ROLE OF ICT IN EDUCATION FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Abstract— Information technology is powerful tool for transforming social economic and political life globally. An empower women is someone who knows her strengths and isn't afraid to embrace them. To be empowered means to be in control of your life, aware of your capabilities and ready to take on even you biggest dreams.

ICT opens up a direct window for women to the outside world. The verities of ICT are used by the rural women develop their ICT skills.

Internet in the education sector plays an important role especially in the process of empowering the technology into the educational activities. How ICT tools are beneficial for women to develop their skills. Which includes devices or application, encompassing, radio, television, cellular phone, computer and network hardware & software, satellite systems & so on. As well as the various services and applications associated with them, such as video conferencing and distance learning.

 Currently many firms in India and also outside India are there to support women for their rights.

Index Terms—ICT, women empowerment tools of ICT potential of ICT

INTRODUCTION

Information and Communication Technologies comprise a complex and heterogeneous set of goods, applications and services used to produce, process, distribute and transform information. ICT encompasses both the internet-enabled sphere as

Well as the <u>mobile one</u> powered by wireless networks. It also includes antiquated technologies,

Such as landline telephones, radio and television broadcast -- all of which are still widely used today

alongside cutting-edge ICT pieces such as artificial intelligence and robotics. ICT has more recently been used to describe the convergence of several technologies and the use of common transmission lines carrying very diverse data and communication types and formats. For instance, the Kothmale Community Radio Internet uses both radio broadcasts and computer and Internet technologies to facilitate the sharing of information and provide educational opportunities in a rural community in Sri Lanka.Similarly, the Indira Gandhi National Open University in India combines the use of print, recorded audio and video, broadcast radio and television, and audio conferencing technologies.

Women's empowerment is the process in which women elaborate and recreate what it is that they can be, do, and accomplish in a circumstance that they previously were denied. Women empowerment has become a significant topic of discussion in developmentand economics. It can also point to the approaches regarding other trivialized gendersin a particular political or social context.

 The Women's Empowerment Principles offer practical guidance to business and the private sector on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. Developed through a partnership between UN Women and the United Nations Global Compact, the Principles are designed to support companies in reviewing existing policies and practices — or establishing new ones — to realize women's empowerment. The development of the Women's Empowerment Principles included an international multi-stakeholder consultation process, which began in March 2009 and culminated in their launch on International Women's Day in March 2010. Women's Empowerment educates and empowers women, who are homeless, with the skills and confidence necessary to secure a job, create a healthy lifestyle, and regain a home for themselves and their children.

ICT AND WOMEN

Women's empowerment is a key factor in determining success of development. Studies aptly indicate that women are suffering from various problems due to lack of education and information. The right information at the right time can empower marginalized women and protect them from several challenges. A number of ICT tools such as radio, television, mobile phone and the internet are used to empower women about awareness, education and information, as this knowledge can create more opportunities.

In our Information and Communications Technology (ICT) era, half of women are suffering due to the gap between ICT and its use without needs assessment and participation of women

living in poor communities. Women are 14% less likely than men to own a mobile phone. Moreover, 25% fewer women and girls are online compared to men and boys. In Africa, the gap is widening, with over 40%of women not able to effectively engage ICT tools for personal and professional activities. It is not just enough to enroll girls and women in education and training programmes; it is equally important that they receive quality education, in order to ensure appropriate learning outcomes. As interactions between governments and society continue to rely more on information and communication technologies, it becomes crucial that the voices of women and girls are represented in the digital world.

The digital sector offers highly skilled, well-paid jobs but fails to attract and employ many women-

● Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a growing sector that creates 120,000 new jobs every year. In 2014 it accounted for 4.2% of the EU's gross domestic product. However, by 2020, the EU will lack 900,000 skilled ICT workers.

● Women are still under-represented in this sector: they are less likely to take up studies in this field and are much less represented in the ICT job market.

● Women made up only 17.2% of the 1.4 million people who chose to information and communication technologies in the EU in 2015 and only 16.7% of the nearly 8.2 million employed as ICT specialists in the EU in 2016.

● The situation is also dire compared to other industries. Women only take up 19% of managerial position in ICT whereas the average for other sectors is 45%.

TYPES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Social empowerment is understood as the process of developing a sense of autonomy and self-confidence, and acting individually and collectively to change social relationships and the institutions and discourses that exclude poor people and keep them in poverty. Poor people's empowerment, and their ability to hold others to account, is strongly influenced by their individual assets (such as land, housing, livestock, savings) and capabilities of all types: human (such as good health and education), social (such as social belonging, a sense of identity, leadership relations) and psychological (self-esteem, self-confidence, the ability to imagine and aspire to a better future). Also important are people's collective assets and capabilities, such as voice, organization, representation and identity.

Economic empowerment is thought to allow poor people to think beyond immediate daily survival and to exercise greater control over both their resources and life choices. For example, it enables households to make their own decisions around making investments in health and education, and taking risks in order to increase their income. There is also some evidence that economic empowerment can strengthen vulnerable groups' participation in the decision-making. The literature on economic empowerment is vast, and a large part of this focuses on the economic empowerment of women – a key strategy in addressing gender inequality. More generally, the discourse on economic empowerment centers around four broad areas: a) the promotion of the assets of poor people; b) transformative forms of social protection; c) microfinance; and d) skills training.

