

Gender Justice in Rajasthan: Challenges and Pathways to Empowerment

Sumitra Gupta

G. D. M. L. Patwari College, SriMadhopur, Rajasthan

Abstract

Gender justice is the pursuit of equal rights and opportunities for individuals of all genders. Rajasthan, known for its vibrant traditions and diverse communities, faces significant challenges rooted in deep-seated cultural norms and socio-economic inequalities. Patriarchal values often confine women to traditional roles, limiting their access to education and economic opportunities. This cultural backdrop is compounded by high rates of gender based violence, including domestic abuse and honor killings, which instill fear and discourage women from asserting their rights. Educational disparities remain stark, particularly in rural areas, where girls often drop out due to familial obligations or societal pressure. Economic participation is equally imbalanced, with women primarily engaged in informal labor, lacking access to resources and support systems. However, pathways to empowerment are emerging through targeted initiatives.

Educational programs focused on skill development can enhance women's employability and independence, while promoting entrepreneurship can foster economic self-sufficiency. Health initiatives that ensure access to reproductive healthcare and nutrition are crucial for women's well-being. Additionally, increasing awareness of legal rights and strengthening the enforcement of protective laws can empower women to challenge injustices and seek justice. Collaborative efforts among government bodies, NGOs and community organizations are vital for creating sustainable change. This research paper examines the state of gender justice in Rajasthan, India, highlighting the persistent challenges faced by women and identifying pathways toward empowerment. Despite legal frameworks supporting gender equality, cultural norms and socio-economic barriers continue to hinder progress. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of these challenges and propose actionable strategies to enhance women's empowerment in the region. Through addressing both the cultural and structural barriers to gender justice, Rajasthan can pave the way for a more equitable society where women are empowered to thrive, contributing to their communities and the broader economy. Ultimately, fostering gender justice not only benefits women but enriches society as a whole, leading to a more just and inclusive future.

Keywords: Community, Cultural norms, Economic disenfranchisement, Empowerment, Gender justice.

1. Introduction

India, despite being a democratic nation, is still evolving, and at the same time, gaps in equality and gender justice are widening rapidly. Achieving sustainable development and upholding human rights require a fundamental commitment to gender equality. Gender inequality occurs when individuals are treated differently based on their gender, a disparity rooted in societal gender roles. For civilization to

advance and for all individuals to thrive, it is crucial to address and elevate the status of women (Mishra et al., 2022). The Global Financial Inclusion Index indicates that only 26% of adult females in India have an account with a formal financial institution, in contrast to 44% of adult males (Singh, 2016).

In Rajasthan, a state marked by rich cultural traditions and stark socio-economic disparities, women face numerous obstacles to achieving equality. This paper explores the challenges to gender justice in Rajasthan and offers pathways for empowerment, contributing to the broader discourse on gender equality in India (Figure 1). Goal Five of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically emphasizes gender equality as a priority.

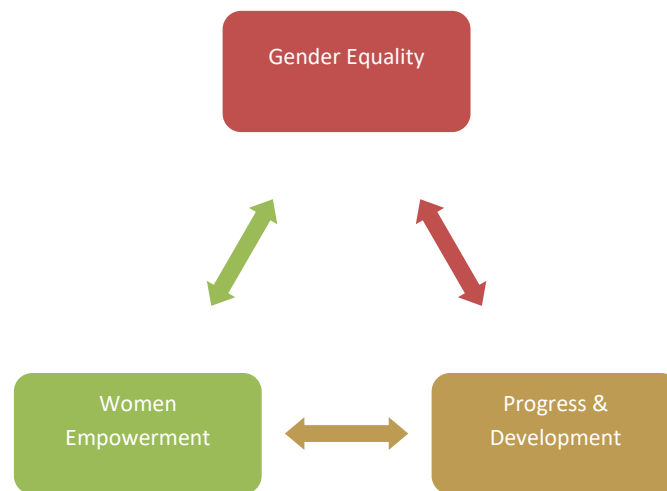


Figure 1: Linkage of gender equality, women empowerment and development

Historically, women have been confined to household roles, with limited recognition of their rights. However, increasing urbanization and women's participation across various sectors have paved the way for greater equality. In Indian society, women are often revered as embodiments of virtue, worshipped as goddesses. Yet, their status has not significantly improved over time. Decades later, women in India continue to struggle for basic rights such as minimum wages, equal pay, and property rights, despite the existence of protective legislation. Access to essential resources, including land, credit, skill training, and education, remains poor for women. They often bear the burden of a "double shift," managing household responsibilities alongside professional commitments, which hampers their ability to contribute effectively to the labor market. Discrimination persists in workplaces, where women frequently receive lower wages for the same work as their male counterparts. The findings indicate that, despite various legislations and policies aimed at generating female-oriented employment, the overall work participation rate remains low, particularly for women. Gender bias in employment is prevalent, and participation in economic activity is vital for both individual development and national progress (Singh, 2022). Gender justice, therefore, encompasses the comprehensive goal of protecting marginalized genders from the abuses inflicted by dominant social structures (Rai and Paul, 2021).

