

Women Empowerment through Education

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Abstract:

The concept of empowerment is so broad and it includes many dimensions such as social, cultural, economic, and political and many others. An educated woman can play a very important role in the development of the country. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. Women education in India has been a need of the hour; as education is a foundation stone for the improving their status within the family and for the empowerment of women. The main objective of this paper is to discuss the constitutional provisional and role of education for women empowerment. The research methodology is explanatory in nature. In this paper, it has been highlighted that the new India is rising in 21st century. Let's hope it will rise with equal contribution of its women.

Keywords: : Empowerment, Women, Education, Development and Milestone etc.

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I. INTRODUCTION

India is known for its culture and tradition. In Indian society, women are worshipped as deity. There are ample of example from ancient times to present where women are respected by every member of the society. For instance, as per Indian beliefs, women are regarded as Saraswati, the goddess of education, as Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. They are homemaker, minister, executive etc. There is no area where you cannot able find a example of women working there. However, there is a dark side also in this golden past of women. As everything has its exceptional circumstances, in the same manner, the statuses of women also have negative shades where they are regarded as things or servants. In the views of Manu, women need to be protected. As per Indian tradition, women are responsibility of her father at the time of her birth and after marriage she becomes liability of her husband and remains so till her death. Now, the question is why society has made such a pitiful approach towards women. When there are examples where women are worshipped then, why there are instances where they are tortured. The pathetic thing is that women get most of the pain from their own people. Not only from male but also from the female members. In the name of tradition, the society force women to live a subjugated life with no privileges or rights.

But thanks to the modern days where feminist movements have gained so much momentum. These movements and the voices raised by women towards their malign condition have helped them in improving their life. In the 21st century, things have started become better gradually. The word empowerment has emerged so popularly and for women it is like a life saver. In literary sense, the word empowerment refers to providing power to someone and when it is associated with women then, it becomes women empowerment which means empowering women in every possible manner by giving them ways and opportunities.

After independence, the Indian constitution was formed and the best part is rights which are equally provided to both men and women. As per the article 14 of Indian constitution, there is equally before law and article 15 prohibits discrimination of every kind. Besides these there are many other articles and provisions which are given to improve the life of Indian women.

II. IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EDUCATION

“if you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered”. PT. Jawaharlal Nehru. 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. If it is said that education is the key to all problems, then it won't be improper. Thinkers have given a number of definitions of education but out of these definitions, the most important definition is that which was put forth by M. Phule. According to M. Phule, “Education is that which demonstrates the difference between what is good and what is evil”. If you consider the above definition, we come to know that whatever revolution that have taken place in our history, education at the base of them. Education means modification of behaviour in every aspect, such as mentality, outlook, attitude etc. 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.

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III. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this paper are given below:-

- To study the constitutional provisions for Indian women
- To study the role of education for women Empowerment

Research Methodology:

The research methodology is explanatory in nature and for data collection, it is confined up to only secondary sources which includes journals, websites etc.

Limitation:

There is a large scope for doing research on other dimensions of women empowerment in India as author has limited her research only to constitutional provision and role of education for women empowerment.

Analysis:

In this section, the different ways of empowering Indian women (special focus to constitutional provision and role of education).

Constitutional Provisions:

The constitution of India in its preamble has provided social, economic and political justice, liberty of thoughts and equality to all citizens. Major provisions made by Indian constitution for the empowerment of women are mentioned below:

- Article 14: It guarantees equality before law and equal protection of law within the territory of India.
- Article 15: It prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth. According to article 15(3), state can make special provision for the benefit women and children.
- Article 16: Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matter relating to employment. No citizen can be denied employment on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, decent, place of birth or any of them.
- Article 39: Article 39(a) provides for an adequate means of livelihood for all citizens. Article 39(b) has provisions for equal pay for equal work for both men and women. Article 39(c) has provisions for securing the health and strength of workers, men and women and not to abuse the tender age of children.
- Article 42: It guarantees just and humane condition of work and maternity relief. Article 42 is in accordance with article 23 and 25 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Article 325 and 326: They guarantee political equality, equal right to participate in political activity and right to vote, respectively.
- Article 243(D): It provides for the political reservation to women in every panchayat elections. It has extended this reservation to elected office as well.

