

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- Gender equality implies a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, outcomes, rights and obligation in all spheres of life. Equality between men and women exists when both sexes are able to share equally in the distribution of power and influence. Despite many international agreements affirming their human rights, women are still much more likely than men to poor and illiterate. Women usually have less access than men to medical care, property ownership, credit, training and employment. They are far less likely than men to be politically active and far more likely to be victims of domestic violence.”
- Women constitute half the population of India, but they face gender discrimination in all walks of life and to facilitate the empowerment of women, there is a wide list of policies and programmes adopted in various five years plans, there is a plethora of constitutional and legislative provisions in the name of women but can one say that Indian women have got themselves free from shackles of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, neglect, oppression, harassment, exploitation and violence at domestic as well as at societal level
- Major attributes that contribute to women empowerment are access to education, social equity, status, safety, liberty, improved health, political participation, financial stability and legal and political awareness. Despite these all motivational factors women are still lag behind men in many social indicators like limited access to education, health, economic opportunities, restricted mobility, more worrisome to their vulnerability and experience violent. Indian religion, caste system and patriarchy have kept women in subordinate position.
- Economic empowerment is the individual aspect of women development. The economic empowerment means greater access to financial resource inside and outside the household, reducing vulnerability of poor women to crisis situation like famine, flood, riots, death and accidents in the family and significant

increase in income of women. Financial self-reliance of women both in the household and in external environment leads to the empowerment of women in the other sphere.

- In this study an attempt has been made to highlight the programmes and policies run/governed by government of India for empowerment of women with the constitutional and legal provisions, various social and economic legislations for women's emancipation. This study presents the true picture of what place an average Indian women has in Indian economy and society. The indicators used in this chapter reveal the dismal conditions of Indian women. The present socio - economic status of women emphasize that inspite of programmes, policies, Acts enacted by government for women, they are still living a miserable, unhealthy, unhappy life.
- Backwardness of women is a sign of poverty and women are the worst sufferers during the period of scarcity and calamity. Women are in informal sector where they are poorly paid, have unsatisfactory work conditions and great insecurity of employment. They do not have own property in their own names and do not get a share of parental property. There is no recognition for their hard work, just because her work is not evaluated in terms of money.
- Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their lives. Studies confirm that female literacy has a significant influence in improving social and economic status, eliminate discrimination, eradicate illiteracy and increase enrolment.
- The impact of 73rd Amendment (1993) reserving one third seats for women in the Panchayati Raj Institution has been fruitful, and the women Reservation Bill 2010, approved by the Upper House of Parliament is another major step. But in real practices effective participation of women in local governance is ambiguous. Elected women may be proxies for their husbands or male leaders of political parties. They may get hardly any opportunities to work due to their lack of political experience and traditional social barriers.

- Another important landmark in the history of women welfare in India is the enactment of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts of 1992. These Acts revolutionized the rural and urban local bodies, the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipal bodies. They provide for the reservation of 33.3 per cent of the political offices for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations.
- Though there has been considerable legislation, government has passed various legislations for emancipation of women but the objective could not be achieved by legislation alone. The actual position of women today is not much better than earlier periods. The problems have resumed new dimensions more fatal and ugly than before. The equality clause in the constitution has made little or no impact on the social and economic life of women in India. The women who have benefited is a microscopic minority belonging to dominant strata of society. Legislations enacted during the last few decades are out of reach for most of women, because, by and large, they are neither aware nor have financial resources to take advantage of their provisions.
- Indian Constitution has made many legal laws, welfare policies and essential Amendment for women's development. Despite these efforts, women are still deprived of basic facilities, women do not enjoy the protection of labour laws, and gender equality in agriculture is still a distant dream due to gender-blind policies and programmes. Self Help Groups, government, not government policies are not playing very satisfactory role as expected from them. Information and communication technologies can improve rural women's leadership and participation in community and economic development activities.
- Effective access and use of information and communication technologies can improve rural women's leadership and participation in community and economic development activities. However, rural women are at the lowest level of the digital gender divide.
- Women are less likely to feel that PCs and the internet/web would be useful to them in their daily lives. Women are also more concerned about making a fool

of themselves when trying to learn about new technology and are more worried that technology is leaving them behind. Women appear to be less confident in the computer skills.

- Further this research study is being conducted about the gradual development of Human Rights especially for the protection of Women's Human Rights, and to provide information which is related to women's Human rights violation, what are the factors which resulted in the violations of women's Human Rights. To know the position of women, their status in (society) male dominated society and the women's position and protection through Constitutional law, civil and criminal laws, personal laws and socio-economic and welfare legislation, the main measures which have been provided in the international law, international humanitarian law, international human rights covenants, conventions and treaties especially based on equality irrespective of the gender.
- This study analyses upon the issues and challenges based on women and laws providing the protection of Human Rights of the women in India. Judiciary has been the symbol of the temple of justice what has been the role of judiciary in the protection, enhancement and empowerment of women and protection of their basic rights especially Human Rights, to know whether the Governmental and NGOs have been a source of advancement, support, and development for the equal treatment of women which laws establish in the society. This study has been confined upto the Indian position of Women's Human Rights.
- Indeed, gender equality is a major phenomenon which requires an understanding of its multi-dimensional influence, including our family structures and units. The 2011 census contains an important message because it is far from a balanced gender ratio. More worrisome is the child sex ratio in the 0-6 age group as it reflects the continuing bias against girls. The challenge is to work towards a balanced population and if these prejudices are to be overcome, the rights of women need to be protected. This is a very important

question to ask at a time when the child sex ratio has dropped from 927 in 2001 to an all-time low of 914.

