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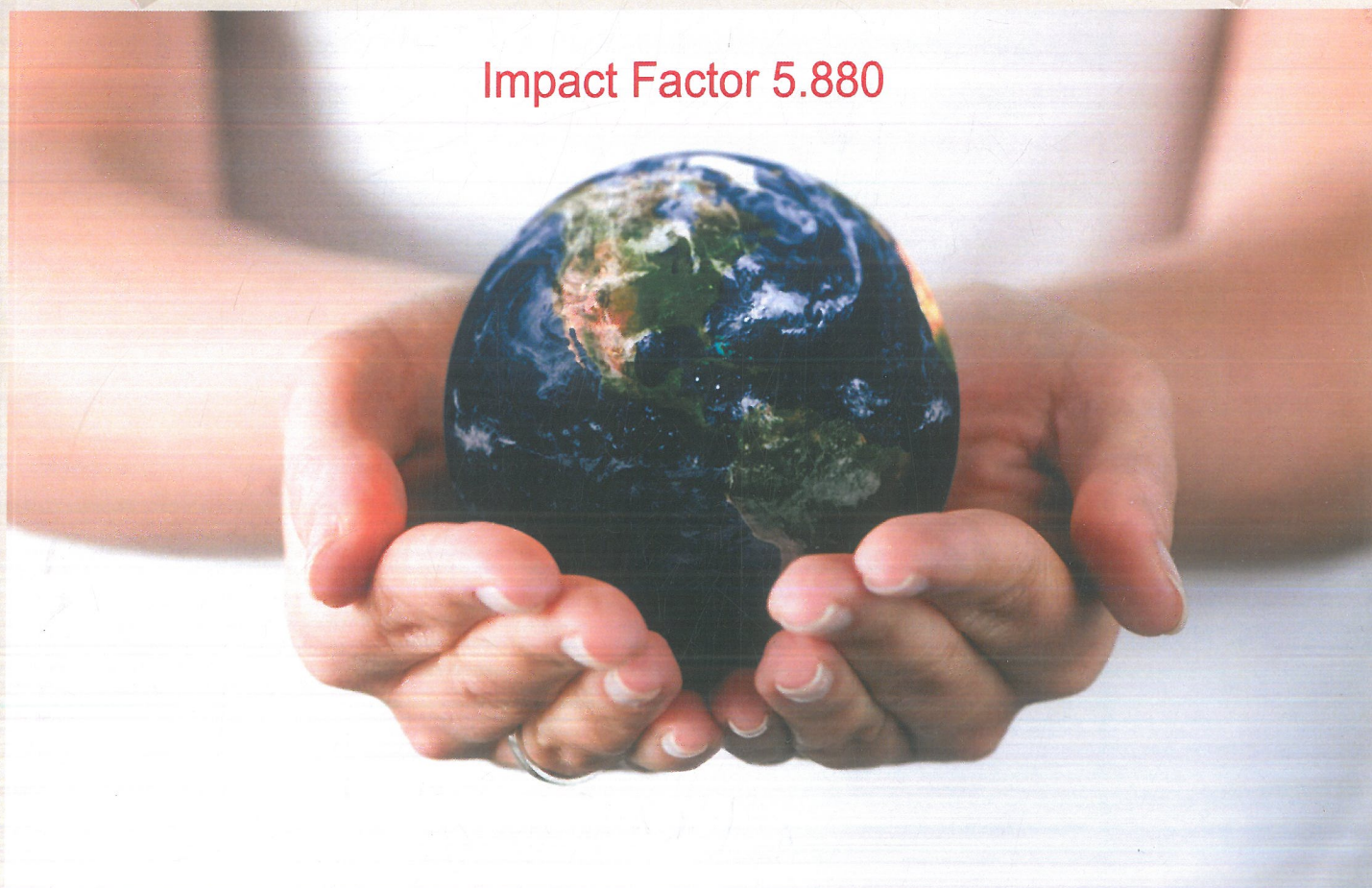


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Dr. Dilkhush Patel was born in Gujarat (India) on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1969. He received his primary and secondary education at Madana Gadh and his higher education from the H.N.G. University and Gujarat University of Ahmedabad. In his educational career, he did his M A in Alankarsastra (Sanskrit), he did his doctoral research on “Swami Shri Gopalcharan Das Sastri Virchit Shri Harivan Vichran Mahakavya Ma Nirupit Tatva Darshan“from Gujarat University.

