

ROLE OF WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND NATION BUILDING

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Abstract:

In the contemporary era, the participation of women is recognized as a cornerstone for achieving sustainable development and robust nation-building. While women contribute significantly to the social and economic fabric, their roles often face systemic challenges. This study explores the awareness and perceptions regarding how women's involvement in leadership, education, and the workforce drives national progress. The research assesses current knowledge and attitudes toward gender-inclusive policies. Data reveals that while there is high awareness of women's potential, practical implementation in governance and high-level decision-making remains a critical area for growth.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Sustainable Development, Nation Building, Gender Equality, Leadership, Social Transformation.

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Objectives of the Study:

1. To check the level of awareness regarding women's roles in national development.
2. To study the perceptions of respondents related to gender equality in leadership.
3. To suggest measures for enhancing women's participation in sustainable practices.

Introduction:

The evolution of global society has reached a point where the progress of a nation is inextricably linked to the status of its women. Nation-building is not merely a task of infrastructure and economics; it is a process of human development where every citizen's potential is realized.

Women, comprising roughly half of the population, are central to this transformation.

The vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047** is fundamentally anchored in the empowerment of women. For India to transition into a developed nation, the strategy must evolve from general welfare to **women-led development**. Women are no longer just beneficiaries of schemes; they are the architects of economic growth and social change.

The evolution toward **women-led development** is not merely a social shift but a calculated economic imperative for **Viksit Bharat 2047**. By moving beyond traditional welfare, India is positioning women as the primary engineers of its \$30 trillion goal. This is being realized through the massive scaling of **Self-Help Groups** into formal micro-enterprises and the "Lakhpati Didi" initiative, which aims to bring millions of rural women into the high-income bracket. Furthermore, initiatives like the **Namo Drone Didi** scheme demonstrate a strategic

push to integrate women into high-tech sectors like precision agriculture, effectively bypassing outdated labor roles.

By institutionalizing political representation through the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** and dismantling barriers to STEM participation, India is ensuring that women occupy the cockpit of innovation. Ultimately, this vision recognizes that a developed India is only possible when women transition from being participants in the economy to becoming the strategic decision-makers of the nation's industrial and social future.

By enhancing female labor force participation and bridging the digital and financial divide, India can tap into a massive pool of untapped potential. Empowering women through education and entrepreneurship ensures inclusive progress, creating a ripple effect that improves healthcare, literacy, and community resilience. Ultimately, a "Developed India" is only possible when women hold equal stakes in the nation's leadership and prosperity.

The inclusion of women in sustainable development ensures that resources are managed more equitably and that future generations are nurtured in a more inclusive environment. Despite legal frameworks promoting equality, a gap persists between policy and practice. Women frequently engage in community building and micro-economies, yet their roles in formal "Nation Building" are often underrepresented. In this context, it is essential to assess the level of awareness regarding women's roles among the youth and professionals.

Meaning of Sustainable Development and Nation Building:

Sustainable development refers to progress that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. For women, this means equal access to education, health, and economic opportunities that provide long-term stability. Nation-building involves the formal and informal processes through which a society becomes a cohesive, functioning state.

Key Pillars of Women's Contribution:

- **Economic Growth:** Women's participation in the labor force increases GDP and reduces household poverty.
- **Social Stability:** Educated women contribute to better health and education outcomes for their children.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Women often lead grassroots movements for water conservation and sustainable farming.
- **Governance:** Increased female representation in leadership leads to more compassionate and inclusive policymaking.

Importance of Women as Digital and Social Role Models:

In a technology-driven world, women are increasingly acting as digital role models, bridging the gender gap in STEM and online leadership. A woman with high social and digital awareness can prevent domestic inequality, protect community privacy, and promote ethical digital habits among the youth.

Inspire and Empower Others:

Women role models in digital and social spaces inspire young girls and women to believe in their abilities, pursue their goals, and break stereotypes.

Promote Gender Equality:

They challenge traditional norms and prove that women can excel in technology, leadership, education, entrepreneurship, and social change.

Encourage Digital Literacy and Innovation:

Women in digital platforms motivate others to develop technological skills, use digital tools effectively, and participate in innovation.

