

# Importance of Education in Women Empowerment- Women Education and its Benefits

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## Abstract

Women empowerment is one of the significant aspects these days. This paper is an attempt to analyse the importance of education in women empowerment. Education is the key for women empowerment because it enables them to confront the problems and challenges of their life. Education of women is the most powerful tool to change the position in the society. Women education in India has been a need of the hour, as education is the foundation for the empowerment of women. Education can minimize the discrimination against women. Women empowerment means provide power and equal opportunities in every field and provide them power to control their own life and take their own decision. This empowerment can be possible only with education. Educated women have courage to face the professional and personal challenges of their life and the knowledge they gain will make women to grab all the opportunities they get. Educated women can excel in multiple fields this leads to social, economic, political, empowerment of women. Education as a means can bring about a positive attitudinal change. Education can make a significant change in the life of Indian women make them empowered. Discrimination of women is a pre known factor from the centuries this can only be reduced with education. Education is the torch that can lead women towards empowerment. Hence education of women has to be given prominence.

**Key words** – Education, women empowerment, women education, challenges.

## Introduction

Empowerment may be described as a process which helps people to assert their control over their own life .empowerment can be viewed as means of creating social environment in which one can make decisions and choices either individually or collectively for social transformation .

Empowerment of woman means sustainable development of woman in various and attain equal status with women and excel in the field they choose. Women empowerment refers to the process of providing power to women to become more individual and develop ability to take decision of her life. Empowerment of women refers to the process of providing power to women to become free from others control and determine their own conditions of life.

Woman empowerment has five components

- Women's sense of self worth
- Right to have and determine choices
- Right to have the power to control their own lives both within and outside the home
- Ability to influence the direction to social change to create more social and economic order, nationally and internationally

Education is a key for the success of man as well as woman also. Education is the milestone of women empowerment because them to confront the challenges of their life education provides people with the knowledge of do's and don't and what is right and what is wrong, this leads to the abolishment of gender based discrimination. Education provides woman with knowledge of the rights and their duties towards the society

Education is the most powerful tool to change the position of woman in the society. Women education in India has been a need of the hour, as education is a foundation for the empowerment of women. As per the saying of JAWAHARLAL NEHRU “ Educating a women mean educating a whole family .education of a women can make a lot of change in the society”.

Educating women is one of the major duties of government of India . Indian government has been working on this form last few decades and there is a lot improvement can be seen in these days. Women from remote village have an access for education.

Women education is the most suffered aspect and most fought one all over the world. Women education has been thought as the unnecessary one in olden days. But the struggle of the great leaders have yielded fruitful result in the recent years the rate of educated women have been increased upto 50%. Education of the women makes the society the better place to live in.

If we consider society as tree, then men are like its strong main stem which supports the tree to face the elements and women are like its roots; most important of them all. The stronger the roots are the bigger and stronger the tree will be spreading its branches; sheltering and protecting the needy.

Women are the soul of a society; a society can well be judged by the way its women are treated. An educated man goes out to make the society better, while an educated woman; whether she goes out or stays at home, makes the house and its occupants better.

Women play many roles in a society- mother, wife, sister, care taker, nurse etc. They are more compassionate towards the needs of others and have a better understanding of social structure. An educated mother will make sure that her children are educated, and will weigh the education of a girl child, same as boys.

History is replete with evidences, that the societies in which women were treated equally to men and were educated; prospered and grew socially as well as economically. It will be a mistake to leave women behind in our goal of sustainable development, and it could only be achieved if both the genders are allowed equal opportunities in education and other areas.

Education makes women more confident and ambitious; they become more aware of their rights and can raise their voice against exploitation and violence. A society cannot at all progress if its women weep silently. They have to have the weapon of education to carve out a progressive path for their own as well as their families.

Women play an imperative role in making a nation progressive and guide it towards development. They are essential possessions of a lively humanity required for national improvement, so if we have to see a bright future of women in our country, giving education to them must be a pre-occupation. Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power. The education of women is the most powerful tool to change the position of society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. To encourage the education of women at all levels and for dilution of gender bias in providing knowledge and education, established schools, colleges and universities even exclusively for women in the state. The education develops the idea of participation in government, panchayats, public matters etc for elimination of gender discrimination

Women education was started by the East India Company “Woods Dispatch” recognized the employment and education of women in India in 1854. Initially richer section of the society have the opportunity to get the primary level education. Later on after Independence the education have developed by the universities.

