

ROLE OF EDUCATION IN THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

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Chapter ID: NSP/ICAAR-2023/A-12

ABSTRACT

Women Empowerment is the most vital system of strength the future of women in India. Education is the key factor for empowering woman in India. Educated woman can play important in the society for the social economic development. Empowering woman is the necessity of current era. Woman Empowerment makes a woman self-reliant, independent and prosperous. Education provide more to strength to women. Such strengthen come from the process of empowerment and empowerment will learn we will come for the education. Empowering women focuses the spotlight on the education and employment that are essential to sustainable development. Women Empowerment generally emphasized Firstly, woman's sense of self-worth; Secondly, their right to have the power of control their own lives; Thirdly, with in home; Fourthly, outside home; and lastly, their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a just social and economic order nationally. Education play a significant role in woman empowerment in inequality and vulnerability of woman in the society in India. This paper reflects the present position of women and importance of education in future building of woman.

Keywords: Role of Education, Empowerment of woman, self - reliant, self-motivated, decision making

INTRODUCTION

Swami Vivekananda said educate your women first and leave them to themselves, then they will tell you what reforms are necessary for them. "Whatever you think, that you will be, if you think yourselves weak, weak you will be, if you think your selves strong, strong you will be".

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 experience (Hashemi Schuler and Riley, 1996). Women empowerment is the most vital system to strengthen the future of women in India. It is a systematic approach which needs to develop more seriously in India. Empowering women has been found to be the most successful in actually changing systems of bias against women, and thus will effect long-term changes. The Government of India came up in the new millennium by declaring the year 2001 as 'Women's Empowerment Year' to focus on a vision 'where women are equal partners like men.' India's previous president Pratibha Patil had stated that gender equality and empowerment of women are the most critical points and gender equality is not an agenda of women versus men – rather men should be partners in the empowerment of women.

Women Empowerment is a premier demand of the modern era and education is the most powerful catalyst in their context. According to Pd. Jawaharlal Nehru, "If you educate a man, you educate an individual, if you educate women, you educate a whole family. Pandit Nehru also remarked',

‘To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves’

Women empowerment is a pivotal part of 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 a 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 promoting ways and means to empower women. Education significantly makes difference in the lives of women.

In the Programme of Action 1992, women’s empowerment is considered primary for social change. Giving importance to ‘collective reflection’ and ‘decision-making’, it enlists parameters of independence empowerment, which are as follows-building a positive self-image and self-confidence; developing ability to think critically ;building up group cohesion and fostering decision-making and action; ensuring equal participation in the process of bringing about social change; encouraging group action in order to bring about change in the society; providing the wherewithal for economic independence.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment is the ability to make choices and transform all those choices into proper outcomes and desired actions. An educated, self-dependent, self-motivated, and decision-making woman is an empowered woman. Women Empowerment means to make women independent so that they can take their important decisions of life by themselves. They must have the right to live their life as they want.

Women empowerment is necessary to make India a self-reliant and developed nation. Women empowerment requires creating an environment in which women feel independent and fearless and can use their full potential. For women empowerment, women should be urged to inspire each other, help each other, raise voice together for each other’s rights and move forward together on the path of progress.

In the changing dynamics of the society women empowerment is much relevant and very important. Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has also spoken for women empowerment on 82nd edition of Mann Ki Baat. Education plays an important role in building self-confidence among women it also enables to change she/her status in the society. Education enables and builds confidence to take decisions in a better way. Skilling and Micro Finance can get women financially stable and therefore she is no longer dependent upon on others in the society. Giving education to women means giving education to the whole family.

The Constitution of India has certain provisions that specifically focus on women empowerment and prevents discrimination against women in the society. Article 14 talks about equality before law. Article 15 enables the state to make special provisions for women. As the progress of humanity is incomplete without women therefore successive governments have launched number of schemes for empowerment of women in male dominated society. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Andolan has been launched for creating awareness among the people to educate all girl children in the country.

To empower women, they should have the following qualities:

1. Self-reliance among women
2. Confidence and decision-making

3. Increased social, economics and mental status in the community
4. Ability to establish their identity and shape their future

Why is Women's Empowerment Important for Society?

1. Empowering women and making them independent needs to be done for humankind to progress.
2. Women should have equal rights and opportunities to participate in education, economics, and politics.
3. Women must understand the value of self-worth.
4. They should influence each other and boost the economic growth of the country

Principles for Women Empowerment

- To create an environment for full development of women to enable them to realize their full potential.
- To enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedom on equal basis with men in all spheres - political, economic, social, cultural and civil.
- To give equal access through participation and decision making of women in social, political and economic life of the nation.
- To give access to women to health care, quality education at all levels.

Women empowerment through education

Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. Empowering women through education means using education as a tool for bringing their self-worth, giving her a sense to choose between right or wrong, empowering her with skills to take advantage of opportunities.

Increased knowledge, self-confidence and awareness of gender equity are indicators of the empowerment process. These components get develop through education. Educated woman aware about their rights and when women aware about their rights then she/her will not face discrimination. Economic empowerment of the women has enabled them to establish their own identity and ownership in the family as well as society. It also facilitates learning of new skills and self-improvement. Self-reliant women can better think about their children.