Create Positive Social Change:

As social role models, women raise awareness about important issues such as education, health, rights, and sustainability, contributing to community development.

Build Confidence and Representation:

Seeing successful women in digital and social spaces gives others confidence and ensures greater representation and inclusion in society.

Role of Educational Institutions:

Schools and colleges should:

- Conduct gender-sensitization workshops.
- Provide leadership training specifically for female students.
- Implement curriculum changes that highlight female historical figures in nation-building.
- Promote safe and inclusive learning environments.

Research Methodology:

Survey Method:

The survey method was employed for this study. This method is suitable for collecting information from a diverse group of respondents regarding their attitudes and practices related to gender roles and sustainability.

Population and Sample:

The population includes students and professionals from various sectors in Nashik. The sample specifically focuses on higher education students as they represent the future workforce.

Tool for Data Collection:

A questionnaire prepared via Google Forms was used, including:

- Demographic information.
- Likert-scale questions on women's impact.
- Open-ended questions regarding barriers to nation-building.

Statistical Techniques:

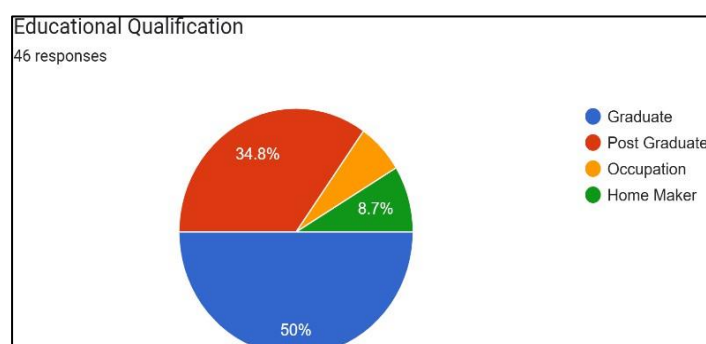
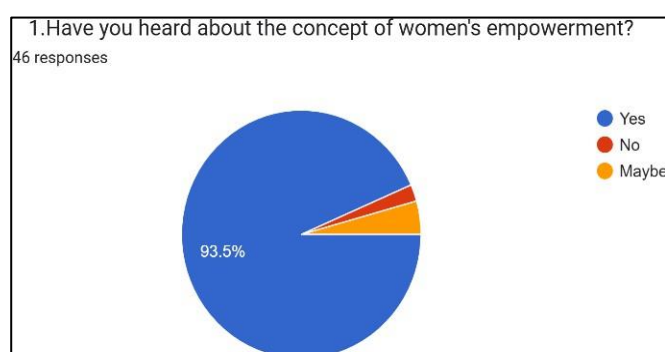
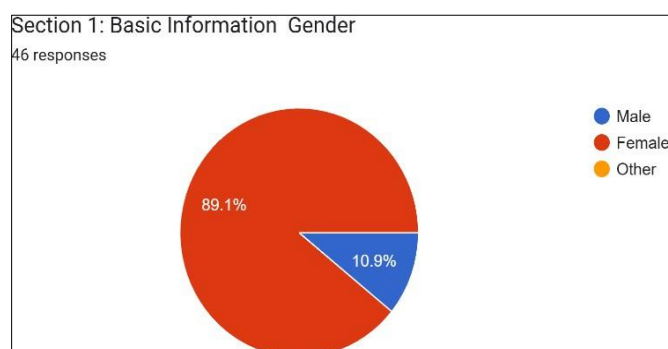
The collected data was analyzed using percentage analysis and graphical representations (pie charts and bar graphs) to interpret the level of awareness and support for women-led initiatives.

