

Review of Literature and Research Plan on the Emancipation of Political Rights for Women within the Modern Democratic Regime in India

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: To understand the women's position and status in our nation. Empowerment or emancipation of women in India is still at a slow pace. Hence to know the reasons behind it. Comparatively, in modern times women are progressing in all fields, especially in the economic arena along with the possession of higher education. However, still, it is seen that in the political arena, women lag due to varied reasons. So the literature review specifically highlights the political involvement of womenfolk in India to know the reasons for all of these. More importantly, to find the appropriate path towards the emancipation/empowerment of women politically.

Research Design: The study uses descriptive and analytical research designs with the utmost knowledge base from various secondary electronic data sources referred to as Google Scholar, academia, and many more from reputed peer-reviewed international journals.

Result/Outcome/Findings of the Study: The paper showcases the relevant aspects of women in India with women's empowerment. Gradually the article moves towards the political participation of women in India which is very low due to varied reasons. The findings highlight the reasons for the low political participation of women. Moreover, the study comes out with the suggestions for empowerment of women politically. To happen this various institutional and procedural institutions of our nation must work towards it to bring it effectively.

Originality/Value: The paper is relevant for all those scholars who work on gender issues or equity since the document is original in its content based on various surveys of literature related to women in India and around the world. Moreover, the suggestions prescribed related to the topic matter are highly prescriptive and analytical which is lucid in their nature for the real empowerment or emancipation of women in India with specific relevance to the political sphere.

Paper type: Literature review based on various electronic databases of international and national journals of gender issues/equity.

Keywords: Empowerment, emancipation, Political field, Economic sphere, Women, India, Involvement, Participation, Review.

1. INTRODUCTION :

The emancipation of women in India through empowerment [1] is an encompassed idea that requires it to be understood in a very lucid way. Women have always been considered as both positive and negative in different circumstances [2] or conditions based on different regions of India [3] which are again embedded in culture, traditions, and many more ethos. In our modern times, it is found that women in India are progressing in different areas or fields. The percentage of women getting educated is indeed increasing, still, there is a gender gap in different fields especially in the political arena. Economically, due to the milestone achieved in the SHGs [4] women are compatible gradually in this field. This has fostered an independent hold on the status of women [5] in terms of financial possession to lead a

dignified life. This struggle towards financial independence is also cumbersome due to varied challenges and obstacles. Yet this progress needs to be upheld in relation to economic independence/empowerment of women. Further, it is analyzed that economic empowerment is a base for achieving empowerment or emancipation [6] in other areas of life. But it again depends upon varied factors [7] and surroundings around which a woman is nourished or nurtured. If the surrounding is filled with positive thoughts and institutions, then definitely the journey towards empowerment [8] -the power to be self-reliant, and self-dependent [9] in various ways will be smoother. The reality [10] is always the other round or way! Therefore, the paper focuses on the varied dimensions of empowerment or emancipation of women.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

- To know the position of women in India in our modern times
- To analyze the reasons for the gradual growth of empowerment or emancipation of women
- To sensitize the issues relating to gender equity in our nation
- To find out the reason for the low political participation of women in India
- To create gender consciousness in terms of democratizing the status of women in India towards empowerment
- To search the research gap in terms of women empowerment in India
- To find the path towards political upliftment/empowerment of women which is the crux of the paper.
- To carry out the SWOC analysis in terms of the political empowerment of women in India.

3. METHODOLOGY :

The study is carried out to know the relevant status of women in India because in this era the status of women is found better compared to the last few centuries. Yet there remains a gender gap in terms of her emancipation due to varied circumstances and positions. Hence, an analytical exercise is carried out to find out the reasons for all these conditions based on the literature review from various reputed international electronic journals. So, secondary sources are referred to for this study. Further, a lucid description is attached to the study to find out the relevant suggestions for empowering women focusing upon the political arena since comparatively women lag in this field in front of other fields of life. To justify this, SWOC analysis is worked out for the precise study as a methodology for this paper.

4. RELATED RESEARCH WORK :

4.1. Related works on the problems faced by women in the modern era based on published literature from the electronic Database-Google Scholar (Keywords: entrepreneurs, inequality, discrimination, issues, women)

Table 1: The Problems faced by Women in the Modern Era in India

S. No.	Focus of study	Contribution	References
1.	Women entrepreneurs	Women entrepreneurs face a lot of problems or challenges based in private or public life. These problems can be sought out through proper training and motivation, especially from the family members.	Siddiqui, A. B. (2012). [11]
2.	Identity issues	Conscious awareness in society with positive attitudinal behaviour is expected by all. Various institutional arrangements can be made to create awareness in terms of treating women in our society.	Haq, R. (2013). [12]
3.	Older Women	Health issues of older women need to be taken care of by concerned people with love and empathy. Medical help must be delivered at the right time to avoid major health issues and dilemmas.	Johnson, S. J. (2006). [13]

