



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES IN INDIA FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN – A STUDY.

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ABSTRACT

Higher education is defined as education that is at least a degree level. Additionally, it covers professional schools in the fields of medicine, engineering, business, law, music, and the arts, as well as other establishments including teacher training school institutions of pure science, and technological institutions. Women cannot become independent by literacy alone, but they can become more capable through higher education. Only via higher education are they made conscious of their obligations and empowered to use their rights as necessary. One of the crucial ways to equip women with information, skills, and self-confidence is through higher education. It helps to improve their status within the family and brings a reduction in inequities. Higher levels of education achieved by women can have an impact across generations and inside the family. Higher education and the route to women's emancipation both face numerous obstacles. Lack of education, financial hardship, family obligations, low social position, etc. is a few of them. Women are currently partaking in a variety of traditionally male-only activities as well. It will be required to broaden the focus and create new industries that serve the requirements of women in the future. Along with degree-granting courses, universities and colleges must also offer elective courses. Currently, higher education aims to give women access to professional, technical, and vocational training. There are numerous laws and initiatives aimed at advancing women. The selection of talents and professions suitable for women is necessary for this goal. Additionally, the government of India's various initiatives and policies involving women's emancipation and higher education should be properly implemented. In this essay, an analysis of the value of higher education in empowering women as well as other national programs for empowering women has been attempted.

(Keywords: Higher Education, Women Empowerment, Government policies, improvement)

Introduction

Women's empowerment is the process of giving women access to and active engagement in their ability to become economically independent, participate in politics and advance in society. It includes more freedom in decision-making as well as more access to information and resources. Strengthening economies for development and sustainability requires empowering women to actively engage in economic life across all sectors.

The goal of this study is to understand how higher education contributes to the empowerment of women. Higher education has long been acknowledged as a potent tool for society's social and economic growth in general and

as a path to social mobility for disadvantaged and marginalized groups in particular. The role of higher education in highlighting the value of women and their place in Indian society is crucial. When discussing women from underrepresented groups in society, their empowerment, status, and place in society, as well as the important organizations' higher status. The word "empowerment" literally means "being powerful." At the international women's summit held in 1985 in Nairobi, the idea of empowerment was first articulated. A shift of social power and resource control in favor of women was the conference's definition of empowerment. A social process known as empowerment addresses the inherent inequities in power relations and distribution. Disempowering some structures, processes, and organizations, is a process of redistribution of power within and across families, societies, and other groups and other strata of educational areas, it is especially worrisome. Through the promotion of education, the grant or financial support as well as the support of the family act as a catalyst to transform the status and position of women in society.

Objectives of the study

1. To Study the empowerment of women through Higher Education
2. To Study Government Schemes to Promote Women's Empowerment in India

Empowerment – meaning

The word "empowerment" literally means "being powerful." At the international women's summit held in 1985 in Nairobi, the idea of empowerment was first articulated. A shift of social power and resource control in favor of women was the conference's definition of empowerment. A social process known as empowerment addresses the inherent inequities in power relations and distribution. Disempowering some structures, processes, and organizations, is a process of redistribution of power within and across families, societies, and other groups.

In contemporary society, women's empowerment has become a crucial problem. Women's empowerment is a life cycle process, hence policies must be developed at each step to meet their unique demands. Only when women are empowered at every step of their life cycle may their contribution to economic and social progress be realized. The self-help group (SHG) serves only as a window for the development of rural women folk through the use of microfinance and engagement in the process of women's empowerment. Women's expertise needs to be shared now through higher education and training. Extending awareness campaigns on loan accessibility, certification procedures for funding companies, developing motivational skills, and instructing. The necessity of receiving help from family and other groups cannot be overstated. A culture of continual learning needs to be established since empowerment entails competency improvement. Learning that is ongoing extends beyond development and training initiatives.

