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A study on need of information and communication technologies for woman empowerment in India

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Abstract

The emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has provided means for faster and better communication, retrieval of data and utilization of information to its users. The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolution has not only opened up new opportunities for economic growth and social development but has also posed problems and challenges. Information and Communication Technologies are diverse set of technical tools and resources to create, disseminate, store, brings value addition and manages information. This paper looks at the prospects generated by ICT supported networking processes for women's empowerment. It discusses the foremost challenges and a hindrance confronted by women and recommends strategies to address those challenges and means to revamp the situations giving rise to women's empowerment. This paper attempts to analyze the status of Women Empowerment in India and highlights the Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment.

Today the empowerment of women has become one of the most important concerns of 21st century. But practically women empowerment is still an illusion of reality. Women Empowerment is the vital instrument to expand women's ability to have resources and to make strategic life choices. Empowerment of women is essentially the process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in the society. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. The study is based on purely from secondary sources. The study reveals that women of India are relatively disempowered and they enjoy somewhat lower status than that of men in spite of many efforts undertaken by Government. The study concludes by an observation that access to Education, Employment and Change in Social Structure are only the enabling factors to Women Empowerment. ICTs are mounting as a powerful tool for gender empowerment in a developing country like India. According to the 2004 report by Cisco Learning Institute women encompass only 23% of India's internet users. This paper looks at the prospects formed by ICT-enabled networking processes for women's empowerment. It discusses the main challenges and impediments faced by women, recommends strategies to address those challenges and ways to cultivate the conditions leading to women's empowerment.

Keywords: need of ICT, status of women in ICT, women empowerment, ICT, knowledge network system and information economy

1. Introduction

Information and communication technologies can be powerful tools for advancing economic and social development through the formation of new sorts of economic activity, employment openings, improvements in health-care delivery and other services, and the augmentation of networking, participation and advocacy within society. While the potential of ICT for encouraging economic growth, socioeconomic development and effective governance is well recognized, the paybacks of ICT have been unevenly disseminated within and between countries. Poverty, illiteracy, lack of computer literacy and language barriers are among the factors impeding access to ICT infrastructure, especially in developing countries. Another hindrance pertains to ICT is lack of its access to women. Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and communities of women. Women's empowerment in India is heavily dependent on many different variables that include geographical location (urban / rural) educational status social status (caste and class) and age. However there are significant gap between policy advancements and actual practice at the community level.

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"To educate your women first and leave them to themselves, they will tell you what reforms are necessary." ---- Swami Vivekananda.

Empowerment of women is essentially the process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in the society. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. Women empowerment involves the building up of a society, a political environment, wherein women can breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension, discrimination and the general feeling of persecution which goes with being a woman in a traditionally male dominated structure.

Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio whereby female's population has been comparatively lower than male

2. Review of Literature

ICTs are constantly hailed as one of the most effective tools for economic progress. An ITU study (2005) describes ICTs as potentially powerful —development enablers. They are cost-effective with significant transformative power, allow developing countries to leapfrog several stages of the development process and, in furnishing individuals directly with tools for self-empowerment, avoid top-heavy and corrupt bureaucracies (Heeks, 1999; Karake Shalhoub & Al Qasimi, 2006). Specifically, Eggleston, Jensen, and Zeckhauser (2002) argue that ICTs can enhance the functioning of markets that are critical for the well-being of the poor because ICTs can foster greater market integration in many ways:

- They allow firms and individuals in developing countries to contribute more competitively and with better ease in the regional, national and global economies and reduce uncertainty in doing business;
- Information concerning prices enables producers to plan their product mix and input purchases in a proficient manner;
- Access to ICTs allows producers to sell their products in the most profitable markets and find out the optimum timing of sale;
- Availability of price information shrinks the informational asymmetry between the rural producers and middlemen;
- Increased information about the availability of jobs could result in better and faster matching between landless labourers and available jobs, ultimately leading to increased productivity;
- ICTs provide greater access to weather-related information and credit opportunities.

