
A STUDY ON ROLE OF EDUCATION-AS A TOOL IN EMPOWERING WOMEN

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Abstract: “Where do girls and women stand today”. It has been widely accepted that there is a latent demand for education among the poor, especially women and girls.

Education of women in India has been a major issue for both the government and civil society, as the educated women play a very important role in the development of the country. Empowering women through education is an important end in itself and as women acquire the same status, opportunities and social, economic, legal rights as men, as they acquire the right to health and gender based violence, human well-being will be enhanced.

Today we have seen the women occupied the respectable positions in all walks of the fields, but still they exist some gaps in forms of various discrimination. But gender disabilities and discriminations are found in India even today. This gaps need to be removed and the best weapon for removing all this disparities, is empowering Women with Education.

This paper is an effort to put insight into girls’ and women’s education in India. The study was taken up to focuses attention on policy makers and argues for greater commitment and effective leadership to ensure sincere implementation of government’s own policies and programs especially in our education system with special reference to Girls education.

Keywords: Women Education, Health, Government Policies, System.

Introduction:

“To educate your women first and leave them to themselves, They will tell you what reforms are necessary.” ----Swami Vivekananda

Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

Education is one of the most critical factors responsible for the development of a human person. Right to education, therefore, is held as a very important human right. It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today it is the principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training, and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment.

Education of women in India has been a major issue for both the government and civil society, as the educated women play a very important role in the development of the country. India, at present has largest number of illiterates in the world. As we all know that education is must for everyone but unfortunately, in this male dominating society, the education of women has been neglected for a long time.

Women empowerment is very essential for the development of society. Empowerment means individuals acquiring the power to think and act freely, exercises choice and fulfill their potential as full and equal members of society. Empowerment means a psychological sense of personal control or influence and a concern with actual social influence, political power and legal rights. It is a multi level construct referring to individuals, organizations and community.

Education as means of empowerment of women can bring about a positive attitudinal change. It is therefore, crucial for the socio-economic 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.

Need of Women Empowerment

Empowerment is probably the totality of the following or similar capabilities:

* Having decision-making power of their own

* Having access to information and resources for taking proper decision

Historical Background: The status of Women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennium. In early Vedic period Women enjoyed equal status with men. Rigved & upnishads mention several names of women sages and seers notably Gargi & Maitrey. However later the status of women began to deteriorate approximately from 500 B.C., the situation worsened with invasion of Mughals and later on by European invaders.

Duflo, E. (2011), Women’s Empowerment and Economic Development, National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge. The study argues that the inter-relationships of the empowerment and development are probably too weak to be self sustaining, and that continuous policy commitment to equality for its own sake may be needed to bring about equality between men and women.

Malik and Courtney (2011) studied that how higher education offers empowerment to women. The economic independence and increased standing with

the family were the benefits of higher education. It also enabled the women to impact the discriminatory practices.

Banerjee (2012) studied the empowerment of women through higher education. She concluded that the empowered women challenged the man in their workplace and were seen in the powerful corporate positions.

Recently the Government has launch a scheme **Sukanya Samridhhi Scheme as part of** a part of the present government's "Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao" initiative and was launched on January 22, this year.

Objective Of Study:

There are two objectives of study:

1. To study the role of education as challenge in women empowerment.
2. To study the impact of women empowerment

Methodology: The study is purely based on Secondary data.

Analysis: Education definitely raises women's status whether she contribute in the income of the family or not. She can be at par with men. Majority of the women in our country are uneducated that is why they are suppressed. It is the duty of school teachers to tell them that becoming a wife is not their ultimate goal.

Education is a powerful tool of social transformation. Education can play a vital role in bringing about the desirable behavioural changes among the women and make them well equipped in terms of knowledge, competence and capacity to deal with different political problems.

The Ministry for Women & Child Development was established as a department of the Ministry of Human Resource Development in the year 1985 to drive the holistic development of women and children in the country. In 2006 this department was given the status of a Ministry, with the powers to:- Formulate plans, policies and programmes, enacts/amends legislation, guiding and coordinating the efforts of both governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the field of Women and Child Development.

It delivers such initiatives such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) which is a package of services such as supplementary nutrition, health check-ups and immunization. As mentioned earlier, the empowerment of women begins with their safety and health and this Ministry is committed to providing them.

NGOs are also helping village panchayats/municipal committees in becoming powerful and responsible partners in implementation of certain Center sponsored skill promoting welfare schemes reach the target audience.

Supplementary Education- NGOs along with help of village panchayats can help girls from uneducated,

poor families by supporting supplementary education classes for girls studying high school to enhance their performances and bringing them at par with the town or city folks.

Educating School Drop-Outs Most of the girls between the age group of 10-17 years in the rural areas are forced by their families to be helping hands in seasonal agricultural working and other household responsibilities This creates a discontinuation of their education and breaks the interest of the child which has been the one of the main factors for major drop outs at the 8th class level. **Under Sarb Shiksha Abhiyan, a programme could be developed where these drop outs could be helped through some bridge courses to equip them to appear either privately or through open schools so as to encourage them to complete their elementary education.**

Education can bring phenomenal change in women's life resulting in social transformation in the long run by inculcating following attributes among them:

- Enhancing their confidence
- Raising their status in the family and society.
- Reducing their dependency
- Better up bringing of their children
- Enhancing their mobility
- Opening career opportunities

Suggestions:

Technical and Vocational Education- In a developing country like ours, we are suffering from shortage of human resource in technical and vocational areas. Technical and vocational education pages an easy way for employment of such trained manpower towards raising the household income and in turn encouraging the economic growth of the family and in turn the country as a whole.

Conclusions: The most critical component of women empowerment is found to be education. It leads to improved economic growth, low fertility rate, health and sanitation and an awareness of factors that disempowered women. Work participation rate and political participation also grows in women's education.

Education among women is the most powerful tool of attaining power in the society. Education of women plays a very important role in releasing their energy and creativity and enabling them to meet the complex challenges of the present world.

Now it is cleared that only literacy is not the ultimate solution but women should be highly educated to know their rights and duties. And should be able to use their rights as per the need. But it is also mandatory that there should proper implementations what policies are made and what government of India has made different programmes regarding women empowerment.

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