

Women Empowerment for Vikshit Bharat@2047: It's Challenges

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ABSTRACT:

Women empowerment is an essential foundation for realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, which aims for a fully developed, equitable, and progressive India. Women empowerment is the cornerstone of Viksit Bharat 2047, shifting from mere women's development to "women-led development" to achieve a developed nation. The foundation of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047 rests on four key pillars, collectively known as 'GYAN': Garib (the poor), Yuva (youth), Annadata (farmers), and Nari (women). The empowerment of women, as one of these essential components, is vital for achieving this national vision. Empowering women educationally, politically and economically will yield considerable societal advantages, leading to increased productivity, stronger communities, and more inclusive governance. By prioritizing women's empowerment, India can move closer to its 2047 goal of becoming a prosperous and equitable democracy. This paper investigates the vital contributions of women to national development, highlighting the necessity of achieving gender equality across various domains such as education, economic engagement, leadership, healthcare, and digital access. It emphasizes how education can serve as powerful enablers of women's empowerment, facilitating their complete integration into India's developmental framework. It also highlights a gender-equal India by 2047 will not only elevate women but also propel sustainable development, strengthen governance, and improve global competitiveness. Empowering women is not merely a social imperative; it is the key to unlocking India's full potential and ensuring a future that is inclusive, resilient, and prosperous.

Keywords: Women empowerment, Vikshit Bharat 2047, Challenges

INTRODUCTION:

Women empowerment is an essential foundation for realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, which aims for a fully developed, equitable, and progressive India. Women empowerment is the cornerstone of Viksit Bharat 2047, shifting from mere women's development to "women-led development" to achieve a developed nation. The foundation of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047 rests on four key pillars, collectively known as 'GYAN': Garib (the poor), Yuva (youth), Annadata (farmers), and Nari (women). The empowerment of women, as one of these essential components, is vital for achieving this national vision. Empowering women educationally, politically and economically will yield considerable societal advantages, leading to increased productivity, stronger communities, and more inclusive governance. By prioritizing women's empowerment, India can move closer to its 2047 goal of becoming a prosperous and equitable democracy. This paper investigates the vital contributions of women to national development, highlighting the necessity of achieving gender equality across various domains such as education, economic engagement, leadership, healthcare, and digital access. It

emphasizes how education can serve as powerful enablers of women's empowerment, facilitating their complete integration into India's developmental framework. It also highlights a gender-equal India by 2047 will not only elevate women but also propel sustainable development, strengthen governance, and improve global competitiveness. Empowering women is not merely a social imperative; it is the key to unlocking India's full potential and ensuring a future that is inclusive, resilient, and prosperous.

Women's education is a foundational pillar for *Viksit Bharat* (Developed India) 2047, aiming for 70% workforce participation, gender equity, and economic empowerment. It focuses on STEM, digital literacy, and bridging gender gaps to boost economic growth. Key initiatives include NEP 2020, *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*, and enhanced skill development to ensure girls' participation in a \$25 trillion economy.

Aspects of Women's Education for Viksit Bharat 2047:

- **STEM and Digital Focus:** Encouraging girls to enter Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) is vital for the knowledge economy. Digital literacy initiatives, such as the *AI Kiran scheme*, aim to close the digital gap.
- **Policy and Infrastructure:** The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 prioritizes gender equity. *Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan* improves school infrastructure and sanitation for girls.
- **Economic Participation:** Education is key to increasing women's role in the workforce, essential for reaching a \$25 trillion economy.
- **Skill Development:** Tailored vocational training and mentorship programs aim to foster entrepreneurship and leadership.
- **Safety and Access:** Improvements in transportation and school safety are, along with campaigns like *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*, reducing dropout rates.
- **Economic Transformation & Workforce:** The female WPR rose from 22% (2017-18) to 40.3% (2023-24), with rural female employment growing by 96%. Closing gender gaps in labor participation can significantly boost India's GDP.
- **Entrepreneurship and Leadership:** Women are moving beyond traditional roles into entrepreneurship, supported by initiatives like Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- **Education and Skill Development:** Female graduate employability increased from 42% in 2013 to 47.53% in 2024, essential for a knowledge-driven economy.

MAGNITUDES OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Economic Empowerment: -

1. **Access to Employment:** Equal employment access is vital for women. It includes equal chances in the workforce. Reducing the gender wage gap is also key. Maternity benefits must be provided as well.
2. **Entrepreneurship and Financial Independence:** Microfinance empowers women starting businesses. Selfhelp groups offer vital support. Financial literacy programs build essential skills. These initiatives help women entrepreneurs succeed.
3. **Property Rights and Asset Ownership:** Securing women's economic stability requires promoting ownership. Women should have land and property rights. Financial assets are also important. This ensures their long-term financial security.