2. Importance of Gender Justice

Gender justice is crucial for ensuring that individuals, regardless of their gender, have equal rights and opportunities (Unterhalter, 2012). It serves as a foundation for a fair and equitable society, where all people can contribute to and benefit from socio-economic progress (Figure 2). In Rajasthan, the

importance of achieving gender justice extends beyond mere legal compliance; it is a societal necessity that underpins sustainable development and social harmony (Mathur, 2004).



Figure 2. Factors Contributing to the Importance of Gender Justice

2.1 Promoting Equality and Fairness

Gender justice fosters an environment where individuals are treated fairly, without discrimination based on gender. This promotes equality in various spheres of life, including education, employment, and healthcare. In Rajasthan, where traditional norms often dictate gender roles, achieving gender justice is vital to dismantling these barriers and ensuring that both men and women can access the same opportunities (Lata, 2024).

2.2 Enhancing Economic Growth

Empowering women through gender justice contributes significantly to economic development. When women are afforded equal opportunities to participate in the workforce, the overall productivity of the economy increases (Boeri et al., 2005). In Rajasthan, improving women's access to education, vocational training, and employment can lead to enhanced economic growth and stability, benefiting the entire community (Mathur et al., 2021).

2.3 Fostering Social Harmony

Gender justice plays a key role in fostering social cohesion. When gender disparities are addressed, it reduces tensions and conflicts that often arise from inequality. In a diverse state like Rajasthan, promoting gender equality can enhance social harmony, enabling various communities to coexist peacefully and collaboratively (Patel, 2009).

2.4 Supporting Sustainable Development Goals

Gender justice aligns with global frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5, which focuses on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (Dhar, 2018). By prioritizing gender justice, Rajasthan can contribute to broader national and global efforts aimed at creating a more equitable world.

2.5 Ensuring Human Rights

At its core, gender justice is fundamentally about human rights. It acknowledges that everyone deserves the right to live free from discrimination and violence. In Rajasthan, ensuring gender justice is essential for protecting the rights of women and marginalized genders, who often face systemic discrimination and violence (Dutta and Das, 2024). Thus, the importance of gender justice in Rajasthan cannot be overstated. It is a critical component for promoting equality, enhancing economic growth, fostering social harmony, supporting sustainable development, and ensuring human rights. By prioritizing gender justice, Rajasthan can pave the way for a more equitable and prosperous future for all its citizens (Jameel and Ahmed, 2021).

3. Historical Context

3.1 Traditional Gender Roles

Rajasthan's historical context is deeply influenced by feudalism and entrenched patriarchal norms (Singh, 2019). These traditional gender roles have systematically relegated women to subordinate positions within society, significantly limiting their participation in public life and decision-making processes. In many communities, cultural practices emphasize male authority and control, leading to a persistent perception of women as caretakers primarily responsible for domestic duties (Bonvillain, 2020). This confinement not only restricts women's opportunities for education and employment but also diminishes their visibility in political and social spheres. The societal expectation for women to prioritize family and household responsibilities has perpetuated cycles of dependency and has hindered their ability to advocate for their rights and interests (Kittay, 2001).

3.2 Legal Framework

While the Indian Constitution enshrines fundamental rights, including the right to equality, the effective implementation of these rights is often compromised by prevailing local customs and practices. Various laws aimed at protecting women's rights exist, such as the Dowry Prohibition Act and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (Ghosh, 2013; Agnes and D'Mello, 2015) but these laws are frequently not enforced. Cultural stigmas and social pressures can deter women from seeking legal recourse, resulting in a gap between the rights guaranteed by law and the realities faced by women in Rajasthan (Saini and Shanrma, 2015).

Moreover, the judicial system's inefficiencies and the lack of awareness about legal rights further exacerbate the situation. Many women remain unaware of the protections available to them, and those who do seek justice often encounter systemic barriers that discourage them from pursuing legal action (Gillis et al., 2006). As a result, despite a legal framework that theoretically supports gender equality, entrenched gender biases and socio-cultural factors continue to undermine women's rights and reinforce their marginalized status in society.

