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ijmrset@gmail.com



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# Breaking Barriers: Examining Women's Empowerment through Government Initiatives in Khamgaon

<sup>1</sup>Vishakha Vijay Tantak and <sup>2</sup>Dr. H. M. Jha “Bidyarthi”

<sup>1</sup>MBA Final Year Student, Department of Business Administration and Research, Shri Sant Gajanan Maharaj College of Engineering, Shegaon, India

<sup>2</sup>Professor, Department of Business Administration and Research. Shri Sant Gajanan Maharaj College of Engineering Shegaon, India

**ABSTRACT:** The empowerment of women has emerged as a key concern in development discourse, with an emphasis on giving them the freedom to make choices that will advance their own personal development. In examining the state of women's empowerment in the Khamgaon area, this article places special emphasis on the contribution of government initiatives to raising women's socioeconomic standing. Data were gathered using primary and secondary approaches through a descriptive research methodology with a sample size of 100 respondents. According to the analysis, opinions on the knowledge and efficacy of government initiatives for women's empowerment in Khamgaon are divided. While some respondents say that these plans have a good influence, others are unsure. The study also emphasizes the need for increased outreach and improved programs already in place to support women's empowerment in the area. The aforementioned results highlight the significance of on-going assessment and improvement of governmental measures aimed at tackling the diverse issues encountered by women in Khamgaon and fostering their progress towards socioeconomic empowerment.

**KEYWORDS:** Women empowerment, Government Schemes.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The empowerment of women has grown in importance as a development issue of discussion. Giving women the freedom to make their own decisions for their own personal growth is known as women's empowerment. To empower a woman is to break free from all social and familial constraints or barriers and enable her to be autonomous in all spheres of mind, thoughts, rights, decisions, etc. It is to bring quality in the society for both male and female in all areas. To create a stronger economy, women must be given the confidence to engage in the workforce. Women's empowerment in areas such as socioeconomic opportunities, representation in local and national politics, social equality, legal rights, and community development that contribute to national development has resulted from their economic empowerment through participation in economic activities.

Women are the embodiment of bravery, love, strength, and sacrifice. Women today play a far different and better function in the modern world. Women are today financially independent, self-sufficient, and aware. They have achieved great success in all spheres of life, including politics, athletics, and academia. Co-education has made it possible for women to march with men in all spheres of society. Women hold significant roles in our culture. In today's world, every woman has a role to play.

The 21st century has given women fresh hope and positive empowerment. They were once dependent on their fathers or husbands, but now that they have formed their own identities, they are self-sufficient. One essential component of success is education. If women were more informed and educated, the issue of women's empowerment would become more pressing. To be on equal footing with males, a woman must be aware of her rights. Mother Teresa, Indra Nooyi, Pratibha Patil, Kalpana Chawala, and numerous others have made significant contributions to their respective fields and are revered by women in India and around the world.



## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Many studies are found in the literature pertaining to women empowerment with special reference to different Government Schemes some of which are captured below:

