

CHAPTER: 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The Women Empowerment has a long history of campaigning on a wide range of issues that matter to women and their communities which also encouraged many researches both nationally and internationally. During research, I had to go through more than 200 such literature, research papers and research articles of leading national & international journals and magazines. Literature with specific content and enough depth have been considered in this research. This Study explores status of women across the globe and analyse current rhetoric of women's "empowerment" in developing countries through greater participation and decision-making in the economic, political and social sphere. The study concludes looking deeper into multiple aspects of women empowerment specifically and overall social growth of a country in broader term.

2.2 Review of literature

Bilkis Vissandjee, Alisha Apale, Saskia Wieringa, Shelly Abdool, Sophie Dupiri (2005) under title "*Empowerment beyond numbers: Sustaining women's politics participation*" Explore three key aspects of political participation that is

1. Decision making to pursue council decision,
2. Election processes
3. Decision making contribution made by women in public office.

Number based strategies have been perhaps most tangible way to track progress, generate an overview of achievements and shortcomings of women empowerment.

In 1993, a constitutional amendment was passed in India provided 30 percent reservation quota to women in politics to increase their political participation and reduce gender inequality but the actual scenario is something different which cannot be seen on the surface. Still there remains a huge gap because decision has been taken by male on behalf of female. This needs to be taken care of through Interview with the objective to facilitate women's entry into politics which will lead to the participation of half of the population in building a functioning and representative democracy. Women must be present in new arenas of decision making, with their experiences and visions. Reservation will empower elected women to complement their male counterparts in making the rules and regulation that apply equally to both genders, and which women are equally expected to abide by.

P.N.Prasad, V. Sreedevi (2007) in his paper under title "*Economic Empowerment of Women through Information Technology: a Case Study from an Indian State*" highlighted that the role of Information and Communication Technologies as a tool for development has attracted the sustained attention over recent years.

ICT helped number of women in education and helped them out to know their capabilities, which improves their worth while making them economically sound than before. There is a recognition of the potential of ICT as a tool which reduces the gap of gender inequality and increases the chance of empowerment of women, Still a gap has also been identified, reflected in the lower numbers of women accessing and using ICT as compared to men.

There is a risk that ICT may create new forms of inequality. However, the gender dimensions of ICT like "in terms of access and use", "employment" "capacity-building opportunities" and "potential for empowerment" are addressed properly, ICT can be a powerful tool for political and social empowerment of women. Self-Help Groups are

set up in the villages by women, in order to do many financial activities and ICTs may help them in their day to day business. Women have some access and have learnt to use some of these modern ICTs and do make use of them in improving their financial status. To promote economic development among women ICT can help members of SHGs with the help of SWOT analysis. Here term SWOT refers to the acronym

- 1. S Stands For Strength:** Strengths are capabilities and resources that give companies a competitive advantage.
- 2. W stands for Weakness:** A valid list of weaknesses is just as important in the marketing analysis.
- 3. O stands for Opportunity:** Opportunities illustrate moves a company could make to enhance its position.
- 4. T stands for Threat.:** How a person/company is vulnerable to developments in the marketplace.

The investigation in the study is based on the primary and secondary data from Northern part of Kerala on ICT project promoted by kudumshree project to understand the factors that resulted in the working of the enterprises and performance of them.

Himanti Mukhopadhyay (2008) in her title of “*The Role of education in the Empowerment of Women in a District of West Bengal, India; Reflection on a Survey of Women*”

The study tried to unearth the status of women, girl education, women inferior status to men and gender discrepancies. It also highlights practice of intra-household and social discrimination of girl child and women where double standards of society towards women found everywhere including education, marriage, and spousal relationship. In our patriarchal society Women are facing problems and discrimination in every sphere of life like domestic violence, property laws, dowry and sexual harassment which making position worse for women. The attention required is still not being paid properly to the issues of

women like recognition, self esteem and respect for women and her work. In order to live with honor, Education is the only tool which will give them strength and societal status. This will help women to develop smooth living in this modern society. It should be remembered that the socio economic empowerment could only be ensured once women get educated and become independent to fight for their respect and recognition.

An exhaustive survey was done comprising forty two villages where 204 women Interviewed. Questionnaire of raw data was developed and has been used in the research methodology in order to reach to the objective to examine the role of education for women empowerment in the district of Malda, West Bengal.

M.Suguna (2011) under title *“Education and women Empowerment in India“* Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. It has been found while analyzing the data that only education could empowerment among women which will help them to have better understanding of the constitution and government schemes which could be helpful for their betterment and will reduces gender inequality as well. Education acts as an effective tool to bring about a social change. Education is important for everyone, but it is especially significant for women, because the educational achievements of women can have significant impact which will ensure civilized society and developed nation. According to author Gender discrimination still persists in India and lot more needs to be done in the field of women's education in India. The gap in the male-female literacy rate is just a simple indicator where we come to know that the male literacy rate is more than 75% then female literacy rate. Looking at the 2001 Census, the female literacy rate is only 54.16%.

Suguna mentions the need and importance of education for women empowerment. As India has become a major hub for business activities for rest of the world and is expected to be a superpower by 2020.It is just 4 year away. This can only become reality once women of our nation become educated and empowered.

