



## **Women Empowerment in Rural Area: An Analysis**

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### **Abstract**

The goal of this research study is to investigate the current situation of women's empowerment in rural areas and to highlight the difficulties and problems of women's empowerment. Women's empowerment has emerged as one of the twenty-first century's most serious topics. However, in practice, women's empowerment remains a fiction of reality. As can be seen in everyday life, women are exploited on a variety of venues. Women's Empowerment is a blunt instrument for increasing women's right to have resources to make life decisions. Rural women's empowerment is central to the process for improving economic, social, and political standing of traditionally disadvantaged women.

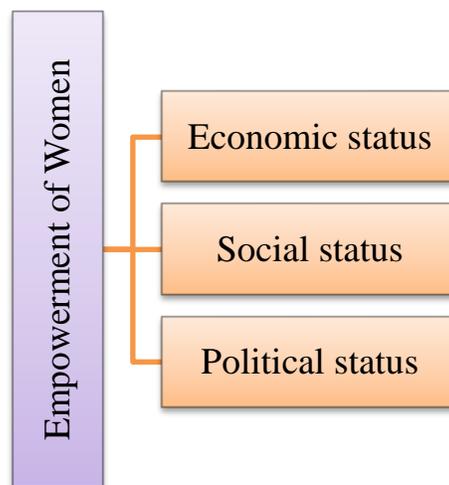
The research relies on both primary and secondary data sources. For current study investigates the various dimensions of rural women empowerment. Women responses for different variables were not unanimous, variations are observed were from respondents. Women's empowerment refers to a woman's ability to make decisions for herself and her dependents. The research explains that there are 32 % respondents who strongly agree that they are included in majority of household decisions. Women's education is one of the most challenging issues women encounter, as just 27% of them have graduated secondary school. And according to the land holding in the family 33 % of women respondents own a land in that case the study reveals that rural women are somewhat at lower status than men. Rural women have shown interest in the political level but the interest of rural women is largely narrow up to only the village level election. The study concludes by an observation that access to Education, Employment and Change in Economic, Social, and Political Structure are the enabling factors to Empowerment Rural Women.

**Keywords: Women, Rural Area, Economic, Social, Empowerment.**

## Introduction

Women have been acknowledged as major agents of sustainability since the 1990s. Women's empowerment inclusion is regarded as critical components of a more comprehensive strategy to developing new, sustainable patterns of development. Women's empowerment, according to the World Bank, should be a crucial component of any and all social development projects (World Bank, 2001)<sup>18</sup>.

Women's empowerment is defined as increasing women's and women's communities' religious, educational, gender, political, economic, and social strength. In India, women's independence is heavily influenced by a number of factors, such geographical location, level of education, and age. Women's empowerment policies are only available at the state, local (Panchayat) and National levels in areas such as health, economical opportunity, education, gender-based violence, and political engagement. Despite this, there remains a wide gap between policy advances and grassroots implementation.



*Figure No. 1: Factors affecting Empowerment of Women*

Women's Empowerment is the ideology of strengthening the economically, socially, and politically standing of women in rural areas, who have historically been criticized in society. Women's empowerment entails creating a society, a political climate in which women can live no fear of prejudice, repression, and misuse, as well as the universal sense of abuse that comes with becoming a female in a traditionally male-dominated field organization. In terms of social standing, women are not treated equally with males in all places.

## **Defining Women Empowerment**

In the sector of applied economics, women's empowerment is interpreted as the process through which women obtain the potential to construct educated life choices where this capability was formerly refused to them. Kabeer (Kabeer, 1999)11.

Women's empowerment provides and entitled women to make transformative decisions in the face of social issues. 6 (Bayeh 2016).

They are allowed to have the option to redefine gender roles or other such responsibilities, giving them much liberty to pursue their preferred aims. Mosedale (Mosedale, 2005)15.

Despite this, all definitions underline that woman empowerment has multiple parts, which incorporate many notions and presume that empower is a process from "un-empowered to empowered." Combining these two perspectives, we propose that empowerment has numerous elements, including individual and group awareness, beliefs, and behaviour entrenched in the social structure of certain cultural contexts.

