

## A Research Report on

# FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY, PHAGWARA, PUNJAB

In partial fulfillment of Dissertation project for award of degree of

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS

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Phagwara, Punjab

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**CERTIFICATE:** 

This is to certify that the declaration statement made by the student is correct to the best of my

knowledge and belief. The Dissertation Project Proposal based on the technology / tool learnt is

fit for the submission and partial fulfillment of the conditions for the award of Mater of Science

in Economics from Lovely Professional University, Phagwara.

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I Mr. Keyipho Longkumer hereby declare that this work is the product of my own research effort, undertaken under the supervision of Jaskiranj Kaur and has been presented elsewhere for the award of any certificate. All sources have been acknowledged.

**Keyipho Longkumer** 

(11501871) Date &Sign

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#### **ABSTRACT:**

Empowerment is a multi dimensional process. In order to attain the status of a developed nation, India has to drag out the potentialities and capabilities of women, which comprises of almost half of the total population, giving them platform to engage and step out for productive ventures. Financial Inclusion is one of the most important aspects for inclusive growth, in the present world scenario. This paper will analyze the need and importance of financial inclusion in bringing about women empowerment. How and in what way is financial inclusion related with women empowerment? Will be made known through the research. Suggestions will be further given based on the research findings.

**Key Words:** Women Empowerment, Financial Inclusion, Financial Literacy, E-Banking, PMGSY, LIC.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

To increase access to credit and promote financial literacy for the poor has always remained at the major focus of Indian planning in order fight poverty and uplifting their status. Financial inclusion and women empowerment has been given a vast importance and a major focus for promotion in India today, as without which, India will still remain a backward economy. The first Microfinance Institution in India, Shri Mahila SEWA Sahkari Bank was set up by the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA, 1974) with its functions as an urban co-operative bank. The idea of micro finance was to develop, improve and promote women's status and participation, also to provide opportunities for the poor. The ultimate motive was to provide platform for poor women to come and work together productively, to attain better livings, empowering them financially has indeed helped them in becoming more flexible with broader outlook and perspectives, enjoying their rights (Verma and Aggarwal, 2014). With the expansion of the need to attain women empowerment to achieve the goals and objectives of equality and growth, many positive changes and innovations has been made in the field of finance. The role and progress of Government, Banks, SHGs and various Institutions has expanded to a great extend as seen in the last few years with the motive of achieving the goals and objectives of financial and women empowerment, economic development at large.

Financial Inclusion or inclusive financing is making financial services available at reasonable costs, to sections of disadvantaged and low-income sections of society. It ensures having access to suitable financial products and services as needed by vulnerable groups, such as the weaker sections and low income groups at reasonable cost, that can be easily afforded by mainstream institutional players in fair manner with transparency. It is needed to boost credit availability, savings and to ensure proper welfare distribution, which when properly channelized helps in improving the living conditions of the family, poor farmers, rural non-farm enterprises and other vulnerable group.

Women Empowerment empowers the independent decision making among the women's. Empowering women means, to bring in gender-equality in all social aspects, making them independent and helping them enjoy their rights and providing them a suitable environment for promoting their capabilities, etc., by removing all the social and family irrational restrictions and providing them a sense of security and autonomy. Our country's future depends largely upon

women's active participations and contributions towards family as well as society. Women empowerment is undeniable and is considered the most effective tool for attaining positive changes in society. Women will be empowered more and more basing on her continued financial success.

Financial inclusion is made to ensure that all households and businesses are able to improve their lives, having effective access and appropriate financial services. No doubt, indulgence in financial market and activities has led women to greater efficiency and empowerment, increase in financial literacy resulted in increase in financial inclusion. It is known that productive utilization of microfinance related loans leads to empowerment. The stages of empowerment process includes: inclusion, information, influence and integration. We cannot deny the fact that financial inclusion alone is not enough to achieve complete empowerment, however, the process of financial inclusion can bring about major change in building up their status and participation. Women empowerment will be at its peak when women actively come up with and empower themselves. Financial inclusion in a way can play a major role in this regard, providing financial literacy, awareness and finance in way of loans will enable them to be more responsible and independent. Further, activities relating to finance, be it individual or group, will increase their participation in social activities also promotion of their capabilities. Generally stating, women in India enjoy somewhat lower status as compared to men, thus they are relatively disempowered. Despite of various initiatives by the government the outcomes are not satisfactory. 'If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered' (PT. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU).