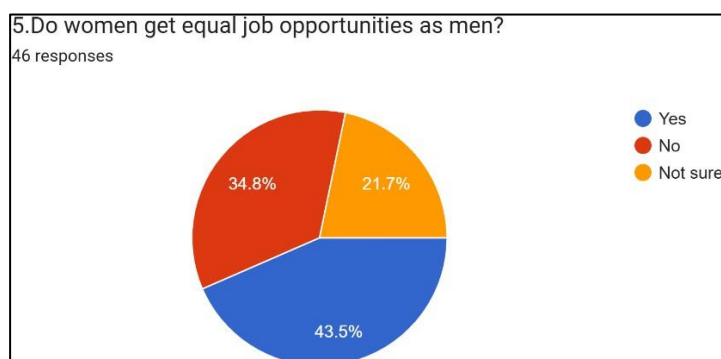
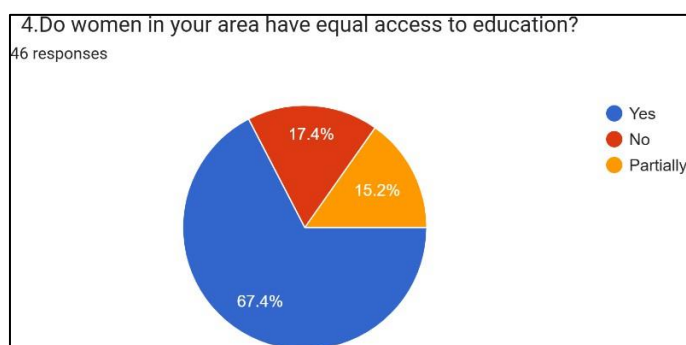
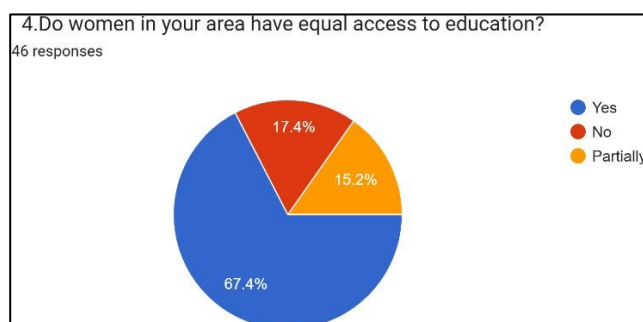
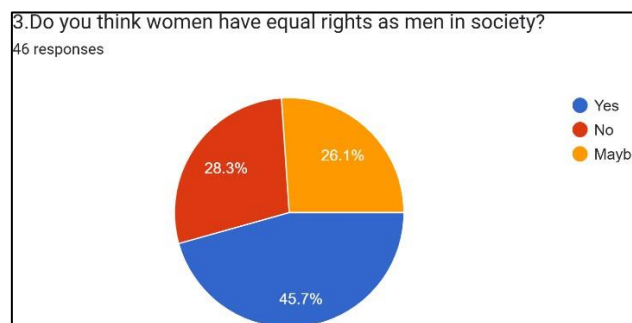
Findings:

Based on the survey data provided:

- **Awareness:** Over **60%** of respondents recognize the "Role of Women" as vital to nation-building, showing a high theoretical understanding of the topic.
- **Leadership Gaps:** While awareness is high, only **42%** of respondents felt that women currently have enough representation in high-level political decision-making.
- **Education vs. Practice:** A majority (**81%**) expressed a willingness to attend workshops or programs focused on gender-inclusive sustainable development.
- **Digital Inclusion:** Most respondents use social media to advocate for women's rights, but few are aware of formal government policies or "Gender Budgeting" mechanisms.

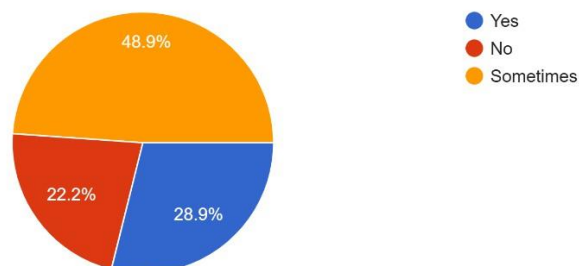
Attaching All the Result of Survey Questions for Support to Findings:





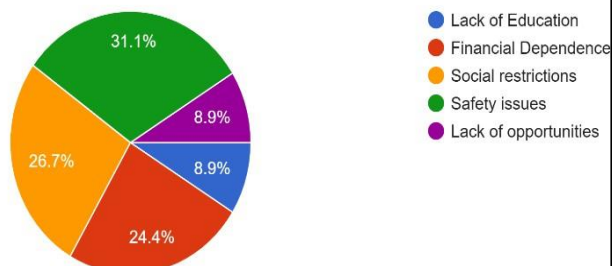
6.Are women encouraged to take part in decision-making (family/society)?

