



A CRITICAL STUDY ON THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN EMPOWERING WOMEN

ABSTRACT

Education enables Women to fix themselves up in the society into which they have found themselves and it is too applicable to Women also. Education equips individuals with the ability that will enable them explore the world, to manipulate for their survival and establish themselves. Potentials deposited in individuals are exposed through education so that individuals can acquire training and knowledge in a profession and education enables women to cultivate confidence, good habits and develop the right attitude to work and life as good citizens. 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. Education provide opportunities to women to fulfill their needs. These needs comprise both essential learning tools and the basic learning content such as knowledge, skills, values and attitudes required by human beings to be able to survive, to develop their full capacities to live and work in dignity, to participate fully in development, to improve the quality of their lives, to make informed decision making and to continue learning. Empowering women through education will contribute a lot to national development. Stepping into empowerment is a far distant dream for women. The educational status of women is very low compared to their male counterparts. Education of women is conceived as one of the most powerful weapons in the development of a nation. Empowerment of women is a challenging issue in the present scenario. Without empowerment of women can be measured through the power they have over economic resources to earn income and their per capita income, access to education, access and availability of professional opportunities and participation in economic decision making and their access to political opportunities. 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 etc. Women are oppressed in all spheres of life and 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 require more strength. Such strength comes from the process of empowerment and empowerment will come from the education. This study an impact of education in women empowerment aims to find out the effect of education on women . This study tries to find out the status of women in present society, attitude of parents and guardians towards girl's education, problem associate with women empowerment . Moreover, this study aims to focus that women are lagging behind in general awareness, communication skills, health and family welfare aspects etc. Basically, the study is a theoretical work and is based on secondary data.

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1. INTRODUCTION

During the last six decades since independence, there has been a phenomenal development of education system in India resulting in the creation of one of the largest education systems of the world. After independence, education sector attracted greater attention of the government. University Education Commission (1948), the first commission in education set up by the government of free India, laid special emphasis on the education of women and recommended that in view of the similar fields of activity for men and women and some specific requirements of women maximum facilities should be given for education. Education was recognized as a powerful instrument of socio-economic advancement of the society in general and a vehicle for upward social mobility for deprived and marginalized sections in particular. India had third largest education system in the world. The deprived sections of the society, especially women, have had limited access to education. In India, there are gender-based educational disparities among various social sections with special reference to caste and religious affiliations. Government of India has been making concerted efforts since independence for bridging the socio-economic gap between male and female population in society though there has been considerable relative improvement. Education, especially has been recognized as a great equalizer and a powerful tool of upward social mobility capable of being used for reducing socio-economic disparities and building an inclusive society.

2. 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.” Jawharlal Nehru. India is poised to emerge as one of the most developed nations by 2020, more literate, knowledgeable and economically at the forefront. No doubt, women will play a vital role in contributing to the country's development. Women power is crucial to the economic growth of any country. In India, this is yet to meet the requirement despite reforms. Little has been achieved in the area of women empowerment but for this to happen, this sector must experience a chain of reforms. Though India, could well become one of the largest economies in the world, it is being hindered due to a lack of women's participation.

3. IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN INDIA

Education is the important for everyone, but is especially significant for girls and women. This is true not

only because education is the entry point to other opportunities but also because the educational achievements of women can have ripple effects within the family and across generations. Investing in women education, is one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty. Girls who have been in education are likely to marry later and to have smaller and healthier families. Educated women can recognize the importance of health care and know how to seek it for themselves and their children. Women's literacy rates are significantly lower than men's in most developing countries. Education helps women to know their rights and to gain confidence to claim them and achieve better position in the society. Education of parents is linked to their children's educational attainment, and the mother's education is usually more influential than the father's. An educated mother's greater influence in household negotiations may allow her to secure more resources for her children. India is a developing country and facing problem of high population, family planning is very important concept, educated mothers averaging fewer children can concentrate more attention on each child.

4. 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.
- ✦ Having a range of options from which one can make choice.
- ✦ Ability to exercise assertiveness in collective decision making.
- ✦ Having positive thinking on the ability to make change.
- ✦ Ability to learn skills for improving one's personal or group power.
- ✦ Ability to change other's perceptions by domestic means.
- ✦ Involving in the growth process and changes that is never ending and self-initiated.
- ✦ Increasing one's positive self-image and overcoming stigma.

5. WOMEN EDUCATION STATUS

The constitutional directive to provide free and compulsory education for children up to the age of 14 years has remained unfulfilled till now. Education experts admit that this failure is mainly due to the slow progress of education among girls. After many years of Independence, there still exists a great disparity between

male and female educational status. In 2011, the percentage of educated persons increased to 74 of which male percentage was 83 and female percentage was 66 respectively. Literacy rate among rural women is only 58.8 percent as per 2011 census. The proportion of women among primary school teacher is mainly due to difficulties that women have to face in serving in rural areas, caused by resistance from their families, the fear of insecurity in villages and lack of physical amenities such as accommodation, schooling, transport and medical facilities. Female literacy was at a national average of 65.5 percentage whereas the male literacy rate was 82.1 percentage.

6. DEFINITION OF “WOMEN EMPOWERMENT”

“Women empowerment is defined as the process in which their spiritual, political, social or economic status is raised.” This also includes the right to raise their level of confidence regarding their own capabilities.

