



Role of Education in Women Empowerment

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Abstract

Education is the key factor for women empowerment development and welfare. In the present study the title shows the role of education in women empowerment. Education helps to bring out the best of a child. Education not only develops an individual but also brings social development. It helps women to face the challenges, to change their life and also for their children development, above all helps them to think positively. There is continued inequality and vulnerability of women in all sphere of life. In order to fight against the socially constructed gender biases, women have to swim against the system that requires more strength. Such strength comes from the process of empowerment and empowerment will come from education.

India is a spiritual land where concepts and philosophies have attained their culminating point and for the development of such a country women empowerment is much needed but in India the female literacy rate is very low. So it is essential for the harmonious development of the country that women should go hand by hand and shoulder to shoulder with men and for empowering the women, education will play a vital role.

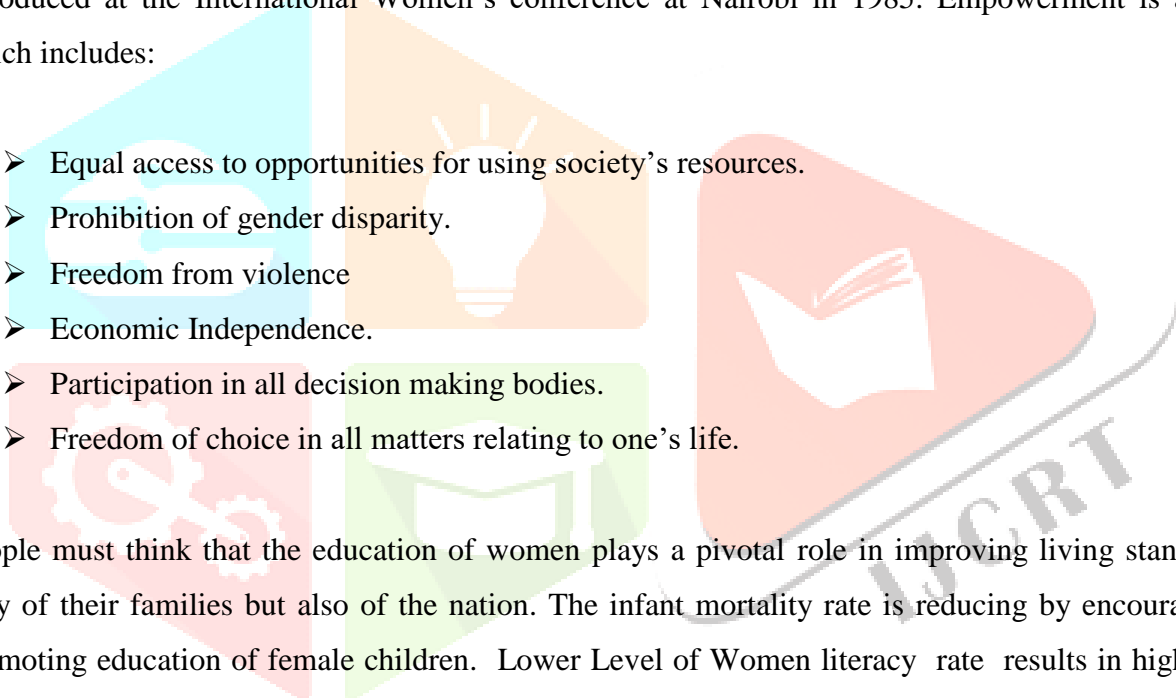
Key Words: *Women, Empowerment, Education, Gender, India*

Introduction

“If you educate man you educate an individual, however if you educate a woman you educate a whole family women empowered means mother India empower”.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Education helps to bring any expected change in the society. As we know schools can become real centers of learning. Education gives solution of problems in our life. Education helps a person to find out which is high or wrong. Women and Man are like two wheels of a Chariot. They are equal in our society. We should give importance to each to them. It is a human right and an essential tool for achieving equality. One of the major recommendations of the National Policy on Education in 1986 is to promote empowerment of women through education. The Concept of Women Empowerment was introduced at the International Women’s conference at Nairobi in 1985. Empowerment is a process which includes:

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- Equal access to opportunities for using society’s resources.
 - Prohibition of gender disparity.
 - Freedom from violence
 - Economic Independence.
 - Participation in all decision making bodies.
 - Freedom of choice in all matters relating to one’s life.

People must think that the education of women plays a pivotal role in improving living standards not only of their families but also of the nation. The infant mortality rate is reducing by encouraging and promoting education of female children. Lower Level of Women literacy rate results in higher levels of fertility and infant mortality, poorer nutrition, lower earning potential and lack of ability to make decisions within the household as it is our dream to emerge India as one of the most developed nation, so in such case Women empowerment, their literacy plays a very important hold. So giving proper education to women is necessary for both the society and families.