Women's education is extremely important since it is a human right and is evaluation required for the flourishing of many of their capacities. Education helps women to highlight their ability to contribute to all activities and enter new opportunities. These educational achievements of women can have ripple effects within the family and across generations. Investing in girls' education helps to have smaller and healthier families. Education also helps girls and women to know their rights and to gain confidence to claim them. Other than educational and economic empowerment, there is a need for changes in women's mobility and social interaction and changes in intra-household decision-making. However, most programmes for education of girls and women in India have reinforced gender roles specially motherhood in curriculum as well as impact on evaluation

Women are the most important factor of every society Empowering woman has become the focus of considerable discussion and attention all over the world. Education as means of increasing self-respect and dignity among women.

Role of Education in Women Empowerment

It is said that education increases people's self-confidence and also enables them to find better jobs and they can work shoulder to shoulder with men. They engage in public debate and make demands

on government for health care, social security and other entitlements. In particular education empowers women to make choices that improve their children's health, their well-being and chances of survival. Without an education, girls will after marry and have children at a younger age, work in unpaid or low paying position, and rely on their husbands and families for economic support. Educating women benefits the whole society. It has a more significant impact on poverty and development than men's education. It is also one of the most influential factors improving child health and reducing infant mortality rate. Educated women's responsibility is tremendous. Women have a significant role in shaping the behaviour and mental make up of the younger generation. She has the primary duty of nurturing and shaping the children, the leaders of tomorrow. Educated women are always cautious about the importance of health care and know how to seek it for themselves and their children. Education makes them able to know their rights and gain confidence. Educated parents have a good thought about their children's educational attainments. Mother's education will influence more in children's life than father's. The empowered women can stand with men. They are not inferior to men and they can do whatever the men can do, some times better than that of a man

The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women,2001 stated, "Equal access to education for women and girls will be ensured, special measures will be taken to eliminate discrimination, universalize education, eradicate illiteracy and create gender sensitive educational system, increase enrolment and retention rates of girls and improve the quality of education to facilitate life-long learning as well as development of vocational or technical skills of women."

Hence some practical steps should be taken as follows:

1. Different types of educational institutions should be established exclusively for women in the state.
2. Traditional evil norms and practices, such as child marriage child labour, dowry system, child prostitution, polygamy and female feticides should be strictly banned by enforcing laws and creating public awareness.
3. The government should provide a package of educational grants, such as „Kanyashri“ of women and concessions in the form of providing free books, uniform, mid-day meals, scholarships, cycles and so on for enrolment for more girls and reducing the drop out students, especially from marginalized families of BPL.
4. Adult and continuing education, social education, home schooling etc can be used as a tool of basic change in the status of women. It would help to develop in women entrepreneurial skills and job opportunities. In rural areas mobile library, distance education through the media, non-formal school should be provided for the life-long education and empowerment of women.
5. Technical and vocational education should be provided particularly to the rural women, such as tailoring and weaving, mushroom farming, bee keeping, fruit pulping etc, for improving their vocational efficiency so that they can be self- appointed and self-supportive. The government will have to offer financial support and teach them how they can earn money by starting business activities.
6. The efforts of Govt. and N.G.O.'s will be co-ordinated in respect of implementation of schemes and programmes for empowerment of women. Better facilities of health care, sanitation and medication should be provided to women. The judiciary should look after the Imolestation cases with special care and transparency.

HINDRANCES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

1. Lack of Education
2. Leaving School Without Completing Education
3. Child Marriage

4. Child Labour
5. Female Foeticide
6. Dowry
6. Gender Discrimination
7. Women Abuse
8. Sexual Harassment

SUGGESTION

1. Consciousness of education is essential whether girls from rural or urban area.
2. Change the system towards women-based sex discrimination.
3. Removal of gender inequality.
4. Encourage the women actively participate in social and political issues.
5. Spread the message that education of women is to build the strong women to create an incredible country.
6. Awareness needs to know the women are effectively good contributor of the socio-economic development of the nation.
7. Education plays a vital role to enhance the quality of women's and increase their quantity of knowledge that use in various fields where she survives.
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9. To encourage all the girls and women belongs to rural areas and to provide training to polish their creativity.
10. Women should aware about their rights and encourage to every field of life.
11. Education trains the girl child to live independent and free from their domination.
12. Arrange different kinds of training, workshop and courses for grooming of girls and women for enhancing self-esteem and self-confidence.
13. Increase the confidence for developing ability to think critically. It is guaranteed that women respect is chief concern in all spheres of life. Whether she is in her family or in their workplace.
14. All woman should have the independent to live her life according to their choice and give chance to select their area of interest like education, employment and health etc.
15. There is need to transform the attitude of the peoples who still neglects the female child or women.
16. The word empowerment is only used in books and papers as a flowery language but somewhere in the society it is still not used practically and truly. It is possible whenever thinking and attitude of our society change towards about the women

CONCLUSION

Empowerment of woman aims at striving towards acquiring higher literacy level and education, better health care for women and their children, equal ownership of productive resources, increased participation in economic and commercial sectors, awareness of their rights, improved standard of living and to achieve self-reliance, self-confidence and self-respect among women.

According to the Country Report of the Government of India, "Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power." Education of women in the education of women is the most powerful tool of change of position in 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.

That is the true empowerment from "**women for development**" the time has come to move focus to "**women in development**", with the cooperation of men through group engagement and management.

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