The Constitution of India provides for a legal point, to grant equality to women in the society in all domains, like men. Women need innovative and more efficient environment so that they can take their own independent decisions, be it for themselves, their family, society or country at large. For India to be a fully developed country, women empowerment is an indispensable instrument as it helps to achieve the goals of development, importantly the role of financial inclusion again contains an undeniable scope in empowering women. Women empowerment is undeniable for economic growth of any country. As a matter of fact, India is capable of becoming one of the largest economies in the world; however, it is being hindered due to a lack of women's participation (M.Suguna, 2011).

In the present world, there is a vast growth in the field of Educational progress and Technological advancement. The importance question lies on whether women are being able to cop up with the current flow or happenings? Generally speaking, women in India are still lagging behind as compared to that of men, they are not empowered up to the satisfactory level, even after all such advancement and progress. This paper aims to analyze and find out what could be the reasons that are keeping them behind and whether financial inclusion in its proper functioning could help women to catch up with the ever progressing advancement. Also, what contributions have it made in empowering women, in what way, its importance, and what further can be done or further innovations that can be brought about as to achieve the goals of both financial inclusion and women empowerment and empowering women through inclusive financing.

# **REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

Sr.no.	Name of Author	Paper	Year	Test Applied	Findings
1	Kapil Sharma et.al.	Financial Inclusion	2016	Conceptual Analysis	Said that empowerment is
		and Women			a continuous process. He
		Empowerment			stated that increasing
					SHG's is the most vital in
					process of women
					empowerment. Linking
					SHG's with banks leads
					to sustainability of
					SHG's.
2	Singh and Shah	Does Financial	2016	Conceptual Analysis	Said financial inclusion
		Inclusion Lead to			starts with saving. They
		Sustainable Women			stated the importance of
		Empowerment?			banks role in encouraging
		Few Grass Root			women in building assets.
		Experiences From			Banks should welcome
		India			and willingly help the
					poor and uneducated.
					They further found out
					financial inclusion most
					effective when based on
					community organization.
3	Snijders and	Microcredit and	2016	Linear Regression	Found out that

	Dijkstra	Women's		Analysis	microcredit programs
		Empowerment in			targeted to women helped
		South India			in raising household
					assets and business. They
					further stated the presence
					of significant difference
					in the Empowerment level
					on first and second loan
					received, loan received
					second time led to higher
					efficiency and
					employment.
4	S.Sivasankari	Microfinance and	2016	Conceptual Analysis	Found women today
		Women			involved in income
		Empowerment: in			generating activities as a
		Present Scenario			result of attainment of
					microfinance. He
					concluded that a special
					support of women both on
					financial and non-
					financial services will
					positively impact the
					society.
5	Ila Patel	The Contemporary	2016	Conceptual Analysis	Stated the importance of
		Women's			women studies, having
		Movement and			the aim of promoting

		Women's Education			gender equality and
		in India			justice. Promoting such
					pertinent knowledge leads
					to action.
6	Pritta Sora	Raising The	2015	Regression	Gave importance to role
		Economic			of education and financial
		Participation Of			inclusion and stated that
		Women In India – A			entrepreneurship, incomes
		New Growth			and investment on human
		Engine?			capital and employment
					will rise if women have
					access to credit.
7	Sharma and	Financial Inclusion	2014	Conceptual Analysis	Emphasized on the
	Sachdeva	in India - Issues and			positive undertakings by
		Challenges			RBI and Government of
					India in way of
					introducing schemes and
					suitable banking policies.
					Proper implementation
					and better innovation of
					such will help India in its
					pursuit of complete
					financial inclusion.
8	Verma and	Financial Inclusion	2014	Conceptual Analysis	Discussed the types,

Institutions in India  SWOT a found out on social position	India, also its analysis. They at that the impact I and economic of women were be improved proper ing of SHGs, it
found out on social position found to	It that the impact I and economic of women were be improved proper
on social position found to	I and economic of women were be improved proper
position found to	of women were be improved proper
found to	be improved proper
	proper
with the	
	ing of SHGs it
function	5 01 D1105, 1t
led wom	en towards
achieven	nent of socio and
physical	mobility.
9 Alsi Demirgoc- Financial Inclusion 2013 Multinomial Found w	omen were less
Kunt et.al. and Legal Regressions, T-Test seen own	ning their own
Discrimination account it	in countries
Against Women where w	omen face legal
restrictio	ons in their
abilities	and inheritance.
10 Kumar and Status of Women 2013 Conceptual Analysis Stated th	e importance of
Sangeeta Education in India women e	empowerment and
consider	ed it the strongest
tool of cl	hange of situation
and prog	ress in society.
Further,	forecasted India
to be a d	eveloped country
by 2020	if status of
women i	s improved.