The political empowerment of women is a societal process crucial to development and progress. The V-Dem women's political empowerment index (WPEI) provides information about women's civil liberties, civil society participation, and political participation globally. Political empowerment supports creating policies that would best support gender equality and agency for women in both the public and private spheres. Popular methods that have been suggested are to create affirmative action policies that have a quota for the number of women in policy making and parliament positions. As of 2017, the global average of women whom hold lower and single house parliament positions is 23.6 percent.Further recommendations have been to increase women's rights to vote, voice opinions, and the ability to run for office with a fair chance of being elected. Because women are typically associated with child care and domestic responsibilities in the home, they have less time dedicated to entering the labour market and running their business.

POTENTIAL OF ICT FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women empowerment is a process (rather than end) towards gender equality; thus in this piece, I will be focusing on some of the issues I found contributing towards this process for rural women in India. The points I am going to share below have been pulled out from different research findings, observation reports and diary.

TOOLS OF ICT FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT-
● **Digital tools** – Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) encompass the modern tools of knowledge-sharing and communication used in today's increasingly digital age, i.e. the Internet, computers, mobile technologies, MP3 players, etc. Digital and mobile technologies and the Internet have enormous potential for women's empowerment, providing

women with opportunities to find and share information, access educational and health services, generate income, interact, collaborate, network, and have videoconferences.

• **Online learning (e-learning) & mobile learning (m-learning):** E-Learning and m-Learning opportunities can empower women with broader, more flexible access to both informal and formal education thanks to the use of desktop, laptop and tablet computers, MP3 players, and mobile phones, while also transforming the delivery and reception of knowledge by offering a more collaborative, contextualized and interactive learning experience to people

• **Online banking (e-banking) & mobile banking (m-banking):**Through online and mobile banking, poor women, and even illiterate women, can access affordable, secure banking services which help them to better manage their family's income, facilitate financial transactions related to their businesses, and encourage them to save for their children's futures. By digital and mobile technologies, women can save the time, transport expenses and/or lost income they would normally incur in transit to banks.

• **Online health (e-health) & mobile health (m-health):** These tools also have the power to expand training opportunities for healthcare professionals and their ability to diagnose diseases and track patients'. the Internet grants women and girls, particularly those in isolated, rural areas, timely, easy access to healthcare as well as vital information related to their health.progress, keeping more women and girls in good health.

• **Social media-**social media are media for social interaction. Which is one of the important tool can be used in ICT for education purpose as well for transferring information from one place to another in few seconds in any department it is one of the best thing. This is enabled by the different forms social media can take on such as social networking sites, content communities, weblogs, social blogs, micro-blogging, collaborative projects, etc. It is to note that these forms of social media differ in terms of self-disclosure and media richness criteria, which media theory proposes to distinguish social media types. Media richness is about 'the amount of information a medium can transmit within a given time, and self–disclosure.

SUPPORTING FIRMS FOR WOMEN

• **BPM (San Francisco)**

The firm's diverse women partners realize and capitalize on their abilities to bring in new clients, which has resulted in a burst of revenue from its recently promoted women.

- **Brown Smith Wallace (St. Louis)**

The firm assigns performance managers to work with younger employees to craft personalized career advancement strategies that provide guidance during early career decisions and their ramifications.

- **Clark Nuber PS (Bellevue, Wash.)**

With 47.5% women shareholders as proof of its success, the firm's monthly feedback meetings emphasize accomplishments in real time, not just annually, so employees see immediate results of and from their actions.

- **CohnReznick LLP (New York)**

The established success of the firm's Women CAN efforts are being leveraged to mentor leaders of its new diversity and inclusion councils.

- **Novogradac & Company LLP(San Francisco)**

Success here is driven by metrics…and metrics are driven by experiments with career paths, flexibility, and business development; Novogradac doesn't shy away from setting precedents with alternative career paths.

- **Kerkering, Barberio & Co. (Sarasota, Fla.)**

Flexibility is a core part of the firm's culture with 23% of employees on a flexible work arrangement, ranging from reduced hours, flexible hours or remote work.

- **The Bonadio Group (Pittsford, NY)**

With 38% female partners and principals and 50% of the new 2018 partners female, the firm continues to focus on a strong pipeline by including senior level employees in its leadership development training program.

- **Azad foundation**

Azad foundation focusses on women who continue in abusive relationships because of their financial dependence on their husbands. The New Delhi-based organization trains women in professions traditionally closed to them and helps them achieve financial independence.

Women undergo a half-year training course, which includes topics such as self-defense, women's rights, sexuality and reproductive rights, effective communication, grooming and most importantly, driving, which will become their future vocation. The organization's sister concern, Sakha Consulting Wings, provides employment to these women as cab drivers and thereby, safe chauffeur and car hire services to their female clients

- **Bharatiya Grameen Mahila Sangh**

Bharatiya Grameen Mahila Sangh or BGMS (National Association of Rural Women India) was founded in 1955, and is a non-political and non-sectarian national organization with branches all over India, in 14 states and union territories. The goal of BGMS is the welfare, and empowerment of women and children. The organization creates Mahila Mandals (women self-help groups) across villages in its areas, for women empowerment and education.

- **ICRW**

International Center for Research on Women is an organization headquartered in Washington DC with regional offices in New Delhi and Mumbai. ICRW was founded with the belief that when women have opportunities to improve their lives, everyone benefits. ICRW carries out research that identifies barriers to economic and social stability of women and designs evidence-based plans for program designers, donors and policymakers that empower women.

CONCLUSION

This study show that the ICT played important role for women empowerment in India. Information technology gave various benefits for the well-being of women. This study indicate that maximum women's could access internet and various ICT tools. To make women independent, in all areas with the help of ICT. ICT provides necessary development of women in rural area. On the basis of analysis researcher relate that women want to acquire various information by using information technology specially social, economic and political etc. various new trends are also playing vital role for business operation such as e-learning, e-banking, e-mobile etc.

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