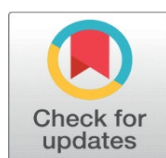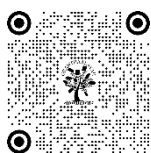# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND YOUTH PERCEPTION IN INDIA: A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AGARTALA MUNICIPAL AREA

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ABSTRACT

Women's empowerment has become a prominent social, political, and economic issue in India. This study examines the perceptions of youth concerning women's empowerment in India, specifically within the Agartala Municipal Area. The youth, as catalysts for change, play a crucial part in the dialogue surrounding gender equality and empowerment. Analyzing the perspectives and behaviors of the younger generation allows us to understand their views on gender roles, the efficacy of current empowerment initiatives, and their personal involvement in the cause.

The study examines major topics related to women's empowerment, the attitudes of youth towards gender equality, and their participation in empowerment activities, utilizing a sample of 100 individuals, both male and female, from the Agartala Municipal Area in Tripura. The methodology encompasses surveys and interviews, aimed at gathering data to comprehend the complex nature of adolescent involvement in women's empowerment. The study continues by outlining the limitations faced and proposing recommendations for future research to address the discovered gaps in the perceptions and behaviors of children in this situation.

Keywords: Empowerment, Municipal Area, Perception, Attitude, Effectiveness

1. INTRODUCTION

Women Empowerment has been consider one of the vital issues in the twenty first century. Because equal development of society will be possible by providing right amount of opportunity and positive attitude towards men and women. But in our society women have been subjugated in various fields of social activities. The concept of women's empowerment in India has received significant attention over the years. The present study took place at agartala Municipal area in Tripura state. This study basically focused on Comprehending the perceptions of youngsters in this region offers insight into how young Indians perceive and engage with issues pertaining to women's empowerment.

1.1. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study explores the following objectives:

1) To understand youth opinion regarding women empowerment in India.

2) To examine youth engagement and activities toward women empowerment in India, focusing on the Agartala Municipal Area.
3) To know about the Challenges Faced by Youth in Promoting Women Empowerment
4) To know about the Youth's Recommendations for Strengthening Women Empowerment in Agartala

2. METHODOLOGY

1) Study Area

The study was conducted in the Agartala Municipal Area, which represents a blend of both rural and urban characteristics, providing a comprehensive view of youth perceptions in the region. Agartala is a city known for its cultural heritage and evolving political landscape, making it an ideal location for studying contemporary views on women empowerment.

2) Sampling

A sample of 100 respondents, consisting of both male and female youth aged 18-35, was selected from the Agartala Municipal Area. The sample size was determined based on the population of the area and the aim to achieve a representative balance of gender, educational backgrounds, and socio-economic statuses.

3) Data Collection Tools

Data was collected through a structured questionnaire and semi-structured interviews. The questionnaire was designed to gather both quantitative and qualitative data, addressing issues such as the participants' views on women empowerment, their engagement in related activities, and the barriers they perceive. The interviews were conducted with a smaller subset of participants to gain deeper insights into personal attitudes and experiences regarding women empowerment.

4) Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Descriptive statistics, such as percentages and means, were used to summarize the findings from the questionnaires. The qualitative data obtained from the interviews was analyzed thematically, identifying recurring patterns and key insights related to youth perceptions and activities toward women empowerment.

3. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The present study took place at agartala municipal area in the state of Tripura (North-East) . To conduct this research work the researcher makes a questionnaire which is sub-divided into four sections and explain the data which were collected from respondent. To conduct this present research work 100 sample collected from both male and female under agartala municipal area. Section 1: Demographic Information and Youth Perception on Women Empowerment

Table 1 Respondents by Level of Education

Classification	Percentage (%)
Primary and below	6
Elementary / Middle	10
Metric	33
Intermediate	16
Graduation	19
Postgraduate and above	9
Uneducated	7
Total	**100**

Interpretation:

This table highlights the educational qualifications of respondents. A significant portion of respondents, 33%, had completed Metric (secondary education), while 19% had attained Graduation level. A notable 7% were uneducated, and only 9% had postgraduate qualifications or higher.

Table 2 Reasons for Women's Ownership of Property

Reasons	Percentage (%)
Islamic and inheritance right	84
Economic Support	12
To avoid tension	2
Married	2
Total	**100**

Interpretation:

A vast majority (84%) of respondents believe that women should own property based on Islamic and inheritance rights. Economic support is seen as another major reason (12%), while other reasons such as avoiding tension and marriage are less frequently cited (2% each).

Table 3 Women's Right to Buy or Sell Property

Responses	Percentage (%)
Yes	63
No	35
Don't know	2
Total	**100**

Interpretation:

Most respondents (63%) agree that women should have the right to buy or sell property, with 35% opposing and a small percentage (2%) being uncertain.