Dr. Yogesh Sharma (2012) in title “**Rural Women Empowerment in India**” Served that women makes up 50% of population but they are not engaged on much paying jobs and most of the better paying jobs goes to Males and also they have less right to spend desirable money. As said that women have equal status in society but when it comes to decision making her role is always undermined. The study has been conducted to find out the status of women in rural areas with the help of secondary data analysis.

Esther duflo (2012) entitle “**Women Empowerment and Economic Development**” accentuated that Women empowerment and economic development are closely interrelated in one direction, Economic development alone can play a major role in reducing gender inequalities ; on the other side , empowering women may leads to economic development.

While development itself will bring about women’s empowerment, empowering women will bring about changes in decision making, which will have a direct impact on development. But the author also mentioned that there is a strong correlation between economic development and empowerment which is very much essential to ensure significant growth in all dimensions of women’s empowerment, particularly in decision making ability.

The study reviews the objective that is “to find out the relationship between women empowerment and economic development”. Conclusion has been derived from secondary data analysis.

Ghazal Noreen and Humala Khalid (2012) in paper “**Gender Empowerment through Women’s Higher Education: Opportunities and Possibilities**” study highlights mortality rate of women and girls also included various social evils customs, values and tradition.

Also mentioned that Education of women plays an important role in gender equality and education also help woman in securing their employment. Research focuses on the links between women empowerment and economic development, while development itself

will bring about women's empowerment, empowering women will bring about changes in decision-making, which will have a direct impact on development. Economic Development and Empowerment must include broader measures of education and incorporate a greater breadth of social, household and life course factors relevant to gender and family relations.

Sanchita Garai, Gouranga Mazumder, Sanjit Maiti (2012) entitle "***Empowerment of women through Self-Help Group: Empirical Evidences From West Bengal, India***" The Study has an in-depth analysis of members of the self help groups and their micro-financing activities. Self Help Group has become one of the most important tool for women empowerment in India. The study was designed to examine the impact of SHG on women in Nadia district of West Bengal, India. The study included both members (beneficiaries) and non-members (non-beneficiaries) .Result outcome was interesting as members had better score in all the four parameters of women empowerment that is

1. Personal autonomy index,
2. Family decision making index,
3. Domestic economic consultation index and
4. Political autonomy index.

It may be concluded that Self Help Group approach had a significant impact on women empowerment in Nadia district of West Bengal, India. A research design empowers the researcher to answer research questions as objectively, accurately and economically as possible. the investigator has no scope to manipulate the independent variables, as these have already occurred. Inference on the relationships between independent and dependent variables are drawn on the basis of effects already manifest.

Soumitro Chakrayarty, Anant Kumar, Amarnath jha(2013) entitle "***Women Empowerment in India: issues, Challenges and direction.***" The Objective of study critically examines the efforts initiated towards

empowering women with special emphasis upon the Self Help Groups (SHGs) on women empowerment. Further it aims to understand the acceleration process of empowerment drive paying due attention to the local level area specific factors for a developing country like India. Self help groups have emerged as one of the major strategies for women's empowerment and many schemes floated by Government of India have shown that strong women's groups contribute substantially to the development process and activities.

It was observed that a majority of the women joined SHGs for getting involved in financial activities to increase their family.

Generally most of the respondents felt they now enjoy their increased importance at home due to the fact that they have now become independent and contributing to the family income also but, they are not sure of whether it has really changed their socio-economic status in a significant way. SHGs needs to broaden their horizon and view empowerment as a multi-dimensional task giving due importance to other problem like women's health, decision making, basic health amenities & infrastructural facilities etc.

T.K. Rasheeja and C.Krishan (2013)In Title ***“Empowering Women Through Higher Education: the Kerala Episode.”***

Studied the objective “to understand and analyze the role of higher education in women work participation and decision making.”

Education is recognized as one of the critical elements of the national development effort and Higher education, in particular, is of vital importance for the nation, as it is a powerful tool to build knowledge-based society. In addition, education is an empowering tool for the marginalized, especially for the women.

The study is completely based on secondary data. Data has been collected from various publications of UGC, State Government and other relevant journals. Outcome of the paper suggests that Kerala has much better Higher Study literacy rate in comparison to other states of India. Despite the higher level of study attainments among the women, they are the most unemployed category in Kerala. The problem

of unemployment in Kerala is basically one of educated unemployment; this situation is more severe among the women as their enrolment is more in higher education in the state.

Abhay Gupta & Anju Agarwal (2014) in paper *“The Current Scenario of Women Status In India: An Analytical Overview”* concluded “The empowerment of women refers to providing the necessary rights and responsibilities to women in order to make them self-reliant.

When women move forward the family moves so does the nation moves". It is essential as their thought & their value systems lead the development of a good family, good society & ultimately a good nation". It is being proven many times by women that they are not lesser than anyone in any parameters i.e. decision making, entrepreneurship, education, and political participation. Once People of both genders are treated equally then only our country can soon become develop nation.