The following are the guidelines for women's empowerment:

- Create high-level business leadership for women's neighbourhood
- Treat everyone equally at work; uphold non-discrimination and human rights.
- Encourage women's professional, academic, and general growth.
- Advocate for equity through neighbourhood projects.
- Track development toward achieving gender equality.

Women empowerment through higher education

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said that while educating a man can educate an individual, only educating women can educate a family. As a result, in his words, when a woman is empowered, mother India is also empowered. The obvious connection between women's empowerment and higher education for women will be made plain by these few remarks from Nehru. Since women make up half of the population, their empowerment can help the country's economy advance. Higher education serves as a turning point for women's empowerment as they overcome numerous obstacles to break free from their traditional roles as women. Women are becoming more liberated from traditional gender norms thanks to their increased access to higher education.

Women's Empowerment Needs

The following are the necessities for women's empowerment in our culture today:

- Women who are empowered are better able to learn things that will improve their lives.
- Economic empowerment is crucial for improving the status of women.
- Gender equity, which every woman wants, is made possible by empowerment.
- Women who are empowered have independent decision-making abilities.
- It aids in developing a positive self-image, overcoming social stigmas, and democratically changing the opinions of others. It also aids in having a positive outlook on one's capacity to effect change.
- Access to information is another benefit of empowerment for making wise judgments.

Higher Education and Women's Empowerment: A Relationship

By instilling the following qualities in women, higher education can bring about significant improvements in their lives that lead to social transformation:

1. Increasing women's self-confidence
2. Increasing their standing inside the social system.
3. Boosting one's own efficacy.
4. Increasing social mobility on the upward.
5. Raise women's knowledge of their societal responsibilities and rights
6. Providing employment chances.
7. Increasing their sense of self.
8. Lessening reliance on others.
9. Changing a person's perspective.
10. Increasing gender equity awareness.
11. Developing critical thinking skills.
12. Encouraging women to make decisions.
13. Helping women develop their leadership skills.

Potential justifications for Indian women choosing higher education:

- Encouragement from the government and society; the capacity to balance job and family obligations; the decline of discrimination against females in households; a higher level of preparedness for higher education, as demonstrated by secondary test scores; and a larger aspiration to earn tertiary degrees.
- A learning environment that is better suited to females' social and cognitive tendencies, as well as the feminization of the teaching profession.

Suggestions for encouraging women to pursue higher education

- By providing impoverished and deserving students with scholarships, we may encourage women to pursue higher education and relieve parents and students of financial burdens while also providing financial support.
- Creating educational policies and delivering education with a focus on skills. While doing so, encouraging them to understand the value of higher education through counseling.
- Setting up educational institutions everywhere, including in remote, urban, and rural locations, so that women can easily access education.
- Establishing colleges and universities exclusively for women, arranging bank loans with lower or no interest rates for women, and hiring more women than males as teachers.
- The introduction of additional special programs for women's welfare, such as Pradhan Manthri Sukanya Samridh.

"If you educate the man, you teach the person, but if you educate the woman, you educate the nation," said Mahatma Gandhi. The dramatic growth in women's access to colleges and universities over the past

few decades has been one of the most significant changes in Indian education. The heinousness of gender discrimination in higher education has been addressed through the creation and implementation of strict, strong regulations and policies. With the opportunity of achieving financial independence through a respectable job, the majority of Indian women have developed into significant income producers for their families. A woman's well-being education will have the abilities, authority, and self-assurance to be a better citizen. Women are expressing themselves in a variety of opportunities made possible by higher education and have equal authority and capacity as men.

Study of Women Empowerment Programs in India: 1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Program

1. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, introduced on January 22, 2015, by the Prime Minister of India in Haryana, protects the well-being, safety, and education of young girls. The program intends to address issues related to the recent decline in female representation, raise public awareness, and improve the effectiveness of welfare services designed for girls.

