

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

---

Ms. Sujata Biyani \*  
Dr. Pawan Patodiya \*\*  
Dr. Sakshi Arora \*\*\*

### ABSTRACT

*Education is widely understood as an indicator of women status and even more importantly as a factor for the empowerment of women. Women have such unexplored potential which has never been tapped. Women Education is the effective tool that changes their status in the society. In highest population ranking all over the world India is placed at second position. Total population of female is 49% in total population. A major finding is that perusing in higher education enables women to have impact on a number of discriminatory practices simultaneously. In 21<sup>st</sup> century women empowerment is an important factor for their status in national and international level. Government programmers alone are not sufficient to achieve these objectives. Society must take many steps for the betterment and growth of women so that several self decision making opportunities can be taken by them.*

*“If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a women you educate a whole family”*

— Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

Reference (<http://motherhooduniversity.edu.in/images/papers/Khushboo%20Singh.pdf>)

**KEYWORDS:** Empowerment, Change, Decision Making, Education, Potential, Population.

### Introduction

*“To educate your women first and leave them to themselves, they will tell you what reforms are necessary”*

— Swami Vivekananda

Refrence(<http://genderrepository.in:8080/jspui/bitstream/123456789/1232/1/1115-1464938174.pdf>)

Higher education means the education beyond the level of secondary education. Education has been accepted as an agent of social change and development in society as well as country. Education brings out people to new thoughts and provides necessary skills for harmonious development. Education is recognizing as a basic requirement and fundamental right for the citizens of any nation. By the help of educating women we can reduce inequalities and functions for growth of their status and living standard in society and family. Higher education included training of highly skilled specialists in the field of economics, culture, technology and science at various types of higher schools, which obtain persons who have successfully finished secondary general education or secondary specialized education in institutions. Thus in general the term higher education refers the education at the degree level and above.

Women are the indispensable part of a society. In overall development of a country women education act as important tool in India. By the help of women education not only half of the human resources grow but also the quality and the living standard of families improves. Women empowerment is not confined to Indian society. On If we see the global aspect on this issue; we see that women are being given equal treatment in developed nations. Education can bring a positive change and can empower

---

\* Research Scholar, Rajasthan Technical University, Kota, Rajasthan, India.

\*\* Associate Professor, Biyani Institute of Science & Management, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

\*\*\* Assistant Professor, Biyani Institute of Science & Management, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

women. Women education is also needed for women empowerment. It helps them to enjoy the occupational achievement. Education empowers and help women to response various challenges in social life. Education is milestone of women empowerment as it enables them to respond to challenges, to change their life, so we cannot neglect the importance of education in reference to women which is most important in our developing country.

Gender discrimination still persist in India and needs to be taken care of in the field of women education. The gap in the male female literacy rate is just a simple indicator. The male literacy rate is more, being 82.14% and the female literacy rate 65.46%. The rate of school drop outs is also found to be high in case of women. This higher rate of literacy of women is acknowledgment for women dependence on men & to play a subordinate role. Education will help women to empower with the knowledge of science & technology so that various challenges of technological aspect can be faced. The future of the nation is depended upon the educational system of that nation, so without the empowerment of women we cannot think about the overall development of a country.

### **Importance of Women Education**

Women empowerment is the importance part in any society, state or country. It is a woman who plays a dominant role in the basic life of a child. Women's are the important section of our society. Women's participation may be used both for the support by an agency and as a control device by law makers. Women plays an imperative role in making a nations progressive & guide it towards development. At the social level male dominance in parliament, bureaucracy, judiciary all point focus towards gender inequality that is often argued that women political leadership would bring about a more cooperative and less conflict prone era. Higher education is important for everyone but it is especially important for girls and women. Higher education achievements help to have ripple effects within the family and across generations. Girl's education helps to reduce poverty. Educated women can recognize the importance of health for themselves as well as other family members too. Higher education helps girls and women to know their rights and to gain confidence to claim them and achieve better position in the society. India is a developing country with high population in which family planning is very important concept so an educated woman can only concentrate more attention on each child.

### **Objectives**

- To know the relevance of higher education in women's life.
- To analyze the need of women empowerment.
- To understand the position of educated women in the work participation.
- To change the approach towards women on sex discrimination.
- To offer suggestions for women empowerment through education.
- To induce the feeling of self dependence amongst women.

### **Research Methodology**

The research paper is descriptive in nature. In this paper attempt has been taken to analyze the importance of higher education for women. The data used in this is purely from secondary source according to the need of this study.

### **Literature Review**

- **Rupali Sharma, Zia Afroz (2014)**, stated in their paper that India holds second position in having largest population in world. It is essential to empower women, through higher education. It does not mean making them literate but also educating them to know their rights and duties.
- **Khushboo Singh (2016)**, in her paper discussed about the impact of education on the empowerment of women as well as the challenges that we must have to deal with during the process. The educational and other policies for women empowerment should be implemented in reality for empowering women in the world.
- **D.C. Agarwal & AnkuKukerji (2016)**, For development of country Women Empowerment is must. It can be done through increasing females literacy roots and to provide them higher education so women can become self dependent, confidence & help in raising status in the family & society. Women's can make their own decision & able to differentiate between good and bad, if they are educated. So government should make plans & policies regarding women empowerment.