Ajeet Jaiswal (2014) In his title *“An Anthropological vision on the impact of globalization on Indian Rural Women: The Study based on Secondary Data focuses on critical reality check of globalization impact on Indian women. Globalization in India is opening up the Indian economy at a very high speed, but without the required economic and social change which is needed to provide much required safety net for women and still she has to cope with numerous problems and do low paying and menial jobs.*

Anju Sharma (2014) in paper *“Realizing gender responsive governance and gender equality representatives in democratic society: concrete situation of women empowerment and participation in politics”* In this paper author gives definition of gender equality Broadly speaking, Equality implies a the ideas that cover spheres ranging from man’s search for the development in the society in which the strong and the weak live together, and both have equal right of being heard. Advancing democratic process for an environment of

inclusive and responsive political processes and promoting the empowerment of women. Genuine equality means the process that promotes the ability of women to fully participate in the governance and development process, which enhances their ability to raise critical questions without fear and pressure, and ensures gains from services and also expanding freedoms and improving overall quality of life without sacrificing gains for males or females. The Study also highlighted “The inclusion of the perspectives of women and their participation in politics contributed towards .Women’s meaningful participation is essential to build and sustaining growth of democracy.. Women’s political participation resulted in greater responsiveness to citizen needs, increased cooperation across party and ethnic lines and more sustainable peace. Women also play critical roles as community leaders, champions of civil and human rights. Women’s representation in national legislatures and local governments has increased in last two decades but despite numeric gains, the quality of women’s participation in political affairs is still lacking due to a variety of constraints including lower levels of political experience and access to mentoring. A lot of support is still needed from both international and local groups to encourage women’s participation in politics and implement policies that remove roadblocks to women’s leadership. Civil society organizations can play a key role for women's political participation by supporting women’s rights, advocating for legislation that increases equality and holding their elected leaders accountable for good governance. Many organizations have helped women candidates through campaigns, the training of women candidates and financial support. Despite the various approaches being used for women empowerment there is a need for some more established strategy like quota system because quotas do work and they’re one way of raising women’s representation and do tend to break the mould for future generations.

Deepa .S, S.Preetha (2014) under paper “*A Study On The Role Of Women Empowerment in Micro-Finance*” has the objective “Impact of

micro finance on women empowerment. Highlighted “the role of micro finance in India.” Microfinance as a tool shown gradual and evolutionary growth opportunity to people from remote India which resulted into better living and quality of life for women. Microfinance also worked as an instrument for poverty alleviation in the new economy worldwide. In India, micro finance programs have been widely promoted by Self Help Groups (SHGs). SHG programs has been successful in not only in meeting peculiar needs of the underprivileged poor women , but also in strengthening collective self-help capacities to help women generate income through SHG and lessen the burden of seasonal employment.

The results from these self-help groups (SHGs) are promising and have become a focus of intense examination as it is proving to be an effective method of poverty reduction and economic empowerment.

Divya Singhal (2014) under title “*Women Empowerment through Social Initiatives: An Indian Story*” highlighted the importance of women empowerment through various social initiatives. The aim of the study was to understand the concept of social initiatives, its forms, and impact on society. The author suggested that a social initiative is a strategic plan to transform the life of poor people living in our society. These Social initiatives require increased involvement from all stakeholders. The Study also attempt to chart various types of social initiatives and to highlight process of women empowerment through them. The study discusses about the existing literature on social initiatives and their impact on women empowerment. It also brings out the cases of sustainable social initiatives for women empowerment in India.

The methodology of systematic literature review produced evidence based and cumulative information. Many search for articles related to social initiatives, social responsibility, and women empowerment has been conducted. Some of the websites and other offline material were also used in the study. The selected study was then analyzed using content analysis.

Dr. Abha Mittal, Ritika Agrawal, Shagun Agrawal (2014) entitled "*Women empowerment.*" stated, Empowering women is an indispensable tool for advancing development and reducing poverty. Given all the efforts from different corners the status of women is still not as expected. Though Women have been provided with 33% reservations by Govt. India that is an appreciable Endeavour yet many serious efforts are still lacking somewhere with proper planning, implementation in order to speed up the process to improvement of status of women in our country.

United Nations development program on Power imbalances in gender relations, in the exercise of rights, access to and control of resources, and participation in decision-making, persist as a significant obstacle to women's full and equal contribution to and opportunity to benefit from sustainable development. Many policies have been drafted for women's empowerment both at National and state level in many sectors. Women empowerment is need of the hour as it can transform women lives and make them independent socially. Authors say according to United Nations Development Program Women's Empowerment includes five components-

1. Women's sense of self-worth.
2. Their right to have and to determine their choices
3. Their right to have access to opportunities and resources.
4. Their right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home
5. and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more social and economic order both nationally and internationally.

How Can Women Are Empowered

Department of Women & Child Development, Government of India had circulated the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women in the year 2001 for implementation. The goal of this Policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. The Government policy is focused on overall empowerment of women in

socio-economic and politico-cultural aspects, by creating awareness on various issues related to their empowerment. Policy is widely disseminated so as to encourage active participation of all stakeholders from all corners for achieving its goals specifically, the objectives of this National Policy:

1. Creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realize their full potential.
2. The de-jure and de-facto enjoyments of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on equal basis with men in all political, economic, social, cultural and civil spheres.
3. Equal access to participation and decision making of women in social political and economic life of the nation
4. Equal access to women to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public life etc.,
5. Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
6. Changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women.
7. Ministering a gender perspective in the development process.
8. Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and the girl child.
9. Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

Government of India had also drafted some Policy Prescriptions for Legal Systems, Mainstreaming of Gender Perspective, Poverty Eradication, Micro Credit, Women Economic Development, and women advancement in Agriculture and industry, Education, Health, Nutrition, Sanitation, Women in Difficult Circumstances, Violence against women, and Rights of the Girl Child. The operational Strategies have also been indicated for further Action Plan.

