

## **EDUCATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WESTERN RAJASTHAN)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*It is well established by various studies that education plays a very important role in the overall empowerment of the women of any society. Education gives the confidence to the women to survive and to struggle in everyday life. Since females are always exploited from ancient time. Male dominant society always in favour of males and women become victims of male. Education of women is always undermined and they have not sufficient opportunities for education as male. Due to the lack of education women are not acquainted with their rights. They are always indulged in household activities and the operations of agriculture. Their whole day is spent in cooking food, cutting of woods and water for family, fodder for livestock etc. Sometimes they have to walk about 5 to 10 km. to fetch water. Due to their unawareness they face various crimes done by the male dominant society. Sexual abuse is a normal crime against the women in Indian society. Thus females always get exploited by the society from ancient times and the situation has not changed even in modern times. Still education facilities for females are very limited and the enrollment ratio of girls in school and colleges is very small. Dropout ratio of girls is higher than of boys. Thus due to lack of education their marriages are done in childhood. Present studies try to find out the role of education in the overall empowerment of women in Rajasthan.*

**Keywords:** *Education, Women Empowerment, Income, Expenditure, Quality of Life.*

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### **Introduction**

It is well established by various studies that education plays a very important role in the overall empowerment of the women of any society. Education gives the confidence to the women to survive and to struggle in everyday life. Since females are always exploited from ancient time. Male dominant society always in favour of males and women become victims of male. Education of women is always undermined and they have not sufficient opportunities for education as male. Due to the lack of education women are not acquainted with their rights. They are always indulged in household activities and the operations of agriculture. Their whole day is spent in cooking food, cutting of woods and water for family, fodder for livestock etc. Sometimes they have to walk about 5 to 10 km. to fetch water. Due to their unawareness they face various crimes done by the male dominant society. Sexual abuse is a normal crime against the women in Indian society.

Thus females always get exploited by the society from ancient times and the situation has not changed even in modern times. Still education facilities for females are very limited and the enrollment ratio of girls in school and colleges is very small. Dropout ratio of girls is higher than of boys. Thus due to lack of education their marriages are done in childhood. This problem was recognized by the government after independence and various measures have been taken to enhance the level of women education in the country. Various schools and colleges have been opened in government or in private sectors to give education to the female. Various types of technical colleges are also open by the government. Skill education centers are also open by the government. Right to education also implemented in the country. Thus various measures have been taken to spread education facilities in the country. Present studies try to find out the role of education in the overall empowerment of women in Rajasthan.

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### Review of Available Literature

Review of literature gives the direction to walk on the right path for further research. It gives an outlook about the direction in which the researcher should walk. We have studied many studies on the role of education in empowerment of women. I have summarized some of these studies as follows:

**Mukesh Mathur and Pujo (1)** studied the role of banks in the economic upliftment of women in Udaipur district. They take the sample of females from women urban cooperative banks. All the employees of these banks were female and only females can open accounts in these banks. They concluded that these banks are giving credit and loan facilities to needy females. After availing credit females have started their own small and cottage industries and many females have started their own startups.

**Somiya Diwan (2)** reported in her research that women are always undermined in the Indian society. They are regarded as the worse half of the men. They become victims of various crimes by the wicked hands of male dominant society. We can see a list of crimes committed towards women in India. Government has done various schemes and programs. As a whole it can be concluded that due to the efforts of the government, the situation of women has changed but still there is a long way to reach at the ultimate level of women empowerment.

**Kamlesh (3)** analyses the role of government in socio-economic empowerment of the female in Rajasthan. She takes the data from the tribal region of South Rajasthan and concluded that due to the schemes of government women become aware about their rights. Due to the government's efforts, entrepreneurship quality of females has been enriched and the level of income of women has increased due to the schemes like MNREGA etc. Migration has been stopped because women got employment near their native place. Due to this socio-economic status of females has been enhanced in Southern Rajasthan.

**Devyani (4)** analyses the role of employment generating schemes in the overall development of women in Rajasthan. She concluded that after independence various employment generating schemes have been started in Rajasthan. Programs like MANREGA, TRYSEM, Gopal Yojana etc. evokes the spirit of employment in people. These programmes use locally available resources therefore employment opportunities increase in bulk and women get employment at their native place. Due to the decrease of migration agriculture development has taken place and in turn agricultural production and productivity. Income of women has been increased and their expenditure also increased therefore their quality of life has been improved.

**Romi (5)** reported in his thesis that in all over the world the situation of women is not good. If we see the data on the employment of women then we find that about 70 percent of females are unemployed and they are indulged in household activities. These household activities are not counted in national income. Therefore women share in economic activities are not counted. They remain worth less and without any coin. There is no importance given to their services.

Today in the modern world various measures have been implemented to improve the socio-economic status of females but still there is a long gap in desired and actual development of women in society. After a deep study it can be observed that there are numerous studies in empowerment of women but study on the role of education in empowering females is very less so present study tries to fill these gaps.

### Objectives of the Study

- To find the impact of education on the quality of life of females.
- To find the impact of education on income of women.

### Hypothesis to be Tested

- There is no significant increase in the quality of life of females due to education.
- There is no significant increase in income of women due to education.

