

## A STUDY ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

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Article history:	Abstract:
<b>Published:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	The urge to empower is a human quality and a multidimensional phenomenon. In reality, there is prevalence of unequal gender norms among the women in urban and rural area. The main objective of the study is to find out the comparative women empowerment scenario in urban and rural regions. Inequality is the basic feature of Economy. Rural area being the biggest segment is the backbone of the economy. It has been observed that the rural women are less benefited than the urban women. There is a strong need to create awareness and training in rural setting for better productive life. Empowering them is key not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to overall economic productivity, given women's large presence in the agricultural workforce worldwide.
<b>Keywords:</b> human quality, gender, urban and rural , economy, empowerment	

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The empowerment of women [1] plays a vital role in the development of humanity. Empowerment of women is an issue close to the heart of several people such as Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda. In the last eleven years the Government has taken a series of steps to further integrate women into the development of our nation politically, economically and socially. These initiatives taken by the Government [3] to combine vision, innovation and effective implementation. Women empowerment is vital for decision making on nutrition, health-seeking, family planning and economic issues for the family as a whole. It begins with consciousness-perceptions about herself and her rights, her capabilities and her potentials, awareness of how gender and socio-cultural and political forces affect her.

### 2. WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION

"When women are empowered and can claim their rights and access to land, leadership, opportunities and choices, economies grow, food security is enhanced and prospects are improved for current and future generations." – Michelle Bachelet, The theme for International Women's Day 2019 "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change," was chosen to identify innovative ways to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women. [2]

**Why we are giving more attention to women empowerment [1] the reason behind this concept is discrimination:**

- The gender bias and discrimination at every stage we show, what kind of society women have to live in.
- The reality of the Indian families is that "boys are brought up to be served, girls to serve. Boys are prince in the family, girl's maids in the scullery".
- In fact, women constantly suffer from discrimination in all fields of her life before and after coming to the earth. Every year, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), more than a million infant girls die because they are born female.

### 3. CHALLENGES FACED BY RURAL WOMEN

Women play important roles in the rural economy [5] as farmers, wage earners and entrepreneurs. They also take responsibility for the well-being of the members of their families, including food provision and care for children and the elderly. Rural women's [4] unpaid work, particularly in poor households, often includes collecting wood and water.

Women from indigenous and grassroots communities are often also custodians of traditional knowledge, which is key for their communities' livelihoods, resilience and culture. Rural women workers are less likely to engage in wage employment compared to men and to women in urban areas, and when they do, they tend to earn less than their male counterparts. Rural women, on average, are paid 25 per cent less than men, and they typically work longer hours. They are also often engaged in labor-intensive work in difficult conditions, which lack occupational safety and health measures, and social protection. Women agricultural workers are particularly vulnerable to sexual or other violence and harassment. Women's presence in workers' and employers' organizations remains low, leading to a lack of voice and representation in policy-making and programme development.

Women in the rural economy are subject to discrimination [3] on multiple grounds. In addition to being discriminated against based on their gender, they may also be disadvantaged because of their ethnic or social origin and religion.<sup>27</sup> In many countries, socially disadvantaged communities, such as indigenous or tribal peoples, live and work in geographically remote rural areas, often facing severe decent work deficits.

- 1. Vulnerabilities:** Rural women experience poverty, effects of climate change, compared to urban women. They often lack access to public services, such as education and health care, and have limited resources.
- 2. Gender-based violence:** rural women face additional challenges simply for being women. These challenges can include sexual harassment, violence, and less opportunity in favor of economic independence.
- 3. Exclusion from decision-making processes:** rural women are often excluded or underrepresented in decision making that affects them directly.
- 4. Domestic violence:** According to report 70% of women in India are victims of domestic violence.
- 5. Child marriage:** Because of child marriage, girls are burdened by their parents and are afraid of losing their sanctity before marriage.

#### 4. CHALLENGES FACED BY URBAN WOMEN

Urban Women [6] are most likely to seek employment outside the home if their family or community is living at a subsistence level. Due to stigmas against low-skill work or women working outside the home, women move out of the labor force as soon as their economic prospects improve. Highly educated women [7] in more economically-secure families, though, are not as restricted by stigmas or a lack of skills, and thus participate at higher rates.