4. Current Challenges

4.1. Education and Literacy

Gender Disparities in Education: Despite progress in female literacy, Rajasthan continues to exhibit significant gender disparities in education. According to the 2011 Census, the female literacy rate in Rajasthan was approximately 52%, compared to 80% for males. Factors contributing to this gap include early marriage, poverty, and cultural stigmas surrounding girls' education (Figure 3). Despite a strong growth rate and numerous government initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality, a significant gen-

der gap persists in India (Singh, 2016).

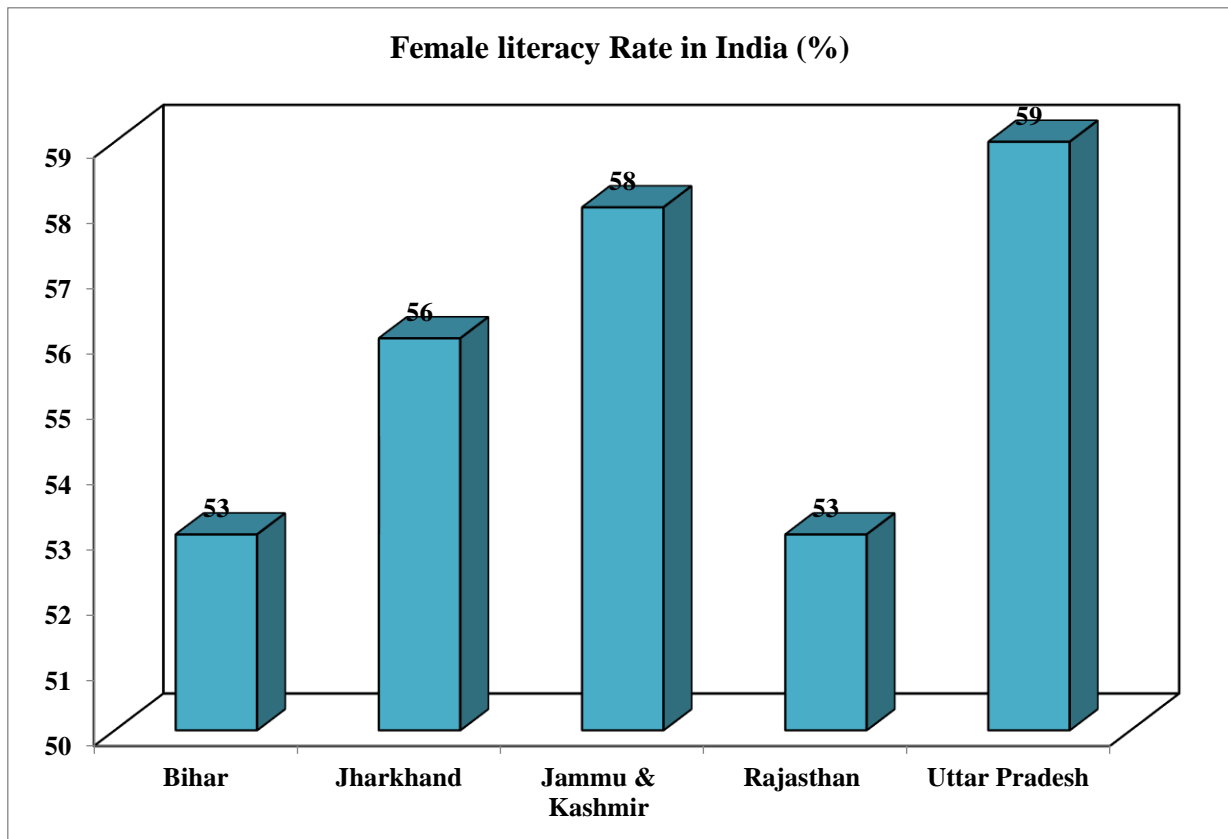


Figure 3: Indian States representing worst female literacy rate in India (Singh, 2016)

Pathways to Improvement: Implementing campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of girls' education can help shift societal attitudes. Providing scholarships and financial assistance for families that keep their daughters in school can reduce dropout rates.

4.2. Health and Reproductive Rights

Access to Healthcare: Access to healthcare remains a significant issue for women in Rajasthan (Singhal, 2015). Many rural areas lack adequate health facilities, and cultural taboos surrounding reproductive health prevent women from seeking necessary medical care.

Pathways to Improvement: Introducing mobile clinics can extend healthcare services to remote populations. Conducting workshops on reproductive health can empower women to make informed decisions about their health.

