Digital Pathways to Empowerment: Unraveling Women's Journeys in Atmanirbhar Bharat through ICT - A Qualitative Exploration

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Abstract:- This qualitative research aims to explore the lived experiences, perceptions, and challenges faced by women in leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for empowerment within the framework of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, the study seeks to understand how ICT tools and platforms contribute to women's socio-economic empowerment, including their participation in education, entrepreneurship, governance, and employment. By examining individual narratives and community perspectives, the research aims to uncover the nuances of women's engagement with ICT, as well as the barriers they encounter in accessing and utilizing digital resources. The findings of this study are expected to provide valuable insights into the intersection of gender, technology, and development, informing policy and practice for promoting women's empowerment and self-reliance in India. In the framework of Atmanirbhar Bharat, we want to investigate the relationship between ICT and women's empowerment in this qualitative study. By studying women's experiences, obstacles, and opportunities when using ICT resources, we hope to add to the body of knowledge needed to create policies and programs that support gender-inclusive development and enable women to take an active role in empowering themselves and their communities as they work towards prosperity and self-reliance in India.

Keywords:- Women's Empowerment, Information And Communication Technology (ICT), Atmanirbhar Bharat, Qualitative Study, Gender Equality, Digital Inclusion.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission is a reinvention of the early 20th-century Swadeshi movement, which fuelled the Indian Freedom Movement. Atmanirbhar Bharat, or independent India, is now recognized as the foundation for building a powerful, independent India that will lead the world in establishing its own niche. The announcements made about policy in the last few years have emphasized independence. Women's empowerment is a complex idea with social, political, and economic facets that aims to increase women's agency, autonomy, and capacity for making decisions. The significance of empowering women as a basic human right and a driver of sustainable development has gained international attention in recent decades.

By removing obstacles to time, place, and information access, information and communication technology (ICT) has become a potent instrument for promoting women's empowerment. ICT refers to a broad category of technologies that have transformed communication, information access, and social and economic activities. Examples of these technologies include the internet, mobile phones, social media, and digital platforms which have revolutionized the way individuals communicate, access information, and participate in economic and social activities. ICT and women's empowerment together offer special chances to close the gender gap and advance inclusive development. Women can improve their socioeconomic situation and advance gender equality by using ICT to access job opportunities, healthcare services, financial tools, and educational resources. Nevertheless, despite the revolutionary potential of ICT, women still encounter a number of obstacles to its use and access, such as low levels of digital literacy, financial limitations, cultural norms, and discrimination based on gender. Ensuring equal access to ICT resources and bridging the digital gender gap are essential to fully utilizing technology for women's empowerment. In the framework of India's economic empowerment and self-reliance effort, Atmanirbhar Bharat, utilizing ICT becomes essential to promoting women's socio-economic inclusion and involvement. With the help of Atmanirbhar Bharat, women will have more access to digital infrastructure, entrepreneurship will be encouraged, and digital skills will be given to them. This will allow women to flourish in the digital economy.

A. Atamnirbhar Bharat Initiative

The Atmanirbhar Bharat Initiative, launched by the Government of India, is a comprehensive strategy aimed at fostering self-reliance, resilience, and economic empowerment. The term "Atmanirbhar Bharat" translates to "self-reliant India" and encapsulates a vision of India as a strong, self-sufficient nation capable of meeting its own needs and contributing significantly to the global economy. The initiative was announced in May 2020 in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic but extends beyond immediate crisis management to envision a more

robust and resilient economy for the future. the Atmanirbhar Bharat Initiative represents a holistic approach to economic development and resilience, with a focus on leveraging India's strengths, promoting self-reliance, and building a more inclusive and sustainable economy. By addressing key challenges and seizing emerging opportunities, the initiative aims to position India as a leading global economic power in the 21st century.

B. Importance of Women's Empowerment in National Development

Women's empowerment is essential for national development because it enhances economic growth, promotes social justice, improves health outcomes, ensures environmental sustainability, and contributes to peace and security.