Dr. Patel has more than 31 years of teaching experience at school and college level. He started his career from Smt. C. R. Gardi Arts College, Munpur. He taught subjects like Sanskrit, Hindi, English, Geography, Psychology, Ayurveda, yoga and Elements of Education Management and so on. To his credit, there are several research papers, publications, and participation at national as well as international seminars and conferences. With education He is also interested in different co-curricular activities like dance and music.

He has published 25 research articles at reputed International level research journals. He has also published 7 books; under his guidance 7 Students have awarded with M.Phil. degree and 7 Student have awarded with Ph.D. degree.

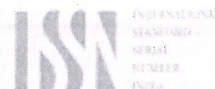
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<b>Content of the Table</b>
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Sr. No.	Title of the Paper	Author	Page No.
1	Contribution of Digital Services to the Development of Tourism Destination in India	VASAVA MAHESHKUMAR B.	1
2	A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON SHOULDER STRENGTH AND ABDOMINAL STRENGTH OF TRIBAL AND NON TRIBAL PLAYERS	Dr. Hasam. R. Bhaliya	5
3	Analysis of Corporate Social Responsibility of Tata Steel Limited	Modhavadiya Priti	7
4	The Economic Impact of Tourism on Local Communities in Saurashtra Region	Ajay Mekhiya	10
5	Transformation of Education through E-learning	Dr. Alpeshkumar Nakrani	15
6	ROLE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH	BARAD BHARATSINH GOVIND BHAI	18
7	Indian Culture: Unity in Diversity	Janki J Kalathiya	20
8	COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN ELEMENTS IN INDIAN GHOST STORIES	TARUNA KESHAVBHAI BADVA	24
9	Innovations in Teaching Language	Bambharoliya Sanjaykumar Ghusabhai	30
10	Need for Sociological Approach to Education	Dr. Nirmala Devshibhai Aghera	33
11	Study on Islamic Banking system in academic curricula with reference to Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan	Dr. Rasida T Bharmal	35
12	Impact Of Social Media On The Culture Of Youth	HIRAL GIRISHKUMAR PANDYA	37
13	A study of the use on Instagram, Self - Control and Academic Performance on College Students	Dr. Jayesh V. Jotaniya	41
14	Indian History: Enlightenment in society	Dr. Vijaykumar Ghelabhai Nandasana	44
15	Achievement Motivation among Technical and Non-Technical College Students	Dr. NEHA R. GARVA	49
16	A study on effect of liquidity on profitability of selected IT companies	Dr. kiran Ishwarbhai Jagani	54
17	Mental Health of Tribal and Non-Tribal Students	Dr. Ketan D. Sanchla	58
18	A Study of Prevalence of Internet Addiction among Adolescents from Urban and Rural Area	Swara Joshi	63
19	A Study through Camels Model of selected Indian Private Sector Banks	Shemal Paresh Dave,	67
20	INVESTORS' AWARENESS TOWARDS INVESTING IN E-GOLD AS AN INVESTMENT AVENUE: A STUDY OF SURENDRANAGAR CITY WITH REFERENCE TO SDG-9	DR. MEHUL D. CHHANIYARA	71
21	Women entrepreneurship: a track to women empowerment and economic growth in India	Yashvi Ripalbhai Vora Dr. Mehul D. Chhaniyara	77
22	A Guide to Bibliometrics: Understanding Research Impact Analysis	Ms. Hina P. Parmar	82



