

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN VIKSIT BHARAT: A SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY

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ABSTRACT

Women's empowerment and social change are key elements of Viksit Bharat's inclusive and sustainable development vision. This study uses a sociological approach to look at women's empowerment and societal change in the setting of Viksit Bharat. The study intends to investigate how sociological elements, such as cultural norms and policy initiatives, impact women's participation and empowerment in society, as well as how social transformation influences women's empowerment. It analyzes information from current secondary data sources related to women's empowerment and social change in the context of Viksit Bharat using a qualitative method. According to a study of previous research, women's empowerment is not just a social goal but also a vital economic and developmental requirement for realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The current study emphasizes that although several government initiatives, regulatory changes, and raised awareness have resulted in notable advancements, enduring issues remain. Targeted interventions, community involvement, and efficient policy implementation are crucial. Putting women's empowerment first will be essential to making India a developed, just, and forward-thinking country by 2047.

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Introduction:

Traditional Indian social structures have historically been shaped by patriarchal norms that restricted women's access to work, education, and positions of decision-making. However, due to improvements in education, economic possibilities, technology developments, and progressive legislative initiatives, there have been notable changes in recent decades. Significant shifts in institutions, norms, values, and societal structures across time are referred to as social transformation. In the context of Viksit Bharat, economic expansion, technical development, and inclusive governance are intimately related to social transformation. India's goal to become a fully developed, inclusive, and equitable country by 2047 is embodied in the Viksit Bharat vision. The process of social transformation, which includes adjustments to institutions, social structures, cultural norms, and social interaction patterns, is central to this worldview. Among the various dimensions of development, women's empowerment stands out as a crucial indicator of progress, reflecting not only gender equality but also the overall health of a society. Since it shows how much half of the population engages in and gains from development processes, women's empowerment is a crucial sign of this change. Sociologically speaking, empowerment entails expanding resources, strengthening agency, and boosting involvement in decision-making. Women's roles in India have long been restricted by patriarchal traditions. Nonetheless, persistent structural shifts are transforming gender roles and giving women new prospects.

Women's empowerment has redefined gender roles and become both a driver and an outcome of social change. Greater access to education, employment, financial resources, digital technology, and institutional support has enabled women to challenge traditional norms and actively contribute to social transformation. Government initiatives, including Digital India and NITI Aayog-led policies, have strengthened women's

participation in economic and social development. However, challenges such as gender inequality, cultural barriers, digital divides, and regional disparities continue to hinder progress. As one of the four pillars of Viksit Bharat 2047 alongside Yuva, Annadata, and Garib, Nari plays a vital role in achieving inclusive and sustainable national development. Therefore, strengthening women's empowerment through equal opportunities in education, healthcare, leadership, economic participation, and digital access is essential for realizing the vision of a developed and inclusive India by 2047.

Women Empowerment:

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Objectives of the Study:

To examine the role of women's empowerment in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 through government schemes, policies, and initiatives.

Research Methodology:

Based on secondary data, this study uses a descriptive and analytical research design. Information about women's empowerment and development initiatives in India is gathered from government papers, policy documents, official statistics,

research articles, and published literature. To comprehend the state and effects of women's empowerment, the study examines important government programs, trends in labor force participation, and socioeconomic indicators.

Scope of the Study:

The study focuses on women empowerment within the broader context of social transformation in India under the vision of Viksit Bharat. It does not involve primary field surveys but relies on existing literature and documented evidence to draw conclusions.

Review of Literature:

Dr. G. Narsimulu et al. (2026): Women's empowerment is a key driver of India's vision for Viksit Bharat @2047. Achieving gender equality in employment, leadership, and decision-making is essential for inclusive growth and economic progress. By linking policy with effective social implementation, this study provides a practical framework for understanding women's role in building a developed and prosperous India.

Dheeraj Singh Negi et al. (2025): The paper provides a timely discussion of women's empowerment as a key pillar of Viksit Bharat 2047 and effectively highlights its importance in achieving inclusive national development. However, the analysis is largely descriptive and would be strengthened by recent data, case studies, and a critical evaluation of the GYAN framework. Clearer policy recommendations, measurable outcomes, and improved organization would further enhance its academic and practical value.

R. Ankita Jaiswal et al. (2024): The paper provides a relevant discussion on women's empowerment under the GYAN framework as a key driver of Viksit Bharat 2047. It effectively highlights the importance of gender equality, basic services, and inclusive development. However, the study would be stronger with recent data, case studies, a deeper analysis of social barriers, and more specific policy recommendations with measurable outcomes. Overall, it makes a valuable contribution but requires greater evidence and analytical depth.

