

# Financial Abuse and Financial Barriers for Women: A Theoretical Review

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**Abstract**— This paper aims to highlight the impact of financial barriers and financial abuses on women's financial independence and their physical, emotional and economic wellbeing state. Beside various abuses that women face, like domestic violence, physical & sexual abuses, mental torcher and verbal abuses, which are well identified and acknowledged, economic and financial abuses are less recognised and known. These abuses deteriorate women physically, mentally and emotionally and sets various other barrier for their growth and advancement in academics, career and financial well-being. Financial barriers lead to financial abuses. This paper shares insight and review on kind of financial barriers and financial abuses that a women face irrespective of their community, culture and country.

**Keywords**— *Financial literacy, financial barriers, financial abuse, financial independence.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

With the advancement and socio-economic development, various initiatives have succeeded in women-led development and women's empowerment. Women are making their mark in their chosen professions, shaping up the lives of their families for the better. Access to formal education, sports education & training, skill development programmes, and technology has contributed significantly in women's independence, socially and economically.[1]

Inevitability, women's participation in the financial sectors is also increased. Within financial services companies, women represent 21.7% of employees and 15.9% of key management personnel, the study revealed (based on BRSR (Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report)).[2] There is sizeable increase in the number of women fund managers in the fund management industry, being proof enough to agree on the fact that women are financial skilled, knowledgeable and expertise.

However, there are numerous studies and statistics data that reveals, a larger portion of women are financially dependent, financially illiterate, and financially abused. According to the survey conducted by Tata AIA Life Insurance, at least 59% of working women still do not take decisions regarding their money, however 44% of the women in the sample had shown readiness to take charge of their money related decision if given the choice. This indicates that in spite of being able to earn money, they are either not confident/well-informed to make financial decision or they lack autonomy in handling their money individually.[3] Various financial barriers and financial abuses limits the flare of women's financial autonomy and independence. According to the report of BMC Public Health, (Kanougiya, Daruwalla, Gram, 2021) a survey conducted of 4906 ever-married women respondents, 23% reported at least one form of economic abuse by either an intimate partner or another family member. The commonest were denial of property rights (10%), not being trusted with money (8%), and

coercive appropriation of belongings (7%).[4] These financial barriers and abuses not only impacts their economic state but results in damaging their self-esteem, ability to work, their status in social life and their physical & mental health. An unempowered women, financially & socially contributes significant to their own family, society and nation with their financial success.

## II. FINANCIAL BARRIERS & ABUSE: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### A. *Barrier to Financial literacy*

Through the study of various literatures on financial literacy it is observed that women exhibit lower financial knowledge and confidence. This evidence have identified various barriers that affect women's financial literacy and the major potential drives are- limited access to education, employment status, family background and its philosophy, socio-economic aspects,

functioning of formal financial markets and information dissemination and others. These factors not only reduce women's financial health, but also limit the extent to which women can improvise their confidence, knowledge and skills about economic and financial issue. Lack of prerequisite skills to understand financial issues and situation are outcome of various social-cultural, physical, educational, and financial barriers.

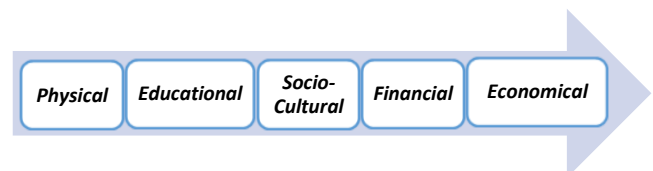


Figure 1: Barriers to Financial Literacy Among Women

### 1. **Physical Barriers**

Physical distance, lack of access or far public transportation and lack of private vehicle or lack of driving skill creates physical barriers for the woman that limits the reach and access of financial information and services. In the absence of such support, it becomes very time-consuming and frustrating to undertaking financial literacy programs, meeting experts or reaching banks. Access to a computer and mobile for utilising online resources to learn financial skill was yet another important issue.

### 2. **Educational Barriers**

Women need to have the opportunity to seek out and use financial information if they are to improve their financial literacy. Stakeholders are noted a range of literacy, numeracy and technological literacy barriers among the women they represent. These include low levels of literacy and numeracy and lack of skills to access information on the Internet. The complex financial terms and jargons that underlie the financial