



# Women's Empowerment in India: Issues, Challenges, and Prospects

**Dr. Achyut Kumar Das<sup>\*1</sup>, Dr. Satyajit Kalita<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Morigaon College (A), India.

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Morigaon College (A), India.

Corresponding author(s):

Dr. Achyut Kumar Das, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Morigaon College (A), India.

Citation:

Dr. Achyut Kumar Das, Dr. Satyajit Kalita (2026). Women's Empowerment in India: Issues, Challenges, and Prospects. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Transactions*, 8(4), 81–94.

This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Accepted: 20 April 2026

Available online: 24 April 2026

## Abstract

Women's empowerment refers to the process of enhancing women's social, economic, and political status, particularly for those who have historically been marginalized and excluded from decision-making processes. It is a fundamental prerequisite for achieving equality, ensuring dignity, and safeguarding women from all forms of exploitation, discrimination, and violence. In India, despite constitutional guarantees, legal frameworks, and numerous policy initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality, significant disparities continue to persist across various sectors. Women frequently encounter challenges such as limited access to quality education, economic dependency, inadequate healthcare, social injustice, and widespread gender-based violence. This paper critically examines the current status of women's empowerment in India by analyzing structural inequalities and socio-cultural barriers that hinder progress. It highlights persistent issues such as patriarchal norms, wage gaps, unequal participation in the workforce, and underrepresentation in political institutions. The study also emphasizes that empowerment cannot be achieved solely through legislative measures or policy interventions, but requires a deeper transformation of societal attitudes, cultural practices, and institutional frameworks. Furthermore, the paper argues that empowering women is not only a matter of social justice and human rights but also a crucial driver of

---

sustainable development and inclusive growth. The findings suggest that meaningful empowerment can only be realized through a holistic approach that integrates education, economic opportunities, legal awareness, and social reform. Ultimately, national progress and development are intrinsically linked to the active participation and empowerment of women in all spheres of life.

**Keywords:** Women Empowerment, Gender Inequality, Discrimination, India, Social Justice.

---

## 1. Introduction

Women's empowerment is the process through which women gain the ability to make strategic life choices in a context where such opportunities were previously denied to them (Duflo, 2012). It encompasses not only the enhancement of women's social, economic, and political status but also the removal of structural barriers that limit their freedom, agency, and participation in society. Empowerment involves ensuring equal access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and decision-making processes, while also addressing deep-rooted inequalities based on gender, caste, class, and cultural norms (Mokta, 2014). In this sense, women's empowerment is both a goal and a means to achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

In the Indian context, the Constitution guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. Over the years, the government has introduced several policies and legal frameworks aimed at promoting gender equality and protecting women's rights. These include laws against dowry, domestic violence, and sexual harassment at the workplace. However, despite these legal advancements, women in India continue to face systemic and structural inequalities in various spheres of life. Socio-cultural practices such as dowry, gender-based violence, female foeticide, and child marriage remain prevalent, reflecting deeply entrenched patriarchal values (Hazarika, 2011; Sharma & Gupta, 2004). Furthermore, gender inequality in India is evident in disparities in education, employment, health, and political participation. Although female literacy rates have improved over time, they still lag behind those of males, particularly in rural areas (Saravanakumar, 2016). Women's participation in the workforce remains relatively low, and those who are employed often face wage discrimination, job insecurity, and limited opportunities for career advancement (Klasen, 2006). Additionally, women's representation in political institutions

and leadership positions continues to be inadequate, which further limits their ability to influence policy decisions and advocate for their rights.

Another critical concern is the persistence of gender-based violence, which includes domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking, and acid attacks. Such forms of violence not only violate women's fundamental rights but also hinder their physical, psychological, and social well-being (Tandon, 2016). These issues are often compounded by factors such as poverty, illiteracy, and lack of awareness, which disproportionately affect women and restrict their access to resources and opportunities (Banerjee, 2020). While women in many Western societies have achieved relatively higher levels of gender equality due to progressive policies and social reforms, Indian society continues to struggle with significant gender disparities rooted in tradition and social norms. Therefore, addressing women's empowerment in India requires a comprehensive and multidimensional approach that goes beyond legal measures to include social transformation, education, and economic development.