Objectives

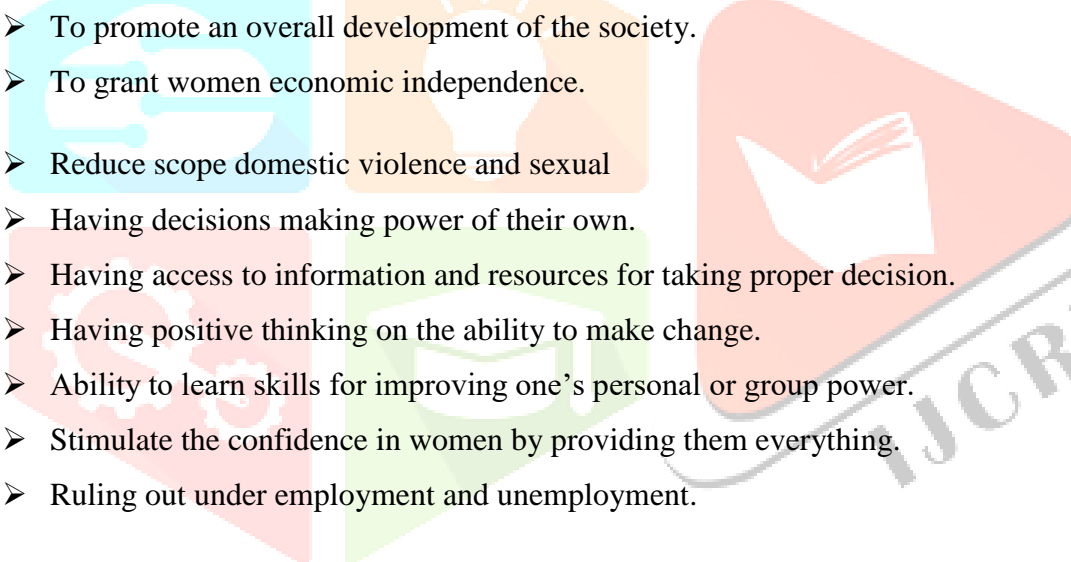
The main objectives of the study are:

- To find out the impact of education on Women empowerment.
- To study the challenges and changes from education on women empowerment.

Need of Women Empowerment

Women empowerment is one of the burning issues before all national and international agencies. Women empowerment is one way to get the under privilege women to come to realize their worth and potential in the face of a male dominated country/world. Most women through education and familial privileges have in today's world realized and appropriated their potentials in the best possible manner. However unfortunately there is still a section of the society that constitutes women who lack education and confidence enough to find their grounds in the male dominated society and make their substance felt. Women must possess the self-worth, Confidence and freedom to choose what they may with regard to their private and professional choices alike. Thus promoting education among women is of great important in empowering them to accomplish their goals in par with men in different sphere of life nurturing and sustaining a culture on unity, equality and dignity.

Empowerment is probably the totality of the following or similar capabilities:

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- To promote an overall development of the society.
 - To grant women economic independence.
 - Reduce scope domestic violence and sexual
 - Having decisions making power of their own.
 - Having access to information and resources for taking proper decision.
 - Having positive thinking on the ability to make change.
 - Ability to learn skills for improving one's personal or group power.
 - Stimulate the confidence in women by providing them everything.
 - Ruling out under employment and unemployment.

 - Recognising that women exploitation is equally intelligent.
 - To get rid of poverty.
 - To have access to opportunities and resources.
 - Right to have and to determine choices.
 - To have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home.

Barriers of women Empowerment in India

Many of the barriers of women's empowerment and equity lie ingrained in cultural norms. Many women feel there pressure, while others have become accustomed to being treated inferior to men. The discrimination against the girl child begins from birth itself. Boys are preferred over girls; hence infanticide is a common practice in India. The traditional India is a patriarchal society ruled by the diktats of self-proclaimed caste lords who are the guardians of archaic and unjust traditions. There are many barriers in regards of women empowerment they are:

1. Cast System.
2. Child Labour.
3. Demographic Factors.
4. Dowry as Condon.
5. Early Marriage.
6. Gender bias in Curriculum.
7. Higher dropout rate among girls.
8. Parental preferences for boys going to school.
9. Economic Backwardness.
10. Implementation Gaps.
11. Loopholes in the legal structure.
12. Unaware of their legal status.
13. Lack of Political will.
14. Health and safety.

Constitutional Provisions for women in India

The constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also empower the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women for neutralizing the cumulative socio economic, education and political disadvantages faced by them. Fundamental Rights, among others ensure equality before the law and equal protection of Law; prohibits discrimination against any citizen on ground of

religion, race caste or birth place, and guarantee quality of opportunity to all citizens in matters relating to empowerment.