7. OBJECTIVES

- ⊙ To study the profile characteristics of women
- ⊙ To analyze the factors influencing the economic empowerment of women.
- ⊙ To identify the constraints of economic empowerment of women.
- ⊙ To find out the status of women education.
- ⊙ To discuss educated women how to communicate others.
- ⊙ To find out women involvement in their community development.
- ⊙ To know the relevance of education in women’s life.
- ⊙ To analyze the need of woman empowerment.
- ⊙ To identify the barriers of women education.
- ⊙ To examine the impact of women empowerment of the growth of the country.

8. OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH WOMEN EDUCATION

- To change the approach towards women based on sex discrimination.
- To induce the feeling of self-dependence amongst women.
- To make women realize their own potential and to provide guidance to them for developing their potential.
- To create opportunities for them so that they can prove themselves in society and social institutions.
- To create certain roles for women in economic, political and social area.

9. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research paper is basically descriptive and analytical in nature. In this paper attempt has been taken to analyze the importance of education for women. The data used in it is purely from secondary sources according to the need of the study.

10. BARRIERS OF WOMEN EDUCATION

- ✎ For undertaking the responsibilities of household work such as looking after the sibling, fetching water, collecting water, collecting wood, cleaning, cooking etc discourage the girl child to go school.
- ✎ The lower enrolment of girls in school is one of the foundational factors which stand as stumbling block for women education.
- ✎ The incidences of prevalence of dropouts among girls especially in rural, tribal and slum areas seem to be quite high. Most of the times, the girls face difficulty to cope up with the subject and mere not able to concentrate on the subjects.
- ✎ There are many schools with poor basic facilities such as drinking water, latrine and toilet facilities, no good infrastructure and no experienced teachers specially female teachers preferably for any parents for safety of their girl children.
- ✎ Dowry system and other social practices act as main causes of the neglect of the girl child and discrimination against girl child. In many families especially poor and down-trodden think that if their daughters are educated more, they have to accumulate more assets and properties to provide as dowry in large proportion at the time of marriage, so prefer rather to either stop their children with low education.

Besides, there are some other barriers which are as follows:—

- ✎ lack of education,
- ✎ financial constraints,
- ✎ family responsibility,
- ✎ low need for achievement,
- ✎ Absence of ambitions for the achievement,
- ✎ Social status.

11. THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

The concept of Women Empowerment is a recent one. The first year of a New Millennium 2001 was declared as “Women Empowerment Year”. Education of a woman leads to a better family and ultimately an ideal society to a

progressive nation. A progressive nation is one where all the people of the country in respect of sex, religion, caste and colour are economically, socially, culturally, politically and through all thoughts are independent. To be involved in the dialogue about education systems around the world today is to be understand and articulate the key role played by education. Through education flow of the ideology, values and culture of a nation, state and its people. Misinformation and constricted learning behaviours that women internalize can also be filtered through education. Women education in India plays a very important role in the overall 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 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

12.RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Create better linkages with mainline departments and other collaborating raining institutions to improve group performance.
- ✓ Access developmental programmes.
- ✓ Emphasize on creating links to education, health and nutrition initiatives.
- ✓ Training of women to take up their responsibilities and sensitize them about the new provisions.
- ✓ Education helps to improve the sex ratio in controlling population.
- ✓ Education encourages women especially the rural women to take advantage of the various schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Operational Blackboard etc.
- ✓ Education gives power to a woman to become strong physically by giving her knowledge about sports, exercise, health-related aspects good physical health.
- ✓ Education helps in balanced personality development by giving weight to various aspects of personality.
- ✓ Education of women is a guiding light for the children, family members, society, nation and she knows how to have a happy family and balanced and healthy relations with others.
- ✓ Education of women also plays an important role in teaching her expression of feeling or through effective communication which can solve disputes and adjustment problems of any level.

13.CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The importance of women as an important human resource was recognized by the Constitution of India which not only accorded equality to women but also empowered the State. A number of Articles of the Indian Constitution repeated towards the socio-economic development of women and participation decision making and some of these are as follow:—

- ☐ Article 14—Men and Women have to be equal rights and opportunities in the political, economic and social spheres.
- ☐ Article 15(1) – Prohibitions discrimination against any citizens on the grounds of religion, race, sex, caste etc.
- ☐ Article 16— Equality of opportunities in matter of public opportunities for all citizens.
- ☐ Article 39(d)—Equal pay for work for both men and women.
- ☐ Article 42— The state to make provision for ensuring first and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.

14. FINDINGS

There is a positive relationship between education and woman empowerment. Another important aspect in this regard is that, in these societies the issue of women empowerment has been facing certain serious challenges, which are outcome of some certain evil norms and attitudes such as child labour, child marriage, illiteracy, superstition, partial attitude of the parents, female feticides etc and in such situation women empowerment that will allow women to participate in educational programmes and share the benefits. The educational and other policies for women empowerment should be implemented in reality for empowering women in the world.

15.CONCLUSION

The present paper concluded that education is an important factor by which tribal women can be empowered and get well placed in society. It also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family and society. A well educated tribal woman will be definitely taking part in the development process of a nation. On the basis of above detailed analysis, it could be concluded that there is no doubt about the essential need of empowering women through education. But, it is also mandatory that there should be proper implementations what policies are made and what government of India has made different programmes regarding women empowerment.

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