Against this backdrop, this paper aims to assess the current status of women's empowerment in India, identify the key challenges and barriers that hinder its realization, and suggest practical measures for achieving gender equality. By critically analyzing these aspects, the study seeks to contribute to the ongoing discourse on women's rights and empowerment in contemporary Indian society.

## 2. Objectives of the Study

This paper aims to:

- To assess the current status of women's empowerment in India across social, economic, political, and educational dimensions.
- To identify and critically examine the key challenges and structural barriers hindering women's empowerment.
- To suggest effective measures and policy recommendations for achieving gender equality and promoting inclusive development.

## 3. Methodology of the Study

This study adopts a descriptive and analytical research method to examine the status, dimensions, and challenges of women's empowerment in India. The research is primarily based on secondary data, which allows for a comprehensive understanding of the issue through the analysis of existing literature, reports, and statistical data.

#### **4. Dimensions of Women's Empowerment**

Women's empowerment is a multidimensional concept that encompasses various interrelated domains, including social, economic, political, and educational aspects. These dimensions collectively determine the extent to which women can exercise autonomy, access opportunities, and participate equally in society. Understanding these dimensions is essential for developing a comprehensive approach to achieving gender equality.

#### **5. Social Empowerment**

Social empowerment refers to the process of enabling women to live with dignity, freedom, and equality within society. It involves the elimination of discriminatory practices, harmful traditions, and social norms that restrict women's rights and freedoms. In India, despite modernization and legal reforms, several oppressive practices such as dowry deaths, honor killings, domestic violence, and child marriage continue to persist, particularly in rural and conservative communities (Sharma & Gupta, 2004).

Dowry, although legally prohibited under the Dowry Prohibition Act, remains deeply embedded in the social fabric, often leading to harassment, violence, and even death of women. Similarly, honor killings - committed to preserve family or community honor - reflect the rigid control exercised over women's choices, particularly in matters of marriage and relationships. Child marriage is another significant issue that deprives young girls of education, health, and personal development, thereby perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality.

Social empowerment also includes freedom from gender-based violence, which remains a critical concern in India. Women are frequently subjected to domestic abuse, sexual harassment, and other forms of violence that undermine their confidence and restrict their participation in public life (Tandon, 2016). Achieving social empowerment, therefore, requires not only legal enforcement but also a transformation of societal attitudes, cultural values, and patriarchal mindsets that perpetuate discrimination.

---

## 6. Economic Empowerment

Economic empowerment is a crucial pillar of women's overall empowerment, as it enables women to achieve financial independence, enhance their decision-making power, and improve their quality of life. It involves access to employment opportunities, equal wages, ownership of assets, and financial inclusion. However, women in India continue to face significant barriers in achieving economic independence (Mokta, 2014). One of the major challenges is the gender wage gap, where women are often paid less than men for the same work. Additionally, women's participation in the labor force remains relatively low, particularly in comparison to men. Cultural norms, household responsibilities, and lack of supportive infrastructure such as childcare facilities often limit women's ability to engage in paid employment. Many women are also concentrated in the informal sector, where they face job insecurity, lack of social protection, and poor working conditions. Access to financial resources and property ownership is another critical aspect of economic empowerment. In many cases, women have limited control over family income and assets, which restricts their economic autonomy. Microfinance initiatives and self-help groups (SHGs) have emerged as effective tools for promoting financial inclusion and entrepreneurship among women, particularly in rural areas (Pachorkar et al., 2020). These initiatives not only provide financial support but also foster confidence, leadership skills, and community participation.

Therefore, economic empowerment requires comprehensive strategies that address structural inequalities, promote skill development, and ensure equal opportunities for women in the workforce.

## 7. Political Empowerment

Political empowerment refers to women's active participation in political processes, decision-making, and governance at all levels. It is essential for ensuring that women's voices are heard and their interests are represented in policy formulation and implementation. In India, constitutional provisions such as the 73rd and 74th Amendments have introduced reservations for women in local governance, leading to increased participation at the grassroots level. Despite these efforts, women's representation in higher political institutions, such as Parliament and state legislatures, remains limited. Societal norms, lack of resources, and gender bias often discourage women from entering politics. Moreover, women who do

---

participate in political processes may face challenges such as discrimination, harassment, and lack of decision-making authority.