Michelle Obama, American Writer and Lawyer and also wife of the 44th and current President of The United States Of America has said,
“Communities that give their daughters the same opportunities as their sons, they are more peaceful, they are more prosperous, they develop faster, they are more likely to succeed.”

Dr.Subrata Chatterjee (2014) under title ***“Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment: A Study in East Medinipur District, West Bengal, Issues and Challenges”*** The objectives of the research is to study the impact of MGNREGA on women empowerment and to find out the obstacles in the path of the implementation of the scheme. Female workers have been benefited significantly both individual as well as community level – income gains, social empowerment, more say in intra household decision making and creation of community assets etc. At individual level they have been accommodated because they are able to done independently.

Decision making participation also geared up in connection to expenditure on themselves and family as well. The survey data gives hint that women workers are more confident about their roles as contributors to family expenditure and their work decisions.

At community level the gained benefits of women can be understood by their increased presence in the gram-sabha, more number of women is trying raising their voice in the meetings, increasing capacity of interaction etc. Certain initiatives and changes are still required to remove few barriers which will help in making proper system for child care facility, worksite facility and illegal presence of contractors. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data has been collected through structured questionnaires and Secondary has been collected from publication of various bodies, data published by research investigators, and through official website of MGNREGA. About 20 villages were selected for obtaining Primary data from which through random sampling method total taken household were 400, including 360 beneficiary and 40 non-beneficiary ones. 20 households from each village were interviewed for the study.

Dr.V.A.Patil (2014) under title ***“Women empowerment through SHGs with special reference to Shirol taluka”*** shown SHGs provides easy approach to financial intermediation. It combines access to low cost financial services with a system of Self management and development for the SHG women members. The activities of Self Help Groups have shown a sustainable approach to acquire credit facilities available to the poor especially to women in a simple and flexible manner. In these study women empowerment through SHG's is analyzed on following headings.

1. Thrift and Credit Activities.
2. Socio-Economic impact on members.

In this study primary and secondary data has been collected through descriptive research by structured questionnaire and data has been tabulated in systematic way and treated them with different statistical methods with the help of purposive sampling to study the objective.

Jamshed Ansari (2014) in title ***“The role of law in the bringing about reform in the life of women in India”*** shown status of women has changed a lot due to the effort of social reformers. The role of law in the bringing about reform in the life of Indian women, keeping in view the provisions of Constitution of India and the other legislations passed for the protection of the women Thus paper unfolds the saga of social reform of Indian women through legal reforms. Reform movements have come a long way and fight for women rights and position have mostly resulted in legal reforms to change the status of women. The status of women has changed a lot due to the efforts of various reformers movement and several laws passed since the initiation in pre-independence India.

Jaya Kumari Pandey (2014) under ***“Women empowerment through SHGs: A theoretical perspective”*** with objective “To check the empowerment in women through SHG” concluded various dimensions of empowerment – political, material, cognitive, perceptual and relational. Access to micro credit which helps in expansion of material

base of women to start and expand small businesses and often accompanied by easy market access which provide them experience 'Power within', a feelings of freedom, strength, self- identity.

Kalpna J.Modi (2014) under title ***“Education tool for empowering women”***shown highlights Women have been given an inferior social status. Women experience several accumulated disadvantages. They face not only gender discrimination but also suffer the most from sexual harassment, atrocities and crimes. It analyses that providing education to women would bring about the desired changes in themselves and in the society. Intense efforts are being made to enhance the enrolment of women at all levels of education.

Kappa Konal(2014) in paper ***“women empowerment through self-help group in Andhra Pradesh, India.”*** Focus on “Women empowerment through SHGs in the Gajwel Mandal of Medak District in Andhra Pradesh.” Primary data were collected from respondents by pre-designed questionnaire. Simple percentage, graphs and other relevant statistical techniques were adopted. As per the analysis of women empowerment through self help groups in Gajwel, the major findings are that there is a positive impact of Self Help Groups on Women empowerment in Gajwel mandal of Medak District in Andhra Pradesh. SHGs increased empowerment of women, by making them financially strong and teach them to invest money in better way for further development. SHGs also developed confidence for socio-economic development among the member.

Krishnkant Meena, Mr.Rajesh Mehra (2014) entitled ***“Indian Women: Safety and Empowerment in 21st century”*** concluded that The status of women in India is not even in all the times and in all the places. It has been found that discrimination between the genders, lack of education owing to which women could not understand their rights and faces financial crisis which becomes barrier in the desired empowerment. After independence many efforts had been made for improving the

status of women and the government of India, passed timely and essential Acts and implemented rules and regulations to empower and strengthen the women.