- ✦ **In April 2014, V Krishnamoorthy and R Balasubramani** found the critical aspects influencing women's entrepreneurial motivation and its effect on success in business. The study conducted by Seema Pandey (2015) concentrated on the attitudes, issues, and work environments that affect working women across different social classes.
- ✦ **Shettar (2015)** used a study based on secondary data to try to assess the state of women's empowerment in India and to highlight the problems and obstacles associated with it. In the results women of India were found to be relatively disempowered. Further, acceptance of unequal gender norms by women was observed to be prevailing in the society. It was concluded that access to Education, Employment and Change in Social Structure are the factors which can enable Women Empowerment.
- ✦ **Mandal (2018)** attempted to find out the status of women empowerment and women education in pre-colonial, colonial and modern India. It was found that the historical background of women education in Indian society in Vedic era women education was good. This study also expressed that woman empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure equal-right to women and Give them self-assurance to assert their rights.
- ✦ **Singh and Singh (2020)** conducted a comparative study to investigate the status of women empowerment in India and other countries with the help of secondary sources of data. In the study, constitutional safe guards as well as plans and programmes by the Government and their implementation, indicators of women empowerment were discussed in detail and found low rank of women empowerment in India.
- ✦ **Pradeep Narayan (2003)** wrote an essay titled "Empowerment through Participation: How to According to "How Effective Is This Approach?" Until excluded or marginalized members of a community are granted authority, it is impossible to ensure and maintain their productive participation. According to him, the goal of the participatory approach is to give voice to those who have been silenced. Marginalized groups whose voices are ignored or not heard. People can benefit from this approach. They must analyze and solve their own developmental issues. People can influence the decision here Making is a process.
- ✦ **H. Subrahmanyam (2011)** contrasts women's education in India historically and currently. The author emphasized that overall enrolment rates for female students in schools have improved. The definition of empower is to grant someone legal power or authority.
- ✦ **M. Bhavani Sankara Rao (2011)** has highlighted that health of women members of SHG Self Help Group who have certainly taken a turn to better. It is evident that women members talk to one another about health issues pertaining to other members and their kids, and they also inform each other about different government programs created especially to assist them.
- ✦ **Ram, Usha. (2008)**, has studied the inability of women to have children becomes a cause to subject them to social discrimination and place restrictions on their participation in social events and celebrations. Women who choose to stay childless may experience prejudice, divorce, or abandonment, among other negative outcomes.
- ✦ **World Bank, New Delhi. (2003)** The World Bank sent a team to evaluate Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project in January, 2003. In November 2002, the Project supported 17,587 Women's Self Help Groups (SHGs) involving 240,236 women in 7274 villages in 56 districts of 9 states. This represents 10% of all districts and has the potential to scale up and replicate the lessons learnt. Work is done in partnership with the Government and 232 NGOs.

### Government Schemes for Women Empowerment:

Governments, both at central and State levels, have introduced a number of schemes directed towards empowering women. Some of the notable schemes, particularly by the Government of India, are described below which were studied in the present paper for its impact on empowering women of Khamgaon, a town in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

#### 1) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme:

Launched in Haryana on January 22, 2015, by the Indian Prime Minister, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme guarantees the education, safety, and survival of girls. The program attempts to raise social awareness, improve the



effectiveness of welfare services designed for girls, and address concerns related to the dropping sex ratio over the last few years.

#### 2) Ujjawala:

The government program known as the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was introduced by Indian Prime Minister in the year 2016. Originally, the plan called for providing 50 million LPG connections to low-income women. Afterwards, it was to connect eight crore women to LPG by March 2020. But this goal was met in September 2019, seven months earlier.

#### 3) Women Helpline Scheme:

One of the government's initiatives to empower women is the Women Helpline Scheme, which aims to provide emergency assistance to women who have been victims of violence in public or private settings around-the-clock. The implementation of a single toll-free number (181) that offers women worldwide quick support has led to the universalization of women's helpline numbers in every State and Union Territory. Additionally, this initiative raises awareness of programs and schemes for women's empowerment.

#### 4) Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP):

STEP (Support to Training and Employment Program for Women) is one of India's most successful programs for women's empowerment. It was introduced to guarantee women's employment and to offer training in skill development. This government-sponsored program provides funding to institutions and organizations so they can carry out the training course.

#### 5) Mahila E-Haat:

The Ministry of Women and Child Development initiated the Mahila E-Haat program. One of the initiatives aimed at empowering women in India, it gives female entrepreneurs the chance to use technology to showcase their manufactured or sold goods online. Women entrepreneurs can display images and descriptions of their items along with descriptions using only a smartphone and an internet connection. Here, purchasers can also get in touch with sellers via email, phone, in-person, or any other method. The products on the list could include toys, clothes, fashion accessories, pottery, boxes, home goods, and much more. This project supports the "Make in India" campaign through an online site.

