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Role of Education, Challenges and Women Empowerment.

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Abstract:

The concept of women in development was first introduced in Indonesia during 1979-1984. It focused on closing the gender gaps in education, work and income. "If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a whole family" said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Despite the fact Indian women have been granted equal rights to males, they are nevertheless lagging far behind men in different life exercises. According to Census 2021, the female literacy rate is 65.46%, while male literacy is stood at 82.14%. Women should be allowed equal rights with men in all situations, based on their particular advantages and genuine desires. One of the pressing issues of the 21st century is the empowerment of women in society. Women's empowerment is affected by a variety of factors such as geographical location, educational status and social status. As a result, education is the key to unlocking the freedom for development. Educating ladies fosters self-esteem and confidence. It also increases motivation in her society. Women must be more involved in the decision-making process for educational policy. This paper highlights the role of education, challenges faced by the ladies and the need of women empowerment.

Keywords: Education, Challenges, Empowerment.

Introduction:

Women's empowerment entails liberating women from the suffocating grip of Social, Economic, Political, Social group, and Gender-based intolerance. It entails giving women the freedom to create abundance in their lives. Women's empowerment is a critical step towards achieving equality. Recognizing the role of literacy in the process of development of an individual and the nation as a whole in the globalized society and to empower the women, the National Policy on Education framed certain parameters of the women empowerment. Realizing the potentialities of literacy in improvement of the status of the women and empower them in terms of self-reliance, ability to fight against exploitation and to claim their rightful share in all spheres of development, the literacy was chosen as means for empowerment of women. The empowerment is a continuous process and passes through various stages like understanding the situation from different angles recognizing the social barriers and norms which are affecting them changing the situation and collective action to realize their unmet demands.

Women's education was stigmatized in society and girls received minimal education at home. However, after the British took over, a climate was created that encouraged women's participation in economic and social life, and female education was given a boost, though opportunities remained limited, and

only a small percentage of women were able to take advantage of educational opportunities and pursue independent careers. Social traditions continued to obstruct women's access to a wider range of educational and job opportunities.

With the achievement of independence, the entire outlook on women changed for the better, ushering in a new era of activating the social, economic, and legal changes required for equalizing women's status with men and their equal participation in the national life of the country. Jahan Aijaz and Shashikal A.D.J. et al. (2013) "A solid knowledgeable educated and very much utilized lady will have the aptitude to at least her rights and make solid commitments to the advancement process".

Educated mothers understand the value of educating their children, both daughters and sons. They are likely to take a greater interest in their children's school work, and can help them in acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills. Srivastava et al. (2014) "Strengthening is the process by which the women accomplish expanded control and support in basic leadership which thus serves to accomplish square with premise with men in different circles i.e. political, monetary and social". In India, The Total Literacy Campaigns (TLC) has led to a strong demand for universalizing primary education through an awakening and recognition of the value of education. In several TLC districts, elementary school admission figures registered sharp increases.

The Indian Constitution guarantees equal rights and privileges to men and women, as well as some special provision for their development and advancement in social, economic and political status. According to Articles 15(1), 16(1), and 16(2), "The state shall not discriminate against any citizen solely on the basis of religion, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them," and "equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment under any office under the state".

Areas to empower women:

- 1) Education and Health
 - Leads to better hygiene.
 - Seeking timely medical intervention.
 - Greater effectiveness in caring of family health.
 - Improved nutrition practices.
- 2) Education and Employment
 - Equip them to take up jobs requiring specific skills which could be better paying and less exploitative.
 - Help them to find skilled jobs.
- 3) Education and demographic process
 - Increases the age at marriage.
 - Promote employment.
 - Creates stronger desire for family planning.
 - Reduces birth and death rates.
- 4) Education for self-employment
 - Utilize credit from banks.
 - Allow women to participate in market opportunities.
 - Invest in production- oriented activities.
- 5) Education and legal awareness
 - Understand the various laws, acts, provisions which are in vogue and help women.
 - Help women to understand the legal system and how it can help them.

- 6) Education and household activities
 - Transforms from the non-monetized to the monetized sector.
 - Reduces their time in non-market household activities.

Better use of their time.

Impact of Women Education:

The children of educated mothers have higher survival rates through infancy and childhood. Relatively modest levels of education result in very significant declines in child mortality. Evidence indicates that each individual year of schooling of mothers translates into a decline in child mortality in the range of 5 percent to 10 percent. Research indicated that each additional year a young girl stays in school translates into a 10 percent to 20 percent increase in wages. Studies in India, confirm that women who had completed high school earned one and half times more than those without any education and women with technical training earned three times more than illiterate women. To be better valued, women's productive contribution must also be recognized at the highest level. Priyadharshini et al. (2017) "keeping in mind the end goal to make all ladies in the country to achieve a standard women empowerment is enquired. Women empowerment centers should enable every lady in the nation to make them autonomous in all perspectives in the general public, to know on the rights and to influence them to prepare about physical security".

In 1990, the World Declaration Education for all stated that "the most urgent priority is to ensure access to, and improve the quality of education for girls and women, and to remove every obstacle that hampers their active participation. All gender stereotyping in education should be eliminated".

Findings from a World Bank Study of 20 developing countries indicate which allocated substantial resources to female primary education experienced higher economic productivity, lower fertility rates, lower infant and maternal mortality and improved levels of life, expectancy for both men and women, compared to countries with lower levels of women's educational attainment. Investing in the education of women and girls normally yields the highest return.

Mishra and Mohanty, (2005) "Separation on the ground of gender can be evacuated just when both the sex get the esteem based instruction. Nobody ought to be allowed to act against the rights and commitment of others. Women strengthening are the strengthening of the entire society, since they are the start of the general public.

Goal and Objectives:

To bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. It is necessary to be widely disseminated and to encourage active participation of all stakeholders for achieving below mentioned goal and objectives:-

1. All forms of violence against women, physical and mental, whether at domestic or social levels, including those arising from customs, traditions or accepted practices shall be dealt with effectively with a view to eliminate its incidences.
2. Mass media will be used to portray images consistent with human dignity of girls and women. The media would be encouraged to develop codes of conduct, professional guidelines and other self-regulatory mechanisms to remove gender stereotypes and promote balanced portrayals of women and men.
3. Equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, political and economic life of the nation.
4. Equal access to women to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office etc.
5. Strengthening of legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
6. Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

Conclusion:

Education plays a pivotal role in any intervention to increase women's participation in development and in empowerment. The education of ladies should be main source to overcome problems and challenges which they face. Over the last decades, a number of countries have taken steps to reach out to women, understand their needs, and integrate them into the development process. The importance of women's issues has been recognized and integrated into the policy-making process. In discussing the education of girls, it is crucial to look beyond enrolment figures at the opportunities for the advancement of women. Attention to vocational training and equality of opportunity is fundamental to any comprehensive discussion of "Gender Equality".

- Education is the key for empowerment.
- It is essential for women to participate in and benefit from the development process.
- Provides strength and makes their position strong.
- Brings change and development so as to empower the women.

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