4.3. Economic Empowerment

Employment Disparities: Women in Rajasthan predominantly engage in informal employment, often lacking job security and fair wages (Mohapatra, 2012). Economic dependency on male family members perpetuates cycles of poverty.

Pathways to Improvement: Programs that focus on vocational training can enhance women's employability and economic independence. Access to microloans can enable women to start small businesses and become financially self-sufficient (Azman et al., 2016).

4.4. Political Participation

Underrepresentation: Women are underrepresented in political spheres, which limits their influence on

governance and policy-making (Afolabi, 2019). Cultural norms often discourage women from engaging in politics.

Pathways to Improvement: Initiatives aimed at enhancing women's leadership skills can encourage greater participation in political processes. Implementing reservation policies for women in local governance can increase their representation in decision-making bodies.

Current Challenges

4.1 Education and Literacy

Gender Disparities in Education

Despite some progress in female literacy rates, Rajasthan continues to experience significant gender disparities in education. According to the 2011 Census, the female literacy rate in Rajasthan was approximately 52%, compared to 80% for males. Several factors contribute to this gap, including early marriage, poverty, and cultural stigmas surrounding girls' education. In many communities, girls are often prioritized for household responsibilities or married off at a young age, which limits their opportunities for formal education and personal development (Figure 4).

Pathways to Improvement

To address these disparities, it is essential to implement campaigns that raise awareness about the importance of girls' education. Engaging communities and families in discussions about the benefits of educating girls can help shift societal attitudes. Additionally, providing scholarships and financial assistance to families that keep their daughters in school can significantly reduce dropout rates, enabling more girls to complete their education.

4.2 Health and Reproductive Rights

Access to Healthcare

Access to healthcare remains a critical challenge for women in Rajasthan (Singhal, 2015). Many rural areas lack adequate health facilities, and cultural taboos surrounding reproductive health often prevent women from seeking necessary medical care. This situation results in poor health outcomes, including high maternal mortality rates and inadequate access to reproductive health services (Figure 4).

Pathways to Improvement

Introducing mobile clinics can help extend healthcare services to remote populations, ensuring that women receive essential medical attention. Additionally, conducting workshops on reproductive health can empower women to make informed decisions about their health, encouraging them to seek care when needed and understand their rights regarding healthcare access.

4.3 Economic Empowerment

Employment Disparities

Women in Rajasthan predominantly engage in informal employment, often lacking job security and fair wages (Mohapatra, 2012). Economic dependency on male family members perpetuates cycles of poverty, making it difficult for women to achieve financial independence. The lack of access to quality jobs also restricts their ability to improve their socio-economic status (Figure 4).

Pathways to Improvement

Programs focusing on vocational training can enhance women's employability and economic independence by equipping them with the skills needed in the job market. Additionally, providing access to microloans can enable women to start small businesses, fostering financial self-sufficiency and helping to break the cycle of poverty (Azman et al., 2016).

