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Permanently Affiliated to Karnataka State Women's University Bijapur.
Bhartiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh(R)
BA JSS ARTS AND COMMERCE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
Sri Gayatri Campus, Halageri Road Ranebennur581115 Dist.: Haveri State Karnataka
STD:08373- Office: 267968, 297468, Mobile: 9481736128
Email: bajsswck09@gmail.com web: bajsswomenscollege.com

# Women Empowerment in India: Now and Then

*by* Sunil Hiremani Dr. N. S. Mugadur

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# Women Empowerment in India: Now and Then


- **Sunil Hiremani**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, BAJSS Arts& Commerce College For women, Ranebennur, Mbl:8147269687 email:Sunyhrk@gmail.com
- **Dr. N. S. Mugadur**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Karnatak University, Dharwad.



***Abstract***

Countries around the globe, focusing on the concept of empowerment not just mere empowerment of women but making all the possible affords. In India, the concept of women empowerment started gaining its effective role; history says that women's were treated badly. Sati Pratha, in ancient times, even for women's abortion in the present context, women are facing such violence. Of the total population, 50 per cent of the population should include women. But in reality, due to the practice of female feticide, the number of females in India is decreasing drastically. Therefore the present study seeks to understand the programmes implemented and over the decades socio-economic scenario of women in India. The sources of data gathered are purely based on the secondary data from various governmental reports. Thus, the study attempts to establish women empowerment from the perspective of rural and urban dimensions over the decade.



*Keywords: Empowerment, Socio-economic*


## Introduction

History says that women were treated badly. Sati Pratha, in ancient times, for women's abortion in the present context, women are facing such violence. Moreover, very dreadful crimes against women such as dowry systems, family violence, rape, honor killings, acid attacks and are still going on in India.

Of the total population, 50 per cent of the population should include women. But in reality, due to the practice of female feticide, the number of females in India is decreasing drastically. It has also affected the sex ratio in India. The literacy rate in girls is very low. Most girls cannot even afford elementary education. In addition, they get married quickly and have children to raise and do only household chores. As a result, their labour participation rate has remained constant or increasing at a declining rate.

## Literature review

The Government of India (2002), which recognizes women empowerment as a global issue, considers empowerment as an active, multidimensional process that allows women to

discover their identity and realize their full potential in all spheres of life. Kabir (2005) has identified the absence of any rigorous method for measuring the level of empowerment, and its determinants of failure to detect and achieve changes in its level over a period of time. Accordingly King and Mason (2001); DFID, (2007), the Government of India has formulated and implemented policies from time to time to provide education, employment and legal rights to hold resources for the moral and physical development of women. Jejeebhai (2000) in her study found that women's employment and education levels on different dimensions of women's empowerment and different traditional aspects of India's two states - Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Both, Mahendra Dev (2004) and Kishore and Gupta (2004) analyzed the NFHS-2 data for the period 1998–1999 by the states. The first study attempts to determine the contribution of women's education as a determinant of female employment applying the logit model.

**Objectives of the study**

1. To review women empowerment activities in India
2. To analyse the pattern of women empowerment in India

**Methodology**

The study is purely dealt by secondary data where the sources gathered from various publications of different institutions like Indian Public Finance Statistics, RBI Bulletin, Budget Documents, SSA Annual Reports of Karnataka, Human Development Report (UNDP), National Human Development Report (2018), CSO and Economic Survey. Simple calculation in the form of percentage have been used to analyse the study by limiting its focus mainly on literacy rates, gender ratio, and labour force with the different programmes implemented for women empowerment.

**Results and discussions**

Following are the results and discussions laid to identify the situation of women empowerment in India:

**A) Women Empowerment Activities:**

Countries around the globe, focusing on the concept of empowerment not just mere empowerment of women but making all the possible affords. In India, the concept of women empowerment started gaining its effective role; as a result, many programmes have been brought by the government of India to empower women from all the aspects.

Co-ordinator IQAC
B.A.J S.S
Arts & Commerce College for Women
Halageri Road,
RANEBENNUR-581115

Arts & Commerce College for Women
RANEBENNUR
581115

PRINCIPAL
B.A.J.S.S. College For Women
Halageri Road, Ranebennur