



## THE STUDY OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN'S COMMISSION IN THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN INDIA

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### **Abstract:**

The Committee on the Status of Women in India (CSWI) constituted the National Commission for Women almost two decades ago to facilitate the redressal of grievances of women and to carry out monitoring functions to accelerate the pace of their socioeconomic development. was recommended. The National Commission for Women, which was formed to protect women from oppression, violence, and injustice by men, is not being successful in its purpose, such allegations are being leveled against the National Commission for Women. It is okay that the number of women filing complaints in the commission is increasing, but the thing to note here is that the majority of women who reach the commission with complaints are those who are not only educated but also financially self-sufficient. Along with being dependent, they also recognize their rights, but the voice of the illiterate, less educated, and downtrodden women of the villages is not heard in this commission. Many of the proposals of the Commission remained confined to papers and they could not be implemented. Whether it is a matter of changing the definition of live-in relationships or there is a proposal to stop the obscene portrayal of women in electronic media or to make marriage registration compulsory, such allegations are being leveled against the National Commission for Women. To get the correct information about the above issues, in this research paper, the role of the women's commission in the empowerment of women in India has been studied.

**Keywords:** Status of Women, Empowerment of Women, Women's Commission, Socio-Economic Development

### **Introduction:**

Establishment of the National Commission for Women as a statutory body to review constitutional and legislative safeguards for women; recommend remedial legislative measures; Facilitate redressal of grievances; and constituted in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (Government of India Act No. 20 of 1990) to advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

Successive committees/commissions/schemes, including the National Future Plan for Women (1988-2000), recommended setting up an apex body for women. During the year 1990, the Central Government held consultation meetings with non-governmental organizations, social workers and experts regarding the composition, functions, powers, etc., of the commission proposed to be set up. In July 1990, the Ministry of Human Resource Development organized a national conference to solicit suggestions on the Bill. In August 1990, the Government brought several amendments and introduced new provisions to give the Commission the powers of a civil court. The first commission was constituted on January 31, 1992, with Mrs. Janaki Patnaik as its chairperson.

It is a body that enforces the constitutional interests of women and legal safeguards for them based on a complaint. The first head of the commission was Ms. Jayanti Patnaik. On September 17, 2014, after the completion of Mamta Sharma's term, Lalitha Kumaramangalam was made the head of the commission, but after leaving the post in September last year, Rekha Sharma was handling it as acting chairperson, and now Rekha Sharma The chairman of the National Commission for Women has been made. The commission is constituted under section 7 of the National Commission for Women Act.

Women empowerment can be defined in very simple words that it makes women powerful so that they can take all decisions related to their life on their own and live well in family and society. Women empowerment means giving them their real rights in the society. It has so much power that it can bring about a great change in the society and the country. Sensitivity and concern are expressed on social, economic, political and legal issues related to women's empowerment. In the process of empowerment, society overcomes traditional patriarchal attitudes that have always treated women as inferior. Globally, feminist movements and international organizations such as UNDP have played an important role in securing women's political rights for social equality, freedom and justice. Women empowerment is the process of empowering women by instilling confidence in them at all levels be it physical or spiritual, physical or mental.

#### **Research Methodology:**

The research paper has depended on secondary data.

#### **Objective of Research:**

- 1) To study the role of the women's commission in empowerment of women in India
- 2) To study the measures of empowerment of women in India

#### **The Role of Women's Commission in the Empowerment of Women in India:**

Half of India's population is women and according to a World Bank report, if women contribute to the labour force, India's growth rate would be in double digits. Yet, unfortunately, only a few people talk about women's employment while most people are more concerned about youth unemployment. Recently, in the first meeting of the 'Economic Advisory Council with the Prime Minister, 10 major areas were identified which need more attention. Unfortunately, the contribution of women to the labour force population has come down sharply. This continues to be a matter of concern. But then female employment has not been kept in a separate category. According to the National Sample Survey (68th Round), the female participation rate in 2011-12 was 25.51%, which was 24.8% in rural areas and only 14.7% in urban areas. How can you expect equal work opportunities for women as men when there is a dearth of jobs? A man can work longer hours, he does not need maternity leave and it is easy for him to travel anywhere. In construction works, it is necessary to provide crèche for women or rearing facilities for babies. There are many reasons why India's female labour force participation rate has declined over the years and is the lowest in South Asia after Pakistan. Women are contributing only 17% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to the International Monetary Fund, says that if more and more women participate in labour, India's GDP can growth by 27%.

The National Commission for Women aims to represent the rights of women in India and give voice to their issues and concerns. The commission mainly covered issues of dowry, politics, religion, and representation of women in jobs and exploitation of women for labor, as well as



police repression and mistreatment of women. The National Commission for Women has played an important role in enacting legislation for the relief and rehabilitation of rape victims. The role of the Commission in providing legal aid to women who have been abused and cheated or abandoned by NRI husbands is also highly appreciated.