Manju Pathania Biswas, Dr.M.Rama mohan rao (2014) in title ***“Role of NGO in empowering women through micro-finance: a conceptual study.”*** Says Empowerment signifies a change from a status of failure to recognition and success. It is a multi-dimensional process that helps women to gain authority for improving their life standards. Microfinance sector is having a healthy growth rate over the past few decades and It is incontestable that an efficient and effective microfinance system is essential for building a strong nation. Development through Micro Entrepreneurship helped women to increase employment and curb several social problems. That goes with it. It has also been observed that because of high rate of interest charged by on SHGs many poor people are not able to involve in these schemes

Melinda French Gates(2014) in article ***“Putting Women & Girls at The Centre of Development”*** to study the objective “focuses on how to effectively reach and empower the most vulnerable women and girls to improve health and Gender in equalities, roles and potential of women are key factors limiting advances in development outcomes for all communities and societies around the world. Strong associations have been identified between addressing inequalities and enhancing women empowerment.“We cannot achieve our goals unless we systematically address gender inequalities and meet the specific needs of women and girls in the countries where we work.” By ignoring gender inequities, many development projects fail to achieve their objective and development organizations could not focus on issues related to women empowerment and neglected the fact empowered women have the potential to transform their societies.

Monica Mathew (2014) under title ***“Empowering rural Indian women through financial inclusion challenges and opportunities.”*** The study captures the opportunities [and challenges faced by women based on secondary data. Women's lack of economic empowerment not only impedes growth but also negatively impacts education and health outcomes. It is extremely important to ensure that women are economically empowered in country like India where women constitute approximately 50% of total population. Bringing financial services to rural clients is the biggest challenge in the quest for broad-based financial inclusion. Often the main barrier to financial inclusion in rural areas is the great distances that rural residents must travel to reach a bank branch. Non-banking financial institutions like microfinance institutions help to fill this gap. Through disbursement of funds by various methods of financial inclusion like self-help groups and microfinance by Banks an attempt has been made by the Govt. to provide rural women economic independence & self-confidence, as well as achieve more respect in their socially defined roles.

Mr.Mani Makhela shukla (2014) in title ***“Role of government for economic empowerment of women in India”*** shown states government Endeavour with the weapon of education and it’s awareness programs working consistently has shown good results but still the vision of gender equality seems far ahead. The objective of the study was to check the status of empowerment among women with the help of various government policies.

Mr.Pema Lama (2014) in title ***“Women Empowerment in India: Issues and Challenges”***. Objective of study was to “Understand conceptual framework of women empowerment in India.” It also gives special emphasis on various efforts towards women empowerment and makes recommendation for accelerating the women empowerment drive in India. The Study also highlighted extending power to women for self development & vision about future, economic development of the society. In Govt. of India also playing a key role with many schemes

and policies. The study still suggests implementation of all program along with constitutional laws are prerequisite.

N.Prasanna (2014) in paper ***“Rural women empowerment in India”*** in order to study the objective i.e. to “find out the empowerment of women in all possible ways e.g. education, health and well-being constitutional rights government programmed and SGHs.” Though women make substantial contributors to agriculture development, their access to the most crucial input credit is limited. Since they are not land owners, the credit flow generally goes in the name of male members. Unfortunately, in spite of their laudable and vulnerable roles, which cannot be substituted by machine or men, women have been neglected since generations. Empowerment is a multi-faceted and multidimensional concept. Women's empowerment is a process in which women gain greater share of control over resources - material, human and intellectual like knowledge, ideas and financial resources like access to money and control over decision-making at home, community and to gain `power'.

Oladayo Nathaniel Awojobi (2014) entitle ***“Empowering Women through Microfinance: Evidence from Nigeria”***. The primary data were collected and The questionnaires were structured in a way to bring out the maximum information about the impact of micro-fiancé on women who are clients to some micro-finance institutions. All the respondents vehemently agreed that that the interest rates were high and it is argued that most of the MFIs charge high interest rates for sustainability. On the other side a large percentage of the women also agreed that MFIs gave increase their income, standard of living and as a result of these they have been empowered.

Preeti S.Rawat (2014) ***“Patriarchal Beliefs, Women’s Empowerment and General Well Being”*** states Empowerment of women is linked to the belief and practice of patriarchy which subjugates women at various levels - political, economic, social, and cultural. Patriarchy is a

social and ideological construct which considers men (who are the patriarchs) as superior to women. Feminism is an awareness of patriarchal control, exploitation, and oppression at the material and ideological levels of women's labour, fertility and sexuality, in the family, at the place of work, and in the society in general, and conscious action by women and men to transform the present situation. Study also shows married women staying at nuclear family are more empower than women in joint family, even more empower than unmarried women critics of this study also stated there is no impact of education on women empowerment.

Pushpinder Sandhu & Ritu Gupta (2014) under title "***Awareness among Rural Girls from Role of Some Science Education in Economic Empowerment.***" along with the objective 'to examine the awareness of selected young girls about training of home science to empower them economically' through primary data which has been collected by adopting methodology 'study was conducted in Ludhiana district in 2013. An exhaustive list of income generating avenues (of Home Science education) was prepared and used as a tool to educate masses; and lectures were arranged. Results indicate that none of the target group had any knowledge of career options of home science education in industry, freelancing, self-help groups, profit generating networks and agencies like NGO's and KVK's. Few girls had knowledge of consultancy services, home based industry and self-employment. Most of the young rural girls wanted to learn trade to go and work abroad for economic gains. So there is urgent need to start such awareness campaigns at root level, especially at root level and higher level respectively to make more and more economically empower girls. This paper also highlighted that majority of women knew about their professional development after getting these type of education.

