

Role of Media to Empowered women in India

Mansi Saini
MA Mass Communication
Sri Guru Ram Rai University, Dehradun

INTRODUCTION

As the development of media and its many mediums continued and its use started increasing, it started having a great impact on the society. Many changes took place in the society due to the influence of media. Some changes and effects were positive while some were negative. Positive effects such as receiving information from various fields, receiving new information related to education, development of personality of a person and the biggest thing is increasing the exchange of ideas between the person and the society etc. It has also had negative effects such as interference in privacy, alienation of public, information overload etc. In a democracy, apart from the three main organs of the government, the executive, the judiciary, media is considered as the fourth main pillar. The media has a significant role to play in shaping public opinion and influencing societal norms. Media acts as a bridge between different classes, power centers, individuals and institutions in the society. Media has a huge contribution in the progress and development of any country. Media has played an important role from time to time in the development and change of various sectors of the society and among all those sectors, women empowerment is the most important sector. Women have been considered as the pivot of the society.

Women empowerment is a critical issue that needs to be addressed in today's world. Empowerment of women is very necessary for the prosperity of the country and development all around. The media has done the work of making women aware of their potential by making them enter the modern and outside society, who were confined to the traditional circles created by the society. Media has also provided an opportunity to awaken their will power, to do something in political, economic, social field etc. So we can say that media has actually become a medium of women empowerment. Women empowerment is the power flowing in women so that they can take decisions related to their lives on their own, be able to make a place in the family and society and be able to get their real rights in the society. Women empowerment is the process of enabling women to have equal access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making power.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Analyze the Role of Media in Shaping Perceptions of Women in Dehradun
Evaluate the Impact of Media Campaigns on Women's Empowerment Initiatives

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology outlines the systematic approach used to investigate the role of media in empowering women in Dehradun. This section details the research design, data collection methods, sampling strategy, and analysis techniques employed to address the hypotheses of the study.

Detailed Analysis of the Study

The study focuses on examining how media, encompassing print, electronic, digital, and social media platforms, influences and contributes to women's empowerment. This analysis is crucial in understanding the role media plays in shaping perceptions, influencing policies, and fostering societal change concerning gender equality and women's rights. The study investigates the intricate relationship between media and women's empowerment in the context of Dehradun, aiming to uncover how various forms of media influence and contribute to the empowerment of women. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the research combines quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, and focus group discussions to capture both broad trends and individual experiences.

Quantitative surveys were conducted with a sample size of 500 women, representing diverse backgrounds in terms of age, education, and socio-economic status. These surveys explored media consumption patterns, perceived impacts of media on empowerment, and barriers faced in accessing empowering media content. Results indicated a significant reliance on digital and social media for information and inspiration related to women's issues, highlighting the need for targeted content that fosters empowerment.

Qualitative interviews provided deeper insights into personal narratives, revealing how media influences individual perceptions of gender roles, self-esteem, and societal expectations. Participants shared instances where media exposure had facilitated personal growth and activism, but also highlighted challenges such as stereotypical portrayals and limited representation of women in influential roles. These findings underscored the importance of media in shaping attitudes and behaviors towards gender equality.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the role of media in women's empowerment is undeniable and multifaceted, encompassing advocacy, representation, and societal influence. Media organizations serve as powerful catalysts for change, shaping narratives that challenge stereotypes, amplify women's voices, and mobilize public opinion. Through various platforms such as digital media, television, and social networking sites, there has been a noticeable shift towards promoting positive and accurate representations of women. From highlighting their achievements in

diverse fields to advocating for gender equality and addressing social issues, media has become a powerful tool for fostering awareness and driving change.

In Dehradun, residents from different walks of life have shared their experiences of how media has both reflected and influenced their views on gender roles and women's issues. While acknowledging the strides made in portraying women positively, such as showcasing their leadership, resilience, and contributions across sectors, there remains a collective call for more inclusive and nuanced representations. This includes challenging stereotypes and amplifying the voices of marginalized women who are often underrepresented in mainstream media.

Moreover, the accessibility of digital media platforms has democratized information dissemination, allowing individuals to participate in and support online campaigns that advocate for women's rights and empowerment. Whether through sharing stories of empowerment, participating in online initiatives, or engaging in discussions on social media, residents of Dehradun are actively contributing to the broader movement towards gender equality.

As we continue to navigate the evolving media landscape, it is imperative to harness its potential to empower women further. By promoting diverse narratives, challenging stereotypes, and fostering inclusive dialogue, media can continue to play a transformative role in advancing gender equality and empowering women in Dehradun and beyond. Ultimately, media's role in women's empowerment transcends mere portrayal; it shapes attitudes, influences policies, and inspires collective action towards a future where every woman's voice is heard and valued.

REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Shweta Chaturvedi, Communication Today, Published dec,30,2014
<https://communicationtoday.net/2014/12/30/media-role-in-women-empowerment/>
2. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023 May; 20(10): 5770. Published 9 May,2023.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10218532/>
3. Anup Shah, Women's Rights, Published March 14,2010
<https://www.globalissues.org/article/166/womens-rights>
4. Howard Madison Parshley, Third World, Second Sex (Volume 1), Published 1953.
https://books.google.co.in/books/about/Third_World_Second_Sex_Volume_1.html?id=nipHAAAAYAAJ&redir_esc=y
5. Manu Smriti and Women, by Sanjeev Newar, Published May 3, 2011.
<https://agniveer.com/manu-smriti-and-women/>

6. Gill, R. (2017). Gender and the media. John Wiley & Sons. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/9781119568124.ch55>
7. Kakar, S. (2021). Sustaining media initiatives for gender equality: Challenges and opportunities. Media, Culture & Society, 43(5), 753-768. <https://rm.coe.int/prems-064620-gbr-2573-gender-equality-in-media/16809f0342>
8. Dinesha P T, Status of Female Literacy Rate in India: An Overview, January 2017, SSRN Electronic Journal
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319946391_Status_of_Female_Literacy_Rate_in_India_An_Overview
9. Dr. Sonia Gupta , Ph.d in Mass Communication, and Specialization in Women Empowerment and Femenism <https://www.ijariit.com/manuscripts/v4i1/V4I1-1188.pdf>
10. Bharat Dhiman, Education's Role in Empowering Women and Promoting Gender Inequality
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/374826969_Education's_Role_in_Empowering_Women_and_Promoting_Gender_Inequality_A_Critical_Review

SHODH
SAHITYA
शोध साहित्य