

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

"No struggle can ever succeed without women's participation side by side with men. There are two powers in the world, one is the sword, and one is the pen. There is a third power, stronger than both, that of women". Women in India now have a unique position of equality with males in accordance with the constitution and the law. But the Indian women came to the current position a long way. In India, gender unfairness first comes down to Mahabharata's historical days when Draupadi was placed as a commodity in her husband's dice. Women in reality are the main force in all societies. While everyone knows this, none is willing to accept this truth. In the country's overall growth, women education plays a important role in India. This helps not only to develop half the human resources, but also to improve the quality of life at home and abroad. Role of education allows women to meet the obstacles and improve their lives. Today, an Indian woman is a pilot, doctor, engineer, millionaire entrepreneur, and everything she wants to be. That's how the times have changed. Various schemes and policies are implemented for the sake of women but do not reach them. Hence, there are some serious concerns that need to be resolved in time.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Equality, Education.

Introduction

India is a male-dominated country where a woman is forced to take care of their family and live in their home, along with many other restrictions. 50% of the population in India consists of women who are not empowered. In such a situation, we cannot say that our country will be developed in the future. It is essential to empower women with the efforts of men, government, and laws. Women's education is the most effective means of changing society's perspective. Education reduces inequalities and functions in order to enhance their standing in the family and promotes the notion of involvement. Nowadays, the importance of women's education is growing day by day. In developing countries, the literacy rate of women is low as compared to men. This development is also due to women's education and empowerment steps taken by the Government. Aids are distributed, and education is almost made free for children in rural areas so that women can get proper education.

Role of Education in Women's Empowerment

All over the India, the economic status of women is found to be very poor due to less education among women. So, to empower them, they needed to improve their economic status by standing her on own legs. There is an urgent need for promoting education of women, to improve economic status of women. Education is milestone of women's empowerment because it enables them to responds to the challenges. So, we cannot neglect the importance of education in women's empowerment.

"If you educate a man, you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman, you educate a whole family". 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 a life at home and outside.

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Let us see the difference in the literacy rate between men and women in India:

Literacy Rate in India

Year	Male	Female
1901	9.8	0.7
1911	10.6	1.1
1921	12.2	1.8
1931	15.6	2.9
1941	24.9	7.3
1951	24.9	7.3
1981	46.9	24.8
1991	63.9	39.2
2001	76.0	54.0
2011	82.0	65.4
2021	84.4	71.5

As a result, women occupy a secondary position in our society. When we look at the table above, literacy rate of women cannot equal that of males at any time.

Objectives of Women's Education

Women's education can be regarded as a kind of knowledge given to women for enhancing their self-respect and self-dignity. Therefore, the main objectives for women's education are as follows:

- To make women able to acquire their own basic needs, likes food, shelter, fuel, clothes, and nurturing.
- To enable women's social and cultural status to enhance nation building in terms of economic and human development.
- To implement women's education for the attainment of equal status of women in all aspects of social, political, and economic development.
- To educate the public about the rights of women and the means of enforcing such rights for the achievement of equality.
- To work for Peace, Women's Right, Women's Education, Economic and the Social Justice.

Measures for Ensuring Women's Empowerment

Some measures have been taken to empower women. Those are:

- Changes in women's mobility and social interaction among different communities.
- Changes in women's labor patterns and work participation rate.
- Changes in women's control over Decision making.
- Providing women's education.
- Self-employment and Self-help groups.
- Providing minimum needs like Nutrition, Health, Sanitation, and Housing. At present, the Government of India has over 34 schemes for women operated by different departments and ministries. Some of these are as follows:
- Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescence Girls (RGSEAG) (2010).
- The Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers.
- Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) (2009-2010).
- Dhanalakshmi (2008).
- Short Stay Homes.
- Ujjawala (2007).
- Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY).
- Women's Development Corporation Scheme (WDCS).

Conclusion

Government initiatives alone would not be sufficient to achieve this goal. Society must take the initiative to create a platform in which there is no gender discrimination participations in the social, political, and economic life of the country with a sense of equality. Women's empowerment helps in boosting the status of women. Educated women can prove be highly successful in the fields of life. She can plan to become successful doctors, engineers, and air hostess etc. Education will empower women to come forward and contribute towards the development. Economic empowerment and independent will only come through proper education and employment of women. Education helps a woman to live a good life. Educated mothers can take better care of both herself and her baby. Women's empowerment has become a significant part in the development and economic empowerment. Economic empowerment allows women to control and benefit from resources assets and income.

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