	I				
			2012		
11	Gadamsetty Sai	Understanding	2013	Conceptual Analysis	Stated that growth in the
	Arun	Financial Inclusion			field of financial inclusion
		in India and Role of			is seen to have a vast
		ICT in ICT			impact as a result of
					progress in Information
					and Communication
					Technology (ICT).
12	Nidhi Vij	Empowering the	2013	Conceptual Analysis	Stated the stages of
		Marginalized:			empowerment process
		Mahatma Gandhi			which include: inclusion,
		National Rural			information, influence
		Employment			and integration. Active
		Guarantee Act in			role played by
		India			MGNREGA led to
					increased employment
					and participations of
					weaker sections like
					women.
13	Porkodi and	Role of	2013	Conceptual Analysis	Found out that increase in
	Aravazhi	Microfinance and			financial literacy resulted
		Self Help Groups			in increase in financial

		in Financial Inclusion			inclusion. They stated that SHG's Bank linkage program does not only does delivery of financial services but also promote financial literacy.
14	Angela Hung et.al.	Empowering Women Through Financial Awareness and Education	2012	Conceptual Analysis	Stated the importance of financial literacy which brought about gender equality. Indulgence in financial market and activities has led women to greater efficiency and empowerment.
15	Arora and Arora	Role of Micro-Financing in Women Empowerment: An Empirical Study of Urban Punjab	2012	Multiple Regression, Factor Analysis	Found that women perceive contribution of micro finances towards the family rather than individual benefits.
16	Chhikara and Kodan	Farmers Indebtedness in	2012	T-Test	Stated that loans when utilized in unproductive

		Haryana: An			activities leads to
		Assessment			indebtedness leading
					further to the degradation
					of their status. He
					suggested the active
					Government role in
					monitoring the informal
					mechanism of credit and
					increasing awareness on
					the negative impact of
					utilizing loan on
					unproductive areas.
17	Dr.K.Rajendran	Micro Finance	2012	Conceptual Analysis	Indicated how
		Through Self Help			microfinance and SHG's
		Groups –A Survey			with its proper
		of			functioning has led to the
		Recent Literature in			overall development of
		India			rural poor and
					empowerment of women.
18	Nosheen Nawaz	Empowering	2012	T-Test and	Stated that women
	et.al.	Women through		Correlation	empowerment in every
		Microcredit: a Case			aspects like economic,
		study of Tameer			personal, political and
		Microfinance Bank,			public empowerment, is a
		Bahawalpur			result of micro finance,
					through micro-credits.
					Lesser the financial
					dependency of women
					better is their status and

					mobility.
19	Aruna and	The Role of	2011	Factor Analysis	Stated that productive
	Jyothirmayi	Microfinance in			utilization of
		Women			microfinance related loans
		Empowerment:			leads to empowerment.
		A Study on the SHG			He further stated the need
		Bank Linkage			for extension of
		Program in			government support and
		Hyderabad (Andhra			redesigning micro finance
		Pradesh)			programs for effective
					execution.
20	Dhruba Hazarika	Women	2011	Conceptual Analysis	Analyzed the changes in
		Empowerment in			the status of women
		India: A Brief			before and after Indian
		Discussion			Independence. She stated
					that active women
					empowerment can be
					possible only when
					women actively take steps
					and empower themselves.
21	Goyal and Prakash	Women	2011	Conceptual Analysis	Talked about how women
		Entrepreneurship in			in spite of their poor
		India-Problems and			status and slow progress,
		Prospects			way back, competed with
					men and successfully

22	M. Suguna	Education and Women Empowerment in India	2011	Conceptual Analysis	came forward in profession of life and business.  Stated education as the milestone of women empowerment. With education, came awareness and rationality, inequality is reduced and status of women is improved.
23	Nayak and Mahanta	Women Empowerment in India	2010	Equally Distributed Equivalent Percentage (EDEP)	Revealed the status of women in India and stated that the status of women is still low compared to that of men, in spite many attempts taken by Government of India.
24	Rupinder Kaur	Institutional Structure and Women Empowerment	2010	Percentage Method	Stated that equality can be achieved when both sexes share reproductive work equally. Gender sanitation of both male and female in organizations is seen must to achieve desired