The literature on the enormous opportunities ICTs provide for women's empowerment is vibrant and wide ranging. Kelkar and Nathan (2002, p. 433) have argued that ITs have the potential to —redefined traditional gender roles and that —the spread of IT-enabled services has been immensely beneficial to both women and men, especially those who have limited skills or lack of resources to invest in higher education. Drucker (2001) has called ICTs the —great equalizer and pioneers in the field of gender empowerment through ICTs, both in academe and advocacy, such as Hafkin & Taggart (2001), Haflan (2002), Huyer (2002, 2005), Mitter (2003), Nath (2001), Sharma (2003), Sharma (2004), and Ng (2005) have convincingly shown that access

to and effective use of ICTs contributes to women's empowerment and capacity building in numerous ways, frequently with synergetic effects:

- Training in the use and design of computer applications;
- Marketable skills create alternative possibilities for income formation and the possibility of upward mobility;
- An independent income is the basis for individual autonomy, increased agency and control and, frequently, increased self-esteem and self-confidence (Huyer, 2006, p. 30; Garrido & Roman, 2006, p. 170).

H. Subrahmanyam (2011) compares women education in India at present and Past. Author highlighted that there has a good progress in overall enrolment of girl students in schools. The term empower means to give lawful power or authority to act. It is the process of acquiring some activities of women.

Bhavani Sankara Rao (2011) has highlighted that health of women members of SHG have certainly taken a turn to better. It clearly shows that health of women members discuss among themselves about health related problems of other members and their children and make them aware of various Government provisions specially meant for them.

Doepke M. Tertilt M. (2011) Does Female Empowerment Promote Economic Development? This study is an empirical analysis suggesting that money in the hands of mothers benefits children. This study developed a series of non-cooperative family bargaining models to understand what kind of frictions can give rise to the observed empirical relationship.

Duflo E. (2011) [6] Women's Empowerment and Economic Development, National Bureau of Economic Research Cambridge The study argues that the inter relationships of the Empowerment and Development are probably too weak to be self-sustaining and that continuous policy commitment to equality for its own sake may be needed to bring about equality between men and women.

Sethuraman K. (2008) The Role of Women's Empowerment and Domestic Violence in child Growth and Under nutrition in a Tribal and Rural Community in South India. This research paper explores the relationship between Women's Empowerment and Domestic Violence, maternal nutritional status and the nutritional status and growth over six months in children aged 6 to 24 months in a rural and tribal community.

3. Objectives of the Study

1. To analyse the need of Women Empowerment.
2. To analyse the Awareness of Women Empowerment in India.
3. To assess the Factors influencing the Economic Empowerment of Women.
4. To study the Government Schemes For Women Empowerment.
5. To identify the Hindrances in the Path of Women Empowerment.
6. To offer useful Suggestions in the light of Findings.

4. Research Methodology

This paper is basically descriptive and analytical in nature. In this paper an attempt has been taken to analyze the empowerment of in India. The data used in it is purely from secondary sources according to the need of this study.

CRIME STATISTICS WITH WOMEN				
Year	Rep	Molestation	Kidnapping	Bad Behaviour
2012	198	515	137	183
2013	394	1161	251	444
2014	610	1616	309	364
2015	710	2008	944	412
2016	712	2180	1172	425
2017	78	364	203	20

(Total 849 Case in January and February In 2017).

STATES WITH THE WORST RATES, NUMBERS OF INCIDENTS			OVERALL CRIME AGAINST WOMEN Delhi tops rate chart, UP has biggest national share			
State	Incidents	Per 1 lakh female population	State	Cases	Per 1 lakh female population	%age contribution to all-India total
Delhi	2,199	23.7	1 Delhi	17,104	184.3	52
Chhattisgarh	1,560	12.2	2 Assam	23,258	148.2	7.1
Madhya Pradesh	4,391	11.9	3 Telangana	15,135	83.1	4.6
Odisha	2,251	10.8	4 Odisha	17,144	81.9	5.2
Rajasthan	3,644	10.5	5 Rajasthan	28,165	81.5	8.6
Maharashtra	4,144	7.3	6 Haryana	9,446	75.7	2.9
UTTAR PRADESH*	3,025	3.0	7 West Bengal	33,218	73.4	10.1
Surprisingly low rate suggests widespread non-registration of rape cases			8 Tripura	1,267	68.2	0.4
			9 Madhya Pradesh	24,135	65.5	7.4
			10 Chandigarh*	463	64.8	0.1
			*Fewer cases, but small populations raise the rate			

Projections over the next couple of years

The tables below are based on the projected incidence of crimes under various categories assuming that these states maintain their torrid crime rate. cursory looks at the tables below clearly indicate the Uttar Pradesh is the undisputed heavy weight champion in 4 of 5 categories shown. Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh take 2nd and 3rd ranks in the total crimes against women and are significant contenders in other categories too.

