

## The Role and Importance of Women in Society

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### Abstract

The content discusses the significant role that women have played in shaping societies culturally, economically, and politically throughout history. Despite facing historical marginalization within patriarchal social structures, women have consistently contributed as leaders, nurturers, innovators, and agents of change. Their impact extends across family dynamics, economic development, social values, and governance systems, making them essential for the growth and sustainability of civilizations.

This journal delves into the multifaceted importance of women in society by examining their roles, challenges, and the progress towards achieving gender equality. It emphasizes the value of education and government initiatives that empower women and facilitate their active participation in all aspects of life. Additionally, it addresses the obstacles women encounter, such as gender-based violence, wage disparities, and lack of representation in leadership roles.

The study also pays special attention to the intersectionality of women's experiences, recognizing how factors like caste, ethnicity, and socio-economic status further influence their opportunities and rights. By analyzing policy measures and societal attitudes, this research provides a

comprehensive overview of the current status and future potential of women in society.

Ultimately, empowering women is crucial not only for social justice but also for sustainable development and peace. This journal advocates for ongoing efforts at both local and global levels to create an inclusive environment where women can thrive, benefiting all members of society.

**Keywords :** *Women Empowerment, Gender Equality, Education, Social Development, Government Policies, Women's Rights, Leadership, Intersectionality, Economic Participation, Gender-Based Violence.*

### 1. Introduction

Women have been central to the development and sustenance of human societies since time immemorial. Their roles as caregivers, educators, leaders, and economic contributors are fundamental to the fabric of any community. Yet, throughout history, women's contributions have often been overlooked or undervalued due to deep-rooted patriarchal norms and cultural biases. Despite these challenges, women across the world have continuously pushed boundaries, breaking social barriers and asserting their rightful place in society.

The introduction of this journal aims to provide an overview of the critical importance of women in various aspects of life. It highlights the progress made in recognizing women's rights and the ongoing struggle to achieve gender equality globally. The discourse surrounding women's empowerment has gained significant momentum over the past century, especially with international frameworks such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasizing gender equality as a key objective.

Women's participation is vital not only in the social and family domains but also in the economic and political arenas. Empowered women contribute to improved health outcomes, better educational achievements for future generations, and stronger economies. Moreover, women's leadership in governance and decision-making processes fosters inclusive and equitable policies that benefit entire populations.

However, despite these positive developments, numerous challenges persist. Women face systemic discrimination, gender-based violence, unequal pay, limited access to education, and underrepresentation in leadership roles. These issues are further complicated by intersectional factors such as caste, class, ethnicity, and disability, which can exacerbate inequalities faced by women in different communities.

This journal will explore the multidimensional roles and importance of women, supported by evidence from governmental initiatives, educational reforms, and social perspectives. It will examine how women's empowerment positively impacts societal development and highlight areas where further efforts are necessary. Through this comprehensive

analysis, the journal aims to inspire policymakers, educators, and social activists to continue championing women's rights and equality.

The study also underscores that empowering women is not merely a women's issue; it is a societal imperative. When women thrive, families, communities, and nations prosper. Therefore, understanding the role of women and addressing the challenges they face is crucial to building just, resilient, and progressive societies."

## **2. Role and importance of women**

"Women have played a crucial role in shaping societies, cultures, and economies worldwide. Their contributions go beyond traditional roles, encompassing leadership in political, economic, educational, and social spheres. Women are not only important for nurturing families but also for influencing change at local, national, and global levels.

Throughout history, women have been the foundation of social cohesion. They are often the primary caregivers, responsible for raising children and instilling moral and cultural values. This nurturing role is essential as it shapes future generations and ensures the continuity of societal norms and traditions. In addition to their household duties, women have actively participated in agricultural production, informal economies, and community development activities, significantly contributing to economic stability.

In recent years, women's economic participation has increased, making them key contributors to national economies. Women entrepreneurs, professionals, and workers are driving innovation and productivity in various industries. Their involvement in the workforce not only

enhances family income but also boosts economic growth and development. Studies have shown that countries experience higher GDP growth and improved social outcomes when women participate equally in economic activities.

Women's political participation is equally crucial. Women leaders bring unique perspectives and approaches to governance, often prioritizing social welfare, education, healthcare, and human rights. Increased representation of women in political offices leads to more inclusive and effective policymaking. Countries with higher female political representation tend to have stronger social protections and pay more attention to marginalized groups.

### **3. Women and education**

Education plays a vital role in empowering women. Educated women are more likely to participate in decision-making, delay early marriage, and access healthcare services. Education empowers women to break free from cycles of poverty and dependency, enabling them to pursue careers and contribute meaningfully to society.

