

ROLE OF EDUCATION IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES AND IMPACT

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ABSTRACT

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said once: "If you educate a man, you educate a person, but if you educate a woman, you educate a family as a whole." Women Empowered means mother India empowered. If women contributing to almost half of the population are motivated, the national economy will be improved. Education is seen as a landmark for the empowerment of women because it helps them to respond to challenges, to confront their conventional position, and to change their lives. In spite of growing access to education, gender inequality still exists in India and much more needs to be done in India in the field of women's education. Women have so much unexplored ability that they have never been used before. As education is both an input and an input to human growth, encouraging and entrepreneurial development would be assured by educational equity. Today, according to the Literacy Rate 2011 census, the level of female literacy is 65.46 percent, while the rate of male literacy is over 80 percent. There is plenty that education can do for the freedom, dignity and welfare of women even beyond literacy. The key to opening the golden door of independence for growth is education. As they are so closely linked, Eileen Malone Beach sees education, health care, and income as a blessed trinity. This paper explores the influence of education on women's empowerment, as well as the problems and improvements we need to tackle during the process. To ensure the desired outcomes, we call for a renewed focus on appropriate quality and holistic education.

Keywords: *Development, Education, Empowerment, India, Women.*

Introduction

"The desired intellectual, economic and social value could be created by a stratified three-tiered structure that allows seamless vertical and horizontal mobility of students"-Vision Document for India Higher Education. For the people of every country, education is regarded as a basic necessity and a fundamental right. As it can give people the freedom to become independent, it is a powerful tool for reducing inequality. Women, who in many ways face sexism, have a special need for this. Education is considered a significant milestone in empowering women because it helps them to face obstacles, to confront their conventional position, and to change their lives. The most important weapon for improving their place in society is women's education. There are still great women in our nation who are illiterate, backward, poor, and oppressed. Education also decreases inequality and serves as a way to improve their family status. Capacity and empowerment

Background of the Study

India's current growth trend owes much to education, which is a social infrastructure. In the tertiary sector and in the remainder of the economy, this service and its effects are noticeable. Education

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is both an end in itself and a way for other beneficial ends to be realized. Empowerment is a multi-dimensional mechanism that helps people in all spheres of existence to realize their full identities and powers. Women's empowerment provides women with equal status, ability and freedom to grow it, which also implies equipping women to be economically autonomous and personally self-reliant. Providing quality education is the fundamental way to empower women, making them scientific, reasonable, open-minded and self-respecting, ensuring greater autonomy in decision-making or freeing themselves from the shackles Empowerment has little meaning without such values being established by women.

Objectives of the Study

- To study the impact of education on empowerment of women
- To study the challenges and changes from education on women empowerment

Methodology

The present study is based on the collection of data from secondary sources. Secondary data is obtained from various published and unpublished records, books, magazines and journals.

Conceptual and Operational Framework

In our country's economic growth as well as in becoming knowledgeable people, parents, and their family members, education is milestone of women empowerment as only play a very dominant role. The growth of women's education in rural areas is very slow, suggesting that our country's still large women folk are illiterate, poor, backward and oppressed. Therefore, "educating women" is a powerful tool that can change women's role in society by reducing inequality and acting as a way to improve their family status. Learning requires not only learning knowledge, but also transforming that knowledge through technical training and skill development into practice. In four fundamental categories, the Gender Gap Index 2013 (GGI) calculates the gap between males and females: economic participation & opportunity, educational achievement, health & survival and political empowerment. India, below countries such as China, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, is one of the lowest 101 in 136 countries. In all facets of life schooling, economic activity and empowerment, this mirrors the status of women in India and gender inequality. Training is the cornerstone for the complete promotion and enhancement of women's status. Amartya Sen is a strong case for the idea that communities need to see women less as passive recipients of assistance and more as dynamic social promoters.

For Indian women, literacy and educational levels are growing, while the difference between male and female literacy rates can be seen in the following table.