Richard eves and Joanne Crawford (2014) in title "***Do no harm : The Relationship between Violence against Women and Women's***

Economic Empowerment.” with the help of secondary data analysis in order to fulfill the objective to empowering women to participate in the economy because of the critical untapped role of women in development. The research shows that the economic situation for women in the region is extremely poor. Figures for women’s involvement in the economy are especially poor. It suggests self dependency of women should be worthy way towards the growth and development rather than exploitation and harm.

Riyazuddin qureshi (2014) under title ***“Human Resources Development & The Status of Women Labour Force in Saudi Arabia-A Critical Analysis.”*** Observed that Saudi Arabia is branded as an ultra-conservative country by global as well But its liberalized policies, economic growth and increasing political participation of women during the last decade display a consistent positive trend. Gender biasness is one of the most prominent and common problem but presently women empowerment issue seems to be topmost on the agenda of Saudi government. The government started investing aggressively in education, health care and industries. Education sector was prioritized above all social sectors. Women have also be seen now at higher authority with progressive work at different sectors. Yet again need to continue the endeavors for long run.

Shivani Gupta (2014) in the study ***“Impact of Economic Development on Status of Women: An Analysis for India.”*** focuses on the status of women and their empowerment along the path of economic development in India and suggests some possible channels to uplift the status of women. There is a positive correlation between economic development and the elevation of status of women especially when there is equity in distributive processes in the economy. Through secondary data analysis this paper concludes that “education and employment” are key factors for women’s development, progress, enlightenment and seem to be indispensable tool as a matter of right for the women to provide appropriate status to women in India. Increase

in literacy rate can be attributed to the policies that have been implemented by government to ensure and secure rights of women along with the process of economic development. Though we have come a long way ahead in fighting this issue yet complete success is still not achieved.

Suchitra Das (2014) under title ***“Women Participation in Panchayati Raaj : A Case Study of Karimganj District of Assa”***. In order to fulfill the objective paper highlighted about the factors responsible for active participation of rural women of Karimganj district in PRIs. We can find that decentralization of power has led the local bodies to take active participation in all socio economic and political decisions. Panchayat Raj Institutions provided the opportunity to the rural masses from grass-root level to achieve all the national challenges. Actual participation of women who has become the part of politics through 33% of reservation system. It is often found that rural women lack in decision making in any aspects whether economic, social, political or family matters and are dictated by their male counterpart. For complete involvement of the society, participation of rural women is also needed. It can be said that though complete active participation of women is yet to be achieved in grass root level democracy but still it cannot be ignored that the rural women of this era are becoming now more active in their duties outside their home.

Sutapa Saryal (2014) in paper ***“Women Rights in India: Problem and Prospects.”*** The objective of the paper is to evolve strategies to empower women uniformly like the men. However these goals are far from being realized in a country like India. In fact often women in India are deprived of their fundamental right to dignity also; leave alone the question of gender parity. There are few many issues which are being faced by the women in India like the dowry, female feticides, denial of inheritance rights, sale and trafficking of girls etc. A multi-layered strategy need to be developed to assess the core causes of violence against women. The state and society must provide

instantaneous support to victim-survivors to ensure that the victims can carry on with their daily life. In short, the gender equality and women's empowerment can be realized only when the traditional practices like female infanticide, dowry deaths, honors killings, domestic violence are eliminated.

Tauffiqu Ahmad, Pankaj Tiwari, Mainoz bano (2014) in research article ***“An Attempt to Women Empowerment through Government Policies and Programme-An Indian perspective.”*** Highlighted the women play a strategic role in the society and in the economy. The status of women in India is not even in all the times. Women contribute directly or indirectly for economic development. Though the nature has given the power of reproduction especially to the women, the socio-economic status of women is so poor and the incidence of poverty is more on woman only. After independence many efforts are being made for improving the status of women in India. The government of India passed timely and essential act to empower and strengthen the women but prompt and strict implementation is quite essential and Acts, Policies, Rules, Regulations need to be strictly implemented to achieve the desired goal. Hence the efforts of the government are still inadequate.

Vivek Sharma (2014) in paper ***“Education and Women Empowerment among Gujjars, Bakerwals and Gaddis in Jammu Region of Jammu and Kashmir.”*** stated about the status of Gujjars, Bakerwals and Gaddis in Jammu & Kashmir. The growth of women's education in rural areas is very slow and in some cases their condition have more miserable and worst than women of general category. Education to women is as essential as to men. Even today in most parts of the country, the tribal women remain steeped in superstitions and ignorance with men presiding over their destiny. The aim of education is to bring a change in cultural norms and patterns of life of tribal women to help them become economically independent, to organize themselves to analyze their situations and make them understand their

rights and responsibilities to enable them to participate in development process.

Anne Syomwene, Jonah Nyaga Kindik (2015) under article ***“Women Education and Dconomic development in Kenya: Implication for Curriculum and Implementation Process.”*** The Study discusses “The relationship between women education and sustainable economic development in Kenya and its implications for curriculum development and implementation processes.” The study shed light on the fact that more educated women tend to earn more income, raise families properly, and effectively participate in economic activities as well as in political decision making. All this transforms into women empowerment and eventually help in sustainable economic development in Kenya.

