A REVIEW OF CONCEPTUAL AND MEASUREMENT INNOVATIONS IN GENDER EMPOWERMENT AND ITS RELEVANCE IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT
An understanding of gender related concepts is important to get everyone at the same level. Gender inequality can be a significant constraint to economic growth and poverty reduction. New evidence demonstrates that when women and men are relatively equal, economies tend to grow faster, the poor move more quickly out of poverty, and the well-being of men, women, and children is enhanced (FAO 2011; World Bank 2012). This paper presents exploratory research evaluating a conceptual structure for the Gender Empowerment as an indispensable domain of the Human Development process. Based on reviewing foremost literature, the paper discusses gender empowerment as a core component of the human development paradigm. The objective of this paper, therefore, is to discuss this nexus, highlighting the various dimensions of Gender empowerment, clearly specifying its indicators and finally viewing the relevance and state of such empowerment in Indian context. In the end, the conclusion is based on the brief implications of adopting Gender Empowerment as a policy goal. Both men and women are agents of change. Integrating gender in programs, policies and projects in Indian case would go a long way in reducing gender disparities and enhancing women’s participation in the economic development and their empowerment.

KEYWORDS: Gender, Empowerment, Human development, Gender empowerment, measurement, dimensions, Policy.