4.	Management of Menstrual Hygiene	Environmental friendly menstrual management with proper techniques must be applied with the proper awareness relating to it.	Kaur, R. et al., (2018). [14]
5.	MGNREGA	This scheme can empower women if implemented properly at all levels. This promotes the economic independence of women in India.	Rajalakshmi, V. et al., (2017). [15]
6.	Discrimination in the Work Area/Job	Discrimination against women in the workplace can be tackled with gender sensitization.	Sharma, D. et al., [16]
7.	Psychological Burden	Women are often burdened to be good in all aspects which puts mental pressure upon them impacting their lives in all manners. This can be tackled only through the democratization of mental attitude amongst all in society and as well as at home.	Singh, V. et al., (2018). [17]
8.	Freedom of Movement Issue	In the age of working women, there is curtailment towards the movement of women due to various risk factors. This can be tackled sensitively through proper education for all.	Harumain, Y. A. S. et al., (2021). [18]
9.	Issue of Physical or Body image	Often women in modern times face this body image issue during their changes in physique due to health-related issues. This can be handled carefully with love and care through persistent patience amongst all related people.	Helms, R. L. et al., [19]
10.	Gender Inequality	Inequality persists which ignores varied factors that empower women. Only the economic factor is emphasized in terms of the empowerment of women ignoring other factors. This can be solved only through proper policies and programmes from the concerned authorities. Along with this, gender inequality can be sought out through proper education and training for all.	Rani, S. (2021). [20]

4.2. Status of Women in the Modern Era based on published literature from the electronic Database-Google Scholar (Keywords: dowry, review, female foeticide, sati, financial literacy)

Table 2: The Status of Women in the Modern Era in India

S. No.	Focus of study	Contribution	References
1.	Status of Women in Rural and Urban India	Women in urban India are better in terms of their living when compared to rural India. Overall there is a gradual growth in women's status, which is still dismal.	Sharma, N. (2014). [21]
2.	Dowry Issue	Even after the concerted efforts of various institutions or organizations, the issue relating to dowry persists in India due to which the mortality rate is disappointing.	Banerjee, P. R. (2014). [22]
3.	Review of Women's Role	Comparatively to the past, today there is growth in the status of women in India but	Das, S. et al., (2013). [23]

		still, there exists disparities in different areas of their lives based on varied factors. This needs to be tackled with the mental awareness of the significance of women today.	
4.	Empowerment of Women in Rural India	The empowerment of women is the need of the hour in modern India. It can be nurtured through various positive measures and means.	Saini, B. et al., (2012). [24]
5.	Education for Women is the prerequisite	Education is the priority for the development of women. This can reduce the disparities in various fields and will promote a better lifestyle for girls.	Lalneihzovi. (2010). [25]
6.	Skill Development Programmes	The barriers to enhancing skills must be removed first so that there is a smooth utilization of skill development programmes granted by the government, especially to rural women.	Prabhakar, S. et al., (2022). [26]
7.	Anti-social acts like Sati	Sati system still exists in remote corners of India which affects the mental stability of a woman due to which lifelong suffering is disappointing.	Bhugra, D. (2005). [27]
8.	Women in the Scientific field	In the present century, more women are entering the scientific field along with their family responsibilities. Often this has impacted their scientific work area due to which women suffer to attain higher positions in the workplace. Male counterparts are often accepted to superior positions in the work area.	Gurnani, S. et al., (1984). [28]
9.	Female Foeticide	In many pockets of India, there is still the practice of killing the female fetus. Modern technology is misused. Hence greater institutional check is required for the time being to build up the status of women in modern India.	Khatun, S. et al., (2011). [29]
10.	Financial Knowledge	Comparatively, due to varied factors, women lag in financial literacy overall. If this is upheld, then financial empowerment of women is possible.	Baluja, G. (2016). [30]

4.3. Empowerment or emancipation of women in the modern era in India based on published literature from the electronic Database-Google Scholar (Keywords: holistic, Gandhiji, inevitable, process, approach)

Table 3: The Empowerment or Emancipation of Women in the Modern Era in India

S. No.	Focus of study	Contribution	References
1.	Empowerment of Women	Empowering women today is ineluctable which is possible through education along with various interventions from the government or NGOs sponsored programmes and initiatives.	Pandey, S. K. (2022). [31]