23	Exploring Deduction, Logic and, Morality in the Sherlock Holmes Stories: Significance in Victorian Society	Ansari Danish N.	87
24	An investigation of the effect of social media on young people	Dr. Nehal Shingala	91
25	Film Philology: The Significance of Cinematic Adaptations in Promoting the Study of English Literature in India	Dr. Priti Lavkesh Patel	94
26	OPINION REGARDING MANAGEMENT & EMPLOYEE RELATED ASPECTS OF PROPOSED NEW SPORTS UNIVERSITY IN GUJARAT: CASE STUDY	Dr S R Parvadia	98
27	Family Environment Of Patients Suffering From Cancer, Coronary Heart Disease And Aids	Jadeja Karmdeepsinh Jayendrasinh	103
28	हिन्दी साहित्य में आदिवासी लोक-साहित्य	प्रो.डॉ.सरोज एम. बारिआ	107
29	मध्यकालीन हिन्दी में दलित साहित्य	डॉ. भरतभाई सीघाभाई मकवाणा	111
30	“ एक पृथ्वी... एक कुटुंब ...भविष्य भी एक है” (जी-20 सम्मेलन और भारत की अध्यक्षता के संदर्भ में)	जंबा एम.चौधरी	115

## Women entrepreneurship: a track to women empowerment and economic growth in India

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**Abstract** -Entrepreneurship is the backbone of any country in socio-economic growth. In the economic setup, women entrepreneurs are considered an accelerator for economic growth and development. Women entrepreneurs are important in today's worldwide and have significantly boosted economic growth and reduced poverty. In India, males still hold most commercial positions, but more and more women are realizing how important it is to survive and to catch up to the men. The study attempts to identify the concept of women entrepreneurship, and women empowerment, economic growth and to find the relationship between them. It may define how women entrepreneurship helps to economy from developing to be developed economy with women empowerment. The study may be processed and investigated to make it beneficial to academics, researchers, practitioners, planners, and policymakers in the relevant field. A descriptive research methodology is used in this study in identifying the challenges and obstacles faced by these women socially and demographically to acquire in-depth information. Content analysis and library research techniques are used to analyze the facts regarding the said subject. Secondary data is used in this research by reviewing the relevant literature from authentic sources. The study has also proposed recommendations to address the existing issues of entrepreneurial women, their perceptions, decision-making power, and living conditions along with suggestions for their empowerment and economic development to analyze how women's entrepreneurship can be taken to the next levels from the initial stages in the developing countries.

**Keywords**— Women Entrepreneurship, Development, women empowerment, women independence, economic growth, gender equity, gender discrimination, self-employment

**INTRODUCTION**- Entrepreneurship plays a vital role in economic growth by manufacturing goods and providing services. Entrepreneurship is taking risks in developing new businesses and accepting all the challenges in generating a profit by men or women entrepreneurs. Globally, entrepreneurship is growing fast and is now considered an easy way to abolish unemployment and poverty, because it supports the national economy. According to Vasudevan, rapid growth in the economy is possible by establishing new entrepreneurial ventures (Vasudevan & Prasad, 2016). Contributing to economic progress and general development may be ensured by enabling women to accomplish their "choices" and "opportunities" and advancing their "capabilities." Reducing poverty and promoting development also need the empowerment of women. Stronger women increase opportunities for the next generation and improve the health and productivity of whole families and communities.[1]

The promotion of a more inclusive and equal society resolution of long-standing gender imbalances are two reasons why women's empowerment is so important in India. In India, women have experienced structural obstacles such as restricted access to economic opportunities, education, and positions of decision-making. Promoting social and economic growth requires empowering women.[5] Women who are empowered make substantial contributions to the workforce, which boosts economic growth and improves communities generally.