Sources of data <https://gigadom.wordpress.com/2015/01/16/a-crime-map-of-india-in-r-crime-against-women/>

A) Projected rapes in India

The top 3 heavy weights in projected rapes over the next 5 years are 1) Madhya Pradesh 2) Uttar Pradesh 3) Maharashtra

Projected rapes in India - Highest incidence							
Rank	State	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	Madhya Pradesh	4730.44	4832.02	4933.6	5035.18	5136.76	5238.34
2	Uttar Pradesh	3382.26	3529.39	3676.52	3823.65	3970.78	4117.9
3	Maharashtra	2511.76	2570	2628.25	2686.49	2744.74	2802.98
4	West Bengal	2309.88	2386.16	2462.43	2538.71	2614.98	2691.26
5	Assam	1753.44	1813.52	1873.6	1933.68	1993.76	2053.84
6	Andhra Pradesh	1777.17	1825.17	1873.17	1921.17	1969.17	2017.17
7	Rajasthan	1662.24	1728.31	1794.37	1860.43	1926.49	1992.56
8	Odisha	1461.95	1523.37	1584.79	1646.2	1707.62	1769.03
9	Kerala	1022.76	1070.12	1117.48	1164.84	1212.2	1259.56
10	Chattisgarh	1210.64	1218.93	1227.22	1235.51	1243.8	1252.09

B) Projected Dowry deaths in India

Rank	State	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	Uttar Pradesh	10455.21	10981.76	11508.3	12034.85	12561.39	13087.94
2	Bihar	3523.59	3624.41	3725.23	3826.06	3926.88	4027.7
3	Madhya Pradesh	2501.15	2561.05	2620.94	2680.84	2740.73	2800.63
4	Andhra Pradesh	1448.17	1472.44	1496.71	1520.97	1545.24	1569.51
5	West Bengal	1281.17	1322.47	1363.78	1405.09	1446.4	1487.71
6	Maharashtra	1338.06	1344.71	1351.36	1358.01	1364.66	1371.31
7	Odisha	984.76	1010.66	1036.55	1062.45	1088.35	1114.25
8	Karnataka	664.83	678.06	691.29	704.53	717.76	730.99
9	Rajasthan	625.41	624.32	623.23	622.14	621.05	619.95
10	Jharkhand	506.74	499.54	492.33	485.12	477.92	470.71

C) Kidnapping & Abduction

Rank	State	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	Uttar Pradesh	18060.29	19578.7	21097.12	22615.54	24133.95	25652.37
2	Bihar	3955.79	4235.2	4514.62	4794.04	5073.45	5352.87
3	West Bengal	2825.14	2959.27	3093.41	3227.55	3361.68	3495.82
4	Assam	2753.36	2844.69	2936.01	3027.34	3118.66	3209.99
5	Andhra Pradesh	2008.79	2102.2	2195.62	2289.04	2382.45	2475.87
6	Gujarat	1908.47	1995.38	2082.28	2169.19	2256.09	2343
7	Maharashtra	1852.24	1931	2009.75	2088.51	2167.26	2246.02
8	Tamil Nadu	1736.48	1822.23	1907.97	1993.71	2079.45	2165.19
9	Madhya Pradesh	1427.41	1476.93	1526.46	1575.98	1625.51	1675.03
10	Odisha	1185.48	1254.57	1323.66	1392.75	1461.83	1530.92