#### **Welfare schemes for women**

**Mahila Samakhya Programme:** New Education policy of 1968 led to the launch of Mahila Samakhya Programme in 1988 for the empowerment of rural women belonging to socio-economical weaker section.

**Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme(KGBV):** Girls are educated to primary level through KGBV. It basically works in rural areas where female literacy is low.

**National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL):** Girls who are not incentivized through SSA are covered by NPEGEL.

**Saakshar Bharat Mission for Female Literacy:** This mission was launched with an objective to bring down the female illiteracy.

Below we will go through some of the advantages of educating women and its positive effects on the society.

### **Advantages of women education**

#### **1) Better Standard of Living**

Educated women will be economically empowered and they earn more and this provides a better standard of living.

An educated mother will earn as good as the father of the family and will look after the financial needs of her family in a much better way. Two incomes under the same roof will improve the quality of living and also ensure better education and facilities to the children, not to mention that a happy family will ultimately lead to a happy society.

#### **2) Improved Health and Hygiene**

Women are more concerned about the health of their family than men and have a great sense of hygiene too. Even working women are constantly concerned about their family's health and don't compromise with it at any cost.

#### **3) Dignity and Honor**

A woman is the dignity of a house, and a society is judged depending on how its women are treated and how much they are educated. It is only when a woman is able to protect her own dignity and honor, that she will be able to protect the dignity and honor of her family. An uneducated woman may lack the courage to speak for her own dignity while an educated woman will be confident enough to fight for it.

#### **4) Self Reliance**

Education makes a woman self reliant; that is, she does not depend on anyone for her own survival as well as the survival of her children. She knows that she is educated and could well be employed equally like men and fend for the needs of her family. A woman, who is financially independent, can raise her voice against injustice and exploitation.

#### **5) Eliminating Crime against Women**

Many of the social evils and crimes against women can be easily eliminated by educating women. Incidents of dowry, flesh trade, female infanticide as well as harmful customary practices can be eradicated by educating women of a society. An educated woman plays a very important role in a civilized family and influences the thoughts and beliefs of its members.

She is unlikely to remain silent on domestic violence against other woman or girl in the family; and will definitely help in strengthening the social fabric of the society. An educated woman will never concede to the female infanticide and is well aware that it is a crime as per the law and also forbidden by any religion.

#### **6) Decreased Mortality Rate**

An educated woman is more likely to marry later in life improving the chances of survival of the mother and baby. Educated mothers are more aware of their children's needs and nutrition, and take well care of them resulting in a low child mortality rate; providing them better health, hygiene and nutrition. According to a study it is estimated that nearly 1.5 Million children could be saved globally, if only their mothers had completed secondary school.

#### **7) Integral Development**

Education provides opportunity for integral development of women. Education will help women to improve their standard and attain holistic development of women.

Women must be provided an equal opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder with men, and encouraged to pursue the professions they aspire- doctor, lawyer, technocrat, scientist, journalist, adventurer etc. Only then we will be able to achieve our goal of sustainable development by 2030.

### 8) Exploring the Hidden Potential

Education provides women with the opportunity to know the hidden abilities and inborn talents they have. Whereas uneducated women cannot know her innate potentials as they do not any opportunities to learn their abilities

Women education in developing countries is essential for their growth and stability. Who knows that the girl who is working as a domestic help has the potential to become a doctor, if only she is given the right guidance and an opportunity to do so. When it comes to brain and the use of it, women are no inferior to men; why not to help them achieve their aspirations. It would ultimately benefit the nation, as a woman is less likely to leave her roots and migrate to other nation.

### 9) Building good communities

An educated woman with increased economic potential are more likely to perform their duties towards the society. Woman are proved to be more dutiful towards the community .An educated woman will raise her children carefully which help for the development of society without any gender discrimination.

### Conclusion

Educating women is integral to the economical and social development of a nation. Women play a responsible role in the houses and societies. They are responsible for looking after their children, relatives and elders of the house, which makes it mandatory for them to be well informed and aware of threats and security.

An educated woman can bring some positive changes in her own house as well as in the society. She is more likely to send her children to school, improving the nation's literacy rate. There are numerous other advantages of educating women apart from good health and hygiene, raised economy of the nation etc. No nation can achieve development in a true sense if it leaves its women behind on education.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Empowerment and rights . G.Sen.A ..., Germain and L.C. Chein, eds. Cambridge, havard university press

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