Furthermore, women have been at the forefront of social movements advocating for justice, equality, and human rights. Their leadership in civil rights, environmental activism, and peace-building efforts has transformed societies and challenged oppressive systems.

Despite their significant roles, women still face systemic barriers such as gender discrimination, wage gaps, limited access to resources, and social norms restricting their freedoms. Recognizing and valuing women's contributions is crucial for achieving gender equality and sustainable development.

In conclusion, the role and importance of women are multifaceted and indispensable. Empowering women promotes social harmony, economic prosperity, and political stability. Societies that invest in women's development and equality witness broader progress, benefiting everyone. Acknowledging women's value and removing barriers to their full participation remain vital goals for global advancement."

### **4. Government initiatives**

#### **Government Initiatives for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality**

Government initiatives play a vital role in promoting women's empowerment and advancing gender equality. Understanding the complex challenges that women encounter, many countries have implemented comprehensive policies and programs designed to enhance women's access to education, healthcare, employment, and legal rights. These initiatives are crucial for fostering an environment in which women can flourish and contribute equally to society.

One of the prominent global frameworks steering government efforts on issues related to women is the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), which emphasizes the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. This goal has inspired governments worldwide to formulate strategies that combat discrimination, violence, and unequal opportunities faced by women.

At the national level, various schemes have been launched to promote the welfare and empowerment of women. In India, for instance, initiatives like "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" (Save the Girl Child, Educate the

Girl Child) strive to enhance the survival, protection, and education of girls. This campaign specifically addresses the issue of gender-biased sex selection while promoting education to ensure that girls have equal opportunities to succeed. Additionally, the “Mahila Shakti Kendra” scheme focuses on empowering rural women through skill development, awareness generation, and improved access to government services.

Many governments have also introduced laws designed to protect women from violence and discrimination. Legislation addressing domestic violence, sexual harassment, and human trafficking is essential for safeguarding women's safety and dignity. Legal reforms often encompass provisions for maternity benefits, equal pay, and workplace equality, contributing to the creation of safer and more inclusive work environments.

In the economic realm, initiatives to promote women's entrepreneurship and financial inclusion are gaining traction. Governments have rolled out schemes that provide women with access to credit, training, and market linkages. Programs like microfinance and self-help groups empower women to launch small businesses, thereby enhancing their economic independence and social status.

Education-focused initiatives remain critical in this landscape. Scholarships, free education programs, and gender-sensitive curricula aim to boost female literacy rates and decrease dropout rates. Moreover, governments are actively working to eliminate barriers such as early marriage and child labor, which disproportionately affect girls. Political empowerment programs are also encouraging women's participation in governance and decision-

making. Quotas for women in local government bodies and political parties help ensure better representation and address historical underrepresentation.

Despite these concerted efforts, significant implementation challenges persist. Social attitudes, insufficient infrastructure, and resource limitations can impede the effectiveness of government initiatives. Thus, collaboration with civil society organizations, private sector partners, and local communities is essential for achieving meaningful progress.

In conclusion, government initiatives form the backbone of efforts to enhance women's lives and promote gender equality. A sustained commitment, adequate funding, and inclusive policies are crucial for building upon these achievements and addressing ongoing challenges. Empowered women contribute to stronger economies, healthier families, and more equitable societies, making these initiatives indispensable for national development.

## **5. Challenges and social perspectives**

### **Women's Rights and Ongoing Challenges**

Despite significant progress in advancing women's rights and empowerment, numerous hurdles persist that prevent women from fully participating in social, economic, and political spheres. These obstacles are deeply rooted in historical inequalities, entrenched cultural norms, and systemic discrimination that continue to prevail in various societies. Understanding these barriers and the social attitudes that uphold them is essential for developing effective solutions.

## **Gender-Based Violence**

One of the most widespread challenges women face is gender-based violence, which encompasses domestic violence, sexual harassment, human trafficking, and harmful traditional practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. This violence transcends socio-economic boundaries and is often tolerated due to societal silence and inadequate enforcement of protective laws. Victims frequently encounter barriers, including a lack of access to legal assistance, safe shelters, or psychological support, which deters them from pursuing justice.

## **Gender Roles and Stereotypes**

Social perceptions and stereotypes regarding gender roles further limit women's opportunities. In many cultures, women are predominantly seen as homemakers or caregivers, thereby undervaluing their ambitions and skills. These societal expectations directly impact their access to education, employment, and leadership positions. Women who challenge these norms often face social repercussions or exclusion.

