WOMEN’S BARRIER TO FINANCIAL INDEPENDENACE

The long-held belief that women must bear the primary burden of domestic responsibilities, exerts tremendous social pressure and prevents women from achieving their dreams. More crucially, these invisible shackles curb the financial independence of women, and that’s where the problem lies. For the longest time, women have been dependent for finances on the men in their lives; be it their husbands or fathers. It’s time for them to take the reins, and change the name of the game today.

With greater dissemination of information, women are beginning to understand that financial independence is critical, even though its implementation must be more proactive. In fact, according to a recent survey conducted in the country, women cited financial independence as one of their top three priorities in life! There’s more: about 30% of women find the cost of living a major barrier to being financially independent.

As a progressive society, standing for women's rights and empowerment, we must stop viewing culture only as a barrier and an obstacle to women's rights.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_empowerment#cite_note-OHCHR-39) Culture is an integral and huge part of diversity and a medium that seeks to ensure women's equal opportunities.[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_empowerment#cite_note-OECD-40) It recognises their freedom to take pride in their values, whether they are orthodox or modern in nature. This is not to say that centuries of abuse clothed in the spirit of culture should be allowed to continue, let alone be celebrated. Undoubtedly, traditions cloaked in the idea of empowerment should be objected to in light of feminism.