Political empowerment also involves awareness of legal rights and the ability to advocate for oneself and others. Education and capacity-building programs play a crucial role in enhancing women's political participation and leadership skills. Empowering women politically not only strengthens democratic processes but also contributes to more inclusive and equitable governance (Klasen, 2006). Page | 86

## **8. Educational Empowerment**

Education is one of the most powerful tools for achieving women's empowerment, as it enhances knowledge, skills, and awareness, enabling women to make informed decisions and improve their socio-economic status. Educational empowerment involves equal access to quality education, elimination of gender disparities, and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities. In India, significant progress has been made in increasing female literacy rates; however, disparities still exist, particularly in rural and marginalized communities (Saravanakumar, 2016). Factors such as poverty, early marriage, gender bias, and lack of infrastructure often hinder girls' access to education. In many families, boys' education is prioritized over that of girls, reinforcing gender inequality. Moreover, even when women attain education, they may not always have equal opportunities for employment or career advancement. This highlights the need for not only improving access to education but also ensuring its relevance and applicability in the labor market. Vocational training, skill development programs, and higher education opportunities are essential for enhancing women's employability and economic independence.

Education also plays a critical role in raising awareness about rights, health, and social issues. Educated women are more likely to participate in decision-making processes, challenge discriminatory practices, and contribute to community development. Thus, educational empowerment serves as a foundation for achieving social, economic, and political empowerment. Overall, these four dimensions of women's empowerment are deeply interconnected and mutually reinforcing. Progress in one area often contributes to improvements in others. Therefore, a holistic and integrated approach is necessary to address the multifaceted challenges faced by women in India and to achieve true empowerment.

---

## 9. Major Issues and Challenges

Despite various legal provisions, policy interventions, and developmental initiatives, women in India continue to face numerous structural and socio-cultural challenges that hinder their empowerment. These challenges are deeply rooted in patriarchal norms, economic disparities, and institutional weaknesses. Understanding these issues is crucial for formulating effective strategies to achieve gender equality.

## 10. Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence remains one of the most serious obstacles to women's empowerment in India. It includes crimes such as rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, acid attacks, and human trafficking. These forms of violence not only violate women's fundamental human rights but also severely impact their physical, psychological, and emotional well-being (Tandon, 2016).

Domestic violence, often occurring within the private sphere, is frequently underreported due to social stigma, fear, and lack of awareness. Similarly, sexual violence, including rape and harassment, reflects deep-seated gender inequalities and power imbalances. Acid attacks, though less frequent, are particularly brutal forms of violence that cause lifelong physical and psychological trauma. Human trafficking, especially of women and girls, for sexual exploitation and forced labor, continues to be a significant issue despite strict legal prohibitions (Sharma & Gupta, 2004). The persistence of gender-based violence highlights the limitations of legal measures alone and underscores the need for societal transformation, effective law enforcement, and awareness campaigns.

## 11. Female Foeticide and Infanticide

Female foeticide and infanticide represent extreme manifestations of gender discrimination in India. Despite the enactment of laws such as the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, sex-selective abortion continues to be practiced in certain regions. This practice is driven by socio-economic pressures, cultural preferences for male children, and the perception of daughters as financial burdens due to dowry and marriage expenses (Hazarika, 2011). The declining child sex ratio in several states reflects the severity of this issue. Female infanticide, though less common today, still occurs in some marginalized communities. These practices not only violate the right to life but also have long-term

---

demographic and social consequences, including gender imbalance and increased violence against women.

Addressing this issue requires a multi-pronged approach that includes strict enforcement of laws, public awareness campaigns, and efforts to change societal attitudes towards the value of the girl child.

## **12. Child and Forced Marriage**

Child marriage remains a significant challenge in India, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged regions. Although the legal age of marriage is 18 for women, many girls are married before reaching adulthood. Early and forced marriages deprive girls of their right to education, health, and personal development (UNICEF, 2020).

Girls who marry early are more likely to experience early pregnancies, which pose serious health risks for both mother and child. They also face limited opportunities for education and employment, leading to lifelong economic dependency and social marginalization. Furthermore, child marriage reinforces gender inequality by perpetuating traditional roles and restricting women's autonomy. Efforts to eliminate child marriage must focus on education, community awareness, and strict implementation of existing laws, along with empowering girls to make informed life choices.

