

Women Empowerment: The Pathway to Vikasit Bharat@2047

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Abstract

India's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047, under the vision of Vikasit Bharat@2047, cannot be realised without the active participation and empowerment of women. As nearly half of the population, women represent an enormous reservoir of talent, creativity, and leadership potential. Their inclusion in all spheres of national development is not only a matter of social justice but also an economic and strategic necessity for achieving sustainable and inclusive growth. This paper explores the multifaceted roles women play in shaping India's developmental trajectory, focusing on entrepreneurship and innovation, education and skill development, digital empowerment, political participation and governance, and sustainable development. It also highlights initiatives and success stories demonstrating how women's empowerment contributes to economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability.

Keywords: Women Empowerment; Vikasit Bharat@2047; Entrepreneurship; Digital India; Skill Development; Sustainable Development; Political Participation

1. Introduction

Empowering women is central to India's vision of achieving Vikasit Bharat@2047. Women constitute nearly half of the country's population, representing an untapped reservoir of human potential. Their inclusion in economic, political, and social spheres is crucial for sustainable national development. This paper examines the strategies, policies, and initiatives fostering women's empowerment in India and their contribution to nation-building.

2. Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Entrepreneurship drives economic growth, social development, and community empowerment. Women's participation in entrepreneurship fosters inclusive economic development by creating employment opportunities and promoting financial independence.

• Stand-Up India Scheme (2016)

Provides loans from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore to women and marginalized communities for Greenfield enterprises in manufacturing, services, and agriculture sectors. Over 1.94 lakh women have benefited, receiving ₹62,000 crore cumulatively.

• State-level Initiatives

For instance, the Women's Entrepreneurship Scheme in Tinsukia, Assam, offers financial support, training, and mentorship to address region-specific barriers.

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A multi-tiered approach combining financial inclusion, capacity-building, and innovation-driven strategies is key for women's economic empowerment.

3. Education and Skill Development

Education and skill acquisition form the foundation of women's empowerment, particularly in Industry 4.0. Programs focusing on IT, digital literacy, and vocational skills enable women to access formal employment, innovate, and lead enterprises.

- Example: In Mahabubnagar, Telangana, 317 women aged 18–30 completed training in IT, customer service, and digital skills, transitioning from informal labour to formal jobs earning ₹13,000–₹20,000 monthly.
- Broader programs like **Skill India**, **Digital India**, and **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** create gender-inclusive ecosystems that enhance employability and economic independence.

4. Digital Empowerment

The **Digital India Mission (2015)** aims to create a digitally empowered society. Despite progress, women still face a digital divide in smartphone ownership, internet access, and digital finance participation, especially in rural areas.

- Initiatives like **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)** train rural women in digital literacy, online entrepreneurship, cybersecurity, and financial management.

Digital inclusion ensures women become active contributors to the digital economy, supporting innovation, governance, and economic growth.

5. Political Participation and Governance

Women's inclusion in politics and governance ensures accountable, inclusive, and equitable decision-making.

- Policies such as **33% reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions** and the **Women's Reservation Bill (Nari Shakti Vandhan Adhiniyam, 2023)** aim to enhance women's representation in local and national legislatures.
- Women bring unique perspectives to policymaking, prioritising education, healthcare, gender equality, and social welfare. Their participation strengthens democracy and societal equity.

6. Sustainable Development

Women are pivotal for environmental sustainability and climate resilience. Their engagement in agriculture, water management, and clean energy initiatives contributes to ecological balance and socio-economic development.

- Programs like **Ujjwala Yojana** and **Solar Chulha** empower women as advocates of clean energy and climate-resilient livelihoods.
- Women's leadership supports achieving **SDGs 5, 7, 11, and 13**, ensuring inclusive and environmentally conscious growth.

7. Conclusion

Women's empowerment is central to achieving **Vikasit Bharat@2047**. Through entrepreneurship, education, digital literacy, political participation, and environmental leadership, women act as catalysts for inclusive, sustainable, and equitable development. Empowered women are not just beneficiaries but active architects of India's national progress, shaping a prosperous and resilient future as the nation approaches its centenary of independence.

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