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## WOMEN EDUCATION IN INDIA: NEED OF THE HOUR

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**Abstract:** Women are an important section of our society. It is indeed ridiculous and unreasonable to deny women from various rights even though they perform functions and assume responsibilities without however getting the benefits that accrue to men for the same. Education of women is the most powerful tool of change of 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. Educated women not only be disposed to uphold education of their girl children, but also can provide better supervision to all their children. 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.

**Keywords:** Decision-Making, Education, Rights, Social Exclusion, Women Empowerment.

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**Introduction:** 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. The question of the empowerment of women is an issue of serious concern and attention. It is indeed ridiculous and unreasonable to deny women from various rights even though they perform functions and assume responsibilities without however getting the benefits that accrue to men for the same, so why such injustice? Is it not disgrace that even the stupidest cattle-herder possesses so many rights simply because he is a man, whereas highly talented women and owning considerable property are excluded from many rights, even they contribute so much to the maintenance of home, society and finally to the nation. Women comprise more or less half of the population in the world even though they suffer a lot as being denied equal opportunities in different parts of the world. Historical evidences have shown that a number of atrocities were being applied to curb the voices of women like rape, molestation, dowry system, etc. In almost every society women's condition is far behind that of man. It is empowerment that gives women a right to be independent of men. Education is a foundation stone for the empowerment of woman so that to stand and respond to the challenges which they were facing right from the beginning, that is why education has been a need of the hour in India. Giving education to a woman is of pivotal importance as it is education that can reduce the inequalities between men and women, hence can bring women together on the front with men. It is because of education to women that can bring betterment in the future of their young buds, and also women education has wider consequences. Education functions as a means of improving the status of women in the world. The empowerment of women is an essential prerequisite for the elimination of world poverty and the upholding of human rights. Without doubt, women will play a crucial role in contributing to the country's development. Women power is decisive to the economic growth of any country. Though India could well become one of the largest economies in the world, it is being stalled due to a lack of women's participation. Women education in

India plays a very key role in the overall development of the country. Educated women not only be disposed to uphold education of their girl children, but also can provide better supervision to all their children. Women Empowerment is a worldwide issue and debate on women political right are at the fore front of many official and familiar campaigns globally. So that we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue and is considered as an attempt to look at the equality and gender justice and the whole issues which will refute women of their citizenship, property, right to equality, freedom, life and personal liberty. Recently rise in women's status like participation in decision-making processes at the political level have led to a remarkable improvement of women's conditions through out the world. In the world today we can see that women are becoming the talk of the town because of their achievements in various fields of life like politics, professional fields and academics. In democracy like India, Social exclusion and inclusion remains core issues of Fundamental importance on one hand but on the other social exclusion in particular remains the critical challenge to it. Social exclusion is a process by which certain groups are scrupulously deprived because they are discriminated on the basis of their background, race, religion, sexual orientation, HIV status, migrant status, caste, descent, gender, age, disability, etc. Exclusion takes place in many forms but the major among them are Caste, Class and Gender. Gender exclusion is a widespread and long time practice in India owing to the particular sex. So, Women in India are excluded in many spheres. Decision-making is one of the fields where women are debarred to a greater extent as compared to men. They are regarded as fruitless category and are kept restricted to only household tasks. They are not considered vital in the process of decision-making and taking, and hence less participation in political activities is also responsible for their exclusion. Women in India are also expelled from education. It was a common faith that a woman has to perform customary household tasks, so educating her was regarded as wastage of resources and energy. The difficulty and the

insecurity of the women's struggle are obvious in the field of education. Education is the main weapon for a woman as in past in the various social reform campaigns against child marriage and it is because of education women got the support for the cause of widow remarriage and the abolition of sati. Education of women is the most powerful tool of change of position in society and because of education we can boost women's ability to serve the family in general and the nation in particular. In particularly rural areas, women are being expelled from attaining education and also discriminated in economic spheres as well. Further more illiteracy and excessive dependency on agriculture are also responsible for their exclusion. Since women in majority of cases are reliant on their husband's income as a result they are treated as less important and less significant. Hence there is a normal tendency of husbands to exclude their wives from decision-making and taking. After Independence, in spite of having our own constitution, India was not able to achieve morals like fairness, equality and social justice. The condition of women didn't improve even having a woman prime minister for few numbers of years. Women's representation in politics all over the world began to assume importance from mid 1970s when United Nations (UN) declared 1975 as the 'International Women's Year'. This was followed by the UN's decade for Women from 1976-1985 and the theme was "Equality, Development and Peace". Women's participation in politics remained quite inconsequential in India even today but some sort of improvement took place by the

73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment acts which gave boost to the status of women at the political level by giving opportunity to women in the process of decision-making.

**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. Efforts are being made to institute the significant role that a woman can play to fortify her family, society and nation at large. Many programmes have been launched for the empowerment of women in the development of the country as a whole which include Free education to girl child, Political reservation through 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Acts, Domestic Violence Act 2005, Strict laws and punishments for female infanticide, Reservation for women in jobs and education to make them economically independent and so on. Further more the Government shall take steps in almost all parts of the country and launch such policies which will involve women to a greater extent in order to make their sure participation, that can boost the confidence under women and then they can prove much better for their families and for their nation as well. The changes in decision-making and providing education, which will come as a result of empowering women will have a direct impact on progress of the nation and they will raise the pride of the nation to the heights of the sky and we can move forward by maintaining justice.

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