4. **Workplace Equality:** Establish gender-sensitive policies. Ensure safe work environments for all staff. Enforce anti-harassment laws to protect employees. These actions foster a respectful and fair workplace.

Educational Empowerment: -

1. **Access to Quality Education:** Girls must have the same chances for school and college. Education helps them succeed. It is important to give girls these chances. This promotes fairness in society.
2. **STEM and Digital Literacy:** It is vital to support women in STEM fields. Science, tech, engineering, and math jobs need more women. We must also close the digital divide. Everyone should have access to tech and internet.
3. **Skill Development and Vocational Training:** We deliver programs to boost job skills. Our training also enhances leadership abilities. We provide education for future business owners. These programs empower individuals to succeed. They gain skills for employment and beyond.
4. **Eliminating Gender Stereotypes in Education:** It is vital to inspire girls to explore varied career options. We must fight against bias in society. Girls should feel free to choose any job they want. Obstacles that stop them must be removed. This change can help them reach their full potential.

Social Empowerment: -

1. **Health and Well-being:** Healthcare access is essential. This includes maternal care and reproductive rights. Mental health support is also vital. These services promote individual and public well-being.
2. **Eliminating Gender-Based Violence:** Enhance laws to fight domestic violence, harassment, and trafficking. Also, launch campaigns to increase public knowledge. These actions aim to protect vulnerable people. They also strive to prevent these crimes from happening.
3. **Women's Role in Society:** It is important to fight against old ideas about male power. We must help women take part in making choices. This should happen in their families. It should also happen in their towns.
4. **Media Representation:** Media should show women in a positive light. Entertainment and ads must tackle gender bias.

Political Empowerment: -

1. **Representation in Governance:** Policies that reserve spots for women can boost their roles in politics. Leadership training programs also help women engage in political life. These efforts promote women's involvement. They help women gain a stronger voice in government.
2. **Women in Decision-Making Roles:** More women must take part in making key decisions. This includes roles in policy creation and on corporate boards. Local leadership should also see more women involved. Increasing female participation leads to better outcomes.
3. **Legal Rights and Advocacy:** It is vital to reinforce women's legal rights. Laws should ensure equal inheritance for women. Protection against discrimination is also key. Women must have open access to justice systems.
4. **Grassroots Leadership:** Encourage women to take leadership roles. Support their involvement in local self-government bodies. Strengthen women's presence in Panchayati Raj institutions.

Psychological and Personal Empowerment:-

1. **Self-Confidence and Leadership Skills:** It is vital to promote female leadership. Women should be empowered to make choices. These actions can help women grow. They also bring fresh views to leadership roles.
2. **Awareness of Rights and Legal Protections:** It is vital to teach women about their legal rights. They should know how to get legal help. Women must also understand ways to seek justice if their rights are violated.
3. **Breaking Societal Stereotypes:** We must question old ideas about gender. Everyone should have the same chance to succeed. This applies to every part of life.
4. **Encouraging Women's Networks and Mentorship:** Establishing robust support networks via mentorship initiatives, women's associations, and peer groups.

CHALLENGES TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women empowerment in India presents a multifaceted challenge influenced by socio-cultural, economic, and political dimensions. It is crucial for attaining gender equality, yet several significant obstacles impede progress, including:

1. **Discriminatory Social Norms:** The historical context has resulted in persistent socio-cultural norms that discriminate against both men and women, particularly in rural areas. While men are often encouraged to be assertive, women are typically expected to be demure and reserved.
2. **Role Stereotyping:** A considerable portion of Indian society still adheres to the belief that women's roles should be confined to domestic responsibilities, with financial duties and external employment viewed as the domain of men.
1. **3.Low Literacy Rates:** Traditional customs, such as dowry, contribute to the perception that educating girls is not economically viable for many families. Consequently, the literacy rate among women, especially in rural regions, remains alarmingly low.
3. **Safety Concerns:** Women in India frequently tolerate gender-based violence, including female feticide, domestic abuse, sexual assault, trafficking, forced prostitution, honor killings, and workplace harassment, often in silence.
4. **Limited Employment Opportunities:** Gender role stereotypes lead to biases and discrimination against women in the workforce. For instance, women may be perceived as less dependable employees due to their responsibilities related to child-rearing and household management.
5. **Glass Ceiling:** The existence of the "Glass Ceiling Effect" signifies that women, both in India and globally, encounter unspoken barriers that hinder their advancement to higher levels of professional achievement.
6. **Economic Disparities:** Limited job opportunities and restricted access to financial resources result in significant economic disparities between women and men in India, posing a substantial obstacle to women's independence.
8. **Low Political Representation:** The representation of women in various legislative bodies, including Parliament, remains insufficient, further limiting their influence in decision-making processes.

SUGGESTED MEASURES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

1. **Evolving Social Perspectives:** The ongoing nature of this issue, despite numerous legislative efforts, indicates that social challenges cannot be resolved solely through laws. A continuous initiative aimed

at transforming societal attitudes is essential.