25	Shetty and Veerashekharappa	The Microfinance Promise in Financial Inclusion: Evidence from India	2009	Conceptual Analysis	result.  Stated that reliable services and suitable rate of interests or pricing of financial products, to a great extent, led to victory of micro finance.  Moreover, wider access to timely finance led to welfare of both the consumers as well as producers.
26	Supriya Garikipati	The Impact of Lending to Women on Household Vulnerability and Women's Empowerment: Evidence from India	2008	T-Statistic	Found that loans to women when gets diverted to men as owners resulted in disempowerment. Higher women accessibility to formal loans leads to betterment and empowerment.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

The main intention of this paper is to analyze and find out the expanse of financial inclusion in LPU, and its impact on women. To check the role of financial inclusion in empowering women. Whether financial inclusion is benefitting them or in what way it is helping and empowering them. How much are they aware of the financial opportunities and incentives available concerning the formal source (financial literacy). And up to what extent are they having access to finance, loans and indulging themselves in financial activities and the impact on them and their families as a whole on the given say? This paper also aims to bring out the rightful solutions as and how financial inclusion can help in empowering women. Adding to it, suitable measures will be suggested on what further can be done or the necessary steps to be taken foreword in order to promote women empowerment through financial inclusion, basing on the research.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

The cause of the study is to determine the extent of financial inclusive services and to find out whether they act as an instrument in empowering women, in LPU, Phagwara, Punjab. Sample size of 300 women will be selected to fill the questionnaire, using Simple Random Sampling technique focusing more on those women getting income monthly. And basing on the responses or data and information so collected, a five degree factor analysis will be applied to draw the inferences and outline the factors that influence women empowerment. Factor analysis is a multivariate interdependency technique, having the primary purpose of defining the important influential factors, and the underlying structure among the variables used in the analysis.

#### FACTOR ANALYSIS FINDINGS AND INTREPRETATION:

#### **KMO and Bartlett's Test:**

Table 1:

KMO and Bartlett's Test <sup>a</sup>							
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Mea	.815						
Bartlett's Test of	Approx. Chi-Square	2803.634					
Sphericity	df	820					
	Sig.	.000					
a. Based on correlations							

Source: survey result

Kaiser Meyer Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Test are one of the major values to be checked before moving further, while applying Factor Analysis, as this test measures the strength of relationship among variables and without which, the whole study becomes insignificant. For a satisfactory factor analysis to proceed, we need to have KMO value greater than .6 else, any result we get from applying Factor Analysis will become unreliable. In case of Bartlett's Test of Sphericity, we want p value lesser than .05 which will indicate that null hypothesis (the correlation matrix is an identity matrix) is rejected and factor analysis can be applied. Multicolinearity is required in Factor Analysis so it is necessary to check that data has adequate level of multicolinearity and is made known through the Bartlett's Test.

In my findings, from the table above (Table 1), the KMO value turned out to be .815 proving the sampling adequacy and that it is a great model. And as seen, p value is less than .05 proving that correlation matrix is not an identity matrix and thus indicating the worthiness of Factor Analysis. Both the assumptions are hence fulfilled to go for further interpretation.

# **Communalities:**

Table 2:

Communalities						
	Initial	Extraction				
Decisions of women are equally important	1.000	.300				
as of men	1.000	.500				
I am able to say my opinion freely with my	1.000	.237				
husband	1.000	.231				
I take financial decisions in my family	1.000	.264				
In case of problems, my husband and i	1.000	.471				
equally decides upon financial matters	1.000	.1/1				
My husband gives importance to my	1.000	.452				
decision due to financial independence	27000	2				
Freedom to decide for oneself is	1.000	.557				
empowerment						
Do you think family support plays an	1.000	.492				
important role in decision making						
Micro finance through loans helps women	1.000	.365				
to gain respect and improve efficiency						
I have full control over my income	1.000	.389				
spending						
Do you think that all financial matters are	1.000	.598				
handled by males of family						
Higher financial inclusion (frequently used	1,000	464				
banking services) makes women	1.000	.464				
economically independent						
Being financially self-dependent reduces	1.000	.446				
fear of taking investment						