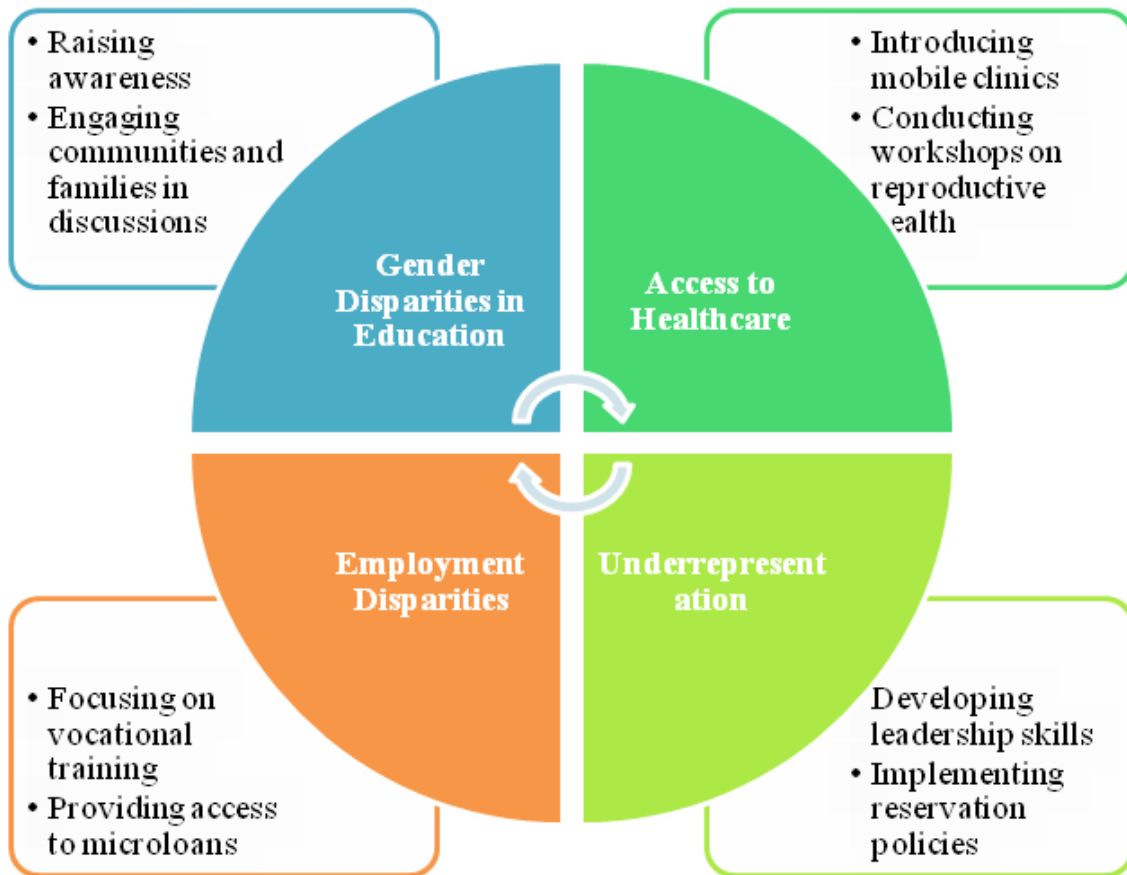


Figure 4: Challenges and Pathways to empowerment

4.4 Political Participation

Underrepresentation

Women remain underrepresented in political spheres, which limits their influence on governance and policy-making (Afolabi, 2019). Cultural norms often discourage women from engaging in politics, leading to a lack of female voices in decision-making processes. This underrepresentation perpetuates policies that do not adequately address women's needs and concerns (Figure 4).

Pathways to Improvement

To enhance women's political participation, initiatives aimed at developing leadership skills can empower them to engage more actively in political processes (Dekker, 2013; Khattak and Hingdon, 2020). Furthermore, implementing reservation policies for women in local governance can increase their representation in decision-making bodies, ensuring that women's perspectives and needs are adequately considered in policy formulation.

5. Cultural Barriers

5.1 Societal Norms

Cultural practices in Rajasthan, such as dowry and honor-related violence, play a significant role in perpetuating gender inequality (Doorjee et al., 2013; Govindnathan, 2024). The dowry system, which requires the bride's family to provide gifts or money to the groom's family, often places immense financial pressure on families and reinforces the notion that women are commodities to be traded. This

practice not only devalues women but also can lead to severe repercussions, including harassment and violence against brides who do not meet dowry expectations (Perween, 2020).

Similarly, honor-related violence, often justified by societal norms that dictate rigid expectations of female behavior, contributes to a climate of fear and control (Alqahtani, 2019). Women who challenge these norms by pursuing education, employment, or relationships outside traditional frameworks may face threats or acts of violence aimed at restoring perceived family honor. Challenging these deeply entrenched norms is crucial for promoting gender justice and creating a society where women can live freely and safely (Cornwall and Rivas, 2015).

5.2 Violence against Women

Gender-based violence is a pervasive issue in Rajasthan, affecting women across socio-economic strata. Forms of violence include domestic abuse, sexual harassment, and human trafficking (Ottisova et al., 2016). Unfortunately, limited legal recourse for victims often exacerbates the problem. Many women are reluctant to report incidents of violence due to fears of stigma, shame, and retaliation from their families or communities. The lack of effective law enforcement and judicial support further discourages women from seeking help, leading to a culture of silence surrounding violence (Wolf et al., 2003).

The stigma associated with being a victim of violence compounds the challenges women face (Overstreet and Quinn, 2016). Societal attitudes often blame victims for their circumstances, reinforcing a cycle of victimization and isolation. Addressing violence against women in Rajasthan requires not only legal reforms but also a cultural shift to change attitudes towards gender and violence.

Pathways to Improvement

- 1. Support Services:** Establishing shelters and counseling services for survivors of violence can provide critical support (Allen et al., 2021). These services can offer a safe space for women to recover, access resources, and receive psychological counseling. Moreover, integrating these services with healthcare and legal support can empower women to make informed choices about their futures.
- 2. Legal Awareness Campaigns:** Educating women about their legal rights is essential for empowering them to seek justice. Campaigns can help raise awareness about existing laws and protections against domestic violence, harassment, and discrimination (Cortis and Bullen, 2015). By informing women of their rights and available resources, such initiatives can encourage them to report violence and hold perpetrators accountable (Michau et al., 2015). Thus, addressing cultural barriers in Rajasthan is vital for promoting gender justice. By challenging societal norms and enhancing support systems for victims of violence, the state can move towards a more equitable and just society where women can thrive without fear.