45 responses



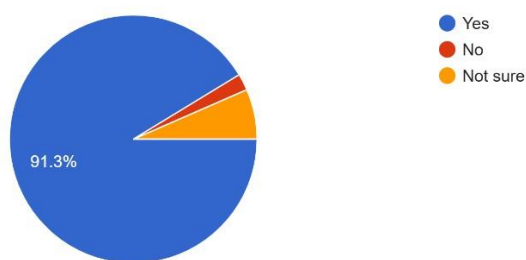
7.What are the main challenges faced by women? (Checkboxes

45 responses



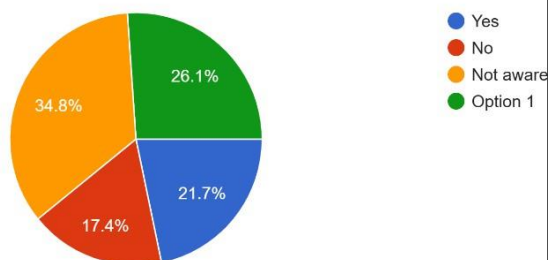
8.Do you think women's empowerment is important for sustainable development?

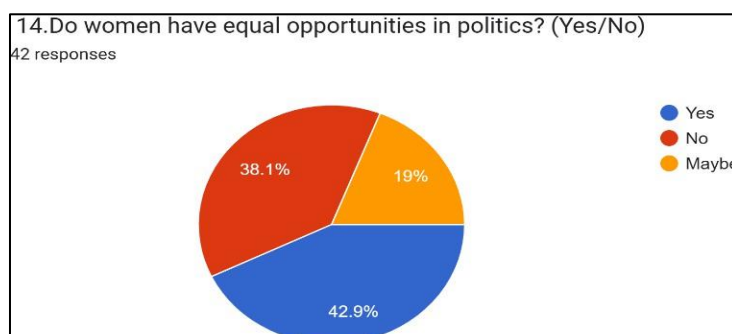
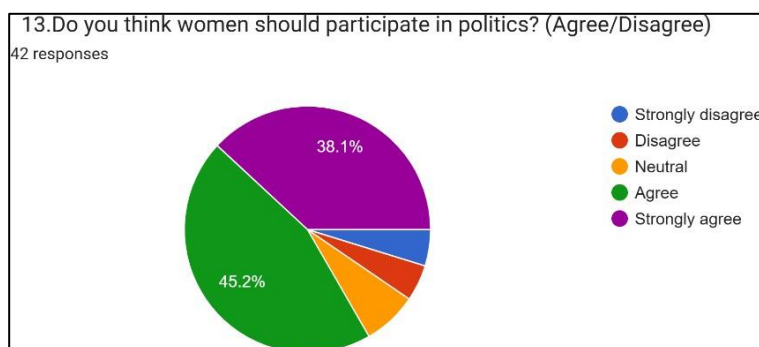
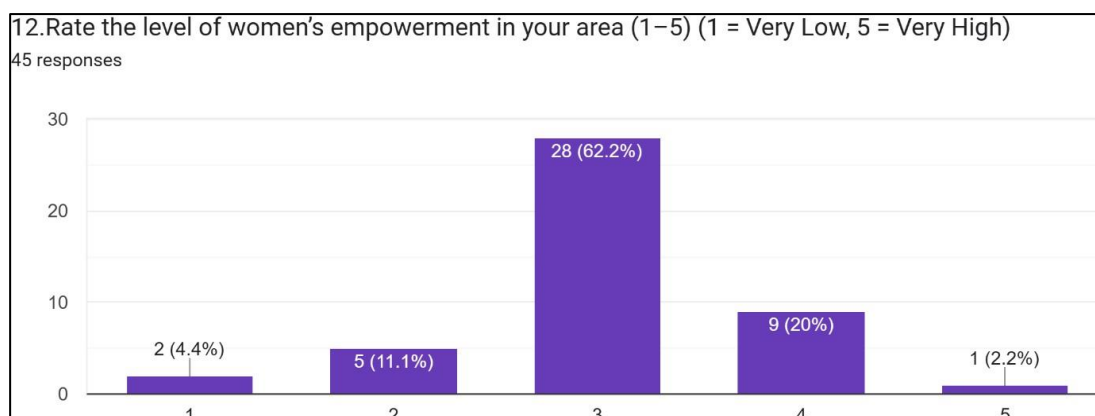
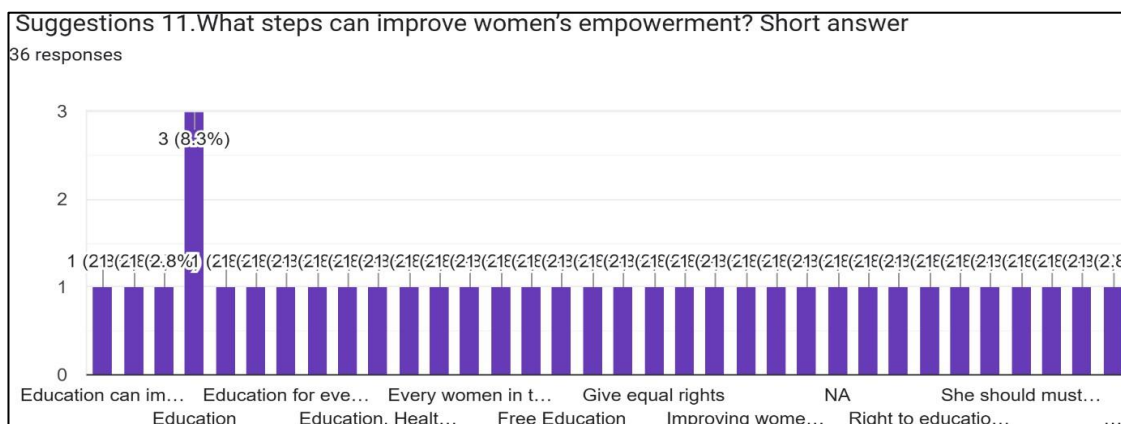
46 responses

