

A Study on Role of Women Empowerment to Alleviate Poverty

Samba Shalini, Santoshi Loya*

Abstract

Women empowerment includes accepting their point of view to make decisions and to raise their individual status with the help of education, awareness, and training, which can help them compete in society and also improve their lifestyle and quality of life for families and rural communities. Women's education will give them the opportunity to create their own careers while simultaneously building their children's education to improve their standard of living and contribute to the country's GDP. An educated woman can help to support the policies that can lead to addressing the issues of the poor, like education, healthcare, social rights, and financial benefits that will eradicate poverty. When a woman is given resources, she can break the chain of poverty for the coming generations in society. When women are given access to education and healthcare, they can take care of themselves and their families. Though women's empowerment can be seen in urban areas, it is still lacking in rural areas where women are unable to achieve gender equality and financial independence and are denied the right to make family decisions, which can be resolved only with awareness and education. The study focuses on the role of women's empowerment in society to alleviate poverty through education, awareness, and different ways of earning.

Keywords: Women empowerment, GDP, Poverty, Gender Equality, Awareness, Family Decision-Making

INTRODUCTION

Women empowerment is the word that directly indicates honoring, inspiring, and supporting women by giving them power and control over their own lives to make them independent and to make self-decisions so that they can reach their goals and do whatever they want without any hindrances.[1] It means giving women control over their lives to study, work, and make decisions. It is said that one developed woman can contribute to society's development. As an individual, every person has their own decisions for life and their own ambitions to reach, which can only be achieved by gaining self-power and control. Giving freedom to women can help them boost their strength to survive in society and help them become independent. Educating women is also very important to make them self-sufficient so that they can earn money and contribute it to their families to improve their financial situation.[2] Poverty is one of the major problems in developing countries like India, which is one of the hindrances to making India from a developing country to a developed country. Poverty is the stage where an individual is unable to fulfill their basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing. Poverty is largely seen in rural areas where people are uneducated and education is not given priority, especially for women.[3] Women are always underestimated, they are always restricted to household activities, they are not given any power to make decisions, and they are completely controlled by the head of the family. Women

*Author for Correspondence

Santoshi Loya
E-mail: santoshiloya@gmail.com

Assistant Professor of commerce, Badruka College of Commerce and Arts, Affiliated to Osmania University (Telangana)

Received Date: November 28, 2023
Accepted Date: December 15, 2023
Published Date: December 28, 2023

Citation: Samba Shalini, Santoshi Loya. A Study on Role of Women Empowerment to Alleviate Poverty. NOLEGEIN Journal of Business Ethics, Ethos and CSR. 2023; 6(2): 7-10p.

empowerment can become a bridge to reduce poverty by educating them and treating them as equals to men. If women are treated equally to men, then twice as much development can be achieved by the country. In the present generation, we can see that things have become too advanced and that every individual contribution is important to society. We can see that there are so many women who are working as scientists, entrepreneurs, doctors, police officers, teachers, etc., which indicates that an independent woman can achieve anything and become self-independent. Empowered women can have the ability to shape the future of their kids by educating them on the right things. Empowering women goes beyond individual success stories; it has the potential to transform societies on a larger scale. By dismantling barriers that limit women's opportunities and by promoting gender equality, we pave the way for a more inclusive and progressive future. As women gain the confidence to pursue their goals, they become catalysts for societal change, fostering a community where everyone, regardless of gender, can thrive and contribute to the collective well-being. In essence, women's empowerment is not just a goal in itself; it is a catalyst for broader social and economic development.

Why Women are to be Focused?

In the world's population, women contribute 49%. And in every family, women play a major role; they are the ones who take care of the family with responsibility. When women are given more power and freedom to control their lives as they like, they can learn, teach, and encourage their kids to reach their goals in life. As they manage their families similarly, they can manage their financial problems if they are inspired and supported to earn and spend. If women are given the chance to come out of the house and earn, they can improve their financial position and the quality of life in their family, which reduces poverty in the family.

Challenges of Women Empowerment

- *Education:* Education is the key to unlocking many ways to reach goals and become independent. The literacy rate of women is lower compared to men. And social beliefs and ancient rules and regulations are still followed in places where they believe that only men are allowed to be educated, not women, and they are only restricted to staying at home.
- *Inequality:* In personal and professional life, there are so many situations where women have to face inequalities and are dominated by men, due to which they cannot express their views and make decisions. These dynamics can hinder their ability to freely express their views and make decisions, perpetuating a climate of unequal power relations and limiting opportunities for women to assert themselves in various aspects of life.
- *Health and safety:* In rural areas, most women are not aware of different precautions for their health and safety. This knowledge gap underscores the pressing need for targeted education and outreach programs to empower women with the information and resources necessary to safeguard their well-being in these.
- *Socialized:* Women are not allowed to socialize or come out of their restricted zone. These limitations deny them the opportunity to engage with the broader community, hindering their social development and perpetuating a system that curtails their freedom and inhibits the formation of diverse social connections. Addressing and dismantling these restrictions is crucial for fostering inclusivity and empowering women to participate fully in social life.
- *Political:* Involvement of women in political environments is restricted in many areas, and most men treat them degradingly, and they are not given the same rights as men to rule. This pervasive gender-based inequality within political spheres not only stifles women's voices and perspectives but also perpetuates an unjust system that hampers the realization of true democratic ideals. Efforts to dismantle these barriers are imperative for achieving equitable representation and fostering a political landscape where women can contribute meaningfully and enjoy equal rights in decision-making processes.

Objectives of the Study

- To study how women empowerment can play a major role in reducing poverty.