## **13. Workplace Inequality**

Workplace inequality is another major barrier to women's empowerment. Women often face discrimination in hiring, wages, promotions, and working conditions. The gender wage gap persists across sectors, with women typically earning less than men for similar work (Klasen, 2006). In addition to wage disparities, women encounter challenges such as job insecurity, lack of maternity benefits, and limited access to leadership positions. Sexual harassment at the workplace further discourages women from participating in the workforce. Although laws such as the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act have been enacted, implementation remains inconsistent. Moreover, societal expectations regarding women's roles in household responsibilities often limit their career opportunities and professional growth. Addressing workplace inequality requires policy reforms, organizational changes, and a shift in societal attitudes towards gender roles.

---

#### **14. Health and Safety Issues**

Women's health and safety are critical components of empowerment. However, many women in India face inadequate access to healthcare services, particularly in rural areas. Issues such as maternal mortality, malnutrition, anemia, and lack of reproductive healthcare significantly affect women's well-being (Mishra & Nayak, 2010). Maternal health remains a major concern, especially among economically disadvantaged groups. Limited awareness, poor healthcare infrastructure, and financial constraints often prevent women from accessing necessary medical services. Additionally, safety concerns, including harassment in public spaces and lack of secure transportation, restrict women's mobility and participation in social and economic activities.

Improving women's health and safety requires strengthening healthcare systems, increasing awareness, and ensuring safe and supportive environments for women.

#### **15. Poverty and Illiteracy**

Poverty and illiteracy are among the most significant barriers to women's empowerment. These factors are closely interlinked and reinforce each other, creating a cycle of disadvantage. Women from low-income backgrounds often have limited access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, which restricts their ability to improve their socio-economic status (Banerjee, 2020). Illiteracy limits women's awareness of their rights and reduces their participation in decision-making processes. It also makes them more vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination, and abuse. Poverty further exacerbates these challenges by limiting access to basic necessities and opportunities for advancement. Addressing poverty and illiteracy requires comprehensive strategies that focus on education, skill development, and economic opportunities for women. Government initiatives, non-governmental organizations, and community-based programs play a crucial role in breaking this cycle and promoting empowerment.

#### **16. Analysis**

The analysis of women's empowerment in India reveals a complex and paradoxical reality. On one hand, there has been measurable progress in legal frameworks, education, and policy initiatives; on the other, empirical data from national and international sources indicate persistent structural inequalities and gender-based vulnerabilities.

---

## 17. Trends in Gender-Based Violence

Recent data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) highlight the alarming persistence of violence against women in India. According to the *Crime in India 2023* report, approximately 4,48,211 cases of crimes against women were recorded, marking a steady increase from previous years (NCRB, 2023) [The New Indian Express](#). This represents a continuation of a rising trend, with over 4.45 lakh cases reported in 2022, reflecting both increased incidence and improved reporting mechanisms [SPRF](#). A closer examination of the data reveals that the largest proportion of cases (around 29–31%) falls under “cruelty by husband or relatives”, indicating the prevalence of domestic violence within the private sphere [Opast Publishing Group](#). Other major categories include kidnapping and abduction (approximately 19%), assault with intent to outrage modesty (around 18%), and rape (about 7%) [UPSC Current Affairs 2025](#). These statistics demonstrate that violence against women is not limited to isolated incidents but is embedded within broader social and familial structures.

Furthermore, the crime rate against women has increased from 58.8 per 100,000 women in 2018 to 66.4 in 2022, indicating a significant rise over time [ISDM](#). While this increase may partially reflect improved reporting and awareness, it also underscores the persistence of gender-based violence as a major barrier to empowerment.

## 18. Health and Gender Inequality

Data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019–21) provide important insights into the health and well-being of women in India. Despite improvements in maternal health indicators and institutional deliveries, significant disparities remain in nutrition, reproductive health, and access to healthcare. Studies based on NFHS data indicate that women experience higher levels of morbidity compared to men, often due to socio-economic disadvantages and unequal access to healthcare services ([arXiv](#)). Issues such as anemia, malnutrition, and limited reproductive autonomy continue to affect a large proportion of women, particularly in rural and marginalized communities.

Moreover, early marriage and early childbirth remain prevalent in certain regions, contributing to poor maternal and child health outcomes. These factors highlight the intersection between health, education, and social norms, demonstrating that women’s health cannot be addressed in isolation but must be viewed within a broader socio-economic context.

