



## Women's Economic Empowerment in Australia

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### ABSTRACT

Economic empowerment is the ability to make and act on decisions that involve the control over and allocation of financial resources. It allows individuals to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways that recognize the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. Economic empowerment of women comprises two inter-related components; Economic advancement, Power and Agency. Economic gain and success promotes power and agency whilst ability of control and share the resource use and to define and make choices advance her economically. Economic empowerment of women is important to the society in various ways. It paves the path for them to achieve their rights and well-being. Economically empowered women contribute to the; economy of the family, health care of family members, education of children and more. Throughout the world, women and girls bear most of the burden of unpaid household and care work. According to the literature, women have fewer opportunities than men in their access to; job market opportunities, choice of occupation and wages. Yet it is believed that the economic empowerment of women in developing countries differ from developed countries, therefore it was intended to test whether the gender inequalities exist in Australian labor market. Unemployment data from January 2000 to November 2019 obtained from Australian bureau of Statistics. The descriptive statistics revealed that the mean and median unemployment rate of females is less than that of males. Inferential statistics generalized the same for the population. It was concluded that the female unemployment in Australian labor market is less than the male unemployment. It evidenced for the non-existence of gender disparities in economic empowerment in Australian labor market. It is recommended to test the economic empowerment of women from the points of view of choice of occupation and wages as well. It is essential to conduct similar studies for developing countries.

**Keywords:** Economic Empowerment, Gender Inequalities