2.	Issues or Challenges	Upliftment of women is possible through the participation of various agencies involved in empowering women because women often are entangled with various challenges and to confront these, empathy is needed from the concerned institutions.	Mishra, A. D. (2014). [32]
3.	Improvement is inevitable	In the modern context, the position of women is better than in the previous period. Still, it needs to be improved through various ways and means.	Lama, P. (2014). [33]
4.	The Process of Empowerment	Empowerment is not an easy-go word. Rather it involves various steps in the form of a process that can be inculcated through conscious awareness and capabilities of a woman.	Gajjar, D. N. B. (2017). [34]
5.	Unequal Sex Norms	The gender gap persists which hinders the emancipation of women. The most relevant solution to this is the proper mental attitude from all in society.	Mundhe, E. S. (2021). [35]
6.	Quality Education	In today's globalized world, women must be given qualitative education with positive discrimination as mentioned in our legal document.	Bandhu, M. (2018). [36]
7.	Examination of the Factors of Women's Empowerment	More research on the programmes and schemes of the earlier and the present government is required to know about women's process of empowerment in India because there is a gap in terms of strategies and their implementation at the grassroots level.	Kushwah, S. V. (2020). [37]
8.	Empowerment-a mirage of Actuality	Examining the rate of crime/violence against women in India is not less. At this juncture, the empowerment of women, by all means, is the only possible solution against violence. It is a safeguard against violence.	Subhashini, S. (2018). [38]
9.	The path towards Women Empowerment	Gradually, there is growth in the path towards women's empowerment. But this is not satisfactory. Hence, a holistic approach is needed to bring effective empowerment of women in India with the guidance of various institutional means and procedures.	Rajkumar, K. P. (2007). [39]
10.	Standard of the Society leads to the Growth of the Economy as well	To achieve a standard society, the empowerment of women is inevitable and this must be based on the Gandhian approach because Gandhiji believed that a qualitative society is possible only by empowered women and this can be witnessed in the independence movement of India.	Biswas, M. P. et al., (2016). [40]

4.4. Comparative study of empowerment of women in different fields-economic, social, and political based on published literature from the electronic Database-Google Scholar (Keywords: cooperative, government, Corporate Social Responsibility, motivation)

Table 4: Comparative Study of Empowerment of Women in different Fields

S. No.	Focus of study	Contribution	References
1.	Role of Co-operatives	Economic Independence of women through SHGs has nurtured women's status well leading towards empowerment.	Bharti, N. (2021). [41]
2.	Rural Women	Various governmental schemes and programmes have encouraged women economically at the rural level. Still, proper monitoring of these is required so that the beneficiary receives the needed at the right time.	Ahmed, S. (2016). [42]
3.	Corporate Social Responsibility	CSR these days is paving the path towards the economic empowerment of women.	Jatana, R. et al., (2007). [43]
4.	Inferiority Complex	The motivation of women is the prior need for the allocation of resources that are of great help to the womenfolk to stand on their own feet.	Babbar, J. (2022). [44]
5.	Social Empowerment	NABARD scheme has helped rural poor women to establish themselves through the SHGs which has become a change agent in the life of rural poor women.	Maheshwari, M. et al., (2014). [45]
6.	Microfinance	Microfinance has helped poor women to uphold their social position. On the other hand, there are debatable issues that conclude that the microfinance possessed by a rural poor woman may be misused by her spouse, which in turn leads to violence against her. This must be rectified through proper means and ways, primarily through gender sensitization.	Khursheed, A. et al., (2021). [46]
7.	Political Empowerment	Women lag in political participation when compared to other fields of life due to entangled barriers that exist in our society.	Rai, A. et al., (2018). [47]
8.	Political Participation	Various governmental initiatives are undertaken to strengthen the political involvement/participation of women in India. Still, the percentage of women in political activity is meager due to varied reasons. Primarily because of family responsibilities, women hinder political participation.	Das, M. (2022). [48]
9.	Dalit Women	Caste discrimination is still relevant in India due to which marginalized women suffer from various obstacles. Dalit women are just considered commodities for the utilization of her and their resources. At this juncture, empowerment is just a daydream.	Rai, B. (2016). [49]
10.	Women Representatives	Male dominance is prevalent in the PRI's functioning. Although reservation is provided to women at the grassroots level, women have just become puppets in their husband's pockets. In reality, the position and power possessed by a woman's representative are misused by her	Billava, N. et al., (2016). [50]

		spouse. This speaks about the fate of the term 'empowerment'.	
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4.5. History of political participation of women before independence based on published literature from the electronic Database-Google Scholar (Keywords: education, review, Gandhi, motivation)

Table 5: History of Political Participation of Women Before the Independence of India

