



## **Empowering Women for Sustainable Development**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The centrality of women's empowerment, gender equality and the realization of women's human rights in achieving sustainable development have been increasingly recognized in recent decades. On the one hand women empowerment needs the building of an enabling environment for the implementation of women's human rights. On the other hand it needs the announcement of women's skills and capacities as active agents of change or sustainable development. Women who make up half of the world's population have benefited more than men from the progress in economic and social development in the last three decades. Nevertheless they continue to be overrepresented among the world's most vulnerable groups, as access to resources and power remains highly skewed towards men. By providing the same opportunities to women and men, including in decision making in all kinds of activities, as sustainable path of development can be achieved to ensure that women's and men's interests are both taken into account in the allocation of resources. Sustainable development is "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs". It therefore encapsulates the need of both women and men. Sustainable development initiatives must reinforce the consideration that women and girls are at a higher risk of being left behind. The voices and perspectives of women and girls must be included in policy development implementation and monitoring in all issues. This would promote the inclusion of women and girls as leaders and decision makers, as well as relevant stakeholders. This paper focuses on women's empowerment as a key process in reaching gender equality and, through that, sustainable development. The next section includes the objectives of the study and discusses concepts of women's empowerment and sustainable development. The remainder of the paper is then dedicated to the findings of the study and suggestions for what needs to be done, and is being done for women empowerment.*

**Keywords:** *Empowerment, Sustainable Development, Women Empowerment*