Literacy Rate of India

Years	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
1961	34.4	13.0
1971	39.5	18.7
1981	46.9	24.8
1991	63.9	39.2
2001	76.0	54.0
2011	82.14	65.46

Source: Census of India (2011)

The pre-Independence period literacy rate for women had a very weak streaming comparison to literacy rate of men, as Table 1 indicates. This can be seen from the fact that women's literacy rate rose from 0.7 percent to 7.3 percent, while men's literacy rate rose from 9.8 percent to 24.9 percent over the past four decades. The male literacy rate almost tripled over the century, e.g. 25 percent in 1951 and 76 percent in 2001, respectively. Different projects to raise the literacy rate have been implemented by the government. Surprisingly, during the decade from 1981 to 2001, the rate of female literacy rose faster than the rate of male literacy. The rise is almost six times, e.g. 7.9% in 1951 and 54% in 2001, respectively. That only half of the female population is literates are wadding behind three four of the literate male population can be inferred from this study.

Women's Empowerment

The empowerment of women is a mechanism that encourages women to have access to and make productive contributions to their economic freedom, political involvement and social participation. Evolution Empowerment helps citizens in all spheres of existence to understand their identities and powers. It includes greater access to information and resources, greater autonomy in decision-making, or independence from the shackles placed on them by society's traditions, values and practices. Women constitute 48.49 percent of the country's population and about 90 percent of the informal sector, as per the latest Census of India. Mostly, women are respected and considered valuable. In the production case, however, they are always invisible. It is said that between the rhetoric of women's empowerment and the reality of reducing the allocation of funds for women's health schemes, education, etc., India's story of women's growth. Denial of access and opportunities to rightful place, possession and position to women starts at home and continues to schools and other learning and working institutions. Differences in avenues for development and growth are thus becoming problems. The problems are areas of concern, not only for women, but for society.

Need for Women Empowerment

Empowerment enables women to acquire knowledge, skills and techniques that will assist them in their personal and social development and encourage sensitivity to societal problems in them. Specific efforts must be made in the fields of education, health and women's jobs. Economic empowerment is important for the enhancement of the ratio of female sex to economic empowerment only when women are taught.

The root cause of the abuse and negligence of women is the lack of education. Only literacy and education will enable women to understand the constitutional and legislative requirements of the Indian made to reinforce them. Training is "potential affirmation and confirmation of performance." A girl's empowerment begins and even business makes empowerment work. For a mother too, that is a total filling trip: from a painful situation to a profitable situation. They will be able to contribute to nation-building when women are prepared. A few women currently hold powerful positions in India and the world, but if more women are educated, there is still room for improvement. Perhaps the socio-political state of affairs of the whole world will certainly change with the rise of women taking the mantle in a male-dominated political arena. Gender equity is what women desire. Empowerment becomes the means to do it with dignity. Shakthi is considered to be an Indian woman, which means power. What is power without justice? Empowerment demands that governments also intervene objectively. Interventions need neatly crafted methods with assigned and consistently implemented roles for women. The development of women and the advancement of women are conceptually and methodologically linked. Therefore, fostering women's education is of great importance in enabling them to achieve their goals in various spheres of life alongside men, cultivating and preserving a community of unity, equity and integrity. Adding importance to culture and knowledge makes the case for social liberation, political nurturing, and economic empowerment even stronger. Education makes women economically sound, which is the root of all kinds of empowerment for women, i.e., social, psychological, technical, political.

Obstacle to Women Empowerment

- **Violence:** Violence is the primary element that opposes the liberation of women. The culture is profoundly rooted in physical, emotional, mental torment and agony from ancient times which are responsible for decline in female sex ratio.
- **Gender Inequality:** Women's empowerment is not only limited to women's economic independence
- **Family Restrictions:** Illiterate guardians who are reluctant to send educational institutions to their female daughters.
- **Early Marriages:** outcomes of early marriages from education. Lack of awareness is also one of the causes of female education. Women have to shift their own view of themselves and their empowerment. As frail, dependent, passive, and seeking to become autonomous, powerful, strong and determined human beings, they should also aspire to change their image.