C. ICT in Advancing Gender Equality

The role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in advancing gender equality is significant. ICT provides women with access to information, education, employment opportunities, and platforms for social and economic participation. Through ICT, women can overcome traditional barriers such as distance, mobility constraints, and social norms that may limit their access to resources and opportunities. Moreover, ICT enables women to connect with networks, access online markets, and participate in decision-making processes, thus empowering them economically and socially. Additionally, ICT can support gender-responsive initiatives, such as promoting digital literacy among women and girls, creating safe online spaces, and addressing gender-based violence. Overall, ICT plays a crucial role in bridging the digital gender divide and empowering women to fully participate in the digital economy and society

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

➢ *Conceptualization of Women's Empowerment*

Enhancing women's agency, capabilities, and opportunities to engage fully and equally in different sectors of life is at the center of the conceptualization of women's empowerment. It entails opposing and changing the structures, societal norms, and unequal power dynamics that support gender inequality and discrimination. There are several facets to women's empowerment, such as personal, political, social, and economic empowerment. In terms of the economy, women's empowerment means providing equal access to chances for education, resources, and employment so that they can become financially independent and boost the economy. Promoting gender equality, ending gender-based violence, and fostering inclusive environments where women's views are heard, appreciated, and respected are all aspects of women's empowerment on the social front. To ensure that women's perspectives and interests are taken into consideration in policymaking and governance, women's empowerment in politics means boosting women's representation and participation in decision-making processes at all levels of governance. The goal of personal empowerment is to give women the strength, self-worth, and confidence they need to

stand up for what's right, make educated decisions, and follow their dreams.

➢ *Theoretical Underpinnings of ICT-Enabled Empowerment*

Theoretical frameworks that examine the dynamics of empowerment processes as well as the connection between technology and social transformation serve as the foundation for ICT-enabled empowerment. Among the principal theoretical stances are the following:

- Social Construction of Technology (SCOT) places significant emphasis on the social milieu in which technologies are created, embraced, and employed. It implies that social variables influence the development of technologies, and that the social, cultural, and political settings in which they are used determine their meanings and effects. SCOT emphasizes how the design, implementation, and usage of ICT can either support or challenge existing power structures and inequalities, influencing the outcomes of women's empowerment in the context of ICT-enabled empowerment.

- Capability Approach: The capability approach, developed by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum, focuses on individuals' capabilities to lead valuable lives. It emphasizes the importance of enhancing people's freedom to choose and achieve their capabilities, rather than merely focusing on their material resources or utility. This strategy highlights the significance of enhancing women's capabilities by giving them access to ICT tools, skills, and opportunities that allow them to pursue their objectives and aspirations in the context of ICT-enabled empowerment.

- Feminist Theory: Feminist theories provide important new perspectives on how power relations and technology interact with gender. For instance, intersectional feminism emphasizes how overlapping characteristics like race, class, and ethnicity influence women's experiences of empowerment through ICT. The theory of feminist Viewpoint highlights the significance of prioritizing the viewpoints and experiences of women in comprehending empowerment processes mediated by technology. Additionally, it challenges prevailing discourses that reduce the agency and voice of women.

- Actor-Network Theory (ANT): According to ANT, human actors and technology create interdependent networks of relationships in which both parties exercise agency and have an impact on one another's behaviour. ANT emphasizes the intricate relationship that shapes empowerment results between technology artifacts, human users, and social institutions in the context of ICT-enabled empowerment. It highlights how, in order to comprehend how ICT interventions support processes of empowerment, it is important to take into account the agency of both women and technology.

A. Review of Related Literature

Kabeer's (2005) research highlights how ICT may empower women's autonomy and talents, especially in rural areas. Likewise, **Hafkin and Huyer (2006)** emphasize how ICT can help women have better access to economic