D) Cruelty by husband & relatives

Rank	State	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	Uttar Pradesh	36648.11	38826.42	41004.73	43183.04	45361.35	47539.66
2	Maharashtra	29655.79	30489.78	31323.77	32157.77	32991.76	33825.75
3	West Bengal	22014.09	23250.37	24486.66	25722.94	26959.22	28195.51
4	Andhra Pradesh	23288.8	24254.52	25220.23	26185.94	27151.66	28117.37
5	Gujarat	21245.85	22206.03	23166.21	24126.39	25086.58	26046.76
6	Madhya Pradesh	11380.5	11674.77	11969.04	12263.31	12557.58	12851.85
7	Rajasthan	10054.73	10328.07	10601.41	10874.76	11148.1	11421.44
8	Kerala	7671.42	7909.05	8146.68	8384.31	8621.94	8859.57
9	Karnataka	6916.29	7286.82	7657.35	8027.88	8398.41	8768.95
10	Assam	6260.18	6638.79	7017.39	7396	7774.6	8153.21

E) Total crimes against women

Rank	State	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	Uttar Pradesh	75662.09	79874.18	84086.27	88298.36	92510.45	96722.55
2	Maharashtra	43434.42	44636.9	45839.38	47041.85	48244.33	49446.8
3	Andhra Pradesh	41971.47	43406.07	44840.67	46275.26	47709.86	49144.46
4	West Bengal	31828.74	33474.57	35120.41	36766.24	38412.07	40057.9
5	Madhya Pradesh	29155.17	29639.13	30123.09	30607.05	31091.01	31574.97
6	Gujarat	25225.33	26259.87	27294.41	28328.95	29363.49	30398.03
7	Odisha	16496.3	17360.02	18223.73	19087.44	19951.16	20814.87
8	Assam	17617.21	18176.91	18736.61	19296.31	19856.01	20415.71
9	Karnataka	16662.48	17341.5	18020.51	18699.52	19378.53	20057.54
10	Rajasthan	16719.21	17046.07	17372.92	17699.77	18026.62	18353.48

Position of Woman in India

In Indian society there occurs a great disparity in the matter of economic resourcefulness between a man and a woman. Our society is male subjugated both economically and socially and women are always dispensed with dependant role. A nation that does not esteem its women cannot be designated as a civilised nation at all. Such a nation cannot grow and develop. Thus, the national consensus should focus on betterment of women by befittingly empowering them. Empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that aids people gain control over their lives. Women empowerment commonly refers to the process by which women augments their power to take control over decisions that shape their lives, including in relation to access to resources, partaking in decision making and control over distribution of benefits.

Women's empowerment has five components: women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to decide choices; their right to have access to chances and resources; their right to have the power to control their own lives, both

within and outside the home; and their aptitude to influence the direction of social conversion to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and universally. Though empowerment is a central approach taken up by a number of international and national agencies, few of them share shared definitions and most of them have diverse explanations of empowerment. More women are convoluted in careers in the communications sector, but few have achieved positions at the decision-making level or serve on governing boards and bodies that sway media policy. The lack of gender sensitivity in the media is shown by the failure to eradicate the gender-based stereotyping that can be found in public and private local, national and international media organizations. The unremitting projection of negative and degrading images of women in media communications - electronic, print, visual and audio - must be altered. Print and electronic media in most countries do not offer a balanced picture of women's sundry lives and contributions to society in a varying world. Programming that reinforces women's traditional roles can be similarly limiting. The worldwide drift towards consumerism has created a climate

in which advertisements and commercial messages often depict women primarily as consumers and target girls and women of all ages improperly. Women and girls are exposed to great discrimination in economic, education, health and social services access worldwide. On the other hand the range of women's economic activities in emerging countries is very broad. There are plentiful possibilities for ICTs to improve women's economic activities in the field of trade, governance, education, health, crafts, employment in formal as well as informal sector. ICT brings lot of openings to women in the work situations and small business. Teleporting, flexi time and work from home arrangements are some of the gender magnitudes of ICT's usages. Largely speaking, there are three sorts of women empowerment:

▪ **Political empowerment**

It is concerned with augmenting the power of voice and collective action by women. Besides, it confirms equitable representation of women in decision-making structures, both formal and informal, and strengthens their voice in the formulation of policies affecting their societies.

▪ **Social empowerment**

This is a process of attaining information, knowledge and skills; and auxiliary participation of women in social organizations without any gender biasness in day-to-day activities. It is also concerned with inculcating a feeling of equivalence instead of subservience among women.