6. Case Studies

6.1 Successful Initiatives

6.1.1 Sakhi Mandal

Sakhi Mandal is a remarkable example of women's self-help groups (SHGs) in Rajasthan that have significantly empowered women both economically and socially (Khaladkar, 2015). These groups provide a platform for women to come together, share resources, and engage in collective decision-making. By facilitating access to microfinance, training, and market opportunities, Sakhi Mandals have enabled women to start their own businesses, enhance their financial independence, and improve their household incomes. Hindustan Zinc has been actively empowering rural women through the formation

of self-help groups since 2006 (Kalpana and Richa, 2013; Choudhary, 2015). Moreover, the sense of community solidarity fostered through these groups has strengthened women's confidence and leadership skills, allowing them to advocate for their rights and participate more actively in local governance.

6.1.2 Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative is a government program aimed at improving the status of girls in India through education and healthcare (Verma et al., 2018). In Rajasthan, where cultural norms often prioritize sons over daughters, this initiative has shown promising outcomes in various districts (Rai, 2005). The program focuses on raising awareness about the value of educating girls and addressing issues such as female infanticide and child marriage. By implementing community-based campaigns and providing incentives for families to keep their daughters in school, the BBBP initiative has successfully increased female enrollment in schools and improved overall health outcomes for girls. Parmar and Sharma (2020) concluded that there has been a noticeable shift in public attitudes toward gender inequality, along with a significant decline in pre-natal gender selection. Following the implementation of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign, a majority of respondents 49.4% agreed and 40.4% strongly agreed—believed that the living standards of girls have improved. Conversely, 2.4% strongly disagreed, 1.4% disagreed, and 6.1% remained neutral. Additionally, 43.3% of respondents strongly agreed and 49.2% agreed that there has been a decrease in pre-natal gender examination, while 2.7% were neutral, 3.3% disagreed, and 1.6% strongly disagreed. Regarding the perception of gender inequality, 40.4% strongly agreed and 47.8% agreed that such inequality should not exist; 5.9% were neutral, 3.7% disagreed, and 2.2% strongly disagreed. After the launch of the BBBP campaign, 53.9% of respondents agreed that women are now more socially empowered than before, with 29.4% strongly agreeing. Only a small percentage 4.5% strongly disagreed, 7.3% disagreed, and 4.9% remained neutral on this issue.

6.2 Grassroots Movements

Local NGOs and grassroots organizations have played a crucial role in advocating for women's rights and raising awareness about gender issues in Rajasthan (Taipale, 2015). These organizations work at the community level, often addressing the unique challenges faced by women in rural and urban settings. Through educational programs, awareness campaigns, and legal aid services, they empower women to understand their rights and seek justice (Goodwin and Maru, 2017).

For instance, organizations like the Rajasthan Mahila Kalyan Mandal have been instrumental in mobilizing women to demand equal rights and access to resources (Kaushik, 2016). Their initiatives often include training programs on health, legal rights, and entrepreneurship, which help women build skills and confidence. The impact of these grassroots movements is significant; they not only foster community engagement but also drive policy changes by highlighting the needs and challenges of women in the region (Chetkovich, and Kunreuther, 2006). Therefore, these case studies illustrate the potential for successful initiatives and grassroots movements to effect meaningful change in gender justice in Rajasthan. By empowering women economically, enhancing educational opportunities, and advocating for their rights, these efforts are crucial steps toward achieving a more equitable society. As these initiatives continue to grow and evolve, they offer valuable lessons for furthering gender equality and empowering women across the region.

7. Conclusion

Gender justice in Rajasthan is a complex issue shaped by cultural, economic, and political factors. While challenges remain, there are numerous pathways to empowerment that can be pursued. By addressing educational disparities, improving healthcare access, promoting economic independence, and enhancing political participation, stakeholders can create a more equitable society.