#### 6) Sukanya Samridhi Yojana:

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY), a modest deposit initiative run by the Ministry of Finance, is exclusively open to females. On January 22, 2015, the humble prime minister unveiled SSY as part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign. The initiative is intended to pay for a female child's marriage and education. The Indian government launched this plan on December 14, 2014, and it encourages parents to save money away for their female child's future marriage and schooling.

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Objectives:** The present study was carried out primarily with following objectives in mind.

- To be aware of the necessity of womens empowerment.
- To assess the Awareness of Women Empowerment in Khamgaon.
- To study the Government Schemes of Women Empowerment.
- To examine the services that the government offers for women's empowerment.
- To study impact of government schemes on women empowerment.

#### Data Collection Method:

##### 1. Primary Method of Data Collection:

- Questionnaire Method

##### 2. Secondary Method of Data Collection:

- Corporate Website
- Internet/Books/Journals and other written data about women empowerment schemes and Topics
- ✓ **Research Type:** Descriptive type of research
- ✓ **Sample Size:** 100

**Sampling Techniques:** Simple random sampling

**Collection of data through:** Through online using Google Forms

##### 3. Limitations:

- Area of Study is Limited
- Sample Size is Limited
- Data is collected on the basis of Persons responses
- People are avoiding disclosing original facts



**Analysis and Interpretations:**

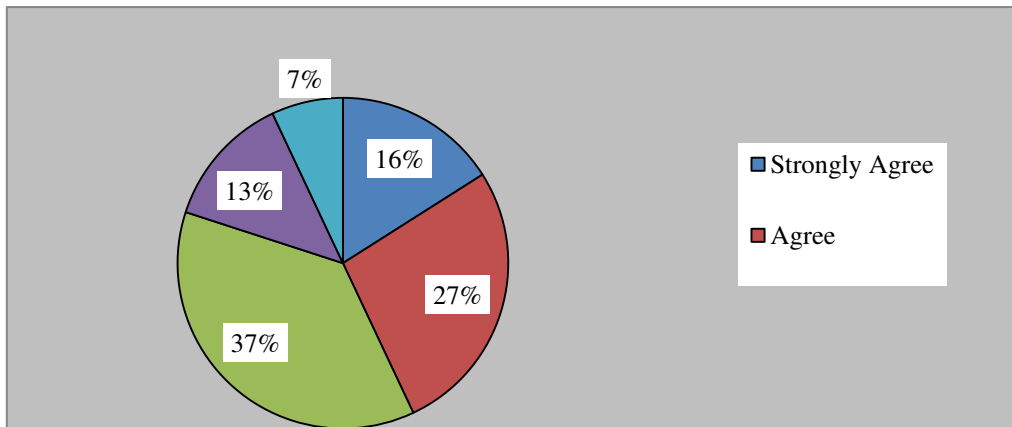
Data related to different aspects of the listed government schemes of women empowerment were collected during the present study which have been tabulated below and have been represented through graphs followed by its analysis.

**1. Media help in creating awareness amongst women about different government schemes of women empowerment:**

Table showing Responses on Media help in creating awareness about schemes

S. No.	Responses on Media help in creating awareness about schemes	No. of Responses	%age of Responses
1.	Strongly Agree	16	16
2.	Agree	27	27
3.	Neutral	37	37
4.	Disagree	13	13
5.	Strongly Disagree	7	7
6.	Total	100	100

Graph showing Responses on Media help in creating awareness about schemes



From the above table and graph it is observed that 16% of the respondents strongly agree to the statement that media helps the women informing related to government schemes and their empowerment, 27% of the respondents agree to the statement, 37% are neutral it comes to know that they feels media helps sometime to this statement, 13% of the respondents disagree to the statement and 7% strongly disagree to the statement that media doesn't helps the women to know about women empowerment and their schemes. While a sizeable percentage of respondents believe that the media can help women learn about government initiatives aimed at empowering them, a sizeable portion hold indifferent or unfavourable opinions. This suggests that more research is necessary to determine how well media outlets distribute such important information and to fill up any possible holes or weaknesses in outreach plans