opportunities, education, and information, which will empower them. In their 2018 study, **Chakrabarti and Jaiswal** examine the benefits and difficulties faced by female entrepreneurs in the digital economy while utilizing ICT to expand their businesses. Gaining knowledge from the experiences of female entrepreneurs will help identify how ICT might be used to support women's economic empowerment through programs like Atmanirbhar Bharat.According to World Wide Web Foundation research from 2019, women have less access to the internet and digital technology than men do in many nations, including India. Factors including cultural norms, educational attainment, and socioeconomic status all have an impact on this difference, making focused interventions necessary to close the gap. **Gurumurthy et al.'s (2019)** study assesses how well government initiatives in India are advancing gender parity in ICT access and usage. It highlights the necessity of laws that help women overcome sociocultural obstacles and advance their digital inclusion**. Mohan et al. (2020)** investigate women's experiences with ICT in rural India through focus groups and qualitative interviews, illuminating the sociocultural elements that influence their access and usage habits.A study by the **Center for Social Research (2021)** examines the gender dimensions of Atmanirbhar Bharat and suggests strategies for ensuring women's participation and benefit from the initiative.

B. Research Objective
- To explore women's experiences and perceptions of using ICT for empowerment in the context of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- To understand the ways in which ICT tools and platforms contribute to women's participation in education, entrepreneurship, governance, and employment.
- To identify the socio-cultural, economic, and technological barriers hindering women's access to and utilization of ICT resource.
- To examine the role of digital literacy, skills development, and access to technology infrastructure in enhancing women's engagement with ICT
- To investigate the impact of community-level initiatives and grassroots interventions in promoting women's ICT empowerment.
- To generate recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders to strengthen ICT-enabled women empowerment initiatives within the framework of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

III. METHODOLOGY

➢ *Research Design*
- Qualitative research design: In order to investigate women's experiences, attitudes, and perspectives surrounding female empowerment through ICT within the framework of Atmanirbhar Bharat, this approach entails collecting rich, thorough data.

- Exploratory in nature: Without imposing any predetermined assumptions, the study aims to investigate and comprehend the various ways that ICT empowers women.

➢ *Selection of Participants*
- Purposeful sampling: Women who have used ICT for social involvement, education, or entrepreneurship will be among the participants chosen for this study based on their relevance to the topic.

- Diversity: Measures will be taken to guarantee that participant demographics, such as age, socioeconomic status, place of residence, and degree of ICT proficiency, are diverse.

➢ *Data Collection Method*
- In-depth interviews: Holding semi-structured interviews with participants to extract in-depth accounts of their encounters with, difficulties with, and achievements with using ICT for empowerment.

- Focus group talks: Setting up conversations in groups to encourage communication and investigation of participants' common experiences and viewpoints.

Examining pertinent records, papers, and digital artifacts in order to enhance and contextualize the information gathered from focus groups and interviews.

➢ *Data Analysis*
Thematic analysis is the process of looking for reoccurring themes, patterns, and insights on women's empowerment through ICT by examining focus group recordings and interview transcripts.

- Coding: The process of methodically classifying data based on major themes and concepts.
- Interpretation: Producing explanations and interpretations in light of the linkages and patterns found in the data, with an emphasis on comprehending the intricacies of women's empowerment initiatives within the framework of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

➢ *Ethical Considerations*
Obtaining informed permission from each participant before to their involvement in the study is essential to ensuring that they are aware of the goals, protocols, and possible dangers associated with the research. Maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of participants' sensitive information during the course of the study is known as confidentiality. Ensuring that the research findings fairly represent the opinions of the participants and that they are treated with decency and cultural sensitivity.

IV. EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

➢ *The Contribution of ICT to Improving Women's Access to Education*

ICTs, such as computers, tablets, cellphones, and the internet, have completely changed women's access to education by eradicating conventional time and location obstacles.Women can balance their educational goals with other commitments, such as family responsibilities, by taking advantage of the flexible and self-paced learning opportunities provided by online learning platforms.Women who live in rural or isolated locations can now obtain high-quality education without having to move or travel great distances thanks to virtual classrooms and e-learning materials.

➢ *Developing Capabilities and Developing Skills Using Digital Platforms*

Digital platforms offer a variety of learning resources and chances for skill development that are specifically suited to the needs and preferences of women.Women have the opportunity to learn new skills, expand their knowledge, and build competencies related to their educational and career objectives through online tutorials, webinars, and courses.Through interactive e-learning tools and simulations, women may engage in hands-on learning experiences and hone their abilities in a virtual setting.

