

## **Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in India Through the Third Millennium Development Goal**

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This study is mainly targeted at examining why India has failed to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women despite the efforts made by the United Nations in their third Millennium Development Goal (MDG) - 'Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women'. A qualitative research method has been followed by the author to collect data and the data has been analyzed involving a discussion on common patterns and controversies that support the objectives of the study. Data is gathered from the annual reports on MDGs by the United Nations, official websites of the United Nations and other agencies of the United Nations. Other types of literature produced on this issue is further referred to by the author. The research is based on the assumption that India's patriarchal society and its customs and traditions hinder the achievements the referred MDG. According to the literature, programmes, constitutional amendments, policies, and new laws were implemented in India in order to achieve the third Millennium Development Goal. However, throughout the years, India's performance in this regard has not been impressive and as the world reached the dead line for these goals (2015), the various reports available determined that India has not been successful in achieving gender equality and empowering its women despite the solid efforts by the government of India and the United Nations as well. As per the intention of this study in order, to search for the reasons for India's failure to reach this goal, the author has investigated and has successfully proven that the presence of strong traditional social conducts recurrently barricade India's realization of the third Millennium Development Goal.

**Keywords:** empowerment; equality; gender; India women; millennium development goals