A. Role of Women entrepreneurship in India

The increasing presence of women as entrepreneurs has led to significant business and economic growth in the country. Women-owned business enterprises are playing a prominent role in society by generating employment opportunities in the country, bringing in demographic shifts and inspiring the next generation of women founders.[2] With a vision to promote the sustainable development of women entrepreneurs for balanced growth in the country, Startup India is committed towards strengthening women entrepreneurship in India through initiatives, schemes, creation of enabling networks and communities and activating partnerships among diverse stakeholders in the startup ecosystem. [10] GOVERNMENT ALSO LAUNCH DIFFERENT PROGRAMS EXAMPLES: WOMEN FOR STARTUPS, WINGS: WOMENS RISE TOGETHER

#### B. Women empowerment in India

Women empowerment in India is the most effective tool for development as these days; [7] women across the world are actively working as a leader and surpassing others in all the spheres of life. As the entire world is clasp its breath and praying every single day for an incredible escape from the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is the women governors and nations steered by these amazing figures who are taking over the responsibility and marching ahead in the battle alone wherever required Women empowerment in India is dependent up largely on numerous different variables that encompass geographical setting (urban/rural), social status (caste and class), educational status, and age factor. Actions on the women empowerment exist at the state, local (panchayat), and national levels. [6] However, women encounter differentiation in most sectors like education, economic opportunities, health and medical assistance, and political participation, which demonstrates that there are substantial gaps between strategy advancements and real exercise at the community level.

#### C. Economic growth

Over the years, the Indian government has introduced many initiatives to strengthen the nation's economy. The Indian government has been effective in developing policies and programs that are not only beneficial for citizens to improve their financial stability but also for the overall growth of the economy. Over recent decades, India's rapid economic growth has led to a substantial increase in its demand for exports. Besides this, several of the government's flagship programs, including Make in India, Start-up India, Digital India, the Smart City Mission, and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, is aimed at creating immense opportunities in India. Any economic growth strategy would be unbalanced if it did not consider the fact that women comprise half of the world's population [8]

Extensive research indicates that being entrepreneurial is not a sign of a macho nature. The number of women-owned businesses is rising significantly in almost every country's economy. Women's latent entrepreneurial potential has been gradually shifting because of growing awareness of women's responsibilities and economic status in society.[8] The key factors driving women into entrepreneurial enterprises are skill, knowledge, and flexibility. Women-specific entrepreneurship development programs give them access to resources, mentorship, and training to help them launch and run their firms successfully.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Entrepreneurial process is highly influenced by the social and cultural factors as they play a vital role in this process. According to the existing literature these factors are attributes and considered as informal components which includes culture of the community, behaviors, norms, and values (Noguera et al., 2013).

Basically, socio-cultural factors are part of social system, or we can say that they constitute a system in which people share same norms and follow them as well. The term socio-cultural contains some indiscernible elements which are socially constructed by people, and they have impact on one's life, perception, and their social patterns (Akhter & Sumi, 2014).

Similarly, Naser and many other researchers have indicated that there are some other factors as well naming a few as religious influence, family values, marital status and rituals, community-based culture, etc. Married women are marginalized to take part in economic activities openly because they have family commitments and financial constraints also which act as a barrier. Under such social condition's women, entrepreneurs face issues in running their ventures smoothly. These social and economic factors and gender biases make it tough for women entrepreneurs to run their venture because they also face issues in getting loans and in building economic ties and links with micro-financing network (banks and institutions) (Naser et al., 2009).

Some other hurdles and challenges faced by women (female entrepreneurs) are highlighted by Ramadani, he argued that banks seem to be reluctant in providing loans to women as they think that women cannot return loans on time because they are unable to fulfil their commitment, which is not true at all, but this is a general social perception (Ramadani et al., 2015)

#### OBJECTIVES

To understand meaning of women empowerment, entrepreneurship, and economic growth

To assess the impact of women Entrepreneurship on women's empowerment.

To look for government initiative for empowering the Women

To find economic growth: GDP, GNP, per capita income,

Poverty etc.

