

# Role of Women Empowerment in Economic Development of India



**Silky Gupta**

Research Scholar,  
Deptt.of Economics,  
RIMT University,  
Mandi Gobindgarh

## Abstract

Women and economic development are interrelated .They are like two sides of the same coin. Both cannot be separated from each other. The paper aims to show how educated women play a major role in economic development. Economic development can be attain only by giving equal rights of education to citizens mainly to women in the country as she can mould the situations in such a handling way that will surely bring prosperity for a nation. The women entrepreneurship unfolds various kinds of endowments concerning economic possibilities in wealth creation. Various revolutions have been passed in India to provide better education, vocational training to improve their skills and capabilities. By having better education and vocational training now women can play a tremendous role in the labour market and business .Thus women can bring socio economical change and economic development. The major aim of the paper is to bring in light how the position of women can be improved and how the changed women according to society will attain economic development and prosperity for nation. Data related to women empowerment and increase in nations Gross Domestic product will be presented. With the help of the data it will be explained clearly that what will be the effect of women empowerment on the India's Gross Domestic Product and Per Capita Income that have a great impact upon the socio-economic development of nation. The data will be taken for the time period of 1990-2017 .Whether Gross Domestic Product will increase or decrease will be informed via the data on women empowerment.

**Keywords:** Women Empowerment, Economic Development, Gross Domestic Product, Per Capita Income, Education , Vocational Training.

## Introduction

Economic development is a wide concept which includes various concepts and there is one concept women empowerment and growth which will lead the economic development at peaks. The women entrepreneurship unfolds various kinds of endowments concerning economic possibilities in wealth creation. In the past time, less of the rights mainly education were given to women and they have to follow the rules and regulations made by family, society and country. Thus, she was like a puppet in the hands of the nation in which major rights were given to men. But now the situation has totally changed. Various revolutions have been passed in India to provide better education, vocational training to improve their skills and capabilities. By having better education and vocational training now women can play a tremendous role in the labour market and business .Thus women can bring socio economical change and economic development. The paper also gives information that present has its roots in the past.

## Status of Women in Early Times

Women as the beautiful creation of God was considered as God in the Indus valley Civilization. It was the Golden time period in the life of women but the condition of the women got worsened during Aryans period. Various kinds of social evils related to women such as sati pratha, purdah and child marriage were in existence. So, there was the existence of men dominated society. Women were like the puppet. So, to improve the condition of women three major steps were taken by the social reformers. During the Vedic age, condition of women was better than before. Now, women could go to school and attain education. Society and economy also play important role in deciding the condition of women in society. In the past, Indian women were not having equal rights shared by men due to the Socio economic conditions prevailing at that time. It means those economic conditions decide the condition of women in society.

Thus, by reconsidering the socio economic context, condition of women was critical as women did not have the right to get education and she was illiterate. She could not participate in the economic activities and there was less economic development. Many social reformers such as Raja Rammohan Roy and Mahadev Govind Ranade came and gave not only their opinion to improve the condition of women but do work. Sati Pratha was banned in 1859 by Raja Ram Mohan Roy. In 1856, widow remarriage was approved. Thus in 1930, a significant improvement was there in the status and condition of women.

#### **Status of Women after Independence**

After independence, there was various changes in the condition of women. After the struggle to strengthen its position in the society now, women plays active role in society. Woman improves her inner consciousness and started recognising her true potential. Women in India have started recognising her true strength and capacity. She participates in all the activities of society and find out the solution of the problem. As a result, Women break all the barriers and earned a respectable position in the society. Today Indian women have reached and make their position in each and every field from house to visiting space station. There is no area left in the world where women did not reach. Whether it is land or space, either it is politics or society, whether it is entertainment or technology, Indian women have hoisted the flag of success.

Women gets education performs active role at home and outside the home. She is not living a dependent life. Now, there is no gender inequality.

#### **Development**

Development is the act or process of developing. Scientific and systematic order of technical knowledge to attain the specific goals and objectives is considered as development. It can be use in any sense such as development of knowledge, development of skills, development of thoughts, ideas and development of creative skills. So development is a process that can take us to the peak of the knowledge and ideas. Development

#### **Economic Development**

Economic development is essential for nation as it is related to increase in output along with improvement in social and political spheres and welfare of people in a society. So, it comprises economic growth and welfare values. Economic development of a country has been surrounded by couples of concepts and goals such as attain high level of growth with higher productivity, efficient political. With having all these in mind, one can say that economic development is essential as it is helpful in bringing the improvement in indicators such as literacy rate, life expectancy and poverty rates. Improvement in these factors are attain with the economic development.