Some effective actions for curriculum development and implementation processes which if adopted can provide desired result in education system which leads to empowerment of women in Kenya.

Dr.Aditi Jain, Ms.Shivani Gambhir (2015) in title ***“Socio-Economic Women Empowerment: Sharp Focus.”*** The objective of the paper “To discuss the hurdles in women empowerment along with socio-economic conditions.”An unvoiced and covert woman, have travelled a long way. To empower women is to empower the society and generations. Women ought to be socially empowered by eradication of evils and crimes of socio-economic origin. Empowerment refers to raising the spiritual, political, social or economic power of individual and society. It involves developing confidence in their capacities and strengths. It is a process that entrust the power in people for the use in their life, their communities by deciding solely themselves on the issues that they consider as considerable and critical. We need to work together towards giving women their most deserved status as the biggest power resides in a women.

Dr.K.Kunjani Devi (2015) in study ***“Mortality and education: foundation for women empowerment.”*** under objective to relate the

education, values and women empowerment. The study focuses on discrimination on the ground of gender can be removed only when both the gender get value based equal education. A value based education system is a great tool to fight against discrimination. Progress of a society can easily be measured through the progress women within the society.

Huma Rehman, Amani Maoazzam, Nighat Ansari (2015) under title "***Role of Microfinance Institutions in Women Empowerment : A Case Study of Akhuwat, Pakistan***" Present study focused on four background variables to examine their influence on decision making ability of women in aspects of their domestic and social life. Age, education, marital status and family type are important contributing factors that influence women's empowerment. It was also observed that women are more inclined to be altruistic and spend most of their income on their families. The present study can be further extended by incorporating more factors and increasing sample size in order to get more significant results. Micro Finance programs target women because of cost efficiency rationale, women's better repayment rates, equity in terms of employment opportunities among men and women and thirdly investing in women creates a "multiplier effect" that improves the effectiveness of credit funds. By focusing on women's empowerment from microfinance perspective, the policy development circles have started putting more emphasis on gender relations than ever before and they consider women as a 'weapon against poverty'

Mr. Abhijeet Biswas, MS. Chandrika Soni (2015) in title "***Empowerment of Women in India a Reality or a Myth.***" The paper tries to analyze the scenario in Indian society with respect to safety and security of women. The Research paper reveals that literacy rate of females have been increasing considerably over the years so as the crime against women is increasing every year. The study is primarily based on qualitative literature survey method. It facilitates in depth analysis of the issues related to Women Empowerment in India and the crime

against women in India. India has come a long way since independence but still a gap between men and women in terms of education is severe. Illiteracy is one of the prime causes for inequality among the status of women in India. As far as safety of Women is concerned the data over the years shows that all the crimes are on an increasing trend and strict laws need to be put into immediate action for making India a safe place for women.

Mrs. Eli kumari Das, Ms. Dhariti Baishya (2015) under title ***“Role of Self Help Groups in Empowering Rural Women: A Case Study on Selected SHGs in Rani Block of Kamrup District of Assam.”*** This paper highlights that micro finance through SHGs has a positive role in income generation, savings and investment of women in Rani Block of Kamrup District of Assam. Micro finance is emerging as a powerful tool for poverty alleviation in India. Rapid progress in SHGs and Bank linkage mod women in particular often bear the brunt of poverty and limited access to economic opportunities, including unfavorable financial access. Thus it is very important to empower the rural women through self-help groups for economic development been analyzed that micro finance through self-help group providing a helping hand to the poor and upgrading women empowerment by making them financially strong.

Naresh Rout(2015) in article ***“A study on problems issues and protection of women in India.”*** It is widely believed that empowerment process will go a long way in removing the existing gender discrimination. The movement for equal rights of men and women started growing from strength to strength. Indian constitution is making amendment in various laws beef-up the position of women in society. Yet again women are soft target since beginning. So endeavors are taking time to get rid of all negativity.

Nasreen Anwar khan (2015) entitle ***“The impact of women empowerment on their lives: Bangladesh.”*** The objective is to try to

find out the present scenario of women empowerment in Bangladesh it is seen that Bangladesh has a good success in improving women empowerment. This paper also focused women's on marital status which is the most significant predictor of her empowerment. Unmarried women are more likely to be empowered and spend their income on their own. Government need to take some more initiatives to overcome education problem like increasing female student rate at higher educational level and by ensuring the residence facilities of female students which will speed up the process of empowerment.

Pooja Rani & Dr.M.S. Khan(2015) in this article *“Need assessment of women.”* Women empowerment is a process by which women challenge the existing norms & culture, to effectively promote their wellbeing. Despite the valiant efforts of many government officials, international and local non-governmental organizations, women do not yet enjoy equal status with men, and full women's empowerment is still a dream. Needs assessments have allowed us to explore the issue further, to better understand the situation . The study focused on social & economic status of women in terms of gender gap education, sex selection, literacy, population, etc for finding the need of women empowerment in rural areas. Empowerment of women involves many things - economic opportunity, social equality, and personal rights. Women are deprived of these human rights, often in rural areas, women are generally not perceived to have any meaningful income generation capacity, and they are relegated mainly to household duties and cheap labor. Without the power to work and earn a good income, their voices are silenced. The study also found that the quantity Self help groups (SHGs) is very less in rural areas. It is suggested that education facilities and family protection must be provided in proper way. Microfinance institutions should strengthen and expand their support to resource poor women.