Research methodology

This study focuses on the economic GROWTH through women entrepreneurship with help of women empowerment.[6] analyze their entrepreneurial activities and economic independence by using qualitative research method to have a detailed information regarding the issue. Basically, qualitative research method is used to study the nature of research by assessing the complex phenomenon and is also used to answer all those questions which are not observed or explored deeply. This way a researcher can gather data which cannot be measured numerically. [4] Normally the qualitative researchers gather data of diverse nature by using various techniques. Here in this study the content analysis and library research method has been used to gain meaningful inferences, which can be easily understood by everyone. The researchers have attempted to find out the economic contribution of women and have attempted to examine how economic activities can raise their social and economic status and thus empower them in terms of economic independence and growth.

The study focuses on highlighting the economic trends regarding entrepreneurship and women entrepreneurs and its impact on the women's economic empowerment. Therefore, this descriptive nature of research has helped a lot in examining the factors involved in acting as agents of change and the barriers that remain invisible and hamper women's economic growth. [9] Content analysis in descriptive and qualitative research is used to analyses concepts, themes, meanings, and their relationships. To conduct research using content analysis the researcher collects data from texts (oral, written, or visual), it can be from books, newspapers, magazines, speeches, interviews, web content, social media content, films, and photographs etc. content analysis can be both quantitative i.e., statistical data and qualitative.

Library research technique is used to collect data after studying and understanding (books, theories, and documents) the material which is relevant to the issue and this data is considered as a primary data. Researcher should examine the information carefully and it should be relevant to maintain the reliability and authentication of the data.

#### ANALYSIS AND DISCUSION

This study explores the role of women entrepreneurs and the impact of entrepreneurship on women and the economy. The importance and role of women entrepreneurs are undeniable and based on the findings we can say that women's entrepreneurship is very crucial for development.

According to the current global economic situation it is highly recommended to recognize the importance of women's contribution to the production sector and constant support is needed to let women establish their own venture

A great expansion in women's entrepreneurship has been experienced and women are focusing on this sector to generate their own income. The study establishes the fact that in different regions the impact of women's economic contribution is different in the economy and development due to the infrastructure, socio-cultural norms, patriarchy, and many other factors. Women entrepreneurs can make and are making a difference in the global economy by taking an active part in the production sector in both formal and informal sectors of the economy. The facts show that they still face many barriers, which marginalize their progress and smooth business process.

Women entrepreneurs have proven that they are a great asset to the national, and international economy and are a very significant tool in economic development and sustainable development. Therefore, they should also get benefits in the sectors of education, employment, and health and above all, they should be given equal rights to excel in all fields. By liberating women in the production sector, we can restructure our societies in a better way.

#### VI. CONCLUSION-

Gender inequality is a global issue that affects all nations on earth, with women making up half of the population. Whole communities will be doomed to perform below their actual potential if women are not granted the same chances as men. Empowering women is crucial because of the way that their values and thoughts shape the ideal family, community, and eventually the country. The mindset of entrepreneurship is innate in all women, but it has not received the proper recognition in India. To giving equal chance and qualitative factors, such as building self-esteem, raising rights consciousness, and providing skill training for improved career opportunities to women for entrepreneurship so it helps us to build India from developing economy to developed economy. By the time government taking steps to encourage women for self-employed and boost the economic growth.

#### VII. FUTURE STUDY

The future scope of the study on "Women entrepreneurship: a pathway to women empowerment and economic growth in India" holds immense promise for contributing to ongoing efforts to foster gender equality, economic growth, and societal transformation. As the entrepreneurial landscape keeps changing, understanding the nuanced dynamics of how women can be empowered through business ownership becomes increasingly critical. The study could examine elements like market prospects, mentorship networks, and financial availability to get further into the unique difficulties experienced by female entrepreneurs. Which step should be taken by government to improve economic growth we can take from here after the research.

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