#### **Women and Economic Development**

Women and economic development are like two sides of the same coin. Women are helpful in achieving the economic development which will improve the literacy rate and life expectancy. Economic development is also essential for improving

the women status. Question arises in mind how economic development leads to improve the condition of women in society. The answer of the question is that economic development improves the literacy rate which is helpful in creating awareness among the women of the society. Thus women and economic development are complementary to each other.

#### **Relationship between Women and Economic Development**

India has been developing fast but not at the same pace. The major reason behind it is gender inequality. Less freedom and opportunities have been given to women in India. The biggest problem and issue India face today is the empowerment of women.

Reason behind Socio economic development of developed nations is the literacy among the women. Those nations are considered backward where women live under the backward situation.

India total population is 1.324 million. Out of which, Women share is 7.5 % in total population. It means that women are more than the men. If women will illiterate than India will never attain economic development as most of the population will remain uneducated. History has also proves that For the proficient status of women to attain much of the education, sound health facilities should be given to women. But these indicators move at slow speed. India rank is 113 out of 135 on the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index. According to India's census of 2011, sex ratio under 6 was 914 females to 1000 males. Rank of women in economic empowerment is 0.3, where 1 means equality.

Inequality with women leads to the destruction of human capital which is one of the essential indicators of economic development. Women can lead towards the economic development more equitably and inclusively as she can play innovative roles in all spheres of life. In India, most of the population near about 70 % of people live in rural areas. In the rural areas reason behind the less economic development is gender inequality. Most of the people in villages are uneducated and do not know their basic rights. Women condition is worst in villages. She is like a puppet in the hand of men. She can't move from the house.

So, to attain economic development women empowerment is essential. If we educate one woman she will educate others, thus a chain will built and bring transformation in the society which will lead to economic development. By neglecting the development of women we will compromise with the future of the nation. On the other side by investing in women education and vocational training, we are investing in country's future. Thus, economic development and women development both are essential indicators to take India to the glory of success. If one will be separated from other, development will not attain.

#### **Aim of the study**

1. To get information how women of India can be educated.

2. To see the impact of women education on the economy growth and Gross Domestic Product of India.

#### **Review of Literature**

Review of previous studies is essential in order to know the different views on the study.

Mankiw, Romer and Weil (1992) the study makes use of Solow model and human capital as input factors to find out the output in terms of the economy growth. The paper reveals that if the nation has capital in terms of the human then underdeveloped nations can grow faster.

Alam (2010) the study explains that half of the population in the total is of the women. Development of the nation depends upon the women empowerment. Women empowerment is an important and essential indicator of the economy development. Increased empowerment can increase in employment opportunity. The paper reveals that education is the key determinant for the growth of women and country. Secondary data has been used to get the data.

Andersson (2010) The study "the impact of increased Gender equality on economic growth " deals with the point of view that increase in women empowerment can increase the welfare of the nation. Time period of the study is 2001 to 2007. Secondary data has been collected to see the impact of women empowerment on the welfare of the economy In the study data of 75 developing nations have been used..Solow growth model has been used to show how primary education make base for the economic growth. The results of the study reveal that increased participation in primary education leads to economic growth.

Perrin (2013) The aim of the study is to examine the relation in women empowerment and economic growth in the long run. The paper reveals that economies are able to move from stagnant economy to developed economy by giving equal rights to the women. Empirical analysis has been done to examine the relation in women empowerment and economic growth in the long run.

Liliane (2015) Women is underestimated in all areas of society and it is essential to enhance the status of women to bring socio economic change in the economy. Various efforts have been made by the Government in order to enhance women empowerment in order to attain socio economic development. The aim of the study is to examine the impact of policies and projects made by the government on the socio economic development. Primary data from questionnaire method. AGARSKE project been choose for the development of economy with the improvement in women status.

Oztunc (2015) the study reveals that women education has its impact upon the long term growth of economy in Asia Pacific region. Time period of the study is 1990 to 2010. The study includes the nations India , China , Malaysia, Indonesia and Bangladesh to see the role of women education on economic growth. Secondary data has been collected for the study. Regression analysis has been used to see the impact of women empowerment on economic development.