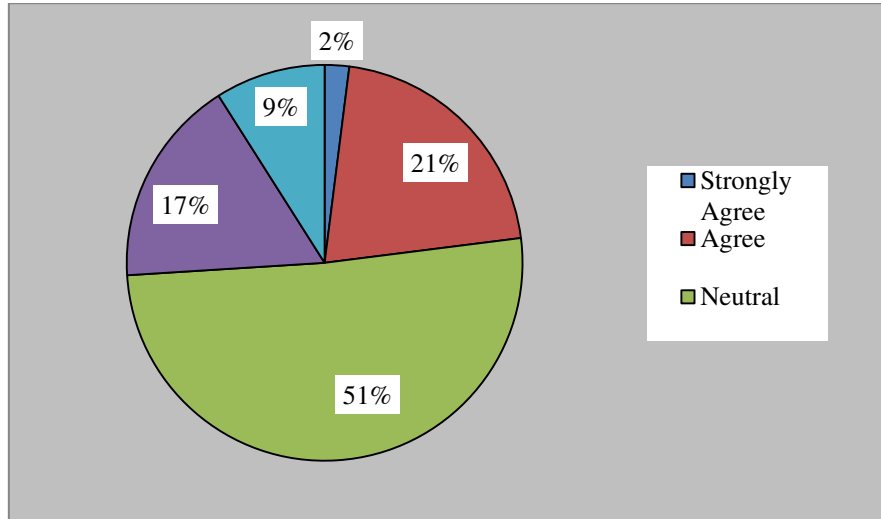
**2. Awareness amongst women of Khamgaon about women empowering government schemes:**

Table showing Responses on Awareness amongst women about schemes

S. No.	Responses on awareness amongst women about schemes	No. of Responses	%age of Responses
1.	Strongly Agree	2	2
2.	Agree	21	21
3.	Neutral	51	51
4.	Disagree	17	17
5.	Strongly Disagree	9	9
6.	Total	100	100



Graph showing Responses on Awareness amongst women about schemes



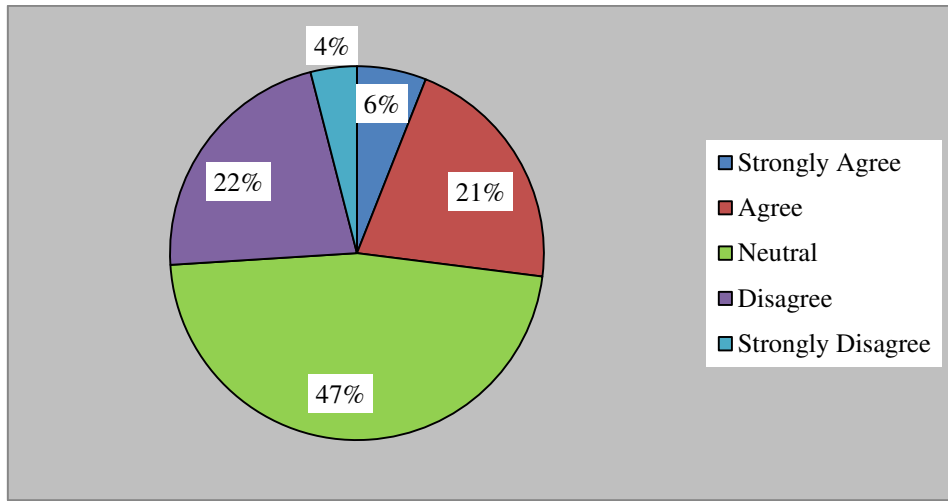
It is obvious from the above table and graph only 2% of respondents are strongly aware of the schemes related to women empowerment, 21% of the respondents agree to this statement. 51% of the respondents choose the neutral option it indicates that they don't have clear opinion on this statement, 17% of the respondents disagree to the statement and 9% of the respondents strongly disagree to this that they don't know about the government schemes which is for women empowerment. Thus in order to foster true awareness levels of women in the Khamgaon region with regard to government programs for empowerment, more research or outreach is necessary, as indicated by the comments that were neither neutral nor opposing. To make sure that qualified women may take full advantage of these programs, outreach efforts such as focused advertisements or community service projects may be needed to raise awareness.