---

## 19. Gender Inequality and Socio-Economic Indicators

Women's empowerment is closely linked to socio-economic indicators such as education, employment, and income. Although female literacy rates have improved significantly over the past decades, gender disparities persist, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged regions. Women's participation in the labor force remains relatively low, and those who are employed often face wage discrimination and limited opportunities for advancement. Economic dependency continues to restrict women's autonomy and decision-making power. Poverty further exacerbates these challenges by limiting access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities (Banerjee, 2020). Additionally, unpaid care work and domestic responsibilities disproportionately fall on women, reducing their participation in formal economic activities. This unequal division of labor reflects deeply entrenched gender roles and societal expectations.

## 20. SDG Perspective: Gender Equality and Empowerment

From a global perspective, women's empowerment is a central component of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls. India has made progress in certain indicators, such as increased enrollment of girls in education and improved maternal health services. However, challenges remain in achieving targets related to gender equality, including eliminating violence, ensuring equal participation in leadership, and providing economic opportunities. The persistence of gender-based violence, child marriage, and economic inequality indicates that India still faces significant hurdles in achieving SDG 5. Furthermore, gender inequality intersects with other forms of social exclusion, such as caste, class, and rural-urban disparities, making the issue more complex.

## 21. Structural and Cultural Barriers

The analysis also highlights the role of structural and cultural factors in perpetuating gender inequality. Patriarchal norms, traditional practices, and societal attitudes continue to influence women's status and opportunities. For instance, the preference for male children contributes to practices such as female foeticide, while social stigma often discourages reporting of violence and discrimination. Institutional challenges, such as weak implementation of laws, lack of awareness, and inadequate support systems, further limit the effectiveness of policies aimed at empowering women. While legal frameworks exist, their impact is often constrained by socio-cultural realities.

## 22. Discussion

The data clearly indicate that women's empowerment in India is not merely a matter of policy formulation but requires a multidimensional and integrated approach. While legal reforms and government initiatives have created a foundation for gender equality, their success depends on effective implementation and societal acceptance. The persistence of high levels of violence, health disparities, and economic inequality suggests that empowerment must go beyond formal rights to include substantive equality. This involves addressing structural inequalities, promoting education and awareness, and challenging patriarchal norms. Moreover, empowerment should be viewed as a continuous process rather than a fixed outcome. It requires sustained efforts at multiple levels - individual, community, institutional, and policy - to create an environment where women can exercise their rights and realize their full potential.

## 23. Findings of the Study

- Legal measures alone have not reduced violence against women significantly.
- Socio-economic barriers such as poverty and illiteracy hinder empowerment.
- Gender inequality persists in both public and private spheres.
- Empowerment requires both structural reforms and social awareness.

## 24. Conclusion

Women's empowerment is a fundamental prerequisite for national development, social progress, and the realization of a just and equitable society. It is not merely a matter of improving the condition of women but a transformative process that enhances the overall well-being of families, communities, and the nation as a whole. In the Indian context, although significant advancements have been made through constitutional provisions, legislative measures, and policy interventions, the actual realization of women's empowerment remains uneven and incomplete. One of the major challenges lies in the gap between policy formulation and effective implementation. While numerous laws exist to protect women's rights and promote gender equality, their impact is often limited by weak enforcement mechanisms, lack of awareness, and socio-cultural resistance. Deep-rooted patriarchal norms, gender stereotypes, and traditional practices continue to shape societal attitudes, thereby restricting women's freedom, autonomy, and access to opportunities. As a

---

result, women frequently encounter discrimination and inequality in various spheres, including education, employment, healthcare, and political participation.

True empowerment can only be achieved when women attain economic independence, equal opportunities, and social recognition. Economic empowerment, in particular, plays a crucial role in enhancing women's decision-making power and reducing their vulnerability to exploitation. At the same time, access to quality education equips women with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to challenge discriminatory practices and participate actively in societal development. Furthermore, ensuring women's safety and dignity is essential for enabling them to contribute meaningfully to both the public and private spheres.

