

## Scenario of Women Empowerment in India and a Comparative study on Strategic differences among selected SAARC Countries

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### Abstract:

*'Empowerment' May be described as a process which helps people to assert their control over the factors which affect their lives. Empowerment of women means developing them as more aware individuals, who are politically active, economically productive and independent and are able to make intelligent discussion in matters that affect them (U. Koko-1992). Women Empowerment will be possible if Socio-cultural Rights, Political Rights, Economic stability, judicial strength and all other rights will be established among the all women. Now India is a most dominating country in south Asia as well as in the world yet India secure 130<sup>th</sup> rank in human development index and 127<sup>th</sup> in Gender Inequality index whereas Srilanka secured 70<sup>th</sup> rank in respect of HD index and 80<sup>th</sup> in Gender Inequality index. Through this paper I want to access the India's position among SAARC countries in respect of Women Empowerment.*

**Key- Words:** Women Empowerment, Gender Inequality, Gender Gap, Empowerment Strategy

### Introduction:

Swami Vivekananda quoted that, "There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved". Women empowerment in India depends on different variables such as educational, social, and economical status of India. So participation rate of women in various sectors should be increased in our society as well as in our country. Overall human development index of India in the world is very unsatisfactory though India's position among SAARC countries is well. If the SAARC countries including India want to reach a satisfactory level of HDI then they have to give attention on women empowerment policies. According to Human Development Report prepared by UNDP, there are some basics components which indicates the women empowerment of a country such as Maternal mortality ratio, Adolescent birth rate, Life expectancy at birth, Share of seats in parliament, Population with at least some secondary education, Mean years of schooling, Labour force participation rate , etc.. I have considered Gender Development Index, Gender Inequality Index, Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) calculated in human development report as indicators of women empowerment.

### Parameters:

The parameters of women empowerment are as follows:

- i. Raising self-esteem and self-confidence of women.
- ii. Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girl child.
- iii. Building and strengthening partnership with civil society particularly women's organisations.