## **Objectives**

1. To investigate the various aspects of rural women's empowerment.
2. Researching the socioeconomic profile of rural women.
3. To examine the effects of various factors on rural women's empowerment.
4. To notifying hurdles and suggestions.

## **Method**

### **Data Collection:**

**Primary Data:** This is a type of research that allows researchers to get information from people instead of relying the already gathered data.

**Secondary Data:** This refers to studies that use information that has already been found and that data make the research more useful. The available data is properly summarised and compiled.

This research depends upon the both Primary as well as Secondary Data Collection sources. The current study is focused on content analysis, which is based on secondary sources of information. Secondary Source of data used for the analysis such as Book, Report, internet and Newspaper etc. For the primary data collection simple random sampling technique is used, and the survey has done by using questionnaire to collect the needed information. The gathered



information is tabulated and derived data is processed in the form of percentage by using MS excel software.

### **Sample size**

As part of the data collection procedure, the researcher has selected 50 women respondents, all are from rural area. As a result, there are 50 participants in the study. Participants are randomly selected from rural area Gajraula Village (U.P.) of India.

### **Tools for Data Collection and Analysis**

Collected data has been analysed by using tool such as MS Excel and presented in the form of charts and figures.

### **Result and Discussion**

Data Analysis, Interpretation and Findings-

Women empowerment is related to age, caste, education, occupation and monthly income and other related factors, it was found that there is significant relationship between empowerment level and the other related variables.

#### **Table No. 1**

#### **Socio-Economic Factor that Affect Women Empowerment in Rural Area**

Sr. No.	Social-Economic Factor's	Categories	Percentage (%)
1	Age's	20 to 25	34.00 %
		25 to 30	50.00 %
		30 to 35	16.00 %
2	Education	Illiterate	15.00 %
		Primary	55.00 %
		Secondary	27.00 %
		Graduate	03.00 %
3	Caste	Forward Caste	33.00 %
		Backward Caste	67.00 %
4	Religion	Hindu	78.00 %
		Christian	14.00 %
		Muslim	08.00 %
5	Family type	Joint family	30.00 %
		Nuclear family	70.00 %
6	Family size	3 to 4	59.00 %
		4 to 6	41.00 %
7	Type of house	Rented house	25.00 %
		Owned house	75.00 %
8	Occupation	Government employee	02.00 %
		Private employee	46.00 %
		House wives	43.00 %
		Labor	09.00 %
9	Income per month	Below 7000	04.00 %
		7000 to 10000	27.00 %

		Above 10000	69.00 %
10	Land holding	Yes	33.00 %
		No	67.00 %
11	Decision Making	Strongly Agree	32.00 %
		Agree	34.00 %
		Neutral	13.00 %
		Disagree	12.00 %
		Strongly disagree	09.00 %
13	Awareness about political elected Candidates	Aware	52.00 %
		Not aware	46.00 %
<i>Source: Primary Data</i>			

### Age

Regarding the variable respondent's age, 50.00 percent of members are between the ages of 25 and 30 years, 34.00 percent are between the ages of 20 and 25, and 16.00 percent are between the ages of 30 and 35 years. According to the study findings, the maximum respondent is between the ages of 25 and 30.

### Education

Respectively 50 respondents 15.00 % of them are illiterate, 55.00 % of members education is up to primary level, 27.00 % of them are studied up to secondary level education and only 03.00 % of them are graduates.

### Caste

According to the caste distribution, 67.00% of respondents are from the backward caste, while the remaining 33.00% are from the forward caste.

### Religion

In concerning with the religion factor, Hinduism is practiced by 78.00 % of the members of, Christianity is followed by 13.00% respondents and Islam is followed by only 8 % of them.

### **Family type**

Most of them (70 %) of the respondents are from to the nuclear family and only 30.00% are from the joint family.

### **Family size**

In terms of family size, 59.00 % of families have 3 to 4 members, while 41.00 % of households have 4 to 6 individuals.

### **Type of house**

75.00 % of the overall members own a home, while 25.00 % live in a rented home.

