

Role of Education in Women Empowerment in India

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Abstract:

Women education in India has a major preoccupation of both the government and civil society as educated women can play a very important role in the development of the country. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to responds to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So that we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment and India poised to becoming superpower in recent years. Education of women is the most powerful tool to change the position in society. Women education in India has been a need of the hour, as education is a foundation stone for the empowerment of woman. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family and develops the concept of participation.

Keywords: Education, Women, empowerment, Self –respect, participation, Gender Equality.

Introduction:

Empowerment can be viewed as means of creating a social environment in which one can make decisions and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation. The empowerment strengthens the innate ability by way of acquiring knowledge, power and Empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing individual to think, take action and control work in an autonomous way. It is the process by which one can gain control over one's destiny and the circumstances of one's lives. There are always a number of elements in the society which are deprived of their basic rights in every society, state and nation, but these elements lack in the awareness of their rights. If we enlist such elements from the society, then women would top this list. In fact, women are the most important factor of every society. Even though everybody is aware of this fact, but nobody is ready to accept this fact. As a result, the importance which used to be given to women is declining in today's society. As a consequence of this growing tendency of underestimating women such as to make them occupy a secondary position in society and to deprive them of their basic rights, the need for empowering women has become the focus of considerable discussion and attention all over the world. Today we enjoy the benefits of being citizens of a free nation, but we really need to think whether each of the citizens of our country is really free or enjoying freedom, in the true sense of the term. The inequalities between men and women and discrimination against women are an age-old issue all over the world. Thus women quest for equality with man is a universal phenomenon. Women should equal with men in matters of education, employment, inheritance, marriage, and politics etc. Their quest for equality has given birth to the formation of many women's associations and launching of movements. The Constitution of our nation doesn't discriminate between men and women, but our society has deprived women of certain basic rights, which were bestowed upon them by our Constitution. Empowerment allows individuals to reach their full potential, to improve their political and social participation, and to believe in their own capabilities. Women empowerment is an increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women and ensure the equal right to women, to make them confident freely live their life with self-respect.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study of women and efforts made in present.
2. To study the performance of literacy in India.
3. To know the available schemes for women empowerment in India.

Methodology:

This is an analytical study based on literature survey. The secondary data like research articles, journals, magazines and different database from websites are considered in this study. Content analysis of the literature which extracts the outcomes of the present study with thematic analysis and corroboration of the data.

Importance Of Education For Women:

The qualities of family members and society at large may be impacted by the education of women. It also helps to get rid of negative habits like dowry, early marriage, and Sati-Pratha, among others. Since education gives women various career options that enable them to work alongside men and support their families, it is essential for ending economic poverty. Education encourages teamwork rather than empowering a woman to be autonomous. Because of her education, she will be able to select the best career for her.

- Every woman has her own goals, which can be great or low. Education helps women build balanced aspirations by enabling them to recognise their interests, skills, and potential, which then enables them to choose the right line of work.
- Education aids in the development of personality
- Effective communication is aided by education.
- An educated woman is a role model for her children, family, society, and nation; she knows how to raise a happy family and sustain harmonious interpersonal connections.
- Education improves mental wellness.
- Education of women aids in population control.
- Education encourages participation in numerous initiatives, including the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Operation Blackboard, and Total Literacy Programs, among others, for women, particularly rural women

Positive outcomes of education for women's empowerment:

Education has numerous positive outcomes for women's empowerment, leading to transformative changes in their lives and society positive outcomes of education for women's empowerment.

Women empowerment through education:

Women empowerment is the pivotal part in any society, state or country. It is a woman who plays a dominant role in the basic life of a child. Women are an important section of our society. Education as means of empowerment of women can bring about a positive attitudinal change. It is therefore, crucial for the socioeconomic and political progress of India. The Constitution of India empowers the state to adopt affirmative measures for prompting ways and means to empower women. Education significantly makes difference in the lives of women.³ Women Empowerment is a global issue and discussion on women political right are at the fore front of many formal and informal campaigns worldwide. The concept of women empowerment was introduced at the international women conference at NAROI in 1985. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to responds to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment. To see the development in women education India is supposed to upcoming super power of the world in recent years. The increasing change in women

education, the empowerment of women has been recognised as the central issue in determining the status of women.⁴ For becoming super power we have mostly to concentrate upon the women's education. By which it will force on women's empowerment. As per United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) the term women's empowerment means:

- Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relations and the ways in which these relations may be changed.
- Developing a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life.
- Gaining the ability to generate choices exercise bargaining power.
- Developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change, to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

Schemes of Women Empowerment in India:

1. Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Scheme and continues existing projects.
2. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme.
3. Women Helpline Scheme.
4. Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014 & Awardees of
5. Nari Shakti Puruskar
6. Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman
7. Mahila police Volunteers.
8. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)

Need for Women Empowerment:

Empowerment enables women to acquire knowledge, skills, and techniques that contribute to their personal and social growth. Special efforts must be directed towards education, health, and employment for women, as these are fundamental for their economic independence. Education plays a key role in improving the female sex ratio and overall societal development, as economic empowerment is only possible when women are educated. Lack of education remains the primary cause of women's exploitation and marginalization, hindering their ability to fully understand and exercise their rights. When women are educated, they gain the ability to contribute to nation-building, as seen in the growing number of women holding powerful positions in India and globally. However, the road ahead remains long, and more efforts are needed to ensure that women have the necessary education and empowerment to lead effectively in various spheres of life.

Obstacles to Women Empowerment

Despite the importance of education, women face numerous obstacles to empowerment, including:

- **Violence:** Physical, emotional, and mental violence are deeply ingrained in many societies, undermining women's potential and contributing to the decline in the female sex ratio.
- **Gender Inequality:** Women's empowerment is not just about economic independence but also achieving gender equality in all aspects of life.
- **Family Restrictions:** Many women are prevented from accessing education due to restrictions imposed by illiterate guardians.
- **Early Marriages:** Early marriages often lead to school dropouts, limiting women's opportunities for education and personal development.

Empowerment is not just a personal journey for women, but a collective effort to transform societal attitudes and create a more equitable world.

CONCLUSION:

Women play an imperative role in making a nation progressive and guide it towards development. They are essential possessions of a lively humanity required for national improvement, so if we have to see a bright future of women in our country, giving education to them must be a pre-occupation. Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power. The education of women is the most powerful tool to change the position of society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. To encourage the education of women at all levels and for dilution of gender bias in providing knowledge and education, established schools, colleges and universities even exclusively for women in the state. The education develops the idea of participation in government, panchayats, public matters etc for elimination of gender discrimination. Women's education is the most powerful weapon for changing their social status. Education decreases inequity and raises women's position in her home and in the country where she works, and it motivates, guides, and trains women at all levels to improve and enhance their abilities. The government offers a variety of educational programmes for girls and women, including free schooling, midday meals, hostels, clothing bicycles, scholarships, and railway concessions.

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