▪ **Economic empowerment**

Women are economically endowed when they are supported to engage in a productive activity that permits them some degree of independence. This type of empowerment is also concerned with the quality of their economic involvement, beyond their presence as poorly paid employees.

B. Communication Technology and Education for Women

Any technology that is not proper for women is not justly appropriate technology. In the last 30 years, communication technologies have been put into action in a number of educational and developmental applications. The national policy on education, 1986, observed that modern communication technologies have the potential to bypass numerous stages and sequences in the process of development, encountered in earlier decades. These technology schemes envisaged dissemination of audio cassettes and television sets in primary schools. In addition, there were distinct schemes to offer primary teachers' training through video and television. Information networks covering the length and breadth of the country offer wide coverage. AIR has over 200 radio stations and 300 transmitters and Doordarshan has 600 transmitters. Both AIR and Doordarshan are influential tools to spread information in the country.

In most of the other ICT initiatives that depend on print media, Internet kiosks, portals, call centres, mobile, video digital photography etc, there is not enough evidence to show its access and use by women. This could be due to the following reasons:

- These tools and their applications are generally deployed for disseminating information for rural communities without any specific attention for women's special needs for information and their constraints in accessing these.

- Men are specifically targeted in these initiatives as they take decisions on inputs, farm operations, marketing, accessing government schemes etc.
- The information provided through these tools are generic and so while it adds to the information base of rural communities including women, its lack of contextualization prevents both men and women from using this information effectively.
- Lack of adequate research on women's access to ICTs and the resultant lack of data constrain any specific action that might be needed to improve women's access.

5. Status of Women in ICT

It is a commonly held view that women are less engaged with Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) than men. Information and Communication Technologies are for everyone and women have to be an equal beneficiary to the advantages offered by the technology, and the products and processes, which emerge from their use. The paybacks accrued from the synergy of knowledge and ICT need not be restricted to the upper strata of the society but have to freely flow to all parts of the female population.

As per all surveys piloted by BMRB international:

- The number of women who have used a PC at some time has amplified since 1996 but is below that of men (51% compare to 66%).
- Women are less likely than men to have access to or use a PC.
- Women's use of internet lags behind men.
- Women are less likely to feel that PCs and internet would be beneficial in their daily lives.
- Women seem to be less confident in the computer abilities.
- As it is demarcated in ICT Industry, women are understated in all sectors, accounting for around 30% of employees.

Need of ICT for Women

Information needs of women in the new globalize environment are as diverse as the socio- economic scenario. Considering women, as a monolithic group will over simplify their information needs. Within women's group itself, globalisation has generated the haves and the have nots i.e those who are in a valuable position due to globalisation and those relegated further into disadvantaged position under the new economic policy. The information needs will also vary accordingly.

Urban educated women need information on:

- Educational & research opportunities
- Career advancement facilities
- Employment prospects in India and abroad
- Fashion and market values
- Health and child care facilities
- Art and entertainment
- Social support system for working women
- Legal rights and provisions

a) Urban lower middle class women need information on

- Educational facilities and opportunities
- Career advancement and job opportunities
- Inexpensive health and childcare
- Inexpensive social support systems

- Legal rights and provisions against social injustice, domestic violence,

b) Poor urban women may need information on:

- Free health services and child care facilities
- Job opportunities in the low paid informal sector including domestic services o Housing availability specially in slums
- Free educational facilities, information regarding government programmes for poor

6. Why Need of Women Empowerment?

Reflecting into the “Vedas Purana” of Indian culture, women is being worshiped such as LAXMI MAA, goddess of wealth; SARSWATI MAA, for wisdom; DURGA MAA for power. The status of women in India particularly in rural areas needs to address the issue of empowering women. About 66% of the female population in rural area is unutilized. This is mainly due to existing social customs. In agriculture and Animal care the women contribute 90% of the total workforce. Women constitute almost half of the population, perform nearly 2/3 of its work hours, receive 1/10th of the world’s income and own less than 1/ 100th the world property. Among the world’s 900 million illiterate people, women out number men two to one. 70% of people living in poverty are women. Lower sex ratio i.e. 933, The existing studies show that the women are relatively less healthy than men though belong to same class. They constitute less than 1/7th of the administrators and managers in developing countries. Only 10% seats in World Parliament and 6% in National Cabinet are held by women.

