## WHAT IS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT. WHAT RIGHTS ARE AVAILABLE TO WOMEN AND HOW RIGHTS CAN BE ENFORCED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY UNDER LAW?

BY

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(LAUNCH: 1.02.2018),

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Why we talk about women empowerment only and not men empowerment? Why women need empowerment and not men? Women make almost 50% of the total population of the world. Then why this substantial section of the society needs empowerment? They are not in minority so as to require special treatment. Biologically speaking also, it is a proven fact that female race is superior to male. Then the question arises that why we are debating the topic ‘Women Empowerment’.

### Right to Equality[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Fundamental_Rights,_Directive_Principles_and_Fundamental_Duties_of_India&action=edit&section=3)]

The Right to Equality is one of the chief guarantees of the Constitution. It is embodied in Articles 14–16, which collectively encompass the general principles of equality before law and non-discrimination, and Articles 17–18 which collectively encompass further the philosophy of social equality. Article 14 guarantees equality before law as well as equal protection of the law to all persons within the territory of India. This includes the equal subjection of all persons to the authority of law, as well as equal treatment of persons in similar circumstances.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fundamental_Rights,_Directive_Principles_and_Fundamental_Duties_of_India#cite_note-41) The latter permits the State to classify persons for legitimate purposes, provided there is a reasonable basis for the same, meaning that the classification is required to be non-arbitrary, based on a method of intelligible differentiation among those sought to be classified, as well as have a rational relation to the object sought to be achieved by the classification.

Article 15 prohibits discrimination on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them. This right can be enforced against the State as well as private individuals, with regard to free access to places of public entertainment or places of public resort maintained partly or wholly out of State funds. However, the State is not precluded from making special provisions for women and children or any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens, including the [Scheduled Castes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scheduled_Castes) and [Scheduled Tribes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scheduled_Tribes). This exception has been provided since the classes of people mentioned therein are considered deprived and in need of [special protection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reservation_in_India). Article 16 guarantees [equality of opportunity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equality_of_opportunity) in matters of public employment and prevents the State from discriminating against anyone in matters of employment on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, place of residence or any of them. It creates exceptions for the implementation of measures of [affirmative action](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Affirmative_action) for the benefit of any backward class of citizens in order to ensure adequate representation in public service, as well as reservation of an office of any religious institution for a person professing that particular religion.

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Why we Need women Empowerment?

Need for empowerment arose due to centuries of domination and discrimination done by men over women; women are the suppressed lot. They are the target of varied types of violence and discriminatory practices done by men all over the world. India is no different.

India is a complex country. We have, through centuries, developed various types of customs, traditions and practices. These customs and traditions, good as well as bad, have become a part of our society’s collective consciousness. We worship female goddesses; we also give great importance to our mothers, daughters, sisters, wives and other female relatives or friends. But at the same time, Indians are also famous for treating their women badly both inside and outside their homes.

Indian society consists of people belonging to almost all kinds of religious beliefs. In every religion women are given a special place and every religion teaches us to treat women with respect and dignity. But somehow the society has so developed that various types of ill practices, both physical and mental, against women have become a norm since ages. For instance, sati pratha, practice of dowry, parda pratha, female infanticide, wife burning, sexual violence, sexual harassment at work place, domestic violence and other varied kinds of discriminatory practices; all such acts consists of physical as well as mental element.

The reasons for such behaviour against women are many but the most important one are the male superiority complex and patriarchal system of society. Though to eliminate these ill practices and discrimination against women various constitutional and legal rights are there but in reality there are a lot to be done. Several self-help groups and NGOs are working in this direction; also women themselves are breaking the societal barriers and achieving great heights in all dimensions: political, social and economic. But society as a whole has still not accepted women as being equal to men and crimes or abuses against women are still on the rise. For that to change, the society’s age-old deep-rooted mind set needs to be changed through social conditioning and sensitization programmes.

Therefore, the concept of women empowerment not only focuses on giving women strength and skills to rise above from their miserable situation but at the same time it also stresses on the need to educate men regarding women issues and inculcating a sense of respect and duty towards women as equals. In the present write-up we will try to describe and understand the concept of Women Empowerment in India in all its dimensions.

### What is Women Empowerment

Women empowerment in simple words can be understood as giving power to women to decide for their own lives or inculcating such abilities in them so that they could be able to find their rightful place in the society.

According to the **United Nations**, women’s empowerment mainly has five components:

* Generating women’s sense of self-worth;
* Women’s right to have and to determine their choices;
* Women’s right to have access to equal opportunities and all kinds of resources;
* Women’s right to have the power to regulate and control their own lives, within and outside the home; and
* Women’s ability to contribute in creating a more just social and economic order.

Thus, women empowerment is nothing but recognition of women’s basic human rights and creating an environment where they are treated as equals to men.

The justice delivery system will be considered to be satisfactory when it renders speedy, fair and efficient justice at a reasonable and affordable cost which results in maintenance of rule of law, securing human rights and ensuring constitutional good governance. To achieve this goal, it is not sufficient to merely improve the performance of judges but a parallel effort should be made : (i) to reform the legal profession; (ii) to improve legal education; and (iii) to ensure that better laws are made and bad laws are

repealed.