A holistic and integrated approach is therefore necessary to address the multifaceted challenges associated with women's empowerment. This approach must combine educational advancement, economic development, effective legal enforcement, and, most importantly, a transformation of societal attitudes and cultural norms. Government initiatives should be complemented by the active involvement of civil society, non-governmental organizations, and community-based institutions to create an enabling environment for women's empowerment. In addition, promoting gender sensitization, awareness campaigns, and inclusive policies can help in dismantling long-standing biases and fostering a culture of equality and respect. Empowering women is not only a moral and ethical imperative but also a strategic necessity for achieving sustainable development. Societies that invest in women's empowerment tend to experience higher levels of economic growth, improved health outcomes, and greater social stability.

In conclusion, women's empowerment must be recognized as a continuous and dynamic process that requires sustained commitment at all levels. Only through collective efforts and a shift in societal mindset can India achieve true gender equality and unlock the full potential of its women, thereby paving the way for inclusive and sustainable national development.

### **Acknowledgement**

The authors have no acknowledgements to declare.

### **Funding**

This study has not received any funding from any institution/agency.

**Conflict of Interest/Competing Interests**

No conflict of interest.

**Data Availability**

No quantitative data is used as it is a conceptual paper.

**REFERENCES**

- [1]. Banerjee, M. (2020). Empowering rural women in India during COVID-19: A brief study considering future sustainability. *Journal of Studies in Social Sciences*, 19, 1–10.
- [2]. Duflo, E. (2012). Women empowerment and economic development. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 50(4), 1051–1079. <https://doi.org/10.1257/jel.50.4.1051>
- [3]. Gupta, K. (2020). Globalization and women empowerment. *Journal of Social Sciences & Multidisciplinary Management Studies*, 1(1), 1–4.
- [4]. Hazarika, D. (2011). Women empowerment in India: A brief discussion. *International Journal of Educational Planning and Administration*, 1(3), 199–202.
- [5]. Klasen, S. (2006). UNDP's gender-related measures: Some conceptual problems and possible solutions. *Journal of Human Development*, 7(2), 243–274. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649880600768595>
- [6]. Mandal, K. C. (2013). Concept and types of women empowerment. *International Forum of Teaching and Studies*, 9(2), 17–30.
- [7]. Mishra, S. K., & Nayak, P. (2010). Facets and factors of human development in Tripura. In P. Nayak (Ed.), *Growth and human development in North-East India* (pp. 281–296). Oxford University Press.
- [8]. Mokta, M. (2014). Empowerment of women in India: A critical analysis. *Indian Journal of Public Administration*, 60(3), 473–488. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0019556120140306>
- [9]. Narayan, D. (2007). Empowerment: A missing dimension of development. Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.
- [10]. Pachorkar, S., Kawishwar, S., & Sharda, P. (2020). Women entrepreneurship and women empowerment in India: A case study of Jwala Mahila Samiti. *Prestige International Journal of Management Research*, 12, 254–264.
- [11]. Priyadarshini, A., Thiyagarajan, R., Kumar, V., & Radhu, T. (2016). Women empowerment towards developing India. In 2016 IEEE Region 10 Humanitarian Technology Conference (R10-HTC) (pp. 1–6). IEEE. <https://doi.org/10.1109/R10-HTC.2016.7906849>
- [12]. Ranis, G., & Stewart, F. (2005). Dynamic links between the economy and human development. DESA Working Paper No. 8. United Nations.
- [13]. Rehman, H., Moazzam, D. A., & Ansari, N. (2020). Role of microfinance institutions in women empowerment: A case study of Akhuwat, Pakistan. *South Asian Studies*, 30(1), 125–134.
- [14]. Saravanakumar, A. R. (2016). Present scenario of women's education in India. In *Proceedings of National Seminar on Educational Practices in Chola Kingdom (850–1279 AD)*. Alagappa University.
- [15]. Sharma, B. R., & Gupta, M. (2004). Gender-based violence in India: A never-ending phenomenon. *Journal of International Women's Studies*, 6(1), 113–122.
- [16]. Tandon, T. (2016). Women empowerment: Perspectives and views. *The International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 3(3), 6–12.
- [17]. Varghese, T. (2011). Women empowerment in Oman: A study based on women empowerment index. *Far East Journal of Psychology and Business*, 2(2), 37–53.
- [18]. Waghmode, R. H., & Kalyan, J. L. (2014). Women empowerment in India: A study. *Reviews of Literature*, 1(7), 1–4.
- [19]. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). (2023). *Crime in India 2023*. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- [20]. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) & ICF. (2021). *National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 2019–21: India*. Mumbai: IIPS.
- [21]. United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. United Nations.