Being financially strong, I am able to take care of myself	1.000	.396
I am able to make more and independent decisions	1.000	.440
Do you think e-banking is helpful in saving time and costs	1.000	.444
Do you think e-banking is helpful in increasing the efficiency of women	1.000	.375
Do you think that using internet banking enhances the confidence among women	1.000	.520
Do you think that usage of net banking enhances the financial skills among women	1.000	.300
Do you think that net banking is helpful in reducing dependency of women on others	1.000	.237
Do you think education is helpful in dealing with banking procedures (opening an a/c, depositing money, etc.)	1.000	.264
Do you think uneducated women fails to utilize bank schemes	1.000	.471
Uneducated women visits bank as much as educated women does	1.000	.452
Are you updated with bank financial details like interest rates, loans, etc.	1.000	.557
Do you think education is important for women empowerment because it brings awareness about their rights and opportunities	1.000	.492
Increase in literacy provides recognition in the society	1.000	.365
Do you think Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana	1.000	.389

has led the girl to have personal account		
Has Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan	1 000	500
Yojana(PMJDY) increased female personal bank account holdings	1.000	.598
I felt the need to have personal bank account to attain government benefits	1.000	.464
I get direct benefit transfers from the government through PMJDY	1.000	.446
Do you think NGO's plays an active role in providing platform for women to be socially efficient, through SHG's	1.000	.396
Do you think LIC: investment for girl child helps them to attain higher education, in spite being poor	1.000	.440
Does financial literacy helps in accessing financial information's	1.000	.444
Does financial literacy helps you to attain better financial services	1.000	.375
Do you know how to calculate different rate of interests on different schemes	1.000	.520
Being financially literate, i contribute better towards my family income	1.000	.235
Effective financial inclusion comes through financial literacy	1.000	.500
Extraction Method: Principal Component An	alysis.	

Source: survey result

Table 2 shows how much of the variance is explained by each principal component. The initial value in Communality is 1, by definition. The values in the extraction column show the level of variance in each variable's. The higher the value of variance, the better is its representation in common factor space. The model explains the variable 'do you think that all financial matters are

handled by males of family' and 'has Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) increased female personal bank account holdings' the best with 59% variance, with 57% are 'freedom to decide for oneself is empowerment' and 'are you updated with bank financial details like interest rates, loans, etc.?', and follows.

## **Total Variance Explained:**

**Table 3:** 

Total Variance Explained										
				Extraction Sums of Squared			Rotation Sums of Squared			
	In	Initial Eigen values			Loadings			Loadings		
		% of	Cumulative		% of	Cumulative		% of	Cumulative	
Component	Total	Variance	%	Total	Variance	%	Total	Variance	%	
1	6.938	19.272	19.272	6.938	19.272	19.272	4.295	11.931	11.931	
2	2.627	7.297	26.569	2.627	7.297	26.569	4.295	11.929	23.860	
3	1.519	4.221	30.790	1.519	4.221	30.790	1.665	4.626	28.486	
4	1.440	4.001	34.790	1.440	4.001	34.790	1.653	4.592	33.078	
5	1.351	3.752	38.542	1.351	3.752	38.542	1.653	4.592	37.669	
6	1.284	3.566	42.108	1.284	3.566	42.108	1.598	4.439	42.108	
7	1.187	3.298	45.406							
8	1.110	3.084	48.491							
9	1.080	3.000	51.491							
10	1.050	2.918	54.408							
11	1.004	2.789	57.197							
12	.995	2.765	59.962							
13	.978	2.717	62.679							
14	.929	2.579	65.258							
15	.923	2.564	67.822							
16	.862	2.395	70.217							
17	.796	2.212	72.429							

18	.762	2.116	74.545					
19	.755	2.098	76.644					
20	.729	2.026	78.670					
21	.709	1.970	80.639					
22	.674	1.873	82.512					
23	.639	1.774	84.286					
24	.595	1.653	85.939					
25	.565	1.570	87.509					
26	.544	1.511	89.020					
27	.513	1.426	90.446					
28	.467	1.297	91.743					
29	.462	1.284	93.027					
30	.438	1.216	94.243					
31	.431	1.198	95.441					
32	.369	1.026	96.467					
33	.369	1.026	97.493					
34	.342	.951	98.444					
35	.318	.885	99.328					
36	.242	.672	100.000					
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.								

Source: survey result

In Table 3, Initial Eigen values are the various variances of the principal components. In the model the Principal Component Analysis is based on correlation matrix which indicates that each variable has variance 1. Thus, total variance is equal to the number of variables used in this model, fulfilling its criteria. As for interpretation, we are only on using extracted sums of squared loading. We have the highest variance in the first factor 19.272%, in the second 7.297%, third 4.221%, forth 4.001%, fifth 3.752% and sixth 3.566%.