Discussions and Findings:

The Indian Government's Initiatives India is making significant efforts to assist women in all spheres of life, including business, education, employment, safety, and health. Fairness, equality, and empowering women to actively participate in the nation's development are the main goals of these initiatives. The future of women will be altered by the following tactics:

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Initiative: Launched on 22 January 2015, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme is a joint initiative of the Ministries of Women & Child Development, Education, and Health & Family Welfare, implemented with support from state governments and grassroots organizations. The programme promotes awareness, policy support, and capacity building to prevent gender-biased sex selection, ensure the survival and protection of girls, and improve their education. Its impact is reflected in the improvement of the Sex Ratio at Birth from 918 to 933 and the increase in girls' secondary school enrolment from 75.51% to 79.4% by 2023-24.

One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme: Launched in 2015, the One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme offers comprehensive help and aid to women impacted by violence, including trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic abuse. Under one roof, OSCs provide a variety of services, including medical care, legal aid, counseling, temporary housing, police assistance, and rehabilitative support. With an emphasis on meeting their immediate needs and promoting their healing and rehabilitation, these clinics serve women in need in every region of India by offering them comprehensive and easily accessible care.

Women Helpline (WHL) - 181: Since April 1st, 2015, the government has been implementing the Universalization of Women Helpline (WHL) Scheme, which aims to give women in distress a 24-hour, toll-free emergency helpline run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. For women experiencing abuse, harassment, or any other kind of suffering, WHL provides counseling, referral services, and help in obtaining medical, legal, and housing support. Trained counselors and

support staff run the helpline, responding to calls with tact and discretion. In order to improve women's safety, wellbeing, and autonomy, WHL seeks to enable them to ask for assistance and access resources to deal with both short-term and long-term issues.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA): PMSMA is a maternity care program that was started in 2016 with the goal of giving pregnant women, especially those from underrepresented groups, complete prenatal care. Pregnant women are eligible for free prenatal examinations, diagnostic testing, and nutrition, breastfeeding, and maternal health counseling under the program. PMSMA seeks to advance timely access to high-quality maternal healthcare services, early detection and management of high-risk pregnancies, and safe motherhood practices. The program ensures coverage and accessibility of services in both urban and rural regions through a network of public and commercial healthcare facilities, community health workers, and accredited social health activists (ASHAs).

Ujjwala Scheme: Launched in 2016, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) provides free LPG connections to below-poverty-line households, reducing dependence on traditional cooking fuels. The scheme offers financial assistance for LPG connections and initial refills, improving women's health, safety, dignity, and well-being by reducing indoor air pollution, saving time, and promoting environmental sustainability, particularly in rural areas.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY): Launched in 2017, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) provides cash assistance to pregnant and lactating women for their first live birth to support nutrition and compensate for wage loss. Implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development through state governments, the scheme promotes antenatal care, institutional deliveries, and improved maternal and child health.

Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK): Approved in November 2017, the Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) Scheme is a centrally

sponsored programme that empowers rural women through community participation. Implemented at the village, block, and district levels, it promotes awareness of government schemes, facilitates access to services and entitlements, supports skill development and entrepreneurship, and strengthens women's self-help groups (SHGs) to enhance their social and economic empowerment.

National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan):

Launched in 2018, POSHAN Abhiyaan focuses on nutrition education, behavioral change communication, and maternal and child health in order to combat malnutrition among mothers and children. The mission provides vital nutrition services, such as supplemental nourishment, counseling, and healthcare, to pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children under six. POSHAN Abhiyaan breaks the intergenerational cycle of poverty and malnutrition by promoting women's empowerment, reproductive health, and well-being through improved maternal and child nutrition outcomes.

Mission Shakti: Mission Shakti was launched in October 2020 in Uttar Pradesh. The program, which has phases from 2020 to 2025-2026, aims to improve women's safety, security, and independence. The program focuses on providing women entrepreneurs with market connections, skill development, and capacity building so they may successfully launch and run their businesses. Mission Shakti contributes to women's total empowerment and social transformation by enabling them to become economically independent, assert their agency, and actively engage in home and communal decision-making processes.

Conclusion:

Women's empowerment is essential to achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 because it directly fosters inclusive growth, social equity, and national development. According to several published evaluations of the literature, most of the current research is descriptive and lacks sufficient empirical evidence, in-depth case studies, and critical evaluation of policy implementation. Moreover, it is often observed that while strategies for women's

empowerment are clearly stated, they often lack precision, measurable outcomes, and effective ways to put them into practice. Overall, the findings demonstrate that although significant progress has been made, more focused, data-driven, and implementation-oriented initiatives are required to fully realize women's potential in national development and accomplish the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The current study emphasizes that although several government initiatives, regulatory changes, and raised awareness have resulted in notable advancements, enduring issues including gender inequity, poor labor force participation, and sociocultural hurdles still endure. In addition to improving women's personal well-being, empowering them through greater access to financial resources, healthcare, education, and decision-making possibilities also benefits families, communities, and the economy at large. Thus, persistent efforts through focused interventions, community engagement, and efficient policy execution are crucial. Putting women's empowerment first will be essential to making India a developed, just, and forward-thinking country by 2047.

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