

# Importance of Women in socio Economic Development

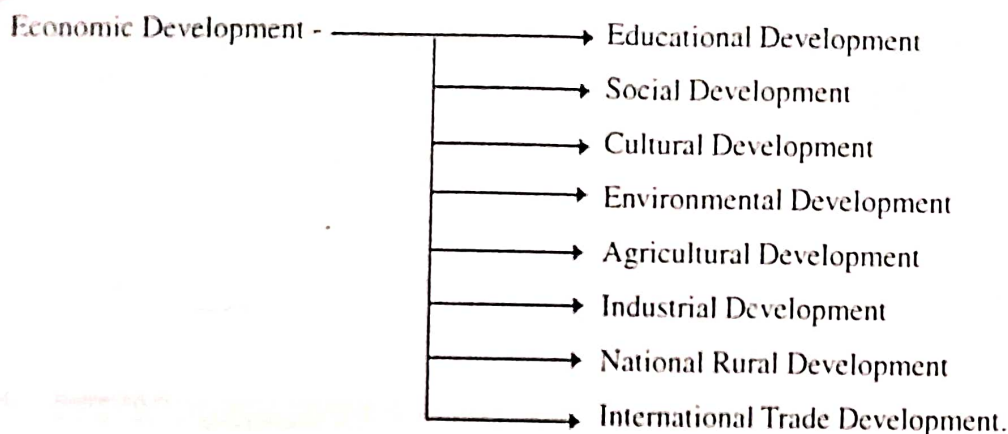
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Women has great importance for the development of the economy, which all the time, cannot be measured in terms of money. The economic contribution of women has become a source of wealth. One cannot think of an economy devoid of women as human capital and their contribution in aggregate production. When we discuss about female labour participation rate, both in rural and urban areas, we find difference. Human resources undoubtedly included women, but their contribution has not been given due recognition until recently. When men are providers, women specialize in child bearing and home making women are viewed as dependent. The contribution of women to economic development can be measured from two angles (i) Women's contribution to family well being and (ii) women's contribution to national development.

Women contribute economically to the well- being of the family or the household members. The earning of working mother have positive influence on the nutritional and health status of their children In recent times women contribute economically to the household by producing goods for exchange either through self employment or household production. Women are also helping for national development through women labour participation in employment . A correct measurement of women's contribution to economic development remains difficult, because most of the women's work is invisible . The kind of work women do mostly in household is domestic work, which has not been assigned any value . Before British rule in north India, Muslim women manufactured silk, . strings and did fine embroideries. Women were involved in processing of the wool and making blankets. All over India, several lakhs of women are engaged in rice de- husking and trading with milk and milk products. In very region of the country women specialize in different trades and they also do strenuous jobs like fetching fuel, firewood, fodder and water for themselves and for others and paid for it. Women work in agriculture as supervisors and female farm servants. The introduction of rice mills in the twentieth century led to mass displacement of women. Million of women workers were thrown out of jobs. In Mumbai, Ginning Mills absorbed many women and children and they were exploited. Another striking feature is that the shift in occupation and displacement of women in traditional industries and led them to industries like food processing manufacture of various food, vegetable products, net making foot ware ropes and various types of earthenware in our country. The demand for female labour is seen in the pre market and post market In the pre market discrimination exists due to lack of training and experience . However illiteracy is considered to be the main reason of discrimination .In the post market scenario same amount of human capital receive dissimilar wages for their labour. Women in the labour market are often segregated.

In Indian women almost exclusively involve in nursery bed raising, transplanting, weeding . We also observe that the trend of gradual decline in the share of women in non agricultural and industrial sectors, because technological change is going upward. Poverty and illiteracy are the most important factors influencing female participation rate. The role of women in the economy could be measured by means of various indicators and chief among them is women's work participation. Unless women's participation beyond home making is encouraged, they will be restricted to the role of economic dependence. In a highly populated country with high birth rate, in families having a large number of children and many women, most of them become full time domestic workers. The level of economic development of a country also affect women's work participation rate. The male female earning gap is wide in the unorganized sector of a developing country. This is another factor which undermines the role of women in the economy .As long as household remain outside the domain of production, women work in the household will be under valued and their time allocation may not be in favour of labour market.

Economic development of a country means development in various fields so as to given a boost to the national economy. National economy can be boosted by increasing the status in various fields as under :



Women constitute 50% of the population of any country and only when the contribution from this half of the population comes, can a development of any kind occur ! Women are directly or indirectly, linked to the development of a country and to bring about this, the women's status has to be first developed for this, multiple women's rights, be it in any field, should be known to the women and this can be done by spreading awareness about them in the following ways.

1. Educating the women by formal and informal means.
2. Conducting seminars symposia, talks on motivational topics.
3. Spreading of awareness by the use of mass media such as radio television etc.
4. Street plays, stage shows etc. so that their output can give boost to the economy.