S. No.	Focus of Study	Contribution	References
1.	Review of Political Participation	Due to structural and institutional barriers, women participated very rarely in the political field and they lacked the capacity or capability to be influential leaders.	Mohapatra, T. (2016). [51]
2.	Educational Drive	During the British period, the status of women was revived through education which was utilized by higher-class women only. These women further participated in the political field during the national movement.	Mercy, S. P. et al., (2018). [52]
3.	Struggling period for Women	During India's pre and post-independence era, women faced lots of violence in different forms. Common women participated in the freedom movement due to the influence of our father of the nation. Still, women faced a lot of subjugation in every form.	Sinha, A. K. et al., (2019). [53]
4.	Gandhi's Motivation	Gandhiji motivated womenfolk during the freedom movement to come out of their domesticity and take part in the freedom struggle movement. Due to this many women got inspired and participated bravely in the freedom movement of India against British rule.	Kishwar, M. (1985). [54]
5.	Gender Issues	During the colonial period, gender issues were misused by the rulers for their mischievous benefits. This impacted the lives of women. Women struggled amidst all these and also got involved in the freedom movement in one form or another.	Anand, K. S. (2017). [55]
6.	Social Reform Movements	Various social reform movements during the pre-independence period witnessed various reformative programs for the emancipation of women because of which there arose awareness among the womenfolk relating to their status amid violence and domesticity and women tried hard to get involved in public life to raise their voices.	Singh, M. M. (2020). [56]
7.	Women Rights	In the year 1935, women gained their voting rights which shows a sort of political milestone towards the political rights of women in India before independence.	Singla, P. (2010). [57]
8.	Involvement of Women in the Constituent Assembly	With the frame of the Indian National Congress, women were gradually involved in the national movement. 14 women members were there in the constituent assembly which met for the first time in December 1946.	Chadha, A. (2014). [58]

9.	Male domination in Politics subjugated the Opposite Sex	Ideological tussle in the political participation of women in pre-Independent India. Despite this, virtuous women stood for positive involvement in the public sphere giving motivation to the womenfolk.	Banerjee, S. (2006). [59]
10.	Waves of Feminist Movement before Independence	There was a constant phase of feminist movement by the social reformers to better the conditions of women in pre-independent India because of which there arose a conscious awareness about nationalism in the minds of women. This inspired the women in pre-independent India.	Basu, A. (1995). [60]

4.6. History of political participation of women after independence based on published literature from the electronic Database-Google Scholar (Keywords: education, grassroots level, entrepreneurship, masculinity)

Table 6: History of Political Participation of Women after the Independence of India

S. No.	Focus of study	Contribution	References
1.	Political Participation and Health	Based on the investigation of the census, it is found that female political participation depends upon varied factors like health, education and so on. Developmental governmental programmes relating to the above criteria affect the rate of political participation of women in India.	Gleason, S. (2001). [61]
2.	Masculinity V/s Femininity	At the juncture of Hindutva or male dominance, women have created a meek political space in contemporary India.	Banerjee, S. (2003). [62]
3.	Social, Economic and Political Problems	Formal political institutions have not shown keen interest in the participation of women actively and this needs to be rectified.	Chary, M. R. (2012). [63]
4.	Empowerment	Women's empowerment is possible through political participation with its terms and conditions on a positive note.	Fadia, K. (2014). [64]
5.	Political Involvement	The political participation of women is a dire necessity for the growing independence of women in India. This will alter the political arena of India in a different mode.	Khanna, M. (2009). [65]
6.	Increase in Political Participation of Women	Certain obstacles in our Indian society hinder the participation of women in some male-dominant regions. Overall, there is a gradual growth in the political involvement/participation of women. But wherever there is a barrier towards political participation, then women's positive political participation is curtailed.	Bhalotra, S. et al., (2018). [66]
7.	Involvement of Women in the Nationalist Struggle	Women's involvement in the nationalist struggle inspired the womenfolk even after the independence of India to participate in public life directly or indirectly.	Thapar, S. (1993). [67]
8.	General Elections	The participation of women in politics after the independence of India is evident from various official reports. It is shown that the percentage of women in politics is increasing gradually with the low level of involvement in politics due to varied reasons in our society.	Malagi, R. B. (2017). [68]

9.	Constitutional Amendments	73 rd and the 74 th Constitutional Amendment acts have paid certain reservations to women at the grassroots level. However, this is not sufficient for the real political empowerment of women. More gap exists in theory and practice. Hence, a succulent measure is required for this.	Baskey, P. K. (2017). [69]
10.	Political Entrepreneurship	After the independence of India, the women in India mustered into the political process from the grassroots level to the Centre. But this needs to be improved a lot with various positive steps from the required institutions for the empowerment of women politically. More education and training are required in this process.	Shrivastava, R. (2013). [70]

4.7. Causes of low political participation of women based on published literature from the electronic Database-Google Scholar (Keywords: bias, female voters, attitude, empathy)