Measures and Mechanisms for the empowerment of women

Initiatives and Organizations

According to the 1993 Human Development Report, literacy is the first step in learning and building awareness for an individual. For any assessment of human growth, literacy measures are thus important. The National Policy on Education (NPE) was developed in India in 1986 to improve education and eradicate completeness. It is certainly due to the higher rate of illiteracy of women that women

depend on men and play a subordinate position. Within the context of democratic politics, our rules, development policies, strategies and programmes are aimed at promoting women's advancement in various spheres. Out of the Quarter

The five-year plan (1974-78) was a marked change in the strategy from welfare to growth to women's problems. The Mahila Samakhya (Education for Women's Empowerment) Programme, launched in 1987, focuses particularly on women who are socially marginalized and landless. The initiative is an example of innovative cooperation between the voluntary sector and the state. In recent years, women's empowerment has been seen as a key issue in deciding women's status. The National Commission for Women was formed by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard women's rights and legal rights. The National Policy on Education (1986, revised in 1992) is a luminous text on the education of women. It has emerged as a significant advance in addressing gender problems in government policy, and can be projected as an agent of basic change in women's status. A holistic approach to reducing gender and social inequalities and universalizing entry, retention and achievement was initiated in 1994 by the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP). In contrast to non-DPEP districts, girls' enrollment has shown major upward trends in DPEP districts. Free and compulsory schooling was a basic right for all children in the 6-14 age groups in the 86th Constitutional Amendment, which increased the enrolment of girls in school that is 64.1 percent in 1980-81 to 85.2 percent in 1999-2000. 2001 was proclaimed by the Government of India as the year of Women's Empowerment. Certain clear-cut priorities and targets have been set by the national empowerment strategy for women. The policy is aimed at uplifting, improving and empowering socio-economic and political-cultural dimensions by raising awareness of various human rights issues, fundamental equality, and access to health care, quality education at all levels, job growth, career guidance, jobs, fair pay, employment opportunities, health, safety, social security and public safety. Launched in 2001-02, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA-Education for All) is the national umbrella program that spearheads the universalization of elementary education through a community-owned approach, focusing primarily on the provision of quality education. Establishing more Women's Universities was one of the tasks acknowledged during the 12th Plan. A global problem is disparity in education. The highest levels of education disparity were in South Asia (42%), the Arab States (41%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (37%). There was little progress in reducing education inequalities, with the exception of Europe and Central Asia (Human Development Report 2014).

Suggestions

- Awareness of daughter's education is essential. It is said that "educated mothers educate family which results in educated population of a nation which builds strong nation"
- Inculcate in women the confidence that change is possible, if women work collectively.
- Encourage and ensure socio-economic participation of women in local and international forums.
- Encourage participation of women in income generating activities. Proper implementation of schemes provided by the government should be done by respective agencies.
- Change the approach towards women based on sex discrimination.
- To induce the feeling of self-dependence amongst women
- Child bearing at young ages should be prevented by preventing early marriages.
- For Removal of gender in equality
- Women should actively participate in social and political moves. Fifty% seats should be reserved for women in all the governments
- Spread the message that education of women is a pre-condition for fighting against their oppression
- Awareness needs to be generated regarding the necessity of educating girls so as to prepare them to contribute effectively to the socio-economic development of the nation
- Eliminating all forms of discrimination in employment especially to eliminate wage differential between men and women
- In order to change the attitudes towards female education and to raise the social consciousness of the country, a conscious strategic change is required in national media and communication effort
- Education is capable of increasing women's sense of analyzing which will support wider reforms in support of gender equality
- Introduce satellite schools for remote hamlets

- Encourage ICT tools and the use of internet, for the study and research by women. Increasing real representation of women in political bodies and governance institutions in order to move from being objects of legislation to initiators of change

Conclusion

Poverty, unemployment and injustice will not be eradicated by men alone. Women's equitable and active involvement is mandatory. They would not be able to know about their rights and their value until women are educated. The goal of women's empowerment is to achieve a higher level of literacy and education, better health care for women and their children, equitable ownership of productive capital, greater participation in the economic and commercial sectors, awareness of their rights, improved living standards and the achievement of women's self-reliance, self-confidence and self-respect. The NDA government recently introduced BetiBachao, a Beti Padhao programme that aims to make girls socially as well as financially independent and that will help generate awareness and increase the quality of delivery of welfare services for women. To bring the necessary changes, such schemes should be enforced nationwide. What should never be forgotten is that women like men need to be proactive in the true empowerment of the process life long learning. That. The time has come to change the emphasis from "women for development" to "women in development" with the cooperation of men through community involvement and management. That's going to be an 'efficiency' improvement for equality, indeed. Although being drawn to modernization and globalization, it is important to be confident and not oppressed.

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