➢ *Empowering Narratives of Women Pursuing Education in Atmanirbhar Bharat*

In the framework of Atmanirbhar Bharat, tales of women who have surmounted financial obstacles to seek education demonstrate the transforming potential of ICT. These stories demonstrate how women have been enabled to pursue career trajectories that were previously unattainable for them, obtain specialized skills, and pursue further education through the use of digital learning materials and online educational possibilities .In addition to serving as an example for others, women's success stories with ICT for education highlight the value of funding digital infrastructure, digital literacy, and inclusive educational practices in order to promote women's empowerment in Atmanirbhar Bharat.

V. ENTREPRENEURIAL ENDEAVOURS AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

➢ *ICT-Enabled Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Women*

ICT provides a wealth of chances for women to launch and expand their own companies, utilizing digital tools and platforms to get over conventional obstacles to entrepreneurship. Women entrepreneurs can reach clients across regional boundaries by using online marketplaces and e-commerce platforms to access global markets.

Cloud computing, social media, and e-commerce solutions are examples of digital technologies that enable women to start businesses with less initial investment by helping to create scalable and economical company models.

➢ *Digital Platforms for Marketing, Finance, and Networking*

Digital marketing tools and social media platforms facilitate the promotion of products and services, brand awareness, and real-time customer engagement for female entrepreneurs. Women now have easier access to online payment gateways, crowdfunding platforms, and digital banking services thanks to financial technology (fintech) solutions, which make safe and practical financial transactions possible. In order to promote professional development and business expansion, online networking sites and business communities give female entrepreneurs the chance to interact, work together, and share expertise with peers, mentors, and possible business partners.

➢ *Success Stories and Challenges Faced by Women Entrepreneurs*

The positive effects of digital entrepreneurship are exemplified by the success tales of female entrepreneurs who used ICT to launch and grow their companies.

These narratives demonstrate how women have surmounted obstacles like restricted financial resources, trade restrictions, and gender stereotypes to establish prosperous businesses and promote economic expansion. Gender differences in entrepreneurship require specialized assistance and interventions. Women entrepreneurs confront challenges in the digital landscape, such as gaps in their digital literacy, cybersecurity concerns, and unequal access to resources and opportunities.

VI. EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

➢ *Increased Access to Job Opportunities*

ICT has made it easier for women to find work, particularly in fields like technology, e-commerce, digital marketing, and remote customer support. Women may investigate different work options on an even playing field, regardless of where they live, thanks to online platforms and job portals.

➢ *Remote Work and Flexibility*

Technology has facilitated remote work and flexible job opportunities, which are particularly beneficial for women. Remote work allows women to balance their professional and personal responsibilities more effectively, such as childcare or caring for elderly family members. Flexible working arrangements also empower women to pursue career advancement while managing other commitments.

➢ *Entrepreneurship and Digital Skills*

ICT has made it possible for women to launch enterprises, offer goods and services online, and access international markets by utilizing digital platforms. In addition, programs and initiatives for digital skills training have given women the tools they need to succeed in the digital economy, enabling them to seek professions in STEM and other technology-related fields.

➢ *Overcoming Obstacles*

Women still encounter obstacles to entering the digital workforce, despite the benefits provided by ICT. These obstacles include restricted access to STEM education and training, discrimination and gender bias in the tech sector, a dearth of networking and mentoring opportunities, and cultural and societal conventions that dissuade women from pursuing jobs in technology.

➢ *Policy Interventions and Advocacy*

To remove these obstacles and advance gender equality in the digital workforce, governments, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations are engaged in advocacy. The main goals of policy interventions are to give women and girls more access to ICT education and training, to encourage gender-sensitive hiring and retention practices in IT companies, and to create welcoming work cultures that cater to the requirements of female employees.

➢ *Empowerment and Economic Independence*

In the end, the inclusion of women in the digital workforce fosters gender equality and empowerment in addition to economic prosperity and creativity. ICT plays an important role in dismantling traditional gender stereotypes and promoting a more inclusive and varied workforce by expanding women's employment prospects and offering them chances for skill development and career promotion.