2. **Enhanced Educational Access:** There exists a significant correlation between education and the empowerment of women. Facilitating access to education serves as a powerful mechanism for empowering women, ultimately enhancing their status in India by fostering self-confidence that enables them to shape their own futures.
3. **Guaranteeing Women's Safety:** The effective enforcement of current laws through a robust judicial system and law enforcement agencies is crucial in mitigating the gender-based violence that women encounter.
4. **Skill Development:** Equipping women with skills that are relevant to the job market will facilitate their entry into the workforce.
5. **Facilitating Access to Financial Resources:** Providing access to financial resources, such as micro-financing, can empower women to engage in economic activities, thereby fostering their financial independence.
6. **Encouraging Political Engagement:** It is vital to promote women in leadership positions, allowing them to become key contributors to India's advancement and development, rather than merely beneficiaries of progress.
7. **Leadership Training:** Implementing leadership training programs for women will prepare them for influential roles in politics and civil society, significantly reducing gender inequality in India and enhancing the status of women.

VISION FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

India's aspiration for Viksit Bharat 2047 envisions the establishment of an inclusive, progressive, and developed nation by the centenary of its independence. Central to this vision is the empowerment of women, which guarantees equal access to education, employment, healthcare, and leadership roles. The realization of a truly developed India is contingent upon achieving gender equality and fostering the active involvement of women across all sectors of society.

1. **Economic Empowerment and Equal Workforce Participation By the year 2047:-** It is imperative for India to close the gender employment gap by ensuring equitable remuneration, safe working conditions, and enhanced representation of women in corporate leadership, entrepreneurship, and the informal economy. Promoting women-led enterprises, expanding financial inclusion through microfinance and digital banking, and reinforcing self-help groups (SHGs) will be pivotal in advancing economic independence.
2. **Education and Skill Development for Future Readiness To cultivate a knowledge-driven economy:-** It is essential that women have equal access to high-quality education, especially in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Initiatives in digital literacy, vocational training, and upskilling will equip women for emerging industries and the global job market. Policies should aim to dismantle gender stereotypes in education and foster lifelong learning opportunities.
3. **Women in Governance and Leadership:-** A Viksit Bharat necessitates robust female representation in political and administrative leadership roles. Enhancing women's participation in Parliament, state legislatures, Panchayati Raj institutions, and corporate governance will facilitate gender-sensitive policymaking and inclusive governance. It is vital to promote leadership training and mentorship programs to cultivate the next generation of women leaders.

4. **Social and Legal Reforms for Gender Equality By the year 2047:-** India aims to establish a society devoid of gender-based discrimination, violence, and stereotypes. Enhancing legislation concerning domestic violence, workplace harassment, equal property rights, and maternity benefits will afford women both legal and social protection. The implementation of awareness campaigns alongside more rigorous law enforcement will be essential in safeguarding the safety and dignity of women.
5. **Health, Well-being, and Reproductive Rights:-** A progressive India must place a high priority on women's healthcare, encompassing maternal health, reproductive rights, menstrual hygiene, and mental health services. Ensuring universal access to healthcare, along with gender-sensitive policies and awareness initiatives, will empower women to lead healthier lives and make meaningful contributions to society.
6. **Bridging the Digital and Technological Divide Empowering women through technology is vital for India's advancement:-** Increasing internet accessibility, promoting women's involvement in technology-driven sectors, and fostering digital financial inclusion will guarantee women's active engagement in the digital economy. Initiatives focused on artificial intelligence (AI), coding, and cyber security will equip women for future employment opportunities.
7. **Contribution of Women to Sustainable Development and Climate Initiatives:-** Women should be at the forefront of India's sustainability objectives. Promoting women's involvement in environmental protection, green business initiatives, and rural development is essential for achieving sustainable and inclusive progress. It is imperative that policies are designed to empower women in sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, and environmentally sustainable enterprises.
8. **Aspiration for a Gender-Equitable Society By the year 2047:-** India should evolve into a nation where women possess full control over their lives, careers, and decisions. Transforming societal attitudes, enhancing media portrayals, and reshaping cultural views will be crucial in establishing gender equality in every facet of life.

CONCLUSION:

Empowering women in India is not merely an objective in itself; it is essential for the overall development and prosperity of the nation. As India moves towards its vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047" women's empowerment must be part of India's core values. Investment in education, business, leadership, and safety will boost the country. India can then lead the world in equality and growth. A gender-equal India is needed for a truly advanced Bharat. To reach this vision by 2047, the government, business, and people must work together. When women lead and succeed, Viksit Bharat will be achieved. It is imperative for the government, civil society, communities, and individuals to collaborate in creating an environment where every woman has the opportunity to succeed. The aforementioned measures can significantly contribute to this goal.

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