

## Women Empowerment, Education and Skill Development: A Critical Study in the Light of NEP 2020 and SDGs

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### Abstract

This study critically examines women empowerment through education and skill development with special reference to the National Education Policy (2020) and Sustainable Development Goals. Using qualitative methodology based on secondary data, the paper evaluates gender inclusion, vocational integration, and digital empowerment. The findings suggest that while policy frameworks align strongly with SDG-4 and SDG-5, effective implementation requires institutional accountability, financial commitment, and socio-cultural transformation.

### Keywords:

Women Empowerment, Skill Development, NEP 2020, SDGs, Gender Equality

### 1. Introduction

Women empowerment is central to sustainable development. Education and skill development enhance women's socio-economic participation. The National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes multidisciplinary, inclusive and vocational education aligned with global development goals.

## **2. Literature Review**

Existing studies indicate that women's education improves health indicators, economic growth, and social mobility. However, rural-urban disparities and digital divide remain significant challenges.

## **3. Research Methodology**

The study adopts qualitative research design based on secondary data sources including policy documents, SDG reports, and academic journals. Thematic content analysis method has been applied.

## **4. Discussion**

NEP 2020 introduces Gender Inclusion Fund, flexible curriculum, and vocational integration. However, implementation gaps persist due to infrastructure and socio-cultural barriers.

## **5. Conclusion**

The study concludes that policy alignment with SDGs is strong, but monitoring mechanisms, community awareness, and digital inclusion are necessary for sustainable impact.

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