Major constitutional provisions on the girl child are:

- Article 14: Equal rights and opportunities to men and women.
- Article 15: Prohibits discrimination on any ground.
- Article 23: Forced labour is prohibited.
- Article 24: No child below the age of 15 years shall be employed to work.
- Article 42: Provisions for just and human conditions of work and maternity relief.
- Article 45: Free and compulsory education for all children.
- Article 47: Raising the level of nutrition and the standard of living.
- Article 13 & 74: Participation of women in the Political and grass root development process.

These are some of the favourable constitution of provisions to girl children of our country. Retention is the main problems. The girl student's enrolment is most after done, but retaining them to the whole process is very difficult.

Role of education in women Empowerment

It is said that education increases people's self confidence and also enables them to find better jobs and they can work shoulder to shoulder with men. They engage in public debate and make demands on government for health care, social security and other entitlements. In particular education empowers women to make choices that improve their children's health, their well-being and chances of survival. Without an education, girls will after marry and have children at a younger age, work in unpaid or low paying position, and rely on their husbands and families for economic support.

Education is the key to women's empowerment through it, women have better access and opportunities in the workforce, leading to increase income and less isolated at home. With an education, women are able to live their dreams by pursuing their own goals values. Studies have found that if every girl completed 12 Years of education, Child marriage would drop by 64% and health complications from early pregnancy, like early birth and child deaths, would drop by 59% and 49% respectively. Educating women also boosts countries economics, lowers risk of war and extremism, and has been called the best investment against climate change by the Brooking restitution.

The United Nations found that as girls reach secondary school, their enrolment rates decline significantly: Only 39% of countries have equal proportions of boys and girls enrolment in secondary education. In developing countries 35% to 85% of girls are forced to stay at home from school. They are able to achieve on education.

To level the playing field and expand their professional opportunities, women need the same experiences and skills, making post secondary education critical part of women's empowerment.

A higher education, from college or graduate school, provides women with the knowledge and experience, necessary to participate in government, business and civil society.

However, the countries like Japan, Korea and Bolivia, the number of women pursuing higher education countries to decline. In Japan and Bolivia particularly, women make up less than half of the population enrolled. In the past 20 years, the share of world's population of illiterate adults has remained two thirds women.

Even when women have access to education other factors can make it difficult for them to take full advantages of those opportunities. When women are the sole providers for their families, as is often the case with survivors of domestic violence, the combination of household, financial, professional and educational responsibilities is even more difficult to manage. That's why each year, the Live Your Dream. Education and training Awards for women over \$2.1 million in education grants to nearly 1500 women to help to achieve their education.

Despite significant improvements in recent decades, education is not universally available and gender inequalities persist. A major concern in many countries is not only the limited numbers of girls going to school but also the limited educational pathways for those that step into the classroom. More specifically, there should be more efforts to address the lower participation and learning achievement of girls in science, technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

How to promote Women Education:

Some of the factors that may encourage women education is given bellow:

- Through giving parental motivational campaigns.
- Residential schools for girls
- Parental associations should be formed to encourage and to take care of girl's education.
- Various schemes and programmes by state and central Government should be implemented to promote girls education.
- Arrange community awareness programmes.
- Imparting basic amenities including building and toilet facilities will promote women education.
- Promote gender sensitively in curriculum.
- Give Natural learning Experience
- Promote activity based learning

- Provide apt counselling in apt time.
- Appoint counsellors in schools
- Organize co-curricular activities

Status of Indian Women in the changing scenario

The status of women in India has been subject to many changes over the span of recorded Indian history. Their position in safety deteriorated early in India's ancient period, and their subordination continued to be reified well into India's early modern period. Practices such as female infanticide, dowry, child marriage and the taboo on widow remarriages, have has a long duration in India, and have proved difficult to root out, especially in caste Hindu society in northern India.

In 1995 International year for Women was declared and observed all over the world. Now-a-days in 21st century women began to get educated, some women served in various senior official positions in the Indian government, including that of the President of India, the Prime Minister of India, the speaker of Lok Sabha. Now women are not in four well boundaries, they are awake and moving towards progress. They not only manage their home but also ruling the nation also as man can. This is as because of the light of education which helps in women empowerment.

Conclusion

In conclusion it could be underline the importance of women empowerment and their education. I strongly admit that education is the milestone of every type of national development. The education creates awareness in both men and women that make them self-dependent. Now it is cleared that only literacy is not the ultimate solution but women should be highly educated to know their rights and duties. Until women are given the equal opportunities that men are, entire societies will be destined to perform bellow their true potentials. The greatest need of the hour is change of social attitude to women.

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