To effectively address gender justice in Rajasthan, several key recommendations and future research directions are essential. First, government policies should be strengthened to ensure gender equity and the effective implementation of existing laws (Bryan, 2008). This entails creating more robust frameworks that hold institutions accountable for promoting women's rights. Second, involving local communities in dialogues about gender issues is crucial for facilitating cultural shifts and garnering support for women's rights. Engaging men and boys in these discussions can further challenge traditional norms and foster allyship (Tatah and Ndakeyo, 2023). Additionally, regular assessments of gender initiatives are vital for measuring progress and informing future strategies; tracking outcomes and identifying areas for improvement will allow stakeholders to refine their approaches for greater effectiveness.

Looking ahead, future research should concentrate on longitudinal studies that evaluate the long-term impact of interventions on gender justice in Rajasthan. Exploring the intersectionality of gender with other social identities such as caste, class, and ethnicity can provide a more nuanced understanding of the challenges women face in the region. Thus, this paper underscores the need for a collaborative approach to achieve gender justice in Rajasthan, integrating efforts from government, civil society, and local communities to create an environment where women can thrive and fully exercise their rights.

References

1. Afolabi, C. Y. (2019). The invisibility of women's organizations in decision making process and governance in Nigeria. *Frontiers in Sociology*, 3, 40.
2. Agnes, F., & D'MELLO, A. U. D. R. E. Y. (2015). Protection of women from domestic violence. *Economic and Political weekly*, 76-84.
3. Allen, A. B., Robertson, E., & Patin, G. A. (2021). Improving emotional and cognitive outcomes for domestic violence survivors: The impact of shelter stay and self-compassion support groups. *Journal of interpersonal violence*, 36(1-2), NP598-NP624.
4. Alqahtani, G. (2019). *Violence Against Women in the Name of Honor: The Case of Jordan*. American University.
5. Azman, N. H. N., Kassim, S., & Adeyemi, A. A. (2016). Role of ar-rahnu as micro-credit instrument in achieving financial self-sufficiency among women micro-entrepreneurs. *Intellectual Discourse*, 24.
6. Boeri, T., Del Boca, D., & Pissarides, C. (Eds.). (2005). *Women at work: An economic perspective*. OUP Oxford.
7. Bonvillain, N. (2020). *Women and men: Cultural constructs of gender*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
8. Bryan, E. (2008). Strategies for Promoting Gender Equity in Developing Countries: Lessons, Challenges, and Opportunities. *Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*.
9. Chetkovich, C. A., & Kunreuther, F. (2006). *From the ground up: Grassroots organizations making social change*. Cornell University Press.

10. Choudhary, A. S. (2015). Economic empowerment of rural women entrepreneurs in Rajasthan through self-help group: a case of SAKHI. *Adv Econ Bus Manag*, 2, 2394-1545.
11. Cornwall, A., & Rivas, A. M. (2015). From 'gender equality and 'women's empowerment'to global justice: reclaiming a transformative agenda for gender and development. *Third world quarterly*, 36(2), 396-415.
12. Cortis, N., & Bullen, J. (2015). *Building effective policies and services to promote women's economic security following domestic violence: State of knowledge*. ANROWS.
13. Dekker, M. (2013). Promoting Gender Equality and Female Empowerment: A systematic review of the evidence on property rights, labour markets, political participation and violence against women. *Leiden: African Studies Center*, 126.
14. Dhar, S. (2018). Gender and sustainable development goals (SDGs). *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 25(1), 47-78.
15. Dorjee, T., Baig, N., & Ting-Toomey, S. (2013). A social ecological perspective on understanding "honor killing": An intercultural moral dilemma. *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*, 42(1), 1-21.
16. Dutta, S., & Das, K. C. (2024). Violence and Gender Equity. In *Mapping Sustainable Development Goals for Children in India: Progress and Present Challenges* (pp. 137-159). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.
17. Ghosh, B. (2013). How does the legal framework protect victims of dowry and domestic violence in India? A critical review. *Aggression and violent behave*
18. Gillis, J. R., Diamond, S. L., Jebely, P., Orekhovsky, V., Ostovich, E. M., MacIsaac, K., ... & Mandell, D. (2006). Systemic obstacles to battered women's participation in the judicial system: When will the status quo change?. *Violence against women*, 12(12), 1150-1168. *ior*, 18(4), 409-416.
19. Goodwin, L., & Maru, V. (2017). What do we know about legal empowerment? Mapping the evidence. *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law*, 9(1), 157-194.
20. Govindnathan, P. (2024). *A battleground of scars: Acid violence against women and girls in Indian news media* (Doctoral dissertation).
21. JAMEEL, A., & Ahmed, W. (2021). Sustainable Development Goals and India's Commitment to Gender Justice. *Society & Sustainability*, 3(2), 68-86.
22. Kalpana, S., & Richa, S. (2013). Mainstreaming Economic Empowerment of Women through State Govt. Scheme (Sakhi Mandal Scheme) in Kheda District, India. *International Research Journal of Social Sciences*, 2(2), 27-33.
23. Kaushik, K. R. (2016). Rajasthan Mahila Kalyan Mandal Sanstha, Chachiyawas, Ajmer. *Indian Journal of Sustainable Development*, 2(1), 49.
24. Khaladkar, M. R. (2015). *Critical study of impact of microfinance schemes in Economic Development of self help groups (SHG) in Pune metropolitan area* (Doctoral dissertation, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth).
25. Khattak, R., & Higdon, G. (2020). Strengthening Women's Political Participation in Pakistan.
26. Kittay, E. F. (2001). A feminist public ethic of care meets the new communitarian family policy. *Ethics*, 111(3), 523-547.
27. Lata, S. (2024). Gender Equity in Education: Challenges and Opportunities. *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*, 55.
28. Mathur, K. (2004). *Countering gender violence: Initiatives towards collective action in Rajasthan*.

