

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN KARNATAKA: PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Karnataka has made significant strides in empowering women through various policies and initiatives aimed at improving their socio-economic status and ensuring gender equality. The state government has implemented numerous schemes focusing on education, health, financial independence, and safety for women. Despite these advancements, several challenges continue to hinder the full realization of women's empowerment in Karnataka. Gender-based violence, including domestic abuse and sexual harassment, remains a significant issue. Additionally, deep-rooted societal norms and patriarchal attitudes still limit women's freedom and opportunities, particularly in rural areas. Economic disparities, inadequate healthcare facilities, and limited access to education also pose substantial barriers. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach, including stricter law enforcement, community awareness programs, and enhanced government support for women's rights. Strengthening partnerships between the government, non-governmental organizations, and civil society is crucial to fostering an environment where women can achieve their full potential and contribute equally to the state's development.

KEYWORDS: *Empowerment, Women Policies, Socio-Economic, Gender Equality, Health, Financial Independence, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Harassment, Economic Disparities and Healthcare*

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