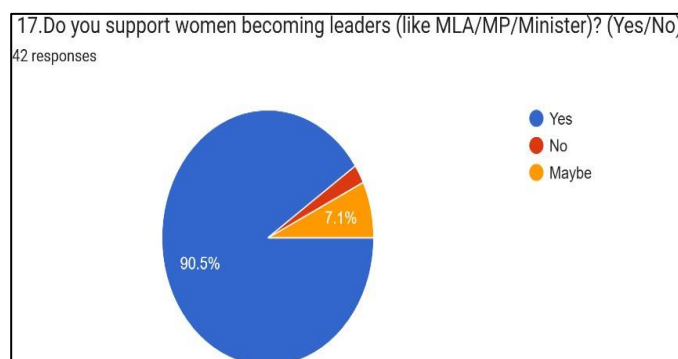
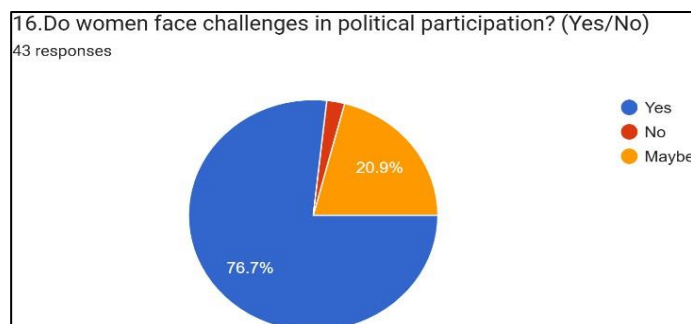
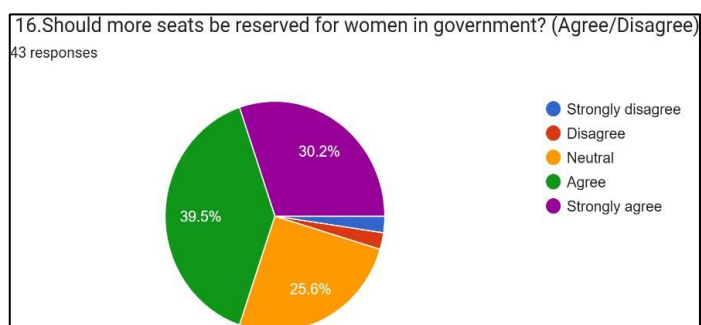
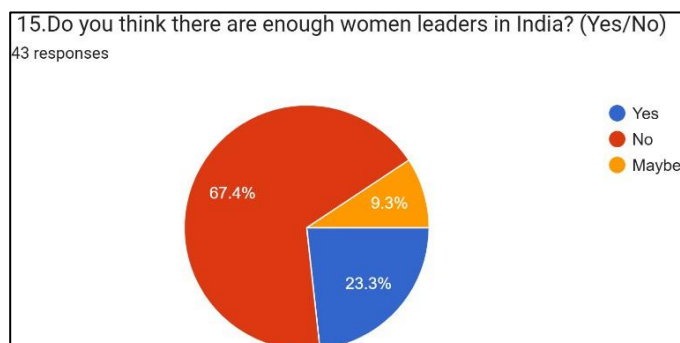