Dahal (2016) the study reveals that to get the identity by women in society education is essential as it leads to decision making capability, contribution in development of nation ,society and the World. Importance must be given to women education. Women empowerment can leads to sustainable socio economic growth. The paper reveals that women empowerment is the cause and economic growth is the effect. Secondary data has been used for the study. Data has been collected from the World Bank report, International Monetary Fund. The data is quantitative in nature. The data reveals that there is significant and positive relation between women empowerment an economy growth.

Raffaz (2017) Education is one of the most important factor for the development of economy as education can improve the women status in a society. Education bring empowerment in the women. It improves the quality of life and leads to collective benefits to individuals and societies. In this study, we investigate the impact of female education on the economic women and leads to economic development. The objective of the study is to see how education can empower the women and leads to economic development. Secondary data has been collected and Regression analysis has been applied to determine the impact of women education on the economic development.

#### **Reseach Methodology**

This will be all India study based on secondary sources of data to be collected from published and non - published sources.

#### **Sources of Data**

As mentioned above, the study will be based on the secondary sources of data. Data will be collected from Primary Census abstract Report's, Journals, Periodicals, books, weeklies, News papers and clippings.

#### **Dependent Variables**

Economy Growth and Gross Domestic Product

#### **Independent Variables**

Women education

#### **Factors Affecting the Condition of Women**

There are two main factors which are responsible for improving or worsening the condition of women in society. The factors are- Literacy rate and life expectancy.

#### **Literacy Rate**

Socio economic progress can be measured with the help of the literacy rate. According to National literacy Mission literacy means acquiring the skills of reading, writing, listening and reading. And the ability of the man to apply it in day to day life.

Crude Literacy Rate= Number of literate person divided by total population multiplied by 100

Effective literacy Rate-Number of literate person 7 or above divided by population aged 7 or above and multiplied by 100.

The achievement of functional literacy means self reliance, awareness towards the development, improving the social status. Indian literacy rate was 12 % in 1947 and reached to 74 % in

2011. So, there is a lot of improvement in the literacy rate.

Literacy rate is one of the essential tool to measure the status of women in country. There are huge gender differences in case of literacy rate. In 2011, literacy rate for man was 82.14 % which was only 65.46 % for women. Thus, there is great difference in literacy among male and female. Literate women can create social awareness among the society related to family planning and help in controlling the population. If women will illiterate hoe she will create awareness among the society. Literacy among women is essential for the development of economy. Illiterate women will stay at home and will not responsible for the economic development; on the other side literate women can work in space stations

also. Thus literacy rate provide jobs to the women and they will helpful in establishing economic development.

#### Life Expectancy

Life expectancy is a tool to measure the health of the citizens. It is responsible for generating the human capital. It does not only measure the health, but also the quality of life.

There is difference between life expectancy of men and women. Life expectancy of women is age 60.3. The average Indian women is 100 times to die at the maternity time. Thus condition of women depends on which kind of life she has. If women has better life, than she can devote more time in job and increases the per capita income which will further leads to economic development.

**Table 1 Level of education India 2001(Primary Census Abstract)**

LevelOf Education	Absolute Numbers			Person to literate		
	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
Literate	560688	336534	224154	100	100	100
Literate without Educational level	20023	11361	8662	3.6	3.4	3.9
Below Primary	144831	81148	63683	25.8	24.1	28.4
Primary	146740	83525	63215	26.2	24.8	28.2
Middle	90227	55940	34286	16.1	16.6	15.3
Matriculation/Secondary	79230	51202	28028	14.1	15.2	12.5
High Secondary/Senior Secondary	37816	24596	13220	6.7	7.3	5.9
Non Technical Diploma	386	259	128	0.1	0.1	0.1
Technical diploma equal to degree	3667	2901	766	0.7	0.9	0.3
Graduate and above	37670	25533	12137	6.7	7.6	5.4

Data based on Primary census abstract

**Table 2 Indicating Literate Population in 2011 (Primary Census Abstract)**

Literates	Absolute Numbers			Literacy Rate		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Persons	76,34,98,517	48,26,53,540	28,08,44,977	73.0	67.8	84.1
Male	43,46,83,779	28,12,81,531	15,34,02,248	80.9	77.2	88.8
Female	32,88,14,738	20,13,72,009	12,74,42,729	64.6	57.9	79.1

Data based on Primary census abstract

**Table 3 Indicating Gross Domestic Product in India from 1991 to 2017**

Years	GDP (Current US\$)
1991	274.84
1992	293.26
1993	284.19
1994	333.01
1995	366.60
1996	399.79
1997	423.19
1998	428.7
1999	466.84
2000	476.64
2001	493.93
2002	523.77
2003	618.37

