

EDUCATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

The term empowerment refers to measure the degree of autonomy and self determination in people and communities in order to enable them in acting in their own authority. It is an action which refers to the process of self-empowerment and of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights. Education is an essential means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence necessary to fully participate in the development process. This is not only because education is an entry point to opportunity but also because women are educational achievements have positive ripple effects within the family and across the generations. "Empowerment" has become one of the most widely used development terms. Women's groups, non-governmental development organisations activists, politicians, government and international agencies refer to empowerment as one of their goals. Unequal opportunities between women and men hamper women's ability to lift themselves from poverty and secure improved options to improve their lives. Education is the most powerful instrument for changing women's position in society.

Key Words: Empowerment, Education, Self-determination, Goals, Opportunities.

INTRODUCTION:

Empowerment can be viewed as means of creating a social environment in which one can make decisions and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation. Empowering women has become the focus of considerable discussion and attention all over the world .The inequalities between men and women and discrimination against women are an age-old issue all over the world. The world has been witnessing vital changes in various realms of human life for the past one hundred years. There was a time when women were regarded as subservient to men and women's rights, liberty, interests, aspirations, choices, preferences etc, were either suppressed or never recognised. But things have changed today due to the increased general awakening towards the rights of women. Women have now emerged as a vital social force. Wherever they got the opportunity, they showed their talents and proved their ability .Social consciousness is emerging in the community of women. Achievements of women in the fields such as politics, economy, education, medicine, research, technology art, sports,

humanities, etc, compelled men to change their approach towards women. There is an increasing awareness today, at least at the level of educated, that women have a great positive participatory role to play in the progress of the nation. Women are to be properly empowered socially, economically and politically, so that they will be able to play their participatory role in an effective manner.

OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this study is to analyze the importance of education in women empowerment. Why is education important in women empowerment? The education is important to becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.. Education is humanity's best hope and most effective means in the women empowerment.

METHODOLOGY:

This article is based on the secondary sources collected from articles, books, journals of various authors and internet sources.

IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EDUCATION:

Every child has a right to equal educational opportunities .Women constitute more than 60% of the world's population. Sadly in some countries, girl-child education is neglected due to cultural beliefs. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said-"If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a whole family .Women empowered means mother India empowered." It shows the importance of women education. Education certainly has a transformative role in achieving more just, sustainable and equal communities and world. Equal educational rights are human rights that should be available for every child independent on their gender.

Education has been recognised as an essential agent of social change and development in any society and any country. Education exposes people to new thoughts and ideas and provides necessary skills. Hence, to think harmonies and development without educating women is impossible. In overall development of the country women education plays an important role. Women education improving quality of life at home and outside. Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to building stronger economies; achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability.

Educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of population. Education of women leads to a better family and ultimately an ideal society to a progressive nation. Economic development and prosperity of the country depends on women's education. Economic

empowerment and independence will only come through proper education and employment of women. Education helps woman to live a good life.

WOMEN EDUCATION STATUS:

Education is one of the basic activities of people in all human societies. Education has become the most important criterion of assessing the social status of the individuals. It is for this reason, most of the social reformers laid emphasis on the education of women. During the recent years, that is, especially after 1970s, there is an awakening among Indian women regarding their education. The Central and State Governments also started showing concern in promoting the educational interests of women. Those women who were fortunate enough to avail of the new educational opportunities also proved their efficiency by outsmarting men in terms of their performance in college and university examinations. Now women's are in respectable positions like engineering, medical, MBA, MCA, C.A... etc. With such high educational background are bound to secure a respectable status in the society.

The constitutional directive to provide free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14 years has remained unfulfilled till now Literacy and educational levels are increasing for Indian Women still there is gap between male and female literacy rate .India is the world's largest democracy where billions of people live and of course almost half of their knowledge to improve the health of their children and other family members.

CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF WOMEN:

1. The state shall not discriminate against any citizen of India on the ground of sex –Article 15(1).
2. The state is empowered to make any special provision for women. In other words, this provision enables the state to make affirmative discrimination in favour of women – Article 15(3)
3. No citizen shall be discriminated against or be ineligible for any employment or office under the state on ground of sex-Article 16(2)
4. Traffic in human beings and forced labour are prohibited-Article 23(1).
5. The state to secure equal pay for equal work for both men and women –Article-39(d).
6. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local level.

CONCLUSION:

There is a positive relationship between education and empowerment. In order to promote women's empowerment it is necessary to create an environment that will allow women to participate in educational programmes and share the benefits. Equal and active participation is obligatory. Unless women are educated they will not be able to understand about their rights and their importance.

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