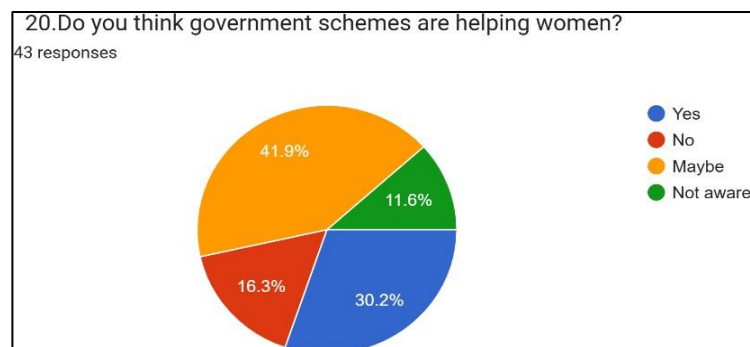
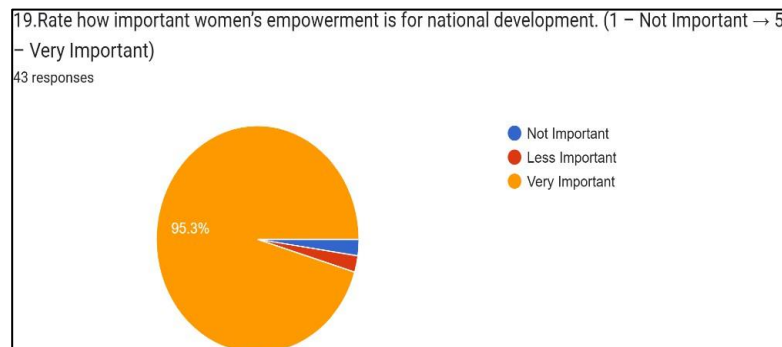
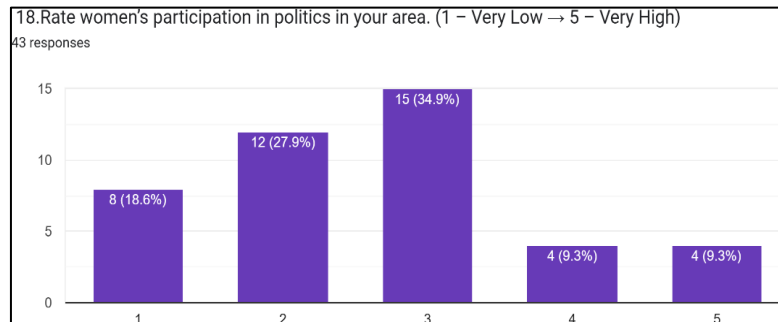
10.Do you think government schemes are helping women?

46 responses









Conclusion

The present study highlights that while the importance of women in sustainable development is widely acknowledged, there is a significant need for structured guidance and formal training to turn this awareness into action. As future leaders, students play a crucial role in dismantling systemic barriers. The research emphasizes the need to integrate gender studies and sustainable leadership into the core curriculum. Enhancing this awareness will not only empower women individually but will also ensure a secure, ethical, and prosperous future for the nation at large.

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