2. Workplace for Women Hostel

The Government of India has launched the "Working Women Hostel Scheme" program secure housing and environments for working women and provide daycare facilities for their kids. Government offers a grant-in-aid for the construction of new hostel buildings and the enlargement of an existing facility through this women's empowerment program.

3. One-Stop Center Program

The One Stop Center Scheme is the next program for women's empowerment in India. It is a sponsored program that receives funding from the Nirbhaya fund. State governments receive all federal funding necessary to safeguard women who have been victims of assault in both public and private settings. In order to counteract all types of violence against women, this program enables emergency (medical), legal aid and counseling, and non-emergency services under one roof.

4. The Women Helpline Program

One of the government's programs for women's empowerment, the Women Helpline Scheme, aims to provide women who have experienced abuse in either public or private settings with round-the-clock emergency assistance. Through a single toll-free number, women's helplines have been made available in all States and Union Territories.

5. Mahila E-Haat

A program called Mahila E-Haat was started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. One of the women's empowerment programs in India offers female entrepreneurs the chance to use technology to display their goods (produced, manufactured, and sold) on an online platform.

Women entrepreneurs can promote their products with descriptions and images using cell phones and internet connections. Here, customers can also get in touch with vendors in person, over the phone, by email, or through any other method. Clothing, accessories for fashion, pottery, boxes, items for the home, toys, and many other things could be on the list of goods. Through an online portal, this effort helps the "Make in India" campaign.

6. Volunteer Mahila Police

The Mahila Police Volunteers program was introduced by the Ministries of Women and Child Development and Home Affairs in all States and Union Territories. In order to ensure police outreach on crime cases, this central government-sponsored program strives to establish a connection between police authority and local communities. This program encourages women to join the police force and seeks to provide a safe, welcoming atmosphere for women.

7. STEP (Support to Training and Employment Program for Women) (Support to Training and Employment Program for Women)

STEP is one of India's most successful women's empowerment programs (Support to Training and Employment Program for Women). It was designed to give women employment security and training in skill development. This government-sponsored program provides institutions and organizations with grants so they can run the training program.

8. SWADHAR Greh One of the government's programs for empowering women in India, SWADHAR Greh strives to give women access to food, clothing, housing, and security in their social, economic, and physical well-being. This program gives women legal support and empowers them to take the initiative to reintegrate into society.

9. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)

Mahila Shakti Kendra is another well-liked women's empowerment program in India. It intends to offer women convergent support services at one location so they can grow their talents, find work, and improve their digital literacy. This program is active on a number of levels, including the federal, state, and local. By constructing 920 Mahila Shakti Kendras, the government hopes to reach the 115 districts with the greatest levels of poverty.

10. Rajiv Gandhi National Child Care Program

For the children of working moms, the government has implemented the National Creche Scheme. This program guarantees to improve the health and nutritional status of kids while offering daycare services. Additionally, this women's empowerment program encourages the holistic, social, and physical growth of kids while educating parents on bettering childcare practices.

Conclusion

Today, women are assuming the helm in a wide range of disciplines, including education. In fact, women are making their mark in every sector from astronomy to education. As a result, women's history and their path toward identity are extraordinary; in fact, their journey can be viewed as an individual's quest for perfection. Women discover their identities with all the essential creative talents through higher education. In India, more women are pursuing higher education than in previous decades. The government must absolutely develop more plans, scholarships, and awareness initiatives related to higher education once women are empowered to find their identities and contribute to the economy of the country. To boost higher education among these people, the Indian government should be required to adopt particular measures. The main problem facing the government and NGOs is to raise awareness of and encourage sensitivity to the unique needs of women and girls among people at all socioeconomic levels, particularly in rural areas. They must be made to understand what a huge service it is to society to educate women. This important segment of society has endured oppression and deprivation for far too long. Affirmative and effective action is required in their favor in order to guarantee the women's right to food, shelter, health, education, and job. However, recent adjustments and advancements are fostering expectations for a better and promising future.

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