Table 7: Causes of low Political Participation of Women in India

S. No.	Focus of study	Contribution	References
1.	Gender Bias	Media plays a major role in Indian politics. But this media has neglected the equivalent role played by women in Indian politics. Rather an empathic focus is required to show even the contribution of women to the political field.	Kumari, S. et al., (2023). [71]
2.	Criteria for low Political Participation	Various factors in both public and private spheres have affected the political participation of women in India. This needs to be set right through various means and support from the surroundings.	Devi, U. (2018). [72]
3.	Female Voters	Despite the high turnout of women casting votes in the 2014 general election, yet women's reservation bill stands still without any fruitful result and political parties also do not show much concern relating to women's political participation.	Rai, P. (2017). [73]
4.	Discriminatory Attitude	Various factors like lack of electoral politics knowledge, lack of political consensus, etc. have contributed towards the low political participation of women in India.	Bora, B. K. (2016). [74]
5.	Weak Political Participation	Women are hindered from political life due to varied reasons which has become a circumference of her life. Poor reservation policy at the state and national levels with multiple electoral ignorance and lack of knowledge about political life. Hence, proper measures must be taken with due regard to this.	Choudhury, K. R. (2022). [75]
6.	Dismal Political Engagement	The positive reservations or actions for women to participate in political life have paid only lip service. Only a few NGOs have managed to raise the voices of women in political life. Still, there is a dilemma for active participation due to institutional restraint.	Panday, P. K. (2010). [76]
7.	Gender Disparity	In the Indian patriarchal society, women's political behaviour is dismal due to a weak structural political network among the women	Prillaman, S. A. (2023). [77]

		community. Consolidated collective action is desirable in this regard.	
8.	Democratic Mock	There is a mockery of democracy due to poor women's political participation. Although the constitution of India, prescribes equal participation, still women's participation is meagre because of this women's issues are sidelined. About this, encouragement from the authorized areas is desirable for the proper participation of women in overcoming the patriarchal society.	Naik, Z. H. (2017). [78]
9.	Effect of Marital Age	Late entry into marriage life has always played an active role in women's political participation. Early marriage has always been a hindrance to women's political life. Early marriage burdened her with family responsibilities and became an obstacle to active political participation.	Carpena, F. et al., (2021). [79]
10.	Regional disparity in Political Participation	In India, there is a diverse background on all fronts. Even in the political field, there is diversity at the regional level with multiple entry and exit. At this juncture, women's political participation is also diverse at different levels based on regional variations which is grounded again on various socio-cultural impediments. Hence, disparity exists at all levels. Positively, time and education are the sole measures for the upliftment of women in India politically.	Shafi, S. et al., (2019). [80]

4.8. Analysis of the study of political empowerment of women at the national level based on published literature from the electronic Database-Google Scholar (Keywords: dimensions, reservation, labour, empowerment)

Table 8: Analysis of the Study of Political Empowerment of Women at the National Level

S. No.	Focus of study	Contribution	References
1.	Dimensions of Empowerment	There is a dire need for external and internal motivation for women in India to participate in the political field.	Sharma, E. (2020). [81]
2.	Protection from the Constitution for Empowerment	Articles of the Indian constitution do provide safeguards for the empowerment of women through reservation at the local level. This needs to be intensified in practice seriously.	Singh, S. et al., (2020). [82]
3.	Measures of Positive Discrimination	The government and society must go hand in hand about the empowerment of women in India. Various measures do exist which must be consolidated at every level possible to bring empowerment of women politically so that women become independent decision-makers at the required political level or field.	Mokta, M. (2014). [83]
4.	Interdependence of Political Empowerment and Economic Empowerment	Political empowerment of women fosters more enabled economic independence of women. Hence, financial literacy is a boon towards the political empowerment of women in India.	Ghosh, S. (2022). [84]

5.	Analysis of Female Politicians	There is a causal effect upon the female politicians win and the next women candidate to stand for any positions in the political field in India.	Broockman, D. E. (2014). [85]
6.	Influence of Gender Reservation	In rural India, due to reservation at the local level, there is an impact on the female labour force whereas the male labour force is not affected. In a way, it also affected the social norms.	Deininger, K. et al., (2022). [86]
7.	Institutional Constraints	There is a strict need to check the institutional constraints faced by women about their reserved seats at the local levels. The financial crunch needs to be rectified for the active participation of women.	Prodip, M. A. (2021). [87]
8.	The connection between Political Empowerment, Law and Entry into Entrepreneurship	With varied implications, there is a greater positive scope of political empowerment about women's engagement with entrepreneurship along with the higher level of rule of law which is possible with economic empowerment of women.	Goltz, S. et al., (2015). [88]
9.	Tribal Women	Tribal women political leaders face problems in the decision-making process. They are treated as passive members and their reserved rights are influenced by their male counterparts. However, there is a gradual growth in the political participation of tribal women.	Besra, S. (2022). [89]
10.	Need to Participate Actively	In the present times, there is a dire need for women to get into the decision-making process actively. Considering the constitutional safeguards, women must exercise their political duties and rights actively because it is needed in the present condition of our nation for the political empowerment of women in India. To do this, various training centers or programmes must be inculcated at the desired levels.	Rao, V. D. (2023). [90]