Prof.Navaneeta Rath (2015) in title *“Inclusive governance, Panchayats and women's empowerment: Ideas, issues and*

interventions.” Research has been analyzed through secondary data. Equitable participation of women in politics and government is essential to the building and sustaining democracy. The achievement of democracy presupposes a genuine partnership between men and women in the conduct of the affairs of society in which they work in equality and complementarily, drawing mutual enrichment from their differences Govt. has provided reservations quota for women to become the part of politics but still active participation is not present there and decision making is yet not a cup of tea for her. . Hence it has shown constitutional laws have been used as groovy way not worthy.

Rabia Ali, Muhammad Ali (2015) under title “*Education and women’s empowerment in Northern Pakistan: Tracing accomplishment and predicaments.*” Study investigate potential of education in changing women's lives and also argues that on one side Education opens up new avenues for women on the other side it creates more dilemmas due to their inability to utilize education as a tool for their up-liftment. Many women considered education as a key tool to enhancing their social status and access to better employment but the majority of women could not understand it’s true potential to make a change in their life. The paper draws on data from a larger study on women’s empowerment. Purposeful sampling and snowball sampling methods were used to collect data and In-depth interviews were carried out among 15 women participants with diverse educational and occupation from different background including housewives.

Rouf Ahmad Bhat (2015) in title “*Role of education in the empowerment of women in india.*” concluded Women play an imperative role in process of progressive development of a nation. The education of women is the most powerful tool to change their position as well as make significant change of society. Education also helps to reduce inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. The education also develops the idea of participation

in government, panchayats, public matters which helps to eliminate of gender discrimination and improve financial and social status.

Saroj Kumari (2015) under article ***“Role of information technology in women empowerment.”*** highlighted how IT can be a vital tool for gender Empowerment and Equality. Information Technology can be ladder to attain gender equality and development. It can help to create a knowledge based society to emulate the growth model of developed nations. India can use potential of Information Technology to enable women to come to power and freedom in economic as well as social sphere. Women are now showing their real potential and mental strength grab infinite opportunities available in the global market.

Satyajit das (2015) in paper ***“Ambedkar and Women Rights an Analysis”*** through secondary data published in news papers, other research papers and books to fulfill the objective. This is paper intends to narrate the rights and upliftment of woman in the view of Ambedkar. Dr.Ambedkar’s was one of the great thinker of woman and their rights. he worked for the upliftment of woman and their rights. He always worked for the woman emancipation with a aim to build up a society based on social justice. His endeavor also brought a new trend for uprising the women through his thoughts and beliefs. Even in present day context, his thoughts on society based on equality are yet to be realized for reconstructing Indian society and making the life of women better.

S.Jothibasur (2015) under title ***“Impact of Self-Help Group on Empowerment of Women with Special Reference to Ariyalur District of Tamil Nadu”*** This study addresses women empowerment through self help groups in Ariyalur district of Tamilnadu. The data has been collected from both the primary and secondary sources. The study concluded that the movement of SHGs can contribute significantly towards the reduction of poverty and increase employment options in

the rural sectors. SHGs can also lead to social transformation in terms of economic development and the social change.

Smt.Sandhya (2015) in the article *“Impact of Education in Women Empowerment of in Bangalkot District Karnataka.”* stated the growth of women’s education in rural areas is very slow. This obviously means large number of women of our country is still illiterate, weak, backward and exploited. The study explores the role of education in women empowerment and their development especially of women of rural India. It has been found that rural women in Bagalkot district are still lagging behind in compare to women living in urban area. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to responds to the challenges, to change their life. It helps in reducing inequalities and functions as a means for improving their status within the family and society. This study also focuses in the facilities provided for women empowerment and rural development in different parts of Bagalkot district. Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. it has been found that modern education and facilities have influenced much in women empowerment. But still rural women in Bagalkot district are lagging behind in comparison to women living in urban areas. The Govt. department should adopt proper policies and proper implementation scheme for the benefit of women of rural India. Govt. also need to attract the children towards the education and Variety incentives should be provided like free distribution of book and stationary, mid-day meal, uniform, attendance scholarship, free transportation facility which keep the momentum high. There is need to setup of employment related vocational courses for adults like sewing, knitting, handicrafts, etc.

2.3 Conclusion:

From all the literature reviews it has been concluded that studied education offers empowerment to women. The economic independence and better social standing are there main benefits of education. It also enabled the women to impact the discriminatory practices.

Without any doubts government trying to improve the situation through their policies, and laws but still there is a need to propagate schemes properly as well as its implementation specifically in rural areas. It has been noted through all above papers that economic growth and empowerment are correlated and owing mostly to education or vocational training which enhance their decision making capabilities and standards. Training Programs organized by NGOs and SHGs are also playing vital role to strengthen the status of women. Since, India is well known for gender discrimination 100% equality is a challenge. As India is poised to becoming super power, government, civil society and the political class have a critical role to play in ensuring that women have the rights and opportunities that propel them forward. India can never aspire to be a superpower without empowering its women.

“If you educate a man, you educate an individual however, If you educate a woman, you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered”

Pt.Jawharlal Nehru