

# WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA: EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN HAZARIBAG DISTRICT

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| <b>Ms. Niharika</b>      | <i>Research Scholar, University department of Commerce and Management, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag, Jharkhand</i> |
| <b>Prof. M. K. Singh</b> | <i>Director, Department of Management Studies, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag, Jharkhand</i>                         |

## ABSTRACT

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*Women are the dynamic segment and the most vibrant as well as potentially most valuable human resources. Women Empowerment has gained importance in India in the wake of economic liberalization, privatization and globalization. The policy and institutional framework for developing entrepreneurial skills, providing vocational training and education has widened the horizon for empowerment of women economically. In order to provide vocational training and education, skill training, entrepreneurship development to the emerging workforce, the Government of India has also introduced National Skill Development Policy and National Skill Development Mission in 2009. This article explores the empowerment of women through skill development and vocational training programs. The results show that skill development programs play a key role in empowering the rural women and the women also look positively towards income generating programs.*

**KEYWORDS-** *Women Empowerment, Skill Development, Vocational Training, Government*

## INTRODUCTION

Women constitute about 49% of the total population of the country. Women Empowerment and participation are the women's rights to enable women to have control over their lives and influence in society. Women play an important role in the development of a family and society. Empowerment of women means giving them freedom or power to live the way they want. It allows them to make their own decisions, knowledge and abilities, identify their skills. Women empowerment is essential for socio economic development of any country.

Globalization has opened by broader communication lines and brought more companies as well as different worldwide organizations into India. This provides opportunities for not only working women, but also women who are becoming a larger part of the workforce. With new jobs for women, there are opportunities for higher pay, which raises self confidence and brings about empowerment among women.

Skill Development is considered as an important and indispensable tool for women empowerment. Skill Development is the key to success which improves earning opportunities, employability and improves productivity.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

**Mehra (1997)** discussed role of women empowerment in economic development in which he quoted that women empowerment refers to increase in strength of women in all directions i.e. spiritual, political, social and economic

**Sathibama (2010)** interpreted that women empowerment emerged as one of the important issue in recent times. They considered economic empowerment of women as the driver of progress of any country.

**Dhruba Hazarika (2011)** concluded that women are future of country's development. Empowering women will be the right approach for growth in this competitive world.

**Kittur Praveen (2014)** concluded that in order to encourage women entrepreneurship, a special training course for women entrepreneurs must be stated to improve their skills.

**Vijaya & Lokhandha (2013)** suggested that skill development will boost the women empowerment with high productivity and earnings. Skills lead to confidence among them to be more innovative.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To determine the impact of skill development on women empowerment.

2. To create opportunities for all to acquire skills throughout life, and especially for youth, women and disadvantaged groups.
3. To improve standard of living of women.
4. To suggest solutions for future development.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in the Hazaribag district of Jharkhand State. The research done is based both on secondary and primary data. For primary data two blocks from the district were selected namely, Bisnugarh and Barhi blocks and two villages in each block. The data were collected from women folk who have acquired skill development and vocational training programs through questionnaire. For secondary data, the researcher has collected data from books, magazines, related articles, research journal, and websites.

### EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN HAZARIBAG DISTRICT

Skill Development has highly impacted women empowerment. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) have been implementing several initiatives to achieve women empowerment through skill development. Ministry of Labour and Employment has taken a number of initiatives in the field of skill development and employment. For example, vocational training like Tailoring and Hand embroidery, Beautician, mushroom cultivation, Horticulture, vegetable cultivation, skin and makeup etc. Under Ministry of Textiles, Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojna Programme (AHVY) has been implemented with the aim to increase the status of female artisans by helping them to develop their skills with the help of modern tools and techniques and help them to market their products. The names of the products are Doccara, Terracotta, Bamboo, Jute, Brass etc.

The main objective of Skills development and Vocational education and training (VET) is to furnish the technical and management skills and develop appropriate attitudes for specific occupations and jobs. National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) supported by Urban Development Department- Government of Jharkhand, skills development training is given on textiles and garments, beauticians, electricians etc.

### SUGGESTIONS

Skill Development is considered as an important and indispensable tool for empowerment of women. The aim of skill development and vocational training is not only preparing them for jobs; but also to boost their performance by improving the quality of work in which they are involved. Suggestions to improve the situation are:

- i. Expand training institutes in rural areas with employment opportunities so that rural women become independent.
- ii. Use of Digital Platforms.
- iii. Empowering them through skill building programs which will give them more and more opportunities to become self reliant and raise their standard of living.
- iv. Various fields in which women can gain skills for better empowerment are- Hospitality industry, Electronics, Pharmaceuticals, IT, Travel and Tourism, Media industry, Banking and financial services etc.

### CONCLUSION

For socio economic development of a country, empowerment of women should be socially, economically, legally, politically, and educationally. Women are willing to take up business and contribute to the nation's growth. Their role is being recognized and steps are taken to promote women entrepreneurship. Irrespective of gender discrimination equal opportunities and training are provided to women to make our country's economy more efficient. Skill Development has increased the number of women entrepreneurs in the country. They have started their small business units with good level of income. Majority of women have captured the market of zardosi work, fabric painting, garment making, hand embroidery, beauty parlors etc.

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