

POSITION PAPER

COMMITTEE - UNCSW

AGENDA - EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

COUNTRY - INDIA



Empowerment may be defined as a set of measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy in people to enable them to represent their interest in a responsible and self-determined way. It is a multi-level construct happening at the levels of individual, family and community. Though empowerment is gender-neutral, in our society, this term is mainly used for women upliftment. The main aim of empowerment is to develop self-awareness and self-confidence amongst the women. There are many ways to empower an individual. It is like a Venn Diagram with “Empowerment” the biggest and outermost circle, with many subsets and elements inside of it. *Entrepreneurship* is the most important element in this scheme of things and it is the best tool for empowerment.

In a country like India, where we have diverse cultures and different family structures; it is important to get the women empowered financially so that they stand up for themselves, make their mark in the society and take control of their lives. To hold women back means to keep a significant stratum of the population in the obscurity of darkness. A nation’s success is mainly measured in Human Development Index (HDI) which is why it is even more crucial now to support our women so that our country can

create a stronger presence internationally. Former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam also laid emphasis on women empowerment. He once said “Empowerment of women leads to development of a good family, good society and, ultimately, a good nation”.

Promoting women entrepreneurship also helps the economy of the country as more and more jobs are generated and more families prosper. Women are more sensitive towards the needs of their employees which makes it all the more important for the government to work towards women entrepreneurship. Empowerment of women helps in creating a supportive and empathetic community.

We live in a democratic country and there is no discrimination as all the opportunities are open for every individual equally.

However, because of certain stereotypes, women are denied of certain privileges, therefore it is one of our topmost priorities to empower women to continue to grow as a nation.

India has had many problems regarding the equality and upliftment of women. Stereotypes, prejudices and superstitions prevent women from achieving equality. Nevertheless, the Indian Government has already started working on the programmes needed to empower women entrepreneurs financially. The Government helps women entrepreneurs in setting up their businesses and in executing their plans for their financial independence. There are various steps which have been taken by the Government to end the stereotype and to confirm the fact that women are equally capable as their male counterparts.

The Government of India has always shown its commitment towards women upliftment. Many programs have been launched in last few decades for this purpose.

Stand Up India is one such programme of the Indian Government launched on 5th April, 2016 to support entrepreneurship among women and the SC and ST communities. The Indian Government is dedicated to

eradicate the discrimination, if any, through empowering them financially. It aims to encourage them by providing loans and setting up greenfield enterprises.

Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development Scheme for Women (TREAD) is yet another scheme of the Indian Government to empower women in non-farm activities at the rural level. This helps the women to set up their own trade. The Government provides loans to support the aspiring women. Various NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) also work hand-in-hand with the government to make this scheme a success.

There are many more ways to empower the women financially. The 108th Amendment of the Constitution, 2008, or the Women's Reservation Bill, 2008 was passed to reserve 33% of the Lok Sabha of the Parliament and of all the state legislative assemblies for women. This has led to active participation of women in the law-making agencies. Hence, greater representation of women has been observed which has led to many schemes launched in the favor of women for a progressive India. Our Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development Smt. Smriti Irani has launched "Empowering the Greater 50%" to empower women and help them lead a better life.

Our Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji says "Women empowerment is very crucial to our development". As a representative of India, I strongly believe that promoting women entrepreneurship will help us not only strengthening the women but will also lay the foundation of a strong nation. Jai Hind (Victory To India).

Submitted By: Aarav Srivastav

Delegate of India, UNCSW