Table 4 Women's Job Participation

Responses	Percentage (%)
Yes	59
No	39
Don't know	2
Total	**100**

Interpretation:

A majority (59%) of respondents support women's participation in jobs, while 39% oppose it. The 2% uncertainty reflects minor indecision among respondents.

Table 5 Reasons Why Women Should Do Jobs

Reasons	Percentage (%)
To fulfill their needs	49
To have economic stability	22
To utilize education	14
Female are independent	8
For country development	7
Total	**100**

Interpretation:

Nearly half of the respondents (49%) believe women should work to fulfill their own needs. Economic stability (22%) and utilizing education (14%) are also seen as important motivations.

Table 6 Why Women Should Have Job Quota

Reasons	Percentage (%)
For female encouragement	58
For needy women	13
For economic support to women	12
Women's rights	7
To utilize education	6
To protect men's share of seats	4
Total	**100**

Interpretation:

A majority (58%) feel that job quotas for women encourage female participation. Other reasons include supporting needy women (13%) and providing economic assistance (12%).

Table 7 Equal Job Opportunities for Women

Responses	Percentage (%)
Yes	78
No	22
Don't know	0
Total	**100**

Interpretation:

The overwhelming majority of respondents (78%) support equal job opportunities for women, with no indecision, as indicated by the 0% "don't know" responses.

Table 8 Reasons Why Women Should Have Equal Job Opportunities

Reasons	Percentage (%)
To fulfill women's needs	29
Women have a right	14
To reduce unemployment	14
Economic support for family	12
Country development	10
To utilize education	10
Women are better workers	8
For women's security	3
Total	**100**

Interpretation:

The most commonly cited reason (29%) for supporting equal job opportunities is fulfilling women's needs, followed by reducing unemployment and promoting economic support for families (14% each).

Table 9 Belief in Importance of Women Empowerment for Societal Development

Response Options	Percentage (%)
a) Yes	85%
b) No	10%

c) Not sure	5%
Total	**100%**

Interpretation:

The vast majority of respondents (85%) agree that women empowerment is important for societal development. Only 10% do not see it as important, and a small portion (5%) remains uncertain. This shows a strong general consensus among youth in Agartala about the critical role of women empowerment in society.

Table 10 Perception of Current Efforts toward Women Empowerment in Agartala

Response Options	Percentage (%)
a) Yes	40%
b) No	50%
c) Don't know	10%
Total	**100%**

Interpretation:

Half of the respondents (50%) believe that the current efforts toward women empowerment in Agartala are insufficient. Only 40% feel that the efforts are adequate, while 10% remain unsure. This indicates a gap between the existing programs or policies and the youth's expectations or awareness, suggesting that more needs to be done to effectively empower women in this region.

Section 2: Youth Engagement in Women Empowerment Activities

Table 1 Active Involvement in Women Empowerment Programs or Activities

Response Options	Percentage (%)
a) Yes	60%
b) No	40%
Total	**100%**

Table 2 Types of Women Empowerment Activities Involved In (Multiple Choices)

Activity Type	Percentage (%)
a) Awareness campaigns	35%
b) Volunteering	25%
c) Fundraising	10%
d) Educational programs	20%
e) Social media activism	30%
f) Others (please specify)	5%
Total	**100%**

Table 3 Frequency of Participation in Women Empowerment-Related Activities

Response Options	Percentage (%)
a) Frequently	25%
b) Occasionally	50%
c) Rarely	25%
Total	**100%**

Table 4 Membership in Organizations or Groups Promoting Women Empowerment

Response Options	Percentage (%)
a) Yes	40%
b) No	60%
Total	**100%**

Table 5 Participation in Workshops or Training Related to Gender Equality or Women Empowerment

Response Options	Percentage (%)
a) Yes	45%
b) No	55%
Total	**100%**

Table 6 Following Women Empowerment Initiatives on Social Media

Response Options	Percentage (%)
a) Yes	70%
b) No	30%
Total	**100%**

Interpretation:

1) Active Involvement in Women Empowerment Programs (Table 1):

A majority (60%) of respondents are actively involved in women empowerment programs or activities, while 40% are not engaged. This reflects a decent level of youth involvement in the Agartala area, though there is potential to increase participation.

2) Types of Activities Involved In (Table 2):

The most common activities that youth engage in are awareness campaigns (35%) and social media activism (30%), highlighting a preference for raising awareness and promoting empowerment through digital means. Volunteering (25%) and educational programs (20%) also feature prominently, while fundraising (10%) and other activities (5%) are less common.

3) Frequency of Participation (Table 3):

Half of the respondents participate in women empowerment activities occasionally (50%), with frequent and rare participation being equally represented at 25% each. This suggests that while many youths are engaged, the intensity of their involvement varies.

4) Membership in Organizations Promoting Women Empowerment (Table 4):

Only 40% of respondents are part of an organization or group that promotes women empowerment, indicating that while there is some formal involvement, most youth (60%) are not members of any structured organization. This points to a gap in organized participation.