**3. Contribution of government schemes in effectively empowering women**

Table showing Responses on Contribution of government schemes in effectively empowering women

S. No.	Responses on Contribution of government schemes in effectively empowering women	No. of Responses	%age of Responses
1.	Strongly Agree	6	6
2.	Agree	21	21
3.	Neutral	47	47
4.	Disagree	22	22
5.	Strongly Disagree	4	4
6.	Total	100	100

Graph showing Responses on Contribution of government schemes in effectively empowering women



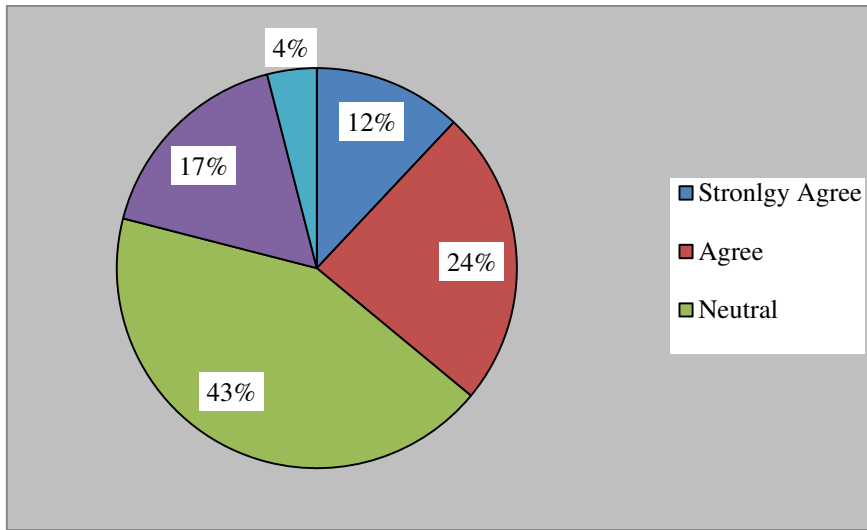
It can be seen from the above table and graph that only 6% respondents strongly agree and 21% respondents agree to the statement that government schemes in the Khamgaon region effectively contribute to women empowerment. This suggests that approximately 27% respondents perceive these schemes positively impacting but then the majority of respondents i.e. 47% select the neutral option, indicating uncertainty or lack of clear opinion regarding the effectiveness of government schemes in contributing to women empowerment. 22% of respondents disagree and 4% respondents strongly disagree to the statement for which they responded. It indicates that these schemes do not contribute effectively to women empowerment. This further indicates that approximately 26% of respondents perceive these schemes to be lacking impact. So the data shows mixed perceptions while some believe government schemes effectively empower women in Khamgaon, others are uncertain or disagree. This highlights a need for further evaluation and outreach to enhance effectiveness of these schemes and accordingly there is need to address concerns.

**4. Need for additional government schemes or improvements in existing schemes of women's empowerment:**

Table showing Responses on need for additional schemes or improvements in existing schemes of women's empowerment

S. No.	Responses on need for additional schemes or improvements in existing schemes of women's empowerment	No. of Responses	%age of Responses
1.	Strongly Agree	12	12
2.	Agree	24	24
3.	Neutral	43	43
4.	Disagree	17	17
5.	Strongly Disagree	4	4
6.	Total	100	100

Graph showing Responses on need for additional schemes or improvements in existing schemes of women's empowerment



The table and graph given above show that only 12% respondents strongly agree and 24% of them agree to the statement that there is a need for additional government schemes or improvements in existing schemes to further enhance women's empowerment in the Khamgaon region. This indicates that about 36% of participants recognize the necessity of taking action in this region, 43% respondents choose the neutral option, it indicates a lack of clarity or doubt about the necessity of new schemes or advancements for the empowerment of women, 17% of the respondents disagree and 4% of them strongly disagree to the statement, This suggests that about 21% (i.e. 17% + 4%) of respondents do not believe that additional action in this area is necessary. Though a sizable portion is unsure, a considerable number believe that more or better government programs are necessary for women's empowerment in Khamgaon. A smaller percentage of people believe that no more plans or advancements are required.

