

Partha Sarathi Mallik / Susmita Bandyopadhyay

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religious and spiritual organisations as
exemplified by the Ramakrishna Mission

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**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: ROLE OF RELIGIOUS AND
SPIRITUAL ORGANISATIONS**

(Ramkrishna Mission an Exemplary)

Dr. Susmita Bandyopadhyay

Dr. Partha Sarathi Mallik

Preface

Women empowerment is a global mission due to its very spirit of inclusive development irrespective of caste, sex, colour, ethnicity or other facets of disadvantages but in the country like India the unequal treatment of women, differentiation of role, responsibility and status between male and women has a long rooted socio-cultural perspective, as result women are perceived as culturally devalued group. Although constitutional, legislative and policy measures are taken by the government of India for safeguard and upliftment of women, but the present data regarding differential developmental indicators like literacy, health, income, socio-political participation show that the development has not happened up to mark or at par the other gender. So along with these structural initiative the initiatives taken by different non-governmental organisations, philanthropic association, religious organisation can help a lot for fulfilment of the mission. The Ramakrishna Mission is a Hindu religious and spiritual organisation which forms the core of a worldwide spiritual movement known as the Ramakrishna Movement or the Vedanta Movement. As this mission base its work on the Vedic principle of Karma Yoga, along with spiritual teaching, the organisation focuses the socio-educational activities. In this book a vivid presentation is made regarding the Educational and philanthropic activities done by this mission for the spread of qualitative education, skill development, medical facilities, vocational training among girls.

In the chapter one the status of women and mission for women empowerment in global and Indian scenario is presented. In the second chapter the socio-cultural perception of Indian society towards women during ancient, medieval and post independence period; the individual and organisational initiatives taken to ameliorate those conditions are presented.

In the chapter three the perception and contribution of three master minds: Ramkrishna Paramahansa, Sarada Devi and Vivekananda towards women empowerment are presented. In the chapter four detailed works done by Ramkrishna mission in different places of West