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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP

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Role of women entrepreneur in development of Indian economy

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Abstract

Women empowerment is still a critical issue. Even though women play a vital role in all the roles of the society her existence and contribution are something which is still debated and questioned by the society. In spite of her active participation her decision is not considered just because she is a woman. Empowering women and development of the economy are connected. Development of the economy can alone decrease the inequality between the women and men and women empowerment can lead to development of the economy. This paper throws light on the role of women in the development of the Indian economy.

Key words: Role of women, Indian economy, problem faced, facility provided, suggestion

INTRODUCTION

A wise man of great intellect once said, "The best measure of a nation's progress is the way it treats its women." For centuries, women have faced a lot of challenges and hurdles and that has given her a lot of patience, perseverance and has only helped them to become stronger. From the past few decades, women working as professionals have worked diligently, with their talent, dedication and enthusiasm and hard work and have set an example that women are capable of everything equal to men. They contribute massively towards India's economic growth and prosperity. At present, there are 432 million women of working-age in India, out of which 343 million are employed in the unorganized sector. Engaging women in economic development is called women empowerment. Her role is dependent on many factors like education, family status, environment etc. women as an entrepreneur play a vital role in the Indian economy and have a significant effect on it by employment generation, which accelerates development, and fostering prosperity. As per recent figures, women comprise 14 per cent of the total entrepreneurs in India, which works out to 8 million.

Even in rural India, women have been achieving milestones every day. In spite of social and family problems and restrictions, women have fought for their financial independence, started business on their own from scratch by facing all the challenges in setting up the business they have inspired many other women around them. In the panchayat system, 50% reservation is offered to women while many national programmers, such as 'National Rural Livelihood Mission', are providing leadership opportunities to them at the grassroots level. Government initiatives like the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' and 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act' have provided women workforce with supervisory job opportunities. Not just by increasing the employment opportunities for women we can enhance women's economic empowerment, but then, we should aim at reducing the double shift burden that women face. There is a need for endorsement of the 3Rs approach, which involves Recognizing, Reducing and Redistributing the unpaid care work done by women in all areas of policy making. It is very much important to have women-centric and women-friendly policies in place with an aim to encourage and support women in all fields. There is also a requirement to ensure that significant interventions take place to provide easier access to banks and other financial institutions, tax incentives also should be