daughter is often met with less fanfare.

Women and Education

Both genders benefit equally from furthering their education. In order to empower women, education is crucial. Only via formal education can a woman come into her own, make her mark in the world, and participate equally in the decision-making process. A woman's educational attainment may help her break through boundaries of age, class, and race. It has helped her become more aware of her rights as a citizen. She stays physically and mentally healthy and ready to take on whatever injustice she encounters in the world. Education not only equips her to advocate for her less fortunate sisters, but also opens the door to a world of excellent health, healthy children, and an understanding spouse. The values taught in schools are crucial to improving our world. It's the beacon that dispels the social shadows. There is no evil that education cannot cure. The term "education" originates from the Latin word "educa," which meaning "to bring forth" (or "to educate") a person's latent abilities for growth. The general populace's outlook and goals might be influenced by education. One may argue that it is the single most effective means of effecting social change.

Women and Social Change

Alterations to a society's makeup, its institutions, its members' habits, or their relationships with one another are all examples of social change. The advancement of technology, urbanization, modernization, etc., all have a role in the societal shifts that ultimately influence people's daily life. So, we may say that two types of elements influence transformations: the materialistic, such as

economic output and technology, and the idealism, such as ideas and beliefs. 19 Women's life will shift because of material progress. That component, which is economic output and scientific technology, will alter women's lifestyles. The new technologies of today have an impact on modern ladies as well. Yet, this begs the issue of whether or not the vast majority of women have the wherewithal to adapt to the new technology and alter their circumstances, therefore emerging from a discriminatory, male-dominated society into a free and equal one.

1. METHODOLOGY

The research included both secondary sources and original data gathered using quantitative and qualitative techniques. A questionnaire and interview schedule were used to survey a representative sample of respondents in order to compile the quantitative data. The respondents were given a standardized and well-structured questionnaire that covered ground relevant to the study's aims. This was augmented by interviews with experts in the topic, who were in various sections of the State. The percentage approach was used to tabulate the data collected from primary sources. Information was gathered from a variety of secondary sources, including but not limited to books, research papers, journals, and government records on the topic and related fields.

2. RESULTS

Participants were also questioned about their familiarity with government initiatives at the federal and state levels. They were asked whether they thought the federal and state governments were actively working to improve the lives of women, and if so, how successful those efforts had been. Individual and collective solutions to the many issues women face today were solicited. In addition, the participants were probed on their thoughts on cooperative societies and self-help groups.

Table 1 Profile of the Respondents

Sl. No	Factors	No. of Respondents	Percentage	
1	Area of Origin			
	a)	Urban	58	52
	b)	Semi-Urban	38	34
	c)	Rural	16	14
	Total		112	100

2	Age of Respondents		
a)	20-30 years	48	43
b)	31-40 years	38	34
c)	41-50 years	16	14
d)	51 or more	10	9
	Total	112	100

3	Education		
a)	Illiterate	0	0
b)	Functionally literate	0	0
c)	Primary School	10	9
d)	Middle School	2	1
e)	High School	8	7
f)	Higher Secondary	14	13
g)	Graduate	24	22
h)	Post Graduate	48	43
i)	Professional	6	5
j)	Any other	0	0
	Total	112	100

4	Marital Status		
a)	Unmarried	62	55
b)	Married	40	36
c)	Widow	6	5
d)	Separated	4	4
	Total	112	100

5	Occupation			
	a)	Government Service	58	52
	b)	Private Service	26	23
	c)	Self-Employed	22	20
	d)	Business	6	5
	e)	Others	0	0
	Total		112	100

6	Monthly Family Income			
	a)	Below ` 5,000/-	10	9
	b)	` 5,000/ – ` 10,000/-	20	18
	c)	` 10,000/ – ` 20,000/-	8	7
	d)	Above ` 20,000/-	74	66
	Total		112	100

7	Membership in NGO			
	a)	Yes	112	100
	b)	No	0	0
	Total		112	100

According to Table 1, of the total 112 respondents, 58 are from the state's metropolitan region and 38 are from semi-urban areas. The remaining 16 people who answered the survey are all from rural India. It's also clear that 43% of responders are in their twenties and thirties, while 34% are in their thirties and forties. In addition, 14% of the female population falls between the ages of 41 and 50, and 10% are 51 and more. The chart also shows that the majority of responders (43%) have completed graduate school, while 22% are college

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graduates, 13% have completed high school, and 7% are in matriculation. Moreover, 9 percent of respondents completed basic education and 1 percent completed middle school. Another 5% are working-class professionals. This demonstrates that people with a wide range of educational backgrounds are filling out the survey. Sixty-two of the respondents, or more than half, do not have a spouse. There are six single people and four people who are no longer married to their partners. Fifty-two percent of those who responded were employed by the federal or state government, while 23 percent were self-employed. Twenty percent of respondents work in the business sector, while five percent are self-employed.

Most respondents (66%) have a household income of more than Rs. 20,000/- per month, whereas 18% have an income of Rs. 5,000-1,000. Nine percent of those polled say their monthly household income is less than'5,000/-, while seven percent say it's between'10,000/- and'20,000/-. In addition, every single responder works for a non-governmental organization. In India, civil society groups are actively involved in the social sector, and the respondents are connected to a wide variety of these organizations. It has already been established that questions about the respondents' familiarity with and attitudes toward a wide range of topics affecting society, the economy, the operations of the Central and State Governments, etc. were included in the survey.

Table 2 Opinion of respondents regarding progress of India women

Inquiry		No. of Respondents	Percentage
India women are developed than what they were in the past			
a	Yes	112	100
b	No	0	0
c	I don't know	0	0
		112	100

The respondents were questioned about their thoughts on the status of Indian women and whether or not they are better off now than they were in the past. There were 112 responses, and each one was vorable. One hundred percent of respondents think that women in India are making progress.

Table 3 Opinion regarding women's role in society

Inquiry		No. of Respondents	Percentage
Play a role in bringing change in society			
a	Yes	102	92
b	No	6	5
c	I don't know	4	3
Total		112	100

Participants were polled on the extent to which they believe women in India contribute to social progress. Two hundred and two, or 92%, agreed that women in India play a vital part in bringing about positive changes in society, while six, or 5%, were not. Just 3% of respondents gave a good or negative response (those other 4 people).

Table 4 Opinion regarding marriage law

	Inquiry	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Satisfied with traditional customary law of marriage			
a	Yes	54	48
b	No	50	45
c	I don't know	8	7
	Total	112	100

Fifty-four people (or 48 percent) say they are happy with the country's current marriage laws. Fifty respondents (or 45 percent) are dissatisfied and advocate for a higher hmeichhe man (the bride's nominal price), while eight respondents (or 7 percent) did not express an opinion.

3. CONCLUSION

This presentation is dedicated to examining the impact that women have had on India's economic and social progress. About half of India's population consists of women. They take part in a wide range of economic and social pursuits. Women in India contribute much to the country's progress by taking part in a wide range of endeavors. Women's contributions to India's historical and contemporary economic growth were the study's primary emphasis. The current investigation also examined government programs and activities geared at women as well as other pertinent factors. Women's contributions to a country's economy and society are substantial. All respondents agreed that women in India had come a long way in recent decades. Also, 92% of them believe that women have an important role in social progress. Almost 96% of Indians agree that women have made significant contributions to the country's economic progress and development. The vast majority of them think that women's representation in power structures is crucial for rapid progress.

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