
THE WOMEN EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract: Education is the key factor for women empowerment, prosperity, development and welfare. Discrimination of women from womb to tomb is well known. There is continued inequality and vulnerability of women in all sectors- Economic, Education, Social, Political, Health Care, Nutrition, Right and Legal etc. women oppressed in all spheres of life, they need to be empowered in all walk of life. In order to fight against the socially constructed gender biases, women have to swim against the system that requires more strength. Such strength comes from the process of empowerment and empowerment will come from the education. This paper focus on the impact of women education and empowerment aims of Indian Women Education during Vedic Period, Budhistic Period, Muslim Period, British Period, and Modern Period. This study tries to find out the status of pointer for reform in women education and status of women in India. This study also highlights that Lists of the "Crude Literacy Rate" in India.

Keywords: Education, India, Women, Women Empowerment.

Introduction: Empowerment has several dimensions and education is seen as a tool in this aspect. Education can help women overcome the social taboos and prejudice and liberate themselves. Women should also be helped to liberate themselves from patriarchy and economic discrimination. The concept of women empowerment of the nation in terms of both economy and growth on one hand and individual on the other .education helps empowerment of women by developing 'intrinsic capacity, inner transformation of one's consciousness to overcome barriers, access resource and tradional ideologies'.

Women Empowerment includes the following aspects -

1. The ability to take their own decisions,
2. To take information and have other facilities at their disposal which would enable them to take proper decisions,
3. To have wide choices (Only 'Yes/No' and not 'If/Else' choices)
4. Firmness while taking collective decisions
5. Possessing positive way of thinking regarding the ability to bring about transformation,
6. The ability to bring about improvement in one's own capabilities,
7. The competence to modify other's attitudes in a democratic manner,
8. To participate in continuous and self-propagated development process and to take active participation in the transformation process,
9. To control on negative factors and build up a positive image of oneself.
10. Equal access to opportunities for using society's resources.
11. Prohibition of gender discrimination in thought and practice.
12. Freedom from violence.
13. Economic independence.
14. Participation in all decision-making bodies.

14. Freedom of choice in matters relating to one's life. Women education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources, but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl children, but also can provide better guidance to all their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of the population. The other dimension of education women is to pull the nation form the miseries of crimes and other social evils inflicted upon the fairer sex. Women today are subjection to various kinds and degrees of social evils ranging from child marriage,neonaticide, infanticide, feticide, labour and sexual exploitation as a girl and as women are expose to rape, dowry death, domestic violence, physical torture with the knowledge of their civil, political, social and cultural rights and are made to realize that they are not to be treated as an object or commodity. They are strengthened with a voice to make their grievances heard and redressed. It's not only empowered her but also marks a silver lining to the lives of the people around whom her life revolves.

History of women Education

Women's Education in Ancient India:

In ancient India, women and girls received less education than men. This was due to the set social norms. Interestingly, in the Vedic period women had access to education, but gradually they had lost this right. Women education in ancient India prevailed during the early Vedic period. In addition to that Indian scriptures Rig Veda and Upanishads mention about several women sages and seers. Women enjoyed equivalent position and rights in the early Vedic era. However, after 500 B.C, the position of women started to decline. The Islamic invasion played a vital role in restricting freedom and rights of

the women. A radical change attended and there was a terrific constraint for women education in India.

Women's Education in Medieval India:

Women education in medieval India further weakened and declined with the introduction of Purdah system. Different customs and conventions of diverse religions like Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity further deteriorated and depreciated the state of women in the country. A range of socio religious movements contributed to the development of women literacy in the country. Many leaders took several initiatives to make education available to the women of India. The ordered form of women education in India was incorporated in the early centuries of the Christian era.

Women's Education in Colonial India:

The position of the women education in India revived with the invasion of the British in the country and with the advent of Bhakti movement. The colonial period also introduced the institutional form of imparting learning. Women education in Colonial India witnessed an essential expansion. Various movements were launched to make women of the country literate

It was during the reform movement in pre-independence India that the role played by women was acknowledged by noble personalities like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Periyar and Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Keshab Chandra Sen, Govind Ranand, Gandhiji and the likes. Acknowledging the same, they had undertaken various initiatives to uplift the status of women in the society and thereby champion women issues.

Development of Women Education: The history of Indian women can be divided into three periods i.e. Ancient, Medieval and Modern. The East India Company established its rule over India since 1757, which call modern period. During this period education of men was modernized and institutions were opened to promote this but nothing was done to promote women education in 1858, the British government took upon itself the direct responsibility of the administration. But in spite of this, they did not pay any attention towards the education of women of this country. In 1904; Annie Besant established Central Hindu Girls' School at Benaras and Prof. Karue established SNDT Women's University at Poona for the promotion of women education. After independence, India's national government introduced some committee's and commissions for the development of women education in India, i.e. Radhakrishnan Commission or University Education Commission (1948) Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh committee (1959), Smt. Hansa Mehta Committee (1962), M. Bhaktavatsalam Committee to look into the causes of Public Support

particularly in Rural Area for girls Education and to public Corporation, Kothari Commission (1964-64), Resolution on the National policy on education (1968), Report of the Committee on the status of women in India (1974), Challenge of Education (1985), National policy on Education (1986), Programme of Action (1986), and (1992), etc. On the other hand, to develop the primary education and to achieve the aim of universalisation of primary education upto age level 6-14 years, some schemes or programmes like, OBB, DPEP, SSA, NLM, National Programme of Nutritional Support of Primary Education (NPNSPE) or (Mid-Day Meals), RTE Act 2009 and Knowledge Commission etc.

Women empowerment through education:

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 NAROIBI 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 that we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment India is poised to becoming superpower, a developed country by 2020. The year 2020 is fast approaching; it is just 7 year away. This can become reality only when the women of this nation became empowerment. India presently account for the largest number no of illiterates in the world. Literacy rate in India have risen sharply from 18.3% in 1951 to 74.04% in 2011 in which enrolment of women in education have also risen sharply 7% to 65.46. Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, plan and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in difference spheres. From the fifth five year plan (1974-78) onwards has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women. The National Commission of Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the right and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local level.

Conclusion: Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power. Education of women in 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. To bring more girls, especially from marginalized families of BPL, in mainstream education, the government is providing a package of concessions in

the form of providing free books, uniform, boarding and lodging, clothing for the hostilities midday meals, scholarships, free circles and so on. We are visioning a society where every men and women will have equal rights, equal status and equal position in the family and society.

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