VII. SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Utilizing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for community development and social activism has become increasingly prevalent in recent years, offering numerous opportunities for networking, advocacy, and empowerment, particularly for women.

- Digital Networking and Advocacy venues: ICT offers a range of digital venues where women may interact, exchange ideas, and organize for social concerns, including social media, online forums, and community-driven websites. With the use of these platforms, women may create online groups, share information, and plan events pertaining to activism, advocacy, and community development.
- Empowerment via Online Campaigns: Women are using ICT to start online movements and campaigns on topics including violence against women, women's rights, gender equality, and reproductive health. These initiatives strengthen the voices of women, increase public awareness of social issues, and galvanize support for legislative and policy improvements.

- Information and Resource Access: Information and communication technology (ICT) gives women access to resources and information that were previously unavailable or challenging to find. Women have access to financial possibilities, support networks, training programs, and educational materials via internet platforms, which empowers them to further their goals and develop their talents.
- Difficulties in Fostering Women's Voices and Leadership: In spite of the chances that ICT affords, women encounter a number of obstacles when it comes to actively engaging in digital platforms and expressing their voices and leadership. These issues include disparities in digital literacy, harassment and cyberbullying online, gender stereotypes and biases that are reinforced in online environments, and restricted access to technology and internet connectivity, especially in remote and underprivileged areas.
- Developing Digital Skills and Confidence: In order to solve these issues, funds for digital literacy projects and programs are needed. These will provide women the knowledge and self-assurance they need to participate in digital advocacy, use online platforms efficiently, and take charge of their lives. Efforts should also be taken to provide secure and welcoming online environments that encourage polite conversation, a range of viewpoints, and female involvement.
- Increasing Women's Representation in Technology: Women's voices and leadership in digital spaces must be promoted. This can be achieved by increasing the number of women working in technology and ICT-related sectors. In order to achieve this, institutional prejudices and hurdles that prevent women from pursuing STEM occupations must be removed. Additionally, mentorship, networking, and leadership development opportunities for women in the technology industry must be encouraged.

VIII. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The qualitative study conducted in the context of Atmanirbhar Bharat aimed to explore the intersection of women's empowerment and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) usage among women in India. Through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and participant observation, several key findings emerged.

Table 1 Several Key Findings Emerged

THEME	KEY FINDING
Digital Access Disparities	• Urban women generally have better access to ICT infrastructure and resources. • Rural women face challenges such as limited internet connectivity and lack of digital literacy.
Empowerment Through Connectivity	• ICT enables connectivity, access to information, and economic opportunities. • Women use smartphones and social media platforms for networking and accessing educational resources.
Skills and Capacity Building	• Digital literacy and skills development are critical for leveraging ICT for empowerment. • Training programs and workshops equip women with skills to navigate digital platforms and conduct online transactions.
Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment	• ICT fosters women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment under Atmanirbhar Bharat. • Women entrepreneurs use e-commerce platforms and digital marketing tools to expand their businesses
Challenges and Barriers	• Women face gender-based discrimination and online harassment. • Gender-sensitive policies and interventions are needed to address barriers to women's digital empowerment.

The findings of the study shed light on the complex dynamics of women's empowerment and ICT usage within the framework of Atmanirbhar Bharat. They underscore the importance of addressing digital access disparities, promoting digital literacy, and fostering an inclusive digital ecosystem to empower women across diverse socio-economic contexts.

The study also emphasizes how ICT may be a game-changer in empowering women economically and encouraging their entrepreneurship. Women can break through conventional barriers to entering the formal economy, gain access to new markets, and create sustainable livelihoods by utilizing digital technologies. But achieving this potential will need focused initiatives to help women-owned companies, improve training in digital skills, and deal with issues unique to women in the digital economy.

The study highlights the necessity of comprehensive strategies for women's empowerment that take into account the ways that gender, technology, and socioeconomic status are intertwined. In order to guarantee women's meaningful involvement in and benefits from ICT projects under Atmanirbhar Bharat, policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders must give gender-sensitive policies top priority.