### **Occupation**

In terms of occupation, 46.00 % of respondents are private employees, 43.00 % of women had no occupation, 09.00 % of women were labourers, and just 02.00 % of them were govt. employees.

### **Income per month**

It was found that 69 % of the membership have an earnings of above ₹10000/-per month, twenty 07.00 % of them have an earning between ₹7000-10000/- and only 04.00 % of them have an income below ₹7000/- per month.

### **Land holding**

The table indicates women who are having land in the rural areas that is 33.00 % of women respondents own a land and 67.00 % of them not own land.

### **Decision Making**

This table and research explains that majority of women make the household decisions. Out of the total respondents, there are 32 % respondents who strongly agree that they are included in majority of household decisions and 34% respondents who only agreed to this opinion. 13 % of them women are stand neutral about the opinion There are 12 % of them are disagree to this opinion while 9 % are strongly disagreed to this opinion.

### **Awareness about political elected Candidates**

To go get the in-depth information the study is collected information in aspects of Awareness about elected candidates in the area. To go deep into the problem it is must to evaluate the political status of women in rural, the information was collected regarding the awareness about local representatives and government functionaries. In the table it shows that 52% women were aware about their elected candidates. Awareness political situation and interest of rural women is largely narrow up to only the village level election.

### **Conclusion and Suggestions**

Women responses for different variables were not unanimous, variations are observed were from respondents. Nonetheless rural women have shown keen interest as well as participation for village body elections. Most of them have primary information regarding the duties performed by elected members and functions of them. Rural women also support the higher reservation for women candidates in these elections bodies.

The study also investigates the vital role of several elements in the empowerment of rural women. Women's empowerment refers to a woman's ability to make decisions for herself and her dependents. For their growth and development, they must be strong, aware, and alert at all times. Women's education, poverty, and safety are the most prevalent difficulties they face. It is necessary for women to asseverate their identity beyond personal sphere. India faced numerous obstacles, many of which resulted in a significant gap between men and women, particularly in the rural area. Women's and girls' education, as well as women's employment, will boost economic growth and close the gender gap in the workforce. Women's empowerment is the formation of an atmosphere wherein women can make the decisions for personal and societal gain.

Empowering women to participate fully in economic activity across all sectors is crucial for developing sustainable economies since it improves sustainability and quality of life. However, empowerment is a multi-dimensional and multi-layered term that needs women to take a larger share of resource control such as knowledge and information which can be material, human or intellectual.

- Encouraging Women to be Multifaceted will provide more opportunities for women based on their ability to take part in, contribute to, and receive the benefits of growth processes It consists of financial resources, such as money, that help women gain 'power' by giving them access to money and authority over decision-making at home, in their communities, and in society.

- Political awareness is one of the important components for the women empowerment. It is recommended that a there should be implement awareness programme for better understanding of political system is required for the rural women.

Further on it will help women to put their issues on public agenda as well as influence policies and accelerate their participation in the political process which will help them to lead their overall development.

- Further we have to promote to steps which helps to reduce illiteracy and increase education among rural women.
- Conservation and management of natural resources, renewable energy sources, fertilizer use, post-harvest management, technology in farming are just a few of the key areas where rural women require education. Trainings must be scheduled at the appropriate time, especially pre-season training, and programmes must be properly followed up on and synchronized.
- To properly empower women, they should be afforded the same rights as men. Whether it is about property ownership or making decisions.
- There is a concerted attempt to increase rural women's access to resources such as land and loans. Measures for the distribution of land to landless women are being considered to increase women's access to land.
- Women's education should be supported and also to remove gender bias in provision, schools, colleges, and even institutions dedicated completely to women must be constructed. The government and numerous non-governmental organizations have been working hard to provide a package of benefits to help more girl children, particularly those from low-income households, enter the mainstream of education.
- Microfinance must be used to support women entrepreneurs in rural regions, and their products and services must be integrated into supply chains. Information and communication technologies can generate a merging market of connected women who can be linked to business opportunities by improving women's access to the latest digital media.

- Training is an important part of improving one's abilities, knowledge, and attitude. For the purpose of developing and enhancing farm women's skill sets, specialised need-based and skill-oriented training should be offered, especially at the village level.

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