The functions of the Commission include examining and reviewing the protections provided to women under the Constitution and other laws. To recommend measures to the Government for their effective implementation and to review the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women. Further, to recommend amendments and to take measures to remove any lacunae, inadequacies, or deficiencies in such laws. This includes taking cognizance of complaints as well as matters relating to the deprivation of rights of women and referring the matters to the appropriate authorities. To identify, participate in and advise on barriers to the socio-economic development of women in the planning process and evaluate progress, recommend recommendations for specific problems or situations arising out of discrimination and oppression of women. There are tasks. It also includes powers to inspect prisons, remand homes, where women are detained, etc., and seek remedial measures where necessary. The Commission has been empowered by civil courts to inquire into cases relating to the safety of women under the Constitution and other laws.

Women entrepreneurs will ignite the flame of self-confidence with the help of the Central Government. Efforts are being made by the government for this. At present, the National Commission for Women has launched the "Women Empowerment through Entrepreneurship Program" for women, in which women can become entrepreneurs and stand on their own by creating their start-ups. This will strengthen the participation of women in entrepreneurship. Women entrepreneurship, digital literacy, legal awareness, capacity building, online training, and personality development of women are being implemented through the commission. Apart from this, the commission has taken several steps for the empowerment of women, such as the NCW launching a WhatsApp helpline number for pregnant women during the Covid pandemic. A 24/7 helpline has also been started to help women.

Today the participation of women is certain in almost all fields. It has now also included those work areas which are considered to be male-dominated. Today women in India are leaping and driving a train to fly an airplane. In this series, the National Commission for Women has taken another initiative to empower Indian women. Actually, by doing this, the central government wants to bring women into the industry so that their skills can further strengthen the Indian economy. For this, the National Commission for Women has started a program in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. It will encourage women to excel in management, innovation, and entrepreneurship. In addition, a collaborative online training program in Hindi is envisaged to support and sponsor the digital education of aspiring women. After successful completion of the Entrepreneurship course, selected participants will have a unique opportunity to mentor and incubate with our knowledge and mentorship partner, India SME Forum, India's largest non-profit organization for small and medium enterprises.

National Commission for Women is the apex statutory body that works for empowering women to achieve equality and equal participation in all spheres of life. The role of women in India is continuously increasing. The "Self-reliant India" campaign is connecting the potential of women with the development of the country. The result is in front of you. Today, about 70



percent of Mudra Yojana beneficiaries are women. In the last 6-7 years, the number of women's self-help groups in the country has increased three times. Similarly, more than 60,000 new start-ups have been created since 2016, of which 45 percent have at least one-woman director. There are many such examples in front of us which show that now women will not be called backward in any field. In the last 7 years, the country's policies have become more sensitive towards women.

Now the role of State Women's Commissions in the States has become very important. The State Women's Commission is not only active against crimes against women but is working in the necessary direction for the development of women by bringing them on the path of empowerment. Now the role of State Women's Commissions in the States has become very important. The State Women's Commission is not only active against crimes against women but is working in the necessary direction for the development of women by bringing them on the path of empowerment. But despite this positive change, half of the population is still facing many serious problems which hinder their progress. The biggest hurdle is insecurity. Half of the population today feels very insecure. If half the population is to be seen moving forward, then their safety has to be ensured first. This problem has to be solved at all levels. Today, those who commit heinous crimes like rape have no fear of the law and police. According to Delhi Police, data, 31,446 cases were registered against children and women between 2012-2014. But in less than 150 of these cases, the criminals have been punished. When the cases of conviction are so few, how can criminals be afraid of the law? In such a situation, the case should be disposed of within six months with maximum punishment for the culprits. Along with this, there should be a provision for the death penalty in case of rape of minor girls. This will send a strong message to the criminals and create fear of law in their minds. This is a system-level problem. But there is an urgent need for change at the family and social level as well. The mindset of treating women as secondary needs to end. Efforts should be made to break the silence in our society regarding sexual violence. Children also need to be educated in school.

The government has made several efforts for the safety of women at the national level. Today, there are strict laws on crimes against women in the country, and even in heinous cases of rape, there is a provision for the death penalty. Fast-track courts are also being set up allIndia. The laws that have been made should be strictly followed and for this, the system is being improved with the cooperation of the states. Many efforts like increasing the number of women help desks in police stations, making available round-the-clock helplines, and creating portals to deal with cybercrime are going on across the country today. And the biggest thing is that today the government is working on the policy of zero tolerance toward crimes against women. In all these efforts, the National Commission for Women as well as the State Women's Commissions are working as a bridge between women and the government. This positive role of the Women's Commission will continue to strengthen our society in this way.

### **Conclusion:**

Today the girls of our country are making a name for themselves in sports and all other fields. To prove his worth. You are becoming an inspiration to others as well. Despite this, there are many barriers, which prevent our girls and women from moving forward. The first hurdle is the traditional mindset of our society, which keeps girls away from education. Parents do not give importance to the education of girls, but the way to change is through education. Awareness

comes from education; Getting information about rights. This opens the way for women to become self-reliant. Women are empowered when they are independent. When a woman is empowered, she empowers other women as well. In this way, women's society is empowered. That's why the government, administration, and non-governmental organizations are committed to saving the girl child and educating the girl child. But for this, first of all, it is necessary to awaken society and families for the education of girls. In today's changing India, the role of women is continuously increasing. Therefore, the increase of the role of the National Commission for Women is also the need of the hour. In such a situation, today all the women's commissions in the country will have to increase their scope and give a new direction to the women of their state.

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