Sage.

29. Mathur, N. D., Singh, M. Y., Shekhawat, M. S., cum Treasuer, S., Meena, G. L., Singh, U., ... & Singh, V. V. (2021). Rajasthan Economic Journal.
30. Michau, L., Horn, J., Bank, A., Dutt, M., & Zimmerman, C. (2015). Prevention of violence against women and girls: lessons from practice. *The Lancet*, 385(9978), 1672-1684.
31. Mishra, B., Shukla, V., Kumar, M. S., & Singh, A. (2022). Right to Equality and Gender Justice in India. *Jundishapur Journal of Microbiology*, 15(1), 4257-4264.
32. Mohapatra, K. K. (2012). Women workers in informal sector in India: understanding the occupational vulnerability. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2(21), 197-207.
33. Ottisova, L., Hemmings, S., Howard, L. M., Zimmerman, C., & Oram, S. (2016). Prevalence and risk of violence and the mental, physical and sexual health problems associated with human trafficking: an updated systematic review. *Epidemiology and psychiatric sciences*, 25(4), 317-341.
34. Overstreet, N. M., & Quinn, D. M. (2016). The intimate partner violence stigmatization model and barriers to help seeking. In *Social psychological perspectives on stigma* (pp. 109-122). Routledge.
35. Parmar, M. S., & Sharma, A. (2020). Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Campaign: An Attempt to Social Empowerment. *Journal of critical reviews*, 7(13), 1242-1248.
36. Patel, V (2009). Empowering Harmony At The Individual And Community Level.
37. Perween, S. (2020). Dowry as a social practice and its psychological impact. *IAHRW International Journal of Social Sciences Review*, 8(1-3), 59-63.
38. Rai, M., & Paul, S. (2021). Exploring Gender Justice for Attaining Equality. In *Gender Equality* (pp. 266-276). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
39. Rai, S. (2005). Gender Responsive Governance in India: The Experience of Rajasthan. *The Role of Public Administration in Alleviating Poverty and Improving Governance*, 57.
40. Saini, P., & Sharma, K. C. (2015). Discrimination Against Women With Special Reference To Female Foeticide In State Of Rajasthan.
41. Singh, S. (2019). *The Politics of Marriage in India: Gender and Alliance in Rajasthan*. Oxford University Press.
42. Singh, S. K. (2022). Women's Rights in India: A Study with Special Reference to Gender Justice at Workplace. *International journal of economic perspectives*, 16(12), 63-70.
43. Singh, S. (2016). The State of Gender Inequality in India. De Gruyter. DOI: 10.1515/genst-2017-0009
44. Singhal, A. (2015). Utilization of maternal health services in slums of Rajasthan. *International Journal of New Technology and Research*, 1(8), 263629.
45. Taipale, J. (2015). *Making a difference in women's lives?: case study of women's empowerment programme in Rajasthan* (Master's thesis).
46. Tatah, F. E., & Ndaye, D. (2023). The Role of Men in Promoting Gender Equality and Challenging Patriarchy. *American Journal of Gender and Development Studies*, 2(1), 1-13.
47. Unterhalter, E. (2012). *Gender, schooling and global social justice*. Routledge.
48. Verma, R., Dhaka, R., & Agrawal, G. (2018). Beti bachao, beti padhao programme: a right initiative to save the girl child. *International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health*, 5(6), 2153-2155.
49. Wolf, M. E., Ly, U., Hobart, M. A., & Kernic, M. A. (2003). Barriers to seeking police help for intimate partner violence. *Journal of family Violence*, 18, 121-129.