- 1. Sexual harassment:** sexual exploitation of a girl child at home, streets, public places, transport, offices etc...
- 2. Low status in the family:** It is the abuse or violence against women.
- 3. Acid throwing:** At least 72% of reported acid attacks in India involve women. It have been rise in India for the past decade.
- 4. Unemployment:** It is becoming more and more difficult for women to find the right job for themselves.
- 5. Unbearable Conditions:** Divorcee women will have to live their whole lives with fears. In some cases they have to end their lives due to unbearable circumstances

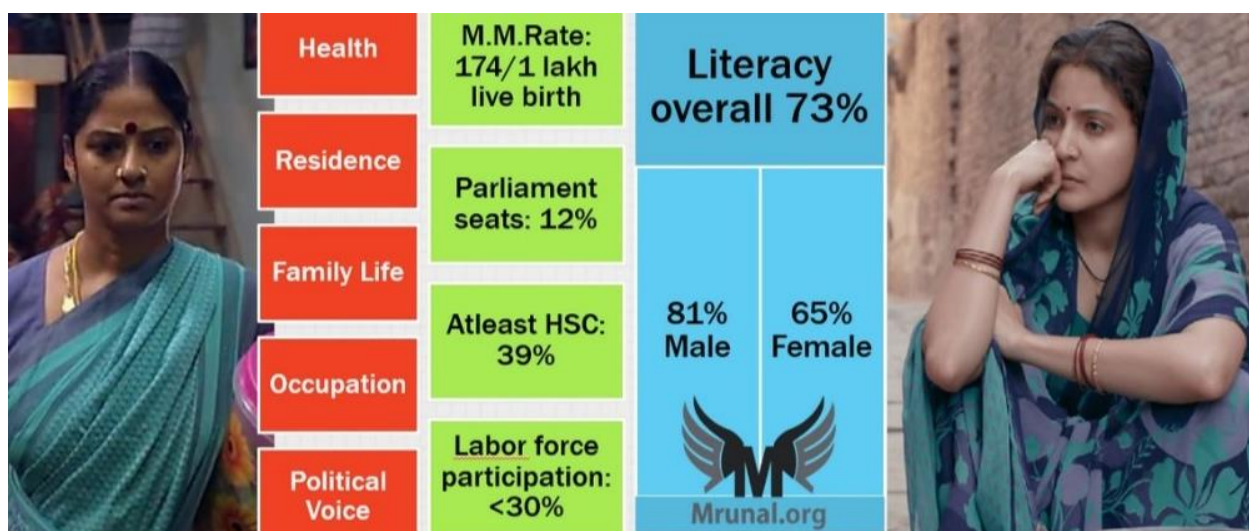


Figure.1. Women Empowerment in Rural and Urban Areas [Source: Internet]

#### 5. WAY TO ACHIEVE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women Empowerment can achieve when there is Change in women's mobility and social interaction. Women's Education is very important that builds a self-image and self-confidence among them & develops their ability to think. Education makes Changes in women's control over resources, decision making. By providing minimum needs like, nutrition, health, sanitation, leans, housing. By promoting self-employment through credits & training. Also the society

should change the mentality of word women and encouraging women to develop her. Equally important is enlightenment of men, change their attitudes towards women and understand their problem.

Women Empowerment can be done by supporting inclusive agricultural growth for improved livelihoods and food security. Decent and Productive Work in Agriculture Promoting economic diversification and triggering productive transformation for rural employment

### **Rural Economy**

- Promoting Decent Work for Rural Workers at the Base of the Supply Chain. The Role of Multinational Enterprises is promoting Decent Work in Rural Areas. The Transition will happen to Formality in the Rural Informal Economy.
- Sustainable Tourism – A Catalyst for Inclusive Socio-economic Development and Poverty Reduction in Rural Areas Promoting access to services, protection and employment-intensive investment.
- Providing Access to Quality Services in the Rural Economy to Promote Growth and Social Development
- Extending Social Protection to the Rural Economy
- Employment-Intensive Investment in Rural Infrastructure for Economic Development, Social and Environmental Protection and Inclusive Growth Ensuring sustainability and harnessing the benefits of natural resources
- Decent Work in Forestry and Harnessing the Potential of Extractive Industries
- Water for Improved Rural Livelihoods Increasing the voice of rural people through organization and the promotion of rights, standards and social dialogue
- Rights at Work in the Rural Economy and Promoting Social Dialogue in the Rural Economy
- Building Local Development in Rural Areas through Cooperatives and other Social and Solidarity Economy Enterprises and Organizations
- Decent Work for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in the Rural Economy
- Empowering Women in the Rural Economy and providing Decent Work for Rural Youth
- Promoting Fair and Effective Labor Migration Policies in Agriculture and Rural Areas Improving the knowledge base on decent work in the rural economy
- Enhancing the Knowledge Base to Support the Promotion of Decent Work in Rural Areas

### **6. CONCLUSION**

Today, the median female share of the global workforce is 45.4 percent. Women's small businesses in rural developing communities not only can be an extended family's lifeline, but can form a networked economic foundation for future generations. It should be understood that there exists diversity even among rural women as well. However, making policy documentation and program framework is only the first step and the easiest task. The real efforts lie in its implementation. The empowerment of rural women is possible when all the women related schemes converge through a single channel. When women earn their own income, their control over that income can increase, and they are more likely to re-invest in their household, children's education and health, better food and nutrition for the family, increasing livelihood assets for the family. This can contribute to a virtuous inter-generational cycle that can raise a family out of poverty over time. Any economic growth plan must include elements that create economic opportunities for women in rural areas through a combination of job creation and investment in education and training to ready women for the job opportunities of the future.

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