

International Conference on Latest Trends in Science, Engineering, Management and Humanities (ICLTSEMH -2025) 19th January, 2025, Noida, India.

CERTIFICATE NO: ICLTSEMH /2025/C0125269

Impact of Gandhi's Philosophy for Women Empowerment

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ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy had a significant and enduring impact on women's empowerment in India, influencing both social attitudes and practical opportunities for women. Gandhi envisioned women not only as caretakers of the home but also as active participants in public life, capable of contributing to social, political, and economic transformation. His advocacy for nonviolence (Ahimsa) and truth (Satyagraha) encouraged women to participate in the freedom struggle, demonstrating courage, resilience, and leadership, thereby challenging traditional gender norms. Through movements like the Salt March and campaigns for rural upliftment, women took on visible leadership roles, gaining confidence and public recognition. Gandhi also emphasized self-reliance (Swadeshi), urging women to engage in education, cottage industries, and community service, thereby fostering economic independence and skill development. Socially, his philosophy promoted abolition of untouchability, temperance, and eradication of social evils, giving women a platform to advocate for justice and reform. By integrating women into nation-building, Gandhi helped shift societal perceptions, portraying them as moral guides, educators, and agents of social change. Overall, his philosophy provided a moral, social, and political framework that inspired generations of women to pursue empowerment, leadership, and equality, laying the foundation for modern movements for women's rights in India.

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