The qualitative study offers insightful information about the dynamics of ICT-based women's empowerment in the context of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

➢ *Challenges*

• The digital gender divide refers to the ongoing differences between men and women in terms of digital access and usage, with women frequently encountering more obstacles when attempting to adopt ICT. Women's access to ICT-enabled possibilities is restricted by factors that contribute to the digital gender gap, including inadequate access to devices, internet connectivity, and digital literacy.

• Social-cultural Conventions and Gender Preconceptions: Disparities in access to and control over ICT resources are sustained by ingrained sociocultural norms and gender stereotypes. Gender-based divides in the digital domain may be strengthened by traditional gender roles discouraging women from interacting with digital platforms or pursuing employment in technology.

• Limited Digital Literacy and Skills: A lot of women lack the fundamental knowledge and abilities needed to use digital platforms, transact business online, and be safe when doing so. Insufficient training and programs aimed at enhancing capacity may be a challenge for women to effectively leverage ICT for economic engagement and empowerment.

• Affordability and Accessibility: Women, especially those from low-income households or rural areas, find it extremely difficult to access ICT due to the high cost of gadgets, internet services, and data plans. Disparities in digital access and inclusion are further exacerbated by inadequate infrastructure and connection in rural and underdeveloped areas.

• Cybersecurity Risks and Online Harassment: Women are frequently the targets of cyberbullying, online harassment, and privacy infringement when using digital platforms, which prevents them from fully interacting in online communities. Women's confidence in utilizing ICT for communication and empowerment may also be weakened by worries about cybersecurity and data privacy.

• Absence of Gender-sensitive Policies and Programs: Gender-blind approaches to technology development and deployment may arise from existing ICT policies and programs' failure to sufficiently address the special requirements and priorities of women. Women's empowerment through ICT may continue to be ignored and disregarded in national agendas like Atmanirbhar Bharat in the absence of gender-sensitive methods and interventions.

IX. CONCLUSION

The qualitative study conducted within the framework of Atmanirbhar Bharat has provided valuable insights into the intersection of women's empowerment and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) usage among women in India. Through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and participant observation, several key findings have emerged, highlighting both opportunities and challenges for women's empowerment in the digital age. Firstly, the study revealed persistent disparities in digital access, with rural and marginalized women facing significant barriers to ICT adoption and utilization. Despite these challenges, ICT was found to be a powerful tool for women's empowerment, enabling connectivity, access to information, and economic opportunities. Women entrepreneurs, in particular, leveraged digital technologies to expand their businesses and increase their economic independence. But the survey also noted a number of difficulties, such as inadequate support networks, harassment online, and discrimination based on gender. A multifaceted strategy emphasizing gender-sensitive policies, focused interventions, and inclusive digital ecosystems is needed to overcome these obstacles.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed to promote women's empowerment through ICT within the context of Atmanirbhar Bharat:

- Enhancing Digital Access: Invest in expanding digital infrastructure and connectivity to bridge the urban-rural digital divide. Ensure equitable access to affordable devices, internet connectivity, and digital literacy programs, particularly for marginalized communities and remote areas.
- Promoting Digital Literacy and Skills Development: Develop comprehensive digital literacy programs and skills training initiatives tailored to the needs of women. Empower women with the knowledge and skills to navigate digital platforms, conduct online transactions, and safeguard themselves from online risks and threats.
- Supporting Women Entrepreneurs: Provide targeted support and resources to women entrepreneurs to leverage ICT for business growth and innovation. Offer mentorship programs, access to finance, and technical assistance to help women-owned businesses thrive in the digital economy.
- Creating Gender-Inclusive Digital Spaces: Foster inclusive digital ecosystems that promote gender equality, diversity, and inclusion. Implement measures to prevent and address online harassment and discrimination, and ensure that digital platforms are safe and accessible for women of all backgrounds.
- Policy Advocacy and Collaboration: Advocate for gender-responsive policies and regulatory frameworks that promote women's digital empowerment and inclusion. Foster collaboration between government, civil society, private sector, and academia to design and implement effective strategies for advancing women's empowerment through ICT.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact of ICT interventions on women's empowerment outcomes. Collect disaggregated data on gender and ICT usage to track progress, identify gaps, and inform evidence-based decision-making.

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