5) Participation in Workshops or Training (Table 5):

Less than half (45%) of respondents have attended workshops or training related to gender equality or women empowerment. The 55% who have not participated could benefit from targeted educational efforts to enhance their understanding and involvement.

6) Following Women Empowerment Initiatives on Social Media (Table 6):

A significant portion (70%) of respondents follow women empowerment initiatives on social media, indicating that digital platforms are a key source of information and engagement for the youth. This suggests that social media is an important tool for promoting women empowerment among young people in Agartala.

Section 3 Challenges Faced by Youth in Promoting Women Empowerment

Table 1 Adequate Support from Local Authorities or Institutions for Youth Engagement in Women Empowerment Activities

Response Options	Percentage (%)
a) Yes	20%
b) No	70%
c) Not sure	10%
Total	**100%**

Table 2 Main Challenges Faced When Engaging in Women Empowerment Activities

Challenge Type	Percentage (%)
a) Lack of resources	35%
b) Lack of awareness	25%
c) Social stigma	15%
d) Time constraints	20%
e) Others (please specify)	5%
Total	**100%**

Interpretation:

1) Adequate Support from Local Authorities (Table 1):

A significant majority (70%) of respondents feel that there is inadequate support from local authorities or institutions for youth engagement in women empowerment activities. Only 20% believe that adequate support exists, while 10% are uncertain. This indicates a clear perception among youth that local entities are not sufficiently facilitating their involvement in empowerment initiatives, suggesting a need for increased support and resources from these authorities.

2) Main Challenges Faced in Women Empowerment Activities (Table 2):

The most prominent challenge faced by youth in engaging in women empowerment activities is lack of resources (35%), which indicates a critical barrier to participation. Lack of awareness (25%) follows as the second major challenge, highlighting the need for more information and education on the topic. Time constraints (20%) also impede involvement, while social stigma (15%) further complicates engagement efforts. Only a small portion (5%) cited other challenges, suggesting that the primary barriers are well-recognized among respondents.

Section 4 Youth's Recommendations for Strengthening Women Empowerment in Agartala

Table 1 Recommended Steps by Government to Enhance Women Empowerment in Agartala

Recommendation Type	Percentage (%)
a) Provide more educational opportunities	40%
b) Increase women's political participation	15%
c) Ensure better employment opportunities	25%
d) Improve safety and security for women	15%
e) Others (please specify)	5%
Total	**100%**

Table 2 Ways to Motivate Youth to Take an Active Role in Women Empowerment

Motivation Type	Percentage (%)
a) Awareness campaigns	35%
b) Government incentives	20%

c) Training programs	25%
d) Community involvement	15%
e) Others (please specify)	5%
Total	**100%**

Interpretation:

1) **Recommended Steps by Government to Enhance Women Empowerment (Table 1):** The most frequently suggested step is to provide more educational opportunities for women (40%), indicating that education is seen as a foundational element for empowerment. Ensuring better employment opportunities (25%) is also highly prioritized, reflecting the need for economic independence. Respondents believe that increasing women's political participation and improving safety and security for women (both at 15%) are also important, though they are considered slightly less critical than education and employment. The low percentage (5%) for other unspecified measures suggests a strong consensus around these key areas.

2) **Ways to Motivate Youth to Take an Active Role in Women Empowerment (Table 2):**

Awareness campaigns are seen as the most effective way to motivate youth (35%), emphasizing the importance of information dissemination and education in fostering engagement. Training programs (25%) are also viewed as significant, suggesting that skill development is vital for encouraging participation. Government incentives (20%) could play a role in motivating youth, while community involvement (15%) is recognized as an important factor. The small percentage (5%) for other methods indicates a clear preference for these established strategies.

4. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study has several limitations that should be acknowledged. Firstly, the sample size of 100 respondents, while providing valuable insights, is not large enough to represent the entire youth population of Agartala Municipal Area or India as a whole. Secondly, the study focuses only on urban youth in Agartala, which may not capture the diversity of opinions and experiences in rural areas or other regions of the country.

5. CONCLUSION

The research titled "Women Empowerment and Youth Perception in India: A Special Reference to Agartala Municipal Area" offers significant insights into young perceptions and involvement in women empowerment.

The study indicates that although several young individuals engage in women's empowerment activities—such as awareness campaigns and volunteering—there exists a notable deficiency in extensive engagement. Youth engagement is frequently impeded by insufficient resources and awareness, indicating the necessity for improved measures to effectively mobilize young individuals.

The study cites various problems faced by adolescents in supporting women's empowerment, including insufficient assistance from local authorities, societal stigma, and restricted access to resources.

The youth's recommendations emphasize the need for governmental support through educational opportunities, safety measures, and community involvement. Their insights indicate that targeted programs aimed at raising awareness and providing resources could significantly enhance youth involvement in women empowerment.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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