4.9. Analysis of the study of political empowerment of women in Karnataka based on published literature from the electronic Database-Google Scholar (Keywords: SHG, influence, local governance, empowerment)

Table 9: Analysis of the Study of Political Empowerment of Women in Karnataka

S. No.	Focus of study	Contribution	References
1.	Empowerment of Women	Low political participation of women is seen. Reservation policies need to be implemented properly in the rural area.	Sandhya, S. J. (2015). [91]
2.	Influence of SHG and demographic factors on Political Empowerment	There is an influence of SHG and demographic factors in the political empowerment of women. It has shown a slight increase in the political involvement of women. However, this needs to be enhanced for the effective political participation of women.	RS, V. K. et al., (2020).
3.	Minority Women	Minority women have low awareness about the government welfare schemes in	Niyaz Panakaje, et al., (2021). [93]

		Karnataka. Hence, the political empowerment of minority women is in a very slow space.	
4.	Women Dairy Co-operatives	Comparatively, women dairy co-operative members had better levels of empowerment in terms of cultural, social and economic in contrast to political and legal empowerment.	Niketha, L. et al., (2017). [94]
5.	Influence of SHGs in rural Women lacking Political Awareness	Rural women of Karnataka are well-versed in the involvement in SHGs for their economic empowerment in an adaptive way facing challenges but these women lacked basic awareness about other areas of public life, especially the political sphere.	Lokesh, G. R. et al., (2023). [95]
6.	Women and PRIs	It is observed that women's active involvement in PRIs is commendable but their active participation in different phases is slightly disappointing. In practice, women's role in PRIs is functioning but at different levels, there is no uniformity in their participation due to traditional roles played by women in Karnataka.	Chandrashekar, E. (2013). [96]
7.	Rural Women Farmers	Women working in sericulture activities are formally involved in political participation through civic organizations which also generate income for them.	Geetha, G. S. et al., (2010). [97]
8.	Self-help Groups are inevitable for Political Empowerment	For political mobilization and socialization, SHGs are needed to bring positive political transactions for women since it has fostered better political participation of women.	Dhanasekaran, S. (2021). [98]
9.	Rural Dalit Women	The role of education has fostered Dalit women to possess economic independence. With these Dalit women have also entered into politics. Hence, economic empowerment has opened the gate for the political empowerment of Dalit women.	Kumar, P. R. et al., (2016). [99]
10.	Local Governance	Women's political participation has enhanced with the introduction of various governmental initiatives and schemes at the base level especially in coastal Karnataka. It is a developmental stage with the gradual process of change and transformation in the role of women's political involvement/participation.	Soans, F. S. et al., (2016). [100]

4.10. Political participation of women in Dakshina Kannada district or empowerment of women in Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka state based on published literature from the electronic Database-Google Scholar (Keywords: SHG, Muslim women, panchayat, elections)

Table 10: Political Participation of Women in Dakshina Kannada district or Empowerment of Women in Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka State

S. No.	Focus of study	Contribution	References
1.	Problems of elected Women Gram Panchayat Members	Educated women take part in the elections and even contest for it. But sometimes, women are pressured by their male counterparts to contest elections. On the other hand, women are double burdened	Ravishankar, K. R. (2018). [101]

		with family and household responsibilities along with the panchayat membership.	
2.	Regional Differences	Women of coastal areas are more active participants in political activities than women of north Karnataka regions. This relates us to the level of women's empowerment.	Kumar, K. P. et al., (2012). [102]
3.	Muslim Women Empowerment	Often Muslim women were influenced by their male members and hence their participation through SHGs is minimal and hence their political participation is also limited by their male counterparts automatically.	Sarwari, M. et al., (2021). [103]
4.	Microfinance Institutions	Problems faced by microfinance institutions in Dakshina Kannada district in empowering Muslim women. Often Muslim women were influenced by their male members. If they took loans with the cooperation of their male members, they were unable to pay back or other related issues. Hence the institutions suffered from challenges.	Sarwari, M. et al., (2023). [104]
5.	Dalit Women	Substantially, the political empowerment of Dalit women in the Dakshina Kannada district is critical since these women suffer from various obstacles in terms of their political participation due to pressure from political parties and family members. At this juncture, just being in the meeting of the gram panchayat is satisfactory to them.	Vyshali, U. (2021). [105]
6.	SHGs foster Empowerment of Women in Dakshina Kannada District	Through the microfinance Programme, women of SHGs exhibited a medium level of empowerment in Beeri, Kotekar of Dakshina Kannada district. Directly or indirectly, the SHGs foster political awareness among women through schemes and programmes of the government.	Sumitha, P. V. et al., (2018). [106]
7.	RUDSETI	The training programs initiated by the Rural Development and Self-employment Training Institute have brought a ray of hope and confidence to rural women of Dakshina Kannada district. It has empowered women socially, psychologically and economically.	Shrigowri, K. (2021). [107]
8.	Enhanced participation/involvement of Women in Local Governance	Comparatively, in Karnataka, the participation of women in Dakshina Kannada district is commendable. But still, inner transformation and greater awareness are required for the active participation of women.	Sivanna, N. et al., (2012). [108]
9.	Role of Women Organizations	In the Dakshina Kannada district, the role of women's organizations is commendable since it promotes political consciousness	Hegde, S. et al., (2020). [109]

		among women and builds confidence among women in political participation.	
10.	Muslim Women and Government Schemes	Muslim women need to utilize government schemes effectively in the Dakshina Kannada district for their empowerment.	Panakaje, N. (2023). [110]