### **Educational Development.**

Unless education is imparted, women will continue to be exploited by the family and society. It is the education only which will give them the knowledge, self confidence and self attainment. An uneducated person can be easily be fooled by anybody. It is through education only, the women will know themselves. Their contributions and importance in the family and society and realize their potential in social, cultural political and economic spheres.

### **Social Development**

Unless the social outlook of the people changes and becomes positive, economic development of a country cannot be thought of when the people overcome the special social evils like child marriage Sati Dahan (Widow Burning) Dowry System etc. only then economic development can start rolling. Our country, till the end of the twentieth century. Had been plagued with all evils and taboos. There was a strong social barrier for girls or women to go out and continue her studies after attaining maturity. With gradual spread of education and thanks to the wide spread campaign by Women's Bodies. Media Radio etc. against these social evils, now majority of people of the country have realized the importance of women in making a country developed. With gradual rise in awareness among the women, the government have also waken up to the need of empowerment and upliftment of women and has taken number of steps for their social development.

### **Cultural Development**

The cultural development of an individual begins at home, It is predominantly the mother, who brings about cultural development of her children, her family, her locality; which ultimately reflects upon the cultural development of a state and a nation. Till 1980s, the rural women remained isolated from the main stream of national developments, primarily due to poor communication, poor educational facilities, poor television/ media network. Because of their limited exposure to the developing world, the Indian women, till today, are crippled with social taboos, myths and are shy to get exposed to a broader world and are hesitant to shun their primitive culture with extension or communication and television/ media network and with gradual spread of education, the rural women are now gradually realizing the importance of cultural change and have started stepping forward to adopt modern culture prevalent in cities and towns.

### **Environmental Development**

A good society treats men and women at par A closer look at women and environment relationship shows that no other group is more affected by environment destruction than poor village women. Every dawn brings with it a long march in search of fuel, fodder and water for village women, it does not matter whether the

women are old, young or pregnant Critical household needs are to be met day after day. A woman faces serious environmental risks. Biggest at the risk are rural women who spend hours in front of smoky chulhas. These consume excessive fuel and emit smoke in dangerous proportions affecting the women. It is ironic that though women of the world are more involved in environmental activities they are most affected by environmental degradation and pollution.

Women are more exposed to hazards of polluted water than men as they wash clothes and utensils too. Women are more likely to catch infection than men.

In absence of a healthy work environment too a woman cannot work towards economic development and her work is bound to suffer. Healthy and pollution free environment will give her the spirit to work for economic development and improvement.

### **Agricultural Development**

In a country like India where more than 70% of income comes from the agricultural sector and 70% of the population are also rural agricultural development can give a boost to the economic development.

Women in the rural areas contribute a lot to the agricultural sector, be it farming or other related fields. New techniques of farming can be developed, modern methods of storage to avoid wastage, better yielding varieties and disease resistant varieties of crops can be developed. Modern tools and equipment better transportation facilities can give a big thrust to national economy.

### **Industrial Development**

With the beginning of industrial revolution and setting up of many industries both small scale and large scale, the economic status has improved to a large extent. More women entrepreneurs and even the unskilled women, have set up to small scale industries like pickle making catering weaving fruit juice making jam and jelly making etc. to become economically independent. This type of large scale participation by women at the top level in the industries and factories helps to improve not only the women's self employment but also helps to develop the national economy.

### **National Rural Development**

A nation's economic cannot progress unless there is equitable development uniformly across the country. Rural areas in India are far lagging behind even today, compared to the urban areas. Unless development in rural areas are given priority, the gap between development of urban and rural areas will continue to widen further. It is through education, media coverage and counseling by Governmental and Non government agencies that awareness regarding family planning, education, need for cultural and social changes can be brought about among rural population including women. The women in villages must know and feel that they are no less important than their urban counterparts and then only they will come forward and try to acquire education, knowledge and skill for contributing to their self development and in the process towards rural and national economic development.

### **International Trade Development**

Women, today are not lagging behind in contributing to the international trade development. With the advent of industrialization and modernization, the traditional subsistence economy has been disturbed. Its impact fell more heavily on women than on men. The changing structure of employment necessitated a shift in the skill requirement to remain in employment or to venture for independent productive activities. Today women have made their progress substantially in this direction. It is observed that the Call Centres in cities, which have been set up for international trade development, are mostly operated by women. Indian women like Rina Dhaka, have made their presence felt in the fashion design internationally and have earned reputation and recognition. The Khadi and rural cottage industries mostly operated by rural women, are contributing handsomely in earning foreign exchange. Overall, it is seen that there is no dearth of enthusiasm and zeal among women of today to compete in the international arena. They are now realizing that they are no less competent than the counterparts in other countries. Once they get proper guidance and assistance, the Indian women can prove that they are at the top of the world.

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