Hindrances of Women Empowerment: The main Problems that were faced by women in past days and still today up to some extent:

1. Gender discrimination
2. Lack of Education
3. Female Infanticide
4. Financial Constraints
5. Family Responsibility
6. Low Mobility
7. Low ability to bear Risk
8. Low need for achievement
9. Absence of ambition for the achievement

Social status Dowry Marriage in same caste and child marriage (still existing) Atrocities on Women (Raped, Kicked, Killed, Subdued, humiliated almost daily.)

Need for Women Empowerment : Women are deprived of	
Decision Making Power	Access to Employment
Freedom of Movement	Exposure to Media
Access to Education	Domestic Violence

Women Empowerment through ICT

A nation that wants to progress cannot afford to disregard capacity building and empowerment of women. Gender sensitivity is the precondition that must prevail and be strengthened at all levels. Women’s development is now inextricably associated with technology. Thus, technological intervention undertakes a greater and more vital role, especially when viewed globally. It’s potential to sweep across political, geographical, economic and social barricades are just the leverage that women need to build for

themselves a new distinctiveness and a more honourable place in society.

Barriers to engendering knowledge networking processes with the inception of ICT and convergence technologies, it is possible to bring up a significant fraction of women communities in a more symbiotic digital network which focuses on localized information and customized solutions, and works on the theme of Global Technologies for Local Use. Women, however, are still very much in a minority among the beneficiaries of knowledge networking. Women still face huge imbalances in the ownership, control and regulation of these new information technologies, similar to those faced in other areas. (New York Times, 2000).

A. Specific Impairments to the ICT

▪ **Cognizance**

Governments and civil society organizations have still not entirely absorbed the comprehensive potential of ICT in gender development and therefore are far from the stage of generating enabling frameworks and spaces for the growth of engendered ICT -models.

▪ **Access issues**

The new technology comes at a financial cost, which obstructs its infiltration to the individual and community level. The difficulty is compounded by the fact that women in developing countries have little switch over the household income and do not have the decision-making power to capitalize in these technologies. The availability of ICT in these countries is therefore skewed towards the urban areas and women in rustic areas constitute one of the main marginalized groups.

▪ **Capacity and skills**

Instigating knowledge networking processes and benefiting from them entails a level of capacity and trained human resource power. Women because of their backward positions are at deprived position than men to fully benefit from knowledge networking.

▪ **Linguistic blocks**

Much of the knowledge existing in the global pool is in the English language, which is not understood by the poorest communities. This makes the combination of local knowledge of women with the universal knowledge a difficult task.

Ways to Empower Women

- Changes in women’s mobility and social interaction
- Changes in women’s labour patterns
- Changes in women’s access to and control over resources and
- Changes in women’s control over Decision making
- Providing education
- Self-employment and Self-help group
- Providing minimum needs like Nutrition, Health, Sanitation, Housing
- Other than this society should change the mentality towards the word women
- Encouraging women to develop in their fields they are good at and make a career

A. Formation of Intermediary Organizations

The starting point for any efficacious gender-entrenched knowledge networking approach is the development of

relationships that make it easier for women to talk about their needs, share information, and work together. This is where the intercessor organizations can offer a platform for women to get energetically involved within the processes. The ownership of ICT for the majority of women in emerging countries is not viable for the foreseeable future, which infers that the question of where and how they can gain access to ICT becomes essential to the knowledge networking processes. The intermediary outfits can facilitate in bridging the —last mile' of connectivity by offering community based technological interface for the networking process. Intermediary organizations can confirm that e-mail accounts, bulletin boards, search engines, mailing lists, list serves and other suitable functions serve as communication, networking and collaboration channels among the women's group, and between women and the external sphere. They could also contribute to building capacities of women by providing offering in basic computer abilities, Internet and access to information via Internet, desktop publishing, and ecommerce.