## **Rotated Component Matrix:**

Table 3:

Rotated Component Matrix							
Statement	Values (%)	Factors					
Freedom to decide for oneself is empowerment							
Decisions of women are equally important as of							
men	0.673	Decision Making					
Do you think that all financial matters are handled							
by males of family							
Being financially self-dependent reduces fear of							
taking investment							
I am able to make more and independent		Financial					
decisions	0.583	Independence					
Do you think that using internet banking							
enhances the confidence among women							
Do you think e-banking is helpful in saving time							
and costs							
Do you think e-banking is helpful in increasing							
the efficiency of women	0.696	Internet Banking					
Do you think education is important for women							
empowerment because it brings awareness about							
their rights and opportunities							
Are you updated with bank financial details like							
interest rates, loans, etc.	0.673	Education					
Has Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana(PMJDY)							
increased female personal bank account holdings							
I get direct benefit transfers from the government							
through PMJDY	0.63	Government Role					

Do you think LIC: investment for girl child helps							
them to attain higher education, in spite being							
poor							
Does financial literacy helps in accessing							
financial information's							
Effective financial inclusion comes through							
financial literacy							
Does financial literacy helps you to attain better							
financial services	0.702	Financial Literacy					
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.							
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.							

Source: survey result

Rotated Component Matrix is applied to reduce the number factors, clubbing various variables having high loadings under a factor. Similar is done in the table above (Table 3). Here, various statements are taken under some few factors like decision making, financial independence, internet banking, education, government role and financial literacy. This is done to make the interpretation of the analysis easier, it does not change anything. Factor loading shows correlation between the obtained values and the primary factor. All the values above turn out positive, indicating the existence of positive relationship between the two. The closer the values are to 1, the more is the loading and vice-versa.

The above six factors, as analyzed, are the major influences of women empowerment as known from the survey so undertaken. All these factors are linked with financial inclusion, therefore, the higher the Financial Inclusion among women, the greater is the level of empowerment. With Financial Inclusion women are seen to be more independent in their spending habits and decision making. The extent of financial inclusion expands with financial literacy, education, knowledge on e-banking and functionary government schemes and policies. All these factors are promoting women empowerment mainly by way of financial inclusion, and with it, women are seen to be performing better off in individual, family as well as in social aspects, thus empowerment. From

that it has the highest impact on women empowerment. With financial literacy, women are seen to be better utilizing financial tools and services such as formal loans, bank incentives, information's, etc. No doubt, 'money is power' and financial inclusion is helping women to attain needful funds to develop their capabilities and potentials in way of efficient utilization and productive investments. Women thus feel empowered when being financially self-dependent.

#### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS:**

From the analysis, we are able to draw conclusion that financial inclusion leads to women empowerment. When women are financially strong and self dependent, she is seen to be taking more independent decisions on financial spending and others. It is financial inclusion that makes them financially strong as women who has their own personal bank account and who attains funds or incomes are seen to have control over their incomes and spending and are able to decide for themselves. Here, education takes its important role. Educated women are seen to be financially strong and do better in accessing financial information's also management and spending. They are thus able to empower themselves. No doubt, women need to come up and self-empower themselves but in most of the cases when they are not financially independent, they are unable to do so. The study also found the important role of the government enhancing women empowerment through financial inclusion. The schemes of the government like Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has increased female personal bank account holdings and women are getting direct benefit transfers from the government, which is for them productive and purposeful. Not only that, the scheme of Life Insurance Investment for girls is promoting them to attain higher education (which is an important factor impacting women empowerment), in spite being poor. Internet banking and knowledge on e-banking has also made women feel themselves more efficient and has boosted their confidence when able to cop up with the advancing technology and modernization. It is again financial literacy which led women to have more access to financial services and information's making them to perform better in financial activities and utilizations. Empowerment is a vast term; it is not concerned only with one aspect's however, financial inclusion gives major contribution in empowering women and

improving their status. A great capabilities and potentials of women are kept hidden due to the lack of finance and being financially weak. Thus, they fail to come out and start new ventures. India cannot hope for a bright future when almost half of the population i.e. the women's population remains disempowered with minimum contributions from them.

For our country to grow at a good pace, equal contribution and representation from both the gender is a must. The government role has indeed brought about major improvement in the status of women since Independence and is still ongoing till date. However, it would have been much better if the government gives a special check on the policies and schemes so launched. As dysfunctional policies is seen to be an ongoing issue in context of India. Serious check on this will extend the level of financial inclusion which will in turn promote women empowerment. Apart from women coming forward and self empowering themselves, various agencies could organize seminars or programs imparting valuable financial literacy and education that they will be more efficient in way of sourcing loans, managing finance, savings, investments, etc.

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