- To study different factors where women can contribute to alleviating poverty.
- To study the different challenges of women empowerment.
- To analyze different steps to be taken to reach maximum women empowerment.

Research Methodology

- Secondary data: The data was collected because of secondary data from different articles, journals, research papers, and government data collection.

Scope of the Study

- The study covers how women empowerment will be helpful in alleviating poverty.
- It focuses on how stereotypes can be broken.

Interpretation

Women are always treated less than men, and they are not allowed to come out of the house to work. In many developing countries, like India, it is found that women are less educated than men. [8 ,9] Women are only expected to manage kids and household work without interfering in any decisions; they are not allowed to make self-decisions. Awareness of women empowerment can inspire and support women to make decisions and get educated so that they can be independent and earn money to contribute to their family, community, and society, which directly reduces poverty in the country. Enhancement of skill development can reduce their economic dependence on the head of the family, and they can be able to contribute to their family. Involvement of women into governing bodies can provide them with different opportunities to build their careers, rule, and inspire other women regarding women empowerment. Social, political, and economic factors should be focused on by providing health benefits, education, equal wages like men, skill development opportunities, awareness about how to earn money, and awareness of women's rights.

Suggestions

- The government must bring in equal wage policies for both men and women.
- The government and other stakeholders must take the initiative by making education compulsory for women.
- Government and non-government bodies have to raise awareness about women's empowerment and provide different financial benefits to women to help them start their own source of income and become independent.
- Skill development programs are to be conducted free of charge.
- Equal rights and equal participation opportunities in all fields should be provided.
- Knowledge about women's health and childbirth should be given to women to improve their health conditions and reduce health expenses.
- Women entrepreneurs should be encouraged and provided with investment plans to explore their business plans.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- According to Tolulope Osinubi and Monica Orisadare, in their article "The Role of Microfinance Banks in Poverty Reduction Among Women in Osun State, Nigeria." they analyze that poverty among women is higher than among men due to a lack of education, early marriages, and less awareness. And poverty can be reduced by providing loans to women.[4]
- According to Ram Raj Pokharel in his paper "Role of Microfinance for Poverty Reduction and Women's Empowerment," financial benefits can improve the standard of living of women, and their earnings can contribute to the family and society. [8,9]
- According to Rui Gu and Feng-ying-NIE in their paper, "Does empowering women benefit poverty reduction? Evidence from a multi-component program in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

of China" showed that women can improve the lives of the poor and their intervention can uplift the financial position of the family and reduce poverty. [6,7]

- According to Showkot Jahan Nadim and Adie Dwiyanto Nurlukman, in their paper titled " The Impact of Women Empowerment on Poverty Reduction in Rural Areas of Bangladesh: Focusing on Village Development Program," government and non-government have to take part in encouraging women by providing different policies.[5]
- According to Elisabeth Porter, in her paper titled "Rethinking Women's Empowerment," she examined how orthodox ideas have changed women's empowerment and explained different ideas that can empower women in their communities.[10]

CONCLUSION

The role of women empowerment plays a significant role in alleviating poverty and will lead to self-development and independence. It is seen that many women are participating in various factors of the development of the country, and education is providing them with a chance to make proper decisions and to become independent. Poverty is a major concern in all parts of the world and can be reduced only when everyone is given equal opportunities to come outside of their restrictions, and the government and non-government bodies have to implement a few policies where men and women are given equal wages to improve their standard of living, which leads to fulfilling their basic needs and coming out of poverty. At the same time, they can conduct awareness programs on treating women equally to men and explain to everyone about gender equality and how they can play a role in improving the financial position of the family. Once women are given the opportunity to be part of all the factors like education, political environment, etc., in less time they can change society's beliefs and make them aware of women empowerment, how to improve the financial position of the family, how to become independent, and how to contribute to a country's GDP.

REFERENCES

1. Duflo E. Women empowerment and economic development. *Journal of Economic literature*. 2012 Dec 1;50(4):1051-79.
2. Corps P. Global issues: Gender equality and women's empowerment. Retrieved January. 2020; 17:2021.
3. Bastos A, Casaca SF, Nunes F, Pereirinha J. Women and poverty: A gender-sensitive approach. *The Journal of Socioeconomics*. 2009 Oct 1;38(5):764-78.
4. Bent BB. The impact of microfinance on poverty reduction and women empowerment. In Rais collective volume–Economic science 2019 (pp. 72-86). Scientia Moralitas Research Institute
5. Nadim SJ, Nurlukman AD. The impact of women empowerment on poverty reduction in rural area of Bangladesh: Focusing on village development program. *Journal of Government and Civil Society*. 2017 Oct 30;1(2):135-57.
6. Rui GU, NIE FY. Does empowering women benefit poverty reduction? Evidence from a multi-component program in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China. *Journal of Integrative Agriculture*. 2021 Apr 1;20(4):1092-106.
7. Ihugba OA, Bankong B, Ebomuche NC. The impact of Nigeria microfinance banks on poverty reduction: Imo State experience. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*. 2013 Dec 27;4(16):97-114
8. Chandrashekhkar KS, Shivaprakash CS. The role of information communication technology in women empowerment and poverty eradication in Kerala. *Asia Pacific Journal of Research in Business Management*. 2010;1(2):35-50.
9. Parvin N, Alam MJ. Empowerment of women to alleviate poverty through education in Bangladesh. *Journal of Governance and Innovation*. 2016 Jul;2(2):49-60.
10. Porter E. Rethinking women's empowerment. *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development*. 2013 Apr;8(1):1-4.