



# Education as a Vehicle for Women Empowerment

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**Abstract:** Empowerment means people having power and control over their own lives. People get the support they need that is right for them. It means that people are equal citizens. They are respected and confident in their communities. This enables them to represent their communities. This enables them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. Education is a milestone of women empowerment. This is not only because education is an entry point to opportunity but also because women's educational achievements have positive ripple effects within the family and across generations.

Education is an essential means of empowering women with knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to fully participate in the development process. Sustainable development is only possible when men and women enjoy equal opportunities to reach their potential. Isabel Allende says: "Giving women education, work, the ability to control their own income, inherit and own property, benefits the society. If a woman is empowered, her children and her family will be better off. If families prosper, the village prospers and eventually so does the whole country." Women empowerment refers to the creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society. And education can play an important role in the whole process. It can be the torch in the darkness by which one can see the right path. Women empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure equal rights to women and to make them confident enough to claim their rights, such as:

- ❖ Have equal social status in the society,
- ❖ Have equal rights for social and economic justice.
- ❖ Get equal employment opportunity without gender bias etc.

Moreover, women education can play an important role in the overall development of the country. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl children but also can provide better guidance to all their children. In short, we can say that education is just like a vehicle or tool for women empowerment.

Keywords: Empowerment, Education, Knowledge, Sustainable, Development, Rights.

## Introduction:-

Education is something that no one can ever take away from you. Education is the medium that gives us the skills, techniques, information and knowledge to know, understand and respect the duties we have towards our society, families and nation. The importance of education in life is that it helps everyone develop a good perspective of looking at the world and our society. It teaches an individual the importance of differentiating between good and bad as well as right and wrong. An educated person can strive for the betterment of a country. It is important for everyone, but it is a critical area of empowerment for girls and women. Or in other words, we can say that education is milestone of women empowerment. It is not only because education is an entry point to opportunity but also because women's educational achievements have positive ripple effects within the family and across generation. It is an essential investment countries make for their futures, a crucial factor in achieving sustainable development.

### Objective of the study:

- ❖ To study on Role of Education in Empowerment of women.

Empowerment means moving from enforced powerlessness to a position of power. By definition, empowerment is the act or action of empowering someone: the granting of the power, right or authority to perform various acts of duties and/or the state of being empowered. Barack Obama said: Imagine if you have a team and you don't let half of the team play. That's stupid. That makes no sense. And the evidence shows that communities that give their daughters the same opportunities as their daughters the same opportunities as their sons, they are more peaceful, they are more prosperous, they develop faster, they are more likely to succeed.

So we can't neglect the importance of education in terms of women empowerment. Education also brings about a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means to improve their status within the family and develops the participation concept.

### Constitutional provisions for Empowering Women in India:

1. Dignity for all individuals in the eyes of law(Article 14).
2. Prohibit discrimination on grounds of religion, ethnicity, caste, gender of place of birth, Article 15(1).
3. The state can, however, make special provisions in support of women and children, as provided for in Article 15(3)
4. Equal opportunities for all people as regards jobs or appointment to any office within the state(Article 16)

The Indian Constitution, adopted in November 1949, several articles requiring gender equality and non discrimination, but there are still many laws infringing this principle, particularly in the field of family and personal law. However slight improvements have been made to Hindu personal law so

far, these changes were driven by political expediency and resulted in the denial of equal rights for women.

Independent India promises a lot of new hopes for all of India's weaker sections particularly women. In the Indian constitution, arrangements were made to provide equal rights and opportunities for socio-economic advancement, and to improve the lives of men and women. The Constitution also guarantees freedom of all expression and personal freedom for all Indian people to engage in all kinds of health, social, economic and political activities. The economic development planning implemented in 1951 also launched several schemes and programmes for the growth and enhancement of the socio-economic status of women in order to give concrete and practical form to the initiatives and measures underlined in the constitutional provisions for the social and economic upliftment of women.

We knew the early history of women's education in India was largely influenced by religious and social factors. When British rule was established in India, at the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup>. A review of the education system was performed. Western missionaries sought to break down the bias and in 1818 they opened the first of several girls' schools. At this point it was Raja Ram Mohan Roy who took up the cause of Indian women's emancipation. He was perhaps the first powerful Indian to do so; without such individuals, only the efforts of those pushing for the expansion of women's education could have been thwarted. A start had been made, but it was a late start, and subsequent progress was slow despite Wood's Dispatch's observation the importance of female education in India can not be overrated, the Hunter commission's recommendations and Lard Carzon's involvement in women's education. These all recommended that the government should always support education for women.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru said, "If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a women you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered."

**Obstacles:** Gender discrimination still persists in India and lot more needs to be done in the field of women's education in India. The gap in the male-female literacy rate is just a simple indicator. While the male literacy rate is more than 82.14% and the female literacy rate is just 65.46%(b) the women consider only housewife and better to be live in the house. Let's see the difference in the literacy rate between men and women in the given table:

#### # Literacy rate in India

Year	Person	Males	Female
1901	5.3	9.8	0.7
1911	5.9	10.6	1.1
1921	7.2	12.2	1.8
1931	9.5	15.6	2.9
1941	16.1	24.9	7.3

1951	16.7	24.9	7.3
1981	36.2	46.9	24.8
1991	52.1	63.9	39.2
2001	62.38	76.0	54.0
2011	74	82.1	65.46

On observing the above table, we come to know that at no point could the literacy rate of women match that of men. As a result, even after 75 years of independence, women occupy a secondary position in our social hierarchy. In spite of being aware of her position, women can't transform the situation due to lack of education. Therefore, women's empowerment can't be effected unless we persuade the importance of women's education.

**Conclusion:** 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 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.

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