- The Government of India have launched several programmes for the development of women especially, the programme of development of women and children in rural areas with the objective of improving the status and quality of life of poor women and children in rural areas and enabling women to improve their earning capacity.
- Rise of Women Leadership in rural areas will increase the pace of holistic development in the state. If Women are endowed with power in all the fields, then, not only the society will be benefited but also the entire democratic system will benefit.
- A reservation of 20 percent seats in employment by the State Public Service Commission is indeed an encouraging step towards their empowerment. Very recently during February 2011, women have won the battle by the order of Supreme Court to receive commission in army, air force and naval service of Indian military.
- A large number of legislative Acts have been enacted to protect the rights of women. Women related laws and their amendments are generally covered as factual, event centered reporting and sometimes they are dealt with in an analytical manner. Reports on legal aspects of women related stories however get very little space in the hard news section.
- This study analysis of an issue and a thought provoking debate. At a micro level various issues are dealt with ranging from equality/status of women, legal rights, women's empowerment, to dowry, domestic violence, sati, problems of widows etc. However, these issues fanned a very low percentage of the data. Many issues like property rights, personal laws, undemocratic population policies, health, development policies, female feticide and infanticide, prostitution etc. were either missing or have got negligible coverage.

- I must pointed as a concluding remark that introduction of gender perspective in the media culture may be stressed because negligence of gender agenda by the media may keep the dominant patriarchal ways of thinking intact. And this attitude as a consequence, in a substantial way would adversely affect the women lot in particular and the overall development of the society in general.
- The process of globalization has direct and indirect effects on the empowerment of rural women. There is possible opportunities for wage employment in non-agricultural sectors, and enhanced opportunity for participation in local decision-making and networking, including through information and communication technologies.
- In rural areas, women are generally not perceived to have any meaningful income generation capacity, and hence, they are relegated mainly to household duties and cheap labour. Without the power to work and earn a good income, their voices are silenced. Even in matters of sex and child bearing, women often do not have the ability to oppose the wishes of their men.
- India has made remarkable progress in promoting women's political empowerment at the local level with over 1.2 million elected women representatives.
- Women empowerment includes empowerment within the family and empowerment in the society. Involvement of women in decision making, earning, sharing of basic needs and commanding respect for self is a prerequisite to the empowerment of women in Indian society. Women are also required to participate actively in the process of development namely policy making, planning, implementing and evaluation along with their male counterpart.
- The raising social status of women, increasing educational opportunities, obtaining employment opportunities, sharing economic resources, raising of standard of living, active participation of women in governance and so on constitute the process of 'empowerment of women' in letter and spirit.

- A well-articulated employment generation policy be formulated aiming at more productive participation by women, at the same time assuring them greater employment benefits, social security and better working conditions.

Salient features of the Finding:

- There is a need to assess critically whether past efforts have brought the expected results and if not, this is the matter of ponder how to change course.
- There is a keen need to development and application of methods for prevention of violence against women (domestic violence, trafficking, etc) and working should closely linked with organizations active in that area.
- Women's self-help groups in India have become a very important vehicle for economic empowerment. Currently there are around six million self-help groups in the country of which 80 percent are women's groups, covering over 97 million beneficiaries.
- There are lots of governments and non - government organizations run in India to grow for the empowerment of women, but obviously it has not been enough. Women are still deprived of basic facilities such as food, cloth, shelter, health and education.
- Study show that higher levels of gender equality correlate positively with higher levels of per capita gross national product. Opening economic opportunities to rural women would significantly raise economic growth and reduce poverty in rural India.
- Wherever possible women's employability should be increased by diversification or provision of skill training in new or non - traditional areas of employment in the organised sector.
- Enlightened women should organize awareness camps in the interior and remote areas to make their sisters aware about themselves.
- To reduce poverty and to guarantee employment, GOI introduces various schemes but whether the benefit of these schemes reaches to actual beneficiaries is a matter of concern. So government and NGOs should work hand in hand to overcome this.

- Value based education should be introduced in the curriculum so that violence and injustice against women can be reduced.
- Top priority has been given in our developmental plans for improving female literacy and creating skills and capability among women for enabling them to stand on their own feet. The first and foremost priority should be given to the education of women, which is the grass root problem.
- The rise of feminist ideas has led to the tremendous improvement of women's condition in recent times.
- Women have attempted to Change societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women.
- Women are creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realise their full potential.
- Women have equal access to participation and decision-making in social, political and economic life of the nation.
- Women should have equal access to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment and equal remuneration.
- Media should play a major role in obstructing those activities where women are portrayed as mere commodities. Govt. should also come forward to punish those media who are instrumental in propagating the idea of commoditization of women.
- Campaigns for promotion of women rights, including the use of media and with the purpose of increasing knowledge on women rights in public and state institutions, as well as the elimination of all forms of discrimination on the base of gender is required.
- There is Lack of proper supervision and weak monitoring mechanism of different development initiatives designed for the empowerment of rural women.
- The effective participation of women in local governance is ambiguous. It is argued that elected women may be proxies for their husbands or male leader

of political parties. They may get hardly any opportunity to work due to their lack of political experience and traditional social barriers.

- Majority of the world's poor living in rural India, rural women are clearly one of the most disadvantaged groups in the world.
- Lack of proper supervision and weak monitoring mechanism of different development initiatives designed for the empowerment of women.