Government Schemes for Women Empowerment

The Government programs for women advancement started as ahead of schedule as 1954 in India yet the genuine investment started just in 1974. At present, the Government of India has more than 34 plans for women worked by various division and services. Some of these are as per the following;

1. Rastria Mahila Kosh (RMK) 1992-1993, 2. Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) October, 1993. 3. Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) 1995. 4. Women Entrepreneur Development programme given top priority in 1997-98. 5. Mahila Samakhya being implemented in about 9000 villages. 6. Swayasjdha. 7. Swa Shakti Group. 8. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP). 9. Swalamban. 10. Crèches/ Day care centre for the children of working and ailing mother. 11. Hostels for workingwomen. 12. Swadhar. 13. National Mission for Empowerment of Women. 14. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (1975), 15. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescence Girls (RGSEAG) (2010). 16. The Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers. 17. Integrated Child Protection scheme (ICPS) (2009-2010). 18. Dhanalakshmi (2008). 19. Short Stay Homes. 20. Ujjawala (2007). 21. Scheme for Gender Budgeting (XIPlan). 22. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). 23. Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM). 24. Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY). 25. Women's Development Corporation Scheme (WDCS). 26. Working Women's Forum. 27. Indira Mahila Kendra. 28. Mahila Samiti Yojana. 29. Khadi and Village Industries Commission. 30. Indira Priyadarahini Yojana. 31. SBI's Sree Shaki Scheme. DOI: 10.9790/0837-2110045056 www.iosrjournals.org 54 | Page 32. SIDBI's Mahila Udyam Nidhi Mahila Vikas Nidhi. 33. NGO's Credit Schemes. 34. National Banks for Agriculture and Rural Development's Schemes.

7. Challenges

There are a few limitations that check the procedure of women empowerment in India. Social standards and family structure in creating nations like India, shows and sustain the subordinate status of women. One of the standards is the proceeding with inclination for children over the

introduction of a girl child take which in present in all social orders and groups. The general public is more one-sided for male boy child in appreciation of instruction, sustenance and different open doors. The underlying driver of this sort of state of mind lies in the conviction that male boy child acquires the tribe in India with a special case of Meghalaya. women frequently disguise the conventional idea of their part as common in this manner delivering a treachery upon them. Destitution is the truth of life for by far most women in India. It is another variable that postures challenge. There are a few difficulties that are Targeting tormenting the set issues will straight for wardly profit the empowerment of women in India.

Education: While the nation has developed from a far cry since freedom where instruction is concerned. The hole amongst women and men is extreme. While 82.14% of grown-up men are instructed, as it were 65.46% of grown-up women are known not proficient in India. The sex inclination is in advanced education, particular expert trainings which hit women hard in business and accomplishing top authority in any field.

Poverty: Destitution is viewed as the best risk to peace on the planet, and annihilation of neediness ought to be a national objective as critical as the annihilation of lack of education. Because of this, women are misused as household makes a difference.

Wellbeing and Safety: The wellbeing and security worries of women are foremost for the prosperity of a nation and is an imperative variable in gaging the women of empowerment in a nation. However there are disturbing concerns where maternal social insurance is concerned.

Proficient Inequality: This imbalance is rehearsed in occupation sand advancements. Women face innumerable debilitations in male altered and ruled environs in Government Offices and Private ventures.

Profound quality and Inequality: Due to sexual orientation inclination in wellbeing and sustenance there is bizarrely high ethical quality rate in women diminishing their populace encouraged particularly in Asia, Africa and china.

Family Inequality: Household relations show sexual orientation inclination in imperceptibly little however huge conduct the whole way across the globe, all the more along these lines, in India e.g. sharing weight of housework, childcare and humble works by alleged division of work.

Constitutional Provisions for Empowering Women in India

- Equality before law for all persons (Article-14).
- Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15(I)). However, special provisions may be made by the state in favors of women and children Article 15(3). Equality of opportunity for all citizens relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state (Article 16).
- State policy to be directed to securing for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of

livelihood (Article 39(a); (v) equal pay for equal work for both men and women (Article 39(d).

- Provisions to be made by the state for securing just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief (Article 42).
- Promotion of harmony by every citizen of India and renouncement of such practices which are derogatory to the dignity of women Article 51A (e).
- Reservation of not less than one-third of total seats for women in direct election to local bodies, viz; Panchayats and Municipalities (Articles 343(d) and 343 (T).