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 the 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 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. Women empowerment is a global issue and discussion on women political rights 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 a milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So we cannot neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment. To see the development in women education India is supposed to upcoming super power we have mostly to concentrate upon the women's education. By which it will force on women's empowerment. As per united national development fund for women (UNIFEM) the term women's empowerment means.

- Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relation 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 rights 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.

Thus, 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, organisations and community. It is an international, on going process centred in the local community, involving mutual respect, critical reflection, caring and group participation, through which people lacking an equal share of valued resources gain greater access to the control over this resource.

Let's see the difference in the literacy rate between men and women in given table are as under:-

IV. LITERACY RATE IN INDIA

Year	Persons	Males	Females
1901	5.3	9.8	0.7
1911	5.9	10.6	1.1
1921	7.2	12.2	1.8
1931	9.5	15.6	2.9
1941	16.1	24.9	7.3
1951	16.7	24.9	7.3
1981	36.2	46.9	24.8
1991	52.1	63.9	39.2
2001	62.38	76.0	54.0
2011	74.00	82.1	65.46

On observing the above table, we come to know that at no point could the literacy rate of women match that of men. As a result, even after 65 years of independence, women occupied a secondary position in our social hierarchy. Inspire of being aware of her position, women can't transform the situation due to lack of education. Therefore, women empowerment can't be effected unless we persuade the importance of women's education.

V. ROLE OF WOMEN AND EMPOWERMENT

Status of women could be improved by women themselves and nobody else. In this age of science and technology, why the women should be left behind in comparison to men. The popular UNESCO slogan educate a man and you educate an individual, educate a woman and you educate a family is the most appropriate in today's scenario. Women will have to empower themselves from below in order to compel the government to empower them. Education can play vital role in bringing about the required behavioral changes among women and make them well updated equipped in of knowledge, competence and capacity to deal with different problems.

VI. CHALLENGES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The main obstacles that go against the way of women empowerment in India may be summed up as follows:

- Gender discrimination
- Lack of proper educational programme
- Female infanticide
- Atrocities on women
- Child marriage and dowry system
- Financial constraints
- Lack of health care and safety
- Professional inequality, particularly workplace harassment
- Inequality of sharing the burden of households work

It is also noted that the gender inequality is related to social and economic structure, traditional attitude towards women, economic insecurity and negligence of men and lack of sincere efforts of all concerned.

VII. ROLE OF EDUCATION IN ACHIEVING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

In spite of constitutional guarantees, legislative provisions, judiciary mandate and administrative efforts, the women empowerment in India is still lacking in some areas. Mere enactment of laws and chalking out of schemes are not much effective for women empowerment. Hence education of is needed for this. The National Curriculum Framework of women pointed out, "Education of women is an important key to improving health, nutrition and education in the family

and also empowering them to participate in decision making." Moreover education enables women not only to acquire knowledge but also help them to achieve economic security, self-confidence, vocational and technical skills and guidance, good health and safety, courage and inner strength to face challenges in every sphere of life and enable them to play equal role as men in nation building. Education can be used as a tool for reduction of inequalities and gender bias so that women can move from weak position to execute their power or capabilities in society. 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 literacy and create gender sensitive educational system, increase enrolment and retention rates of girls and improve the quality of education to facilitate lifelong learning as well as development of vocational or technical skills of women." Hence some practical steps should be taken as follows:

- Different types of educational institutions should be established exclusively for women in the state.
- 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.
- 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 dropout students, especially from marginalized families of BPL.
- The efforts of Govt. and N.G.O. will be co- ordinate 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 molestation cases with special care and transparency.

VIII. 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 improvements, so if we have to see a bright future of women in our country, giving education to them must be a pre-occupation Empowerments means moving from a weak position to execute power. The education of women is the most powerful tool change the position of society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and function 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, panchyats, public matters etc for elimination of gender discrimination.

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