2004	721.59
2005	834.12
2006	949.12
2007	1238.70
2008	1224.10
2009	1365.37
2010	1708.46
2011	1822.99
2012	1828.98
2013	1863.21
2014	2042.56
2015	2073
2016	2250.99
2017	2457.75

Source: RBI Publications (World Development Indicators)

Figure 1 on GDP of India (Current US\$) (1991-2017)

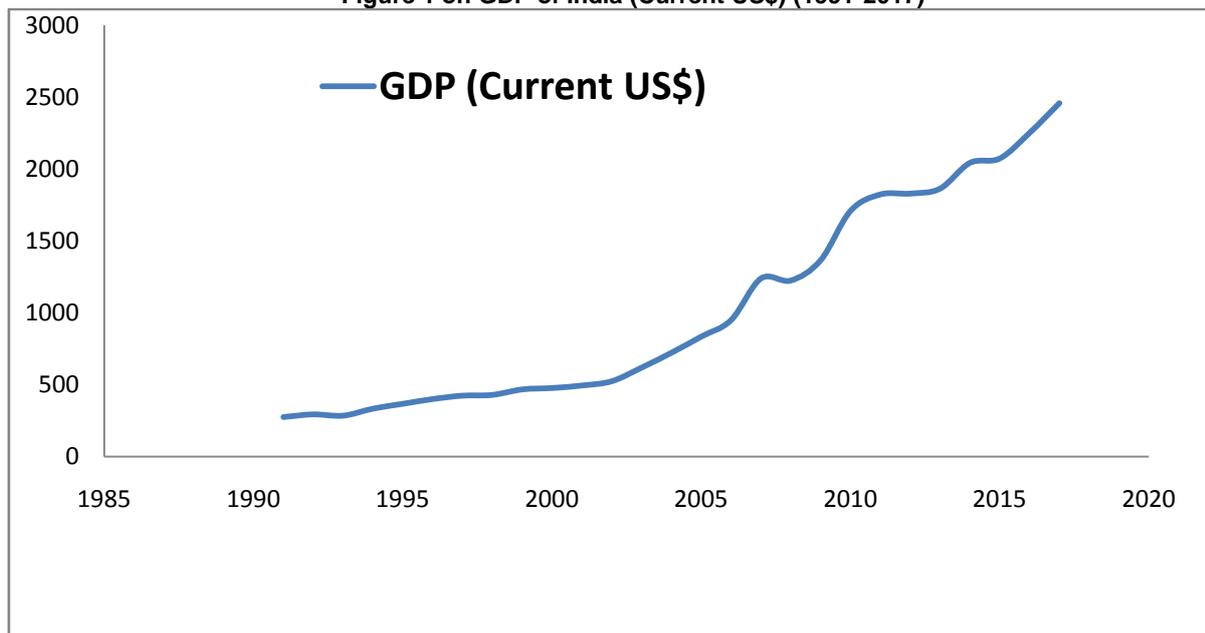


Figure 4.5 Shows the Gross Domestic Product (Current US \$)from the time period of 1991 till 2017and Gross Domestic Product (Current US \$) Is also responsible for fluctuations in the exchange rate Of Indian Rupee as compared to the US Dollar. Data shows that there is a continuously increase in the Gross Domestic Product (Current US \$) from1991-2017.in 1991 it was 274.84 and reached to 834.12 in 2005. In 2015 it was 2073 and reached to 2457.75 in 2017.

**Women and Economic Development**

Development is a process that can be attained by giving freedom to citizen’s equally-male or female. There should be no discrimination between male and female to attain economic development. Economic development with the help of women improved status can be achieved.

**Mixed Progress**

Gender equality should reached in every sphere of life such as – education, health, household and society. It means that mean should be equal to man in rights in every part. In Primary education, gender gap has closed in almost all the countries and shrinking quickly in secondary education. Women of today represent 51 % of the world’s university students. Even yet 35 million girls in developing countries do not go to school.

So, to attain economic development equal rights to women should be given without any discrimination. If they are equal to men than they will come outside from home and work in various fields and lead to economic development.

But India, Women still faces domestic violence even after having equal rights to women.

**Policy Implications**

To attain gender equality, policy makers have to focus upon their actions related to family planning, increasing women access in education, freedom to women improving the life expectancy and limiting the transmission of gender inequality across

generations. By these gender equality will attain and condition of women will improve and leads to economic development as women can create awareness in the society.