8. Findings of the Study

1. Globalization, Liberalization and other Socio - Economic strengths have given some relief to an expansive extent of the populace. Notwithstanding, there are still a significant number ranges where ladies strengthening in India is generally deficient.
2. There should be an ocean –change in the mentality of the general population in the nation. The ladies themselves, as well as the men need to wake up to wake up to a world that is moving towards fairness and value. It is better this is grasped sooner than later for our own great.
3. There are a few Government projects and NGOs in the Country, there is still a wide crevice that exists between those under security and those not.
4. Poverty and lack of education add to these confusions, The Empowerment of Women starts with an insurance of their wellbeing and security.
5. Empowerment of Women must be accomplished if their financial and societal position is progressed. could be conceivable just by embracing unequivocal social and monetary arrangements with a perspective of aggregate improvement of ladies and to make them understand that they can possibly be solid people.

9. Suggestions

Importantly need ought to be given to the instruction of ladies, which is the grassroots issue. Thus, training for ladies must be given careful consideration.

- Awareness projects should be composed for making mindfulness among ladies particularly having a place with weaker areas about their rights.
- . Women ought to be permitted to work and ought to be sufficiently given wellbeing and backing to work. They ought to be given legitimate wages and work at standard with men so that their status can be lifted in the general public.
- Strict execution of Programs and Acts ought to be there to check the mal-rehearses predominant in the general public.
- Women should be empowered by augmenting their skills, understanding and access to information technology.
- Women need to be involved in decision-making concerning the development of new technologies in order to partake totally in their growth and impact.
- To offer accessibility to women in order to derive the paybacks from applications like tele-education etc.
- It is needed that Multifunctional Converged Application Community Centres (MCACs) should facilitate the Telecommunication services, computing services like E-mail and Internet access, information about local data base and generating awareness about governments'

programmes. o NGOs and the government should come together to make paucity alleviation programmes popular through women centric initiatives.

- Community networking may offer many profits to the world. This is predominantly true of rural ICT projects that seek to bring emerging technologies like low cost computing and Internet access to rural areas, social institutions and governments.
- There is no common design for all rural ICT networks as communities vary in social, economic, and political outfit, and therefore information needs, and the design of community networking system, will vary. For fruitful community networking, the design and implementation of projects should be driven by the explicit needs of communities.
- Need of incessant monitoring of women's adoption of the ICT interventions.

10. Conclusion

Information needs of women as well as their ICT use differ widely. However, there is no ideal ICT that fits all situations. Though women are engaged in numerous roles in agriculture, they are keen to have information on other parts, such as child health, nutrition, prevention and cure of common diseases, employment opportunities etc. Those trying to install ICTs for women empowerment should build their strategies grounded on ICT use pattern and varied information needs of rural women. Emerging a dynamic and relevant content for rural women continues to remain as a major challenge. Adequate resources need to be allocated for this activity, if profits from resources invested in connectivity and hardware have to be copiously realized. The advent of ICT has altered the global scenario and many unexplored areas are now open for encashment. It is for us to exploit the paybacks to the maximum possible extent. The best part about ICT is that it is capable of several adjustments as per the necessities of the segment using the same. The same can also be adjusted as per the needs and requirement of women in India. This means that even the traditional and traditional families can allow the women to participate and use ICT from their respective homes. In India there is a copiousness of —women entrepreneurs who are capable of making their mark at the international level. However, the awareness and facilities are missing radically. In this manner, the fulfillment in the field of pay/business and in instructive front, the situation of women empowerment is by all accounts relatively poor. The need of great importance is to distinguish those escape clauses or confinements which are watching the acknowledgment of women of empowerment and this activity must be begun from the women people itself and additionally all the more imperatively approach activity taken by the state and society. The Empowerment of Women has gotten to be a standout amongst the most essential worries of 21st century at national level as well as at the universal level. Government activities alone would not be adequate to accomplish this objective. Society must step up with regards to make an atmosphere in which there is no sexual orientation segregation and women have full chances of self-basic leadership and taking part in social, political and financial existence of the nation with a feeling of equity.

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