

# IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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## **ABSTRACT**

Women empowerment is a multi dimensional concept and it can be achieved only through the improvement of all social, political, economic, and psychological aspects. Out of all these dimensions, education plays a crucial role to empower women both in developed and developing countries. The total development of the country depends on the equal participation of both male and female. Gender equality must be given top priority to empower women. Education is the best tool to reach the goal of women empowerment and also to make others empowered when her role turned as a mother. We are missing a major opportunity to avail women's wisdom and to improve the status of all women in today's world. This paper makes an attempt to examine the role of education and women empowerment.

**Key words:** Women empowerment, Education, Gender equality.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The concept of empowerment has got historical foundations in several collective struggles for social justice. To

Empower means to give power over some specified job to a responsible person. Women empowerment develops potentiality in women so that she can think and act freely to reduce discrimination exploitation towards them. Women empowerment is not a new concept. In the mid 1980's the concept of women's empowerment emerged as a challenge to patriarchy and in the year 1990 it is turned as self transformation process.

The first year of New Millennium 2001 was declared as 'WOMEN EMPOWERMENT YEAR'. Education of a women leads to a better family and ultimately an ideal society to a progressive nation. If all women had primary education, child marriages child mortality could fall by a sixth and maternal deaths by two-thirds. Educated women are more likely to know their rights and to have the confidence to claim them.

## **Objectives of the study:**

1. To examine the role of education to empower women.
2. To find out the need for intellectual motherhood
3. To identify the challenges before working women.

## **Methodology:**

For the submission of this paper both primary and secondary data was taken into consideration. Primary data was collected through interacting and interviewing different categories of mothers at different stages .Secondary data was collected from magazines, books, journals, and government reports mad websites.

Liberalisation of education by social reformers like Mahatma Phulay Agarkar and Karve, participation by women in the freedom struggle and the post independence measures have given special status of equality to women. Education is important for everyone, but it is especially significant for women. Education is considered as a milestone for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges and change their lives. As education is both an input and output of human development education equity will ensure enabling entrepreneurial development especially in women. The female literacy rate according to 2011 census was 65.46 per cent whereas male literacy rate was over 80 per cent. Although substantial progress has been achieved since independence when less than 8 per cent of females were literate, the gains have not been rapid enough to keep pace with population growth. Even beyond literacy, there is much that education can do for women's rights, dignity, and security. Education brings about uplift of women in social economic and spheres where they are able to play an equal role on par with men in the society.

Now the Indian women captured their dignity individuality and respect. Women are actually proving to fare academically better and socially more active. Independent India has woman prime minister Women ambassadors, women cabinet ministers, women legislators, women governors, women scientists, engineers doctors, women journalists, women public officers and magistrates. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit created a record by becoming president of the United Nations General Assembly. Now we have a women defence minister-Nirmala Sitaraman proved as efficient as women in India are now contributing significantly to the building of modern India

This study has observed that education influences women since her childhood in many ways. Education helps girls and women to know their rights and to gain confidence to claim them. Education is an entry point to avail all the opportunities throughout her life and across the generations. Girls who have been educated are likely to marry later and to have small and healthier families. Educated women can recognise the importance of healthcare and know how to protect their children and their families.

Parenting is not about merely providing food, shelter and monetary support, but it is about giving right values, right support and right platform to excel. Today's child is more enlightened more knowledgeable and more ambitious. This child needs the right touch and right upbringing to bloom out. Children do not come into this world from mother's womb with guide books. We will never learn on the job more than in our journey as a mother. This is all obtained through education only.

Leadership begins with motherhood. This study has observed that educated mothers have such kind of ability taught how to organise and plan multitasking. Education is the first weapon which makes women courageous which in turn makes them best leaders. Another important observation in this study reveals that mother acts as a teacher as well as a student. Mothers guide their children in their development, choices, and core values. Somewhere in the process, they too will enrich, enlighten and ultimately teach us well. A woman who feels empowered by her birth experience is poised to experience an empowered motherhood.

Who should awaken women? It is she who has to awaken herself in the world of superstitions and primitive customs and rules continue to exist. The truth is that no eternal power can obstruct women's uplift. Yet the minds of many women remain entangled in those cobwebs. They must break themselves free. All the power women require to do so is love, empathy and patience are innate within them because they are the very essence of their inherent motherhood.

This study has observed the next important issue before a women-Career VS Marriage. The main problem before an educated woman even now is to choose between higher education or career on one hand and marriage on the other. Till 1950 the Indian Foreign Service did not recruit women. Many firms had a "no marriage clause" in their recruitment policy which means that only unmarried can be recruited on the condition that they would leave the job on getting married. The total development of a country depends

on the equal participation of both male and female. Swami Vivekananda quoted that “there is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly with one wing”.

Many employers have prejudice against women employees as can be seen from discrimination in recruitment and retainment. However more and more opportunities in the field of employment have come up for women in recent years. Being a working mother it is extremely challenging to manage both home and work. It takes a lot of planning and needs support to manage household problems. Boundaries are a must for working mothers. Setting boundaries is not a luxury; it becomes very difficult to create any sort of harmony between work and home. Self care is the first to go. Sacrificing self-care is not sustainable in the long run. This study has observed that nearly 60% of working mothers are not in a position to get support from family members and even from husband there is a great stress she is facing at home as well as at work place.

### **Suggestions:**

Part time employment and flexible scheduling for women as experienced by US and Canadian governments can be encouraged .There is a large reserve of qualified and talented women in India who cannot work the conditional 8 hours/day. Flexible timings help both employers and employees. New work day patterns can be tried by permitting employees to put forth more time and energy in work than in travel by avoiding rush hour traffic, and instead they can work in the evenings or over weekends. In USA surveys have indicated that a large reserve of highly qualified women who cannot work the conventional 40 hours work can now do so, and serving the nation in a productive way.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Yes change should start from home. Being women we should protect our gender and treat all of our male and female babies equally. This needs a radical change in our mental makeup and our social structure. Government of India has been encouraging women empowerment by so many initiatives. The support to training and employment programme for women scheme is in operation since 1986-87 to provide skill giving employability to women making them self reliant which is essential for their empowerment. The process of empowering women is a continuous process. Government of India confers the “ Highest Civilian Honour for Women” on international women’s day.8<sup>th</sup> March, every year by presenting Nari shakti puraskars.Instituted in 1999,the objective of this award is to acknowledge and recognise the services of individuals and institutions who have made a lasting contribution to women empowerment. The awards are also an effort to recognise role models who act as torch bearers for the younger generation and catalysts of change in the lives of women and society at large. The need of the hour is to make women realise their potential, make them aware of the bright future that awaits them, guide them and nurture them. If the future is to be beautiful, fragrant, fully blossomed flower women and men must join their hands in all spheres. Those who desire peace and contentment must pay attention to this right now in this very moment. For the sake of promising future, the hearts minds of women and men need to become one.

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