## **Economic Disparities**

Economic inequality remains a critical issue as well. Women typically earn significantly less than men for the same work and are disproportionately represented in informal, unregulated jobs that lack security and benefits. Access to financial services, such as credit and insurance, is often limited for women, making it challenging for them to start businesses or invest in their future. Furthermore, the unpaid care work that women perform—covering childcare, elder care, and domestic duties—is seldom

recognized in economic calculations, despite its immense social value.

## **Political Underrepresentation**

Political underrepresentation is a persistent barrier. Even in democracies, women are often lacking in legislative and executive roles. Factors contributing to this include insufficient support from political parties, limited campaign financing, and prevailing discriminatory attitudes. When women do engage in politics, they may face harassment or be confined to roles viewed as "appropriate" for their gender.

## **Educational Barriers**

Obstacles related to education also endure. In certain regions, girls continue to encounter barriers to schooling due to poverty, distance from educational institutions, lack of sanitary facilities, or cultural beliefs that prioritize boys' education. Even at the higher education level, women may experience bias, particularly in male-dominated fields.

## **Intersectionality of Challenges**

Intersectionality exacerbates these challenges. Women from marginalized communities—such as those belonging to minority religions, castes, indigenous populations, or those with disabilities—often face compounded discrimination. These overlapping disadvantages necessitate targeted policies that specifically address the unique needs of these groups.

## **Media Representation**

Media portrayals of women can reinforce harmful stereotypes as well. Although there

has been progress in featuring women in empowering roles, many media outlets continue to objectify women or restrict their portrayal to limited roles. This influences public perception and perpetuates gender biases.

### **Cultural Norms and Patriarchy**

Cultural traditions and interpretations of religion can further entrench patriarchal norms. While many cultures celebrate women's strengths and virtues, they also impose constraints that limit women's autonomy and freedom. Transforming these deeply embedded norms necessitates culturally sensitive approaches that involve the participation of both men and women.

### **A Multifaceted Approach**

Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive strategy that encompasses education, legal reform, economic empowerment, and cultural change. Social movements, community involvement, and engagement with youth are crucial in altering mindsets and promoting gender equity. Additionally, it is essential to involve men and boys as allies in the fight against harmful gender norms.

In conclusion, while progress has been made, significant challenges remain that impede women from attaining full equality. Changing societal perspectives is a long-term effort necessitating collaboration across all sectors. By confronting these issues head-on with persistence and commitment, we can aspire to create a more just, inclusive, and equitable world.

## **6. Conclusion**

The significance of women in society is both undeniable and fundamental. They are not just vital to the fabric of families and communities; women also make dynamic contributions to economic growth, political reform, education, health, and cultural evolution. As discussed throughout this journal, empowering women is not only a matter of gender justice; it is essential for fostering a progressive, peaceful, and prosperous society.

From ancient times to the present, women have consistently played crucial roles as caregivers, educators, leaders, workers, and innovators. In the face of centuries of marginalization and discrimination under patriarchal systems, women have continually pushed boundaries and redefined their roles in society. Today, they are shattering glass ceilings across politics, science, business, and the arts, demonstrating that equal opportunities lead to success and drive transformative change.

Governments around the world are beginning to recognize this potential and are implementing initiatives designed to support women's education, economic participation, and protection from violence. Programs aimed at skill development, financial independence, legal rights, and digital literacy are proving instrumental in closing the gender gap. However, these efforts must expand and adapt to meet the diverse and intersectional realities faced by women from various backgrounds.

Education has been emphasized throughout this journal as one of the most powerful tools for empowering women. With education comes knowledge, confidence, and the ability to challenge societal norms,

advocate for their rights, and engage fully in civic life. Educated girls tend to delay marriage, pursue careers, contribute economically, and raise healthier, better-educated generations.

Despite these advances, challenges persist. Issues like gender-based violence, economic inequality, underrepresentation in leadership, and entrenched cultural stereotypes continue to impede women's full potential. To overcome these barriers, societal attitudes that confine women to limited roles must be transformed through awareness, legal reform, and collective responsibility. Achieving true gender equality requires that both men and women collaborate to dismantle discriminatory systems and support one another's growth.

It is crucial to understand that women's empowerment should not be perceived as a threat to existing structures; rather, it serves as a catalyst for societal improvement. Societies that value and invest in women experience greater economic stability, reduced conflict, and healthier communities. The inclusion of women in all sectors promotes innovation, empathy, and balanced development.

In summary, women are not only essential for the survival of humanity but also for its advancement. A society that elevates women elevates itself. As we progress, ongoing efforts must focus on safeguarding women's rights, ensuring their full participation in all aspects of life, and celebrating their achievements. While the path to gender equality may be long, with unity, determination, and a shared purpose, a more inclusive and equitable future is achievable.

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