- **Rouf Ahmed Bhat (2015)** focused that Education is mile stone of Women Empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, face their tradition and change their life. It is most important tool to change the position in society. Education brings reduction in inequalities develops the states of family. Education modifies behavior in every aspect such as mentality, outlook, attitude etc. Educated women not only tends to promote education of their girls child, but also can provide better guidance to all their children and help in reduction of mortality rate and growth of population.
- **Dr. M. Shummuga Sundaram, et all (2014)** Stated that general awareness program me should be take among woman's of rural area they are trained up in different vocational courses mostly gender barriers still continue in rural area. Potential of women have not been fully utilized and pushed back in social hierarchy. Lack of education becomes obstacles in getting empowerment.

#### **Relationship between Higher Education and Women Empowerment**

Majority of women in our country are uneducated that is the reason for their downfall education. Education can help in bringing the following changes in women:

- It helps in changing the mindset of an individual.
- Education increases the confidence level.
- Education helps in raising the status of the family and society.
- It helps in reducing dependability.
- Lack of health care
- Lack of support from their families
- The burden of household work is not properly shared
- Workplace harassment
- Feeling of insecurity in males of family
- Lack of safety

#### **Barriers of women empowerment**

The main barriers that go against the way of women empowerment are as follows:

- Dowry system
- Social practices that neglect girl child
- Lack of educational programs
- Child marriage
- financial constraints

#### **Women Empowerment: Prospects and Challenges**

Higher level of literacy and development leads to greater awareness on one hand and help people in acquiring skills in the other hand. During these days women faced many problems like child marriage, sati, and death during early child birth. Now a days in 21<sup>st</sup> century, women began to get educated and take part in social and political field. Now women are not in boundaries, they are awake and moving towards progress. The census 2011 indicates that literacy rate of women in India is only 64% i.e. below average which is 74%. Lack of education is the root base of women's exploitation and ignorance. Only education can help women to know about rights and duties in Indian constitution. Thus, encouraging education amongst women is important for empowering them to accomplish their goals in life.

#### **Education of Women in Modern Scenario:**

Education leads to women empowerment because it helps them to responds the social change in their life. Government of India has undertaken different schemes for upliftment & security of women some of there...

- RMK (Rashija Mahila Kush)
- STEP (Support to training and employment programme for women)
- SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan)
- BEB (Bachao Beti Bachao)
- Swaym Sidha Scheme
- Kishore Shakti Yojana
- Mahila Samridhi Yojana

- Maternity Benefit Scheme
- Pragati
- Indira Gandhi Scholarship

### Conclusion

To conclude the present scenario, it can be said that women in the modern society is moving very fast under the shadow of population, corruption can mold the personality. In order to promote women empowerment, it is necessary to create an environment that will allow women to participate in educational program and share the benefit. Education is the stone of the women empowerment which could be achieved through cooperative efforts of government. It must be admitted that women are no way lesser than men. They have all the power and capability of that of man.

### References

- ~ Shinde, J. (2012) "Women's Empowerment through Education. ABHINAV" National Monthly Journal of Research in Arts and Education, 1, 1-3.
- ~ Singh, K. (2016) "Importance of Education in Empowerment of Women in India" International journal of Multidisciplinary Research and developments Volume I, Issue 1, online ISSN-2456-2831.
- ~ Bera, N. (2016) "Women Empowerment through Education" International Journal of Humanities & Social Science Studies (IJHSSS).
- ~ Sundaram, M. S., Sekar, M., &Subburaj, A. (2014) "Women empowerment: role of education" International Journal in Management & Social Science, 2(12), 76-85.
- ~ Gupta, V. (2014) "Women empowerment through education" International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences, 3(12), 231-238.
- ~ Bhat, R. A. (2015) "Role of Education in the Empowerment of Women in India" Journal of Education and Practice.
- ~ Sharma, R., &Afroz, Z. (2014) "Women Empowerment Through Higher Education"
- ~ Prof. (Dr.) D.C. Agrawal & Ankur Kukreti(2016)"Role of Higher Education in Women Empowerment in India" International Research Journal Volume I, Issue II, November 2016, pp. 24-29.
- ~ Rasheeja, T. K., & K Rishnan, C. (2014) "Empowering Women Through Higher Education" the Kerala Episode.
- ~ Dr. ShanjenduNath(2014) " Higher education and women participation in India" Journal of business management and social science research , ISSN No. 2319-5614.
- ~ <https://www.ijsr.net/archive/v6i2/ART20164494.pdf>
- ~ [motherhooduniversity.edu.in/pdf/papers/Volumel...II.../3..Research%20Paper.pdf](https://motherhooduniversity.edu.in/pdf/papers/Volumel...II.../3..Research%20Paper.pdf)
- ~ [https://www.researchgate.net/.../314828133\\_Higher\\_Education\\_and\\_Women\\_Participat](https://www.researchgate.net/.../314828133_Higher_Education_and_Women_Participat)
- ~ [www.borjournals.com/a/index.php/jbmssr/article/view/391](http://www.borjournals.com/a/index.php/jbmssr/article/view/391)
- ~ [www.irjims.com/files/Nipan-Haloi\\_a8v64572.pdf](http://www.irjims.com/files/Nipan-Haloi_a8v64572.pdf)
- ~ <https://www.lawctopus.com/academike/empowerment-women-education-sector/>
- ~ <http://epratrust.com/articles/upload/27.Baishakhi%20Bhattacharjee.pdf?>
- ~ <https://www.ukessays.com/.../discussion-on-women-education-and-empowerment-in-India>