### Research Methodology

Following research methodology has been adopted in the study:

- **Selection of Study Area:** Present study is based on the experiences of Rajasthan. Rajasthan is a traditional state where custom and other conventional rituals play an important role in life. Situation of females is not good in the state. Rajasthan lies on the last position in the country in women literacy. Most of the women are engaged in household activities or in the agriculture sector.

Government is aware of the situation of females in educational terms therefore various schemes have been started to promote education facilities for women. Due to educational spread women dropout ratio has been decreased and number of enrollment has increased. In order to find out the role of education in women empowerment, Rajasthan is purposely selected for the study.

Rajasthan has been divided into seven divisions namely Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Kota, Bharatpur, Ajmer and Bikaner. We purposely selected Jodhpur division for the study. We have randomly selected the Jodhpur division for the study. Jodhpur is a developed district of the state but it falls in the desert region therefore the condition of women is not good in the district. In villages the condition is also not good. Many children do not go to school and many more drop the school in mid. Due to the efforts of the government educational institutes has increased rapidly and women also got good education and skills, therefore, to find out the role of education in empowering the women we have select Jodhpur district for the study.

- **Sample Design:** There are thirteen tehsils in Jodhpur district. We have randomly selected Bilara, Osian and Phalodi for the study. We have randomly selected three villages from each tehsils and out of all the women we have randomly selected 30 women from each tehsil (10 from one village). Which makes a total of 90 female?
- **Collection of Data:** Study is based on primary data which is collected through the personal interview of the respondent's female by the researcher.
- **Analysis of Data:** collected data has been analysed through some statistical tools like average, correlation, regression, t-test, f-test etc.

### Results and Discussion

Present study has been divided into two sections first deals with the impact of education on the income of women while second deals with the impact of education on quality of life.

- **First Section: Impact of Education on Income of Women**

Here we have applied student's 't' test, to test the impact of educational development on the income of the respondents women. We have calculated the average income of the respondents of sample villages before education and after education and then applied student's 't' test to test the difference in income from education. Following hypothesis has been framed here:

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no significant increase in income of women after taking education.

**H<sub>A</sub>:** There is a significant increase in income of women after taking education.

Results are shown in following table:

**Table 1: Statistical Significance of Increase in Income Due to Education**

Village	Income(Rs. Thousand)		D (Difference)	S	t value	P value
	Before Education	After Education				
I	5	10	5	2.59	9.64	0.000016
II	4	12	8			
III	6	10	4			
IV	5	12	7			
V	5	14	9			
VI	4	16	12			
VII	5	15	10			
VIII	5	15	10			
IX	5	15	10			

Sources: Computed

Here the calculated value of paired 't' test is 9.64. While the table of 't' at 5 percent level of significance is 1.86. Since calculated value is high than the table value of t so our null hypothesis is rejected at 5 percent level of significance and it can be concluded that there is significant increase in the income of women after taking education.

- **Second Section: Impact of Education on Quality of Life of Women**

It was felt by the researcher that the quality of life of the respondent before taking education they have very low facilities at their home their confidence level was low and their decisions were taken by the males. We have taken the data of the facilities available at home before education and after education. It is shown in following table:

**Table 2: Facilities Available at Home before and after Education**

Facility	Before Education	After Education
L.P.G	No	Yes
T.V.	No	Yes
Cooler	No	Yes
Two Wheeler	No	Yes
Proper Nutritious Diet	No	Yes
Cloth	Yes	Yes
Entertainment	No	Yes
Ornaments	Medium	Yes
Confidence	Low	Yes
Decision Power	No	Yes
Leadership Quality	No	Yes
Political involvement	No	Yes
Risk taking capacity	No	Yes
Source: Field Survey		

It can be observed from the table that before taking education women do not have access to the facilities of L.P.G. They have to collect wood for cooking while after taking education their income has increased and they are cooking food with L.P.G. cylinder. Before education there were no facilities for entertainment like T.V. etc. but after taking education they availed the facilities of entertainment. They have no facility of two wheelers before education but now they are enjoying the ride on two wheelers.

Before education they were not getting a healthy diet but after education they understand the importance of healthy and nutritious food and start taking it. There is moderate availability of clothes to wear before education but after education they are wearing good clothes. There was moderate availability of ornaments but after taking education their capacity to purchase ornaments has been enhanced.

It was observed during the study that the confidence level of women was low before taking education but after taking education their confidence level grows up. Before taking education females have no capacity to take decisions, leadership, risk taking and involvement in politics. But after education their capacity of decision power has been enhanced. Leadership quality also grows up and now they are taking risk to earn income. Their involvement in politics also rises up. Thus it can be concluded that overall quality of life of females has been enhanced after taking education.

#### **Policy Measures**

- It is suggestible that there is a need for proper policy making for girl child because there are many factors which are not indulged in present education policy.
- There is a need to stop and reduce the drop out ratio of girl child because the drop out ratio among girls is higher than the boys.
- There is a need to spread the educational institutes in remote areas where there is no institute for education.
- There is also a need to make women aware about their rights and benefits of education. It will make women progressive and self dependent.

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