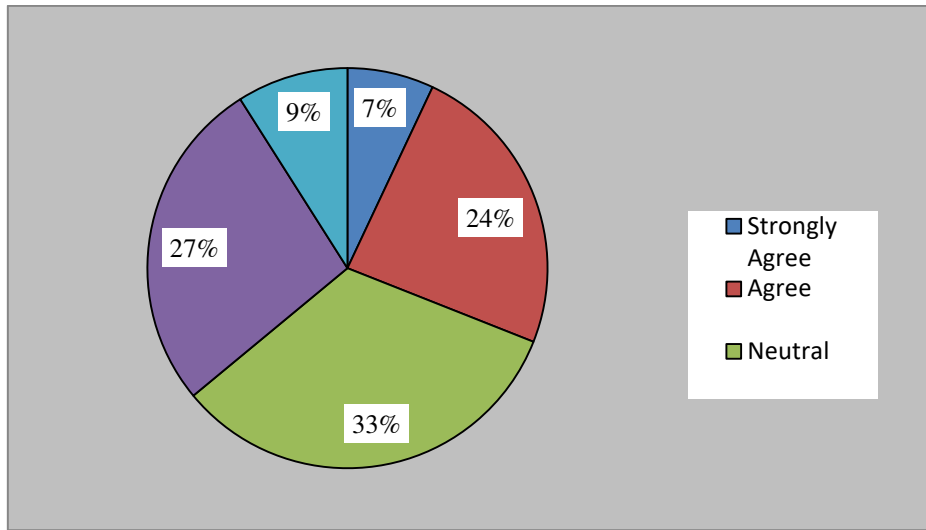
**5. Improvement in socio-economic status of Khamgaon women due to government schemes:**

Table showing Responses on Improvement in socio-economic status of women due to government schemes

S. No.	Responses on Improvement in socio-economic status of women due to government schemes	No. of Responses	%age of Responses
1.	Strongly Agree	7	7
2.	Agree	24	24
3.	Neutral	35	35
4.	Disagree	27	27
5.	Strongly Disagree	9	9
6.	Total	100	100

Graph showing Responses Improvement in socio-economic status of women due to government schemes





There are 7% respondents who strongly agree and 24% of them only agree to the statement that government schemes improved the socioeconomic condition of womens as is clear from the above table and graph. Further, 33% respondents choose neutral option to this statement because they are not sure that these help to improve their socioeconomic condition. 27% respondents disagree to the statement and 9% strongly disagree to this. According to the data, respondents had a wide variety of viewpoints. Some people disagree, but a sizable portion thinks government schemes have a favourable effect on women's socioeconomic standing. Moreover a significant percentage is still unsure or indifferent to the issue, suggesting that more research or explanation is required to determine the efficacy of these programs.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

This study underscores the multifaceted nature of women's empowerment in the Khamgaon region, revealing diverse perceptions regarding the effectiveness of government schemes and the level of awareness among women about these schemes. While some respondents acknowledge the positive impact of these initiatives, others express uncertainty, indicating the need for targeted outreach and continuous evaluation. Recognizing the importance of media in disseminating information and the necessity for additional schemes or improvements to address evolving challenges, the findings emphasize the importance of responsive governance and comprehensive approaches to advancing women's empowerment. Overall, the study highlights the complexity of socioeconomic dynamics and the on-going efforts required to create inclusive opportunities for women's development and autonomy in the community.

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