**Shrink education gap**

To improve the status of women and to bring economic development educational gap should be reduced. For this government should provide free education to citizen up to age of 14. These will be great opportunity for poor families to send their daughters in school. Such conditional case transfers have got success in achieving enrolment in education of girls in developing countries.

**To Broaden Women’ Access To Economic Development**

Contribution of women in economic development should be increased. These will increase the economic productivity with the increasing productivity of women in the work place and by opening economic opportunity to women.

**Diminish Gender Differences in Household and Society**

Policy makers need to address and influence the social norms and beliefs of women to enrich the women towards prosperity and provide access to women towards economic opportunities. For increasing the condition of women at home and to stop violence, women should be given equal property rights. Ways should be given to women in every sphere such as greater voice in society include political representation quotas, training of future women leaders, and expanding women’s involvement in trade unions and professional associations. These all things will lead towards the economic development.

With the help of the above mentioned factors, status of women in society will be enhanced and economic development will be attained.

**Conclusion**

The study concludes that women empowerment is essential to have the economic development of the society. Education and literacy rate are responsible factors which bring change in women status. Women empowerment has positive relation with literacy and education. Women education has direct, positive and significance relationship with the Gross Domestic Product. With the increase in women education, Economy will grow and Gross Domestic product will increase. In the nation like India still lot efforts are essential to give proper educational opportunities to women. Many of the payment benefits is still shared by the women with their spouses. Women in rural areas is less educated as compared to the women in urban areas .The reason behind is that there is no proper educational programmes conducted in the rural areas. To keep the women better place in the society education is essential as half of the population is female population. If the proper education will be provided to women than only the India can be the developed nation as women is the human capital of India.

**Suggestions for Empowerment of Women and Economic Development**

1. Government should come forward in the less developed countries and should organise programmes to provide free education to women in less developed countries. Government should invest in the education and should open public schools for the women. Government should make it crime to work before age 14.
2. Government should provide vocational educational among women.
3. Women should provide paid sick leave, maternal leave and paid annual leave to keep the educated women out of walls.
4. Importance of work should be created among women by organising awareness programmes.
5. The quota in government jobs must be kept to ensure the women participation.
6. Free Scholarships and fellowships must be provided in rural areas to increase the education in women.

If these things will happen women will come out of house and work not only in the fields but in the space also which will lead to the economic development. Economic indicators can be achieved if government will provide equal rights to women in society.

**References**

1. Karlan, Dean, and Martin Valdivia. 2011. "Teaching Entrepreneurship: Impact of Business Training on Microfinance Clients and Institutions." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 93 (2): 510–27.
2. Karlan, Dean, and Jonathan Zinman. 2011. "Microcredit in Theory and Practice: Using Randomized Credit Scoring for Impact Evaluation." *Science* 332 (6035): 1278–84.
3. Khanna, R., A. Kumar, J. F. Vaghela, and J. M. Puliye. 2003. "Community Based Retrospective Study of Sex in Infant Mortality in India." *British Medical Journal* 327: 126–29.
4. Lin, Ming-Jen, Nancy Qian, and Jin-Tan Liu. 2008. "More Women Missing, Fewer Girls Dying: The Impact of Abortion on Sex Ratios at Birth and Excess Female Mortality in Taiwan." *National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper* 14541.
5. Lundberg, Shelly J., Robert A. Pollak, and Terence J. Wales. 1997. "Do Husbands and Wives Pool Their Resources? Evidence from the United Kingdom Child Benefit." *Journal of Human Resources* 32 (3): 463–80.
6. Miguel, Edward. 2005. "Poverty and Witch Killing." *Review of Economic Studies* 72 (4): 1153–72.
7. Miller, Grant. 2008. "Women's Suffrage, Political Responsiveness, and Child Survival in American History." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123 (3): 1287–1327.
8. Miller, Grant. 2010. "Contraception as Development? New Evidence from Family Planning in Colombia." *Economic Journal* 120 (545): 709–36.
9. Munshi, Kaivan, and Mark Rosenzweig. 2006. "Traditional Institutions Meet the Modern World: Caste, Gender, and Schooling Choice in a Globalizing Economy." *American Economic Review* 96 (4): 1225–52.
10. The PROBE Team. 1999. *Public Report on Basic Education in India*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.
11. Qian, Nancy. 2008. "Missing Women and the Price of Tea in China: The Effect of Sex-Specific Earnings on Sex Imbalance." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123 (3): 1251–85.
12. Robinson, Jonathan. 2011. "Limited Insurance within the Household: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Kenya." *Munich Personal RePEc Archive Paper* 30842.