5. IMPACT OF EMERGING ISSUES ON THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN :

In India, women were worshipped as ‘Narishakthi’ possessing goddess power from times immemorial. As time passed, this phenomenon of worship gradually disappeared due to various factors like changes in traditions and culture due to the influence of foreign elements. This created an understanding of fusion in the mindset of the people. As a result, women were considered to be known only for living within four walls and handling family responsibilities. This mentality developed obstructing both the public and private life of a woman’s life. However, along with these developments, on the other hand, the modern education [114] system influenced women to take part in public life and obtain education. This paved a positive path toward women’s life. At this juncture, the concept of ‘empowerment of women’ developed which was supported by the government of India. These further enhanced women’s stand in public life. Gradually, with the introduction of various governmental schemes both at the Centre and the states, there arose a rising position of women, especially with the SHGs which fostered economic independence/empowerment of women. With this, the social empowerment of women also arose. Very slowly, there was political empowerment of women with the reservation facility provided constitutionally [115] to women at the local level. Sarcastically, this opportunity granted to women was misused by their male counterparts in some remote corners of India. Hence, this was a mockery of the reservation facility provided to women. However, on the other hand, women suffered due to this development. Improper political knowledge also misled women’s empowerment politically. Mere casting voting rights is not sufficient, proper political participation is a must for the political empowerment of women. And for these stringent measures are required for the political empowerment of women in India. Therefore, research into efforts for the political empowerment of women is crucial in this period. The emancipation of women in India through political empowerment is a phenomenon that needs a thorough understanding in terms of its approach and application. Often, women in India are orally worshipped for their feminine qualities which are considered pristine. But, in reality, it is noted still today in our nation that women are secondary in all their endeavors. The gender stereotype is observed in every nook and corner of our nation. The main problem is the lack of gender sensitization or a democratic outlook in terms of treating both men and women in our nation. Empowerment of women at this juncture is a prickly path. By all means, due to the availability of education and opportunities grabbed by women, women [116] are capable of raising their positions in a better way. This is noticed in different fields of her life. Socially, economically women are capable of raising their standard of living on a positive note. But, when it comes to the political field, women lag. Hardly, very few women can be noticed actively in the political sphere. The rest of the women who are involved in political activities are passive in their participation. The main reason behind all this is the lack of political knowledge and the household burden pulls the women to participate in the political field actively. However, the policy of reservation is a slight ray of hope for women to participate at the local level. But this also is not satisfactory to the expected level. At the remote corners of our nation, this reservation policy is not utilized properly. Women remain as puppets in their male counterpart’s hands. She is just a rubber stand. The policy of reservation at the local level is given to women to participate in political activity or office. Even, this opportunity granted to women is misused by the males. The de facto power is misused by the male counterparts of women. When this is the condition at the base level, then what about the reservation at the national level?

6. RESEARCH GAPS AND PROPOSED RESEARCH PLAN :

6.1. Identified Research Gap:

With the thorough literature survey relating to the empowerment of women in India with the focus on the political arena, certain research gaps are found which can be carried on for further research with detailed analysis through authentic procedures. The following research gaps are highlighted herewith:

- **Research Gap 1:** The economic empowerment of women is widely and popularly studied by many scholars but there is an abundance in the political empowerment of women in a practical way as a vivid means for the political indulgence of women in India. Mere utilization of the political right to vote is not the empowerment of women politically. This needs to be upgraded through active involvement in politics.
- **Research Gap 2:** Through a literature survey, it is found that the theoretical way of learning about the political empowerment of women is studied by many scholars, but an effective means of women's political participation is missing.
- **Research Gap 3:** Various suggestions and measures have been highlighted by the researchers relating to the empowerment of women. But on a vivid note, it is observed that the stringent measures for the political empowerment of women are missing.
- **Research Gap 4:** Mere reservation and political training for women are not sufficient for the political empowerment of women in India. There are many more measures needed to empower women politically.
- **Research Gap 5:** There isn't much work on the proper measures to empower women politically. Therefore, it is imperative to focus on the measures to empower women politically which is possible through the emancipation of women by conducting serious research on the measures to empower women politically.

6.2. Research Agendas:

- What is the empowerment of women?
- What are the lacunae in the empowerment of women?
- What are the existing works of literature on the empowerment of women in India?
- What are the different areas of empowerment of women?
- What is the reason for the low political empowerment of women in India?
- What are the research gaps in considering previous research studies enabling to proposal of a research topic?

6.3. Proposed Research Plan:

After a thorough examination and evaluation of the research literature, the paper recommends that a massive study is required to better understand the political empowerment of women in India.

- Proposed title (comprehensive)- Emancipation of women through political empowerment in India
- Geographical Application- All over India
- Target respondents- Women
- Objectives of the Proposed Study
 - a) To observe the political engagement of women in India.
 - b) To find out the reasons for the lagging of women's political participation.
 - c) To find out the measures for the political upliftment of women.
 - d) To find out the positive path for the active political participation of women.

6.4. Identified Limitations of the Study:

Due to the patriarchal society, women suffer from multiple factors that hinder their confidence in playing any significant role in their personal lives. Moreover, the household burden and the family responsibilities keep them tiresome for the whole day. In between these, the mockery of their household duties by their male counterparts in the house makes them feel low. In other words, the inferiority complex built up. Women in rural areas due to illiteracy have become only rubber stamps in the hands of their male members. Hence, the reservation facilities provided at the local level are misused. Probably, these factors make women's lives irritable and thus political arena is only a daydream and hence it is not an easy job. On a larger scale, there exists political gimmicks, nepotism, and corruption in politics. The criminalization of politics has added misery to women's political participation. The main factor that hinders women's motivation is the gender [117] stereotype that exists still in our society.

7. SWOC ANALYSIS :

SWOC stands for Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Challenges [111] by looking into the core issues and identifying the crucial factors based on four Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges. SWOC analysis [113] creates an effective matrix with an ordered list that handles all variables in important primary areas [112].

Table 11: SWOC Analysis of Political Empowerment of Women

STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Motivates Womenfolk ➤ Enlightens Women towards Political Knowledge of our Nation ➤ Boosts Confidence boldly to face other Areas of Life ➤ Improves the Standard of Living ➤ Can be a Good Competitor to the Opposite Sex in the relevant field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inferiority Complex ➤ Low Political Knowledge ➤ Illiteracy ➤ Male dominance hinders positive Participation ➤ Gender Stereotype ➤ Gender Bias
OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Political Awareness ➤ Political Education paves the path for good real Democracy in the Nation ➤ Rightful use of Reservation Facilities ➤ Utilization of Government Schemes and Programmes ➤ Greater scope for enhancement of Position in Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Household Burden ➤ Family Constraints ➤ Patriarchal System ➤ To face male counterparts in the Political Field ➤ Nepotism in Politics ➤ Political Gimmicks ➤ Social, Economic and Political Insecurity

8. SUGGESTIONS BASED ON THE REVIEW :

To empower politically [118] in India, certain measures are required as per the literature review.

- Gender sensitization is the need of the hour right from early childhood for both males and females.
- Education to females must be given at their own choice with interest and passion.

Institutional obstacles both from home and society must be rid of through gender awareness and prominence.

- Establishment of political educational institutions irrespectively at both the Centre and the States with the authorization of the concerned governments.
- Simultaneously, these educational institutions must deliver political education and training as per the needs of the time and circumstances; especially for females.
- These above educational qualifications must be a gateway towards the political arena of our nation.
- Effective utilization of reservation facilities must be watched at the local level.
- Gradually, reservation at the national level must also be implemented through the passing of parliamentary bills.

9. CONCLUSION :

Women in India are worshipped for their divine feminine qualities from times immemorial. But her strength and courage deteriorate due to the existence of a patriarchal society in our nation. At this juncture, the empowerment of women is a challenging task; especially the political empowerment of women. The low political participation of women is evidence of this. Due to institutional and procedural obstacles existing in the political field, women lack interest in politics. Although there is an increase in the political participation of women practically, it is very dismal in nature. Hence, stringent measures

are required in this regard to bring political empowerment. This will take a long time to bring equality in the political field between men and women. However, steady and consistent try is the only means through the establishment of political educational institutions to empower women politically in India. To make women involved in political activities is to create awareness regarding political reservation and train them about its opportunities. Moreover, proper knowledge about the political field or arena is the desired need. This can be inculcated through the establishment of political educational institutions and organizations especially to attract females. This kind of educational institution can be established with the PPP model. To consolidate this situation, the government of India and the concerned state governments must work hand in hand devoid of political gimmicks. Along with this, the more important is to create gender sensitization amongst all right from early childhood, so that the gender gap or the mean mentality towards females gets discarded as soon as possible. Because still today the so-called mean mentality towards women exists. The phrase 'after all a woman' exists in the mentality of our Indian society somewhere in one manner or the other.

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