

WOMEN EDUCATION AND ITS IMPACT ON CONTEMPORARY INDIAN SOCIETY

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Abstract

Education is the backbone of our society and without women education we can't aspire for holistic development of the society. The notion 'Education for All' is incomplete without women education. Women education is a powerful aspect in modernization of contemporary Indian society. Education is the only institution which gives women equal status, equal rights and equal opportunities etc. For the welfare of India in Particular and the world in general, it is necessary that Indian women are well educated. The importance of Indian women in contemporary Indian society has gone through various changes over the times, as we realize that educated women can play a very important role in the development of the country. Education of women is the most powerful tool to change their position in society. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl children, but also can provide better guidance to all their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of the population. Women have been key agents of social change as well, and because of social change there is tremendous change in the lives of women. These women are not only the beneficiaries of change rather than they are the key agents for change. Women education in India has been a need of the hour, as education is a foundation stone for the empowerment of women as well as establishment of better society. Thus purpose of this paper makes an attempt to analyse women education and its impact on contemporary Indian society.

Keywords: Education for All, Women Education, Women Empowerment, Contemporary Society.

Introduction

Women education is an important aspect for boosting the social and economic development of the country. Education of women in India is one of the prime concerns of the government as well as the society, it is due to the fact that at the contemporary time, educated women play a very important role in holistic development and progress of society as well as nation. Women constitute almost half of the population of the world. Education for women is the best way to improve the health, nutrition and economic status of a household that constitute a micro unit of a nation's economy. Educated women are the symbol of a healthy and progressive society. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to responds to the challenges, to confront their

traditional role and change their life. Women have been key agents of social change as well, and because of social change there is tremendous change in the lives of women. These women are not only the beneficiaries of change rather than they are the key agents for change. Everyone in the society has the right to get education and no one can ignore its significance. The notion 'Education for All' is incomplete without women education. A child gets his/her first education from his/her mother or we can say from mother womb and if the mother herself is illiterate, how can we think of Child's education? Hence girls or women education is most essential.

Education of women is the most powerful tool of change their position in the society. Still large womenfolk of our country are illiterate, backward, weak, and exploited. Education also reduces inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. Empowerment and capacity building provides women an avenue to acquire practical information and learning for their improved livelihoods. India can become a developed nation only if women contribute to the best of her capacity and ability which is possible when she is educated and empowered. Women education and employment are indeed likely to play an important role in the empowerment of women through the collective efforts of women with favourable institutional support that can promote the empowerment process. Education is regarded as an important milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to face the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life.

Education is the basis for growth and development of not just an individual but of the society and the country at large. It is true that the best way to judge a nation's progress is to find out the status of women there. There is strong correlation between status of women and the developmental level of society. Women education directly impact the status of that particular society. A society is never called modern and developed, unless there women are well educated. So, there is a strong need of quality women education in contemporary Indian society.

Education Empowered Women's Characteristics in Society

Education is important for everyone but it is especially significant for women. The empowerment of women is recognized as the central issue for determining the status of women in contemporary society. Empowerment of women means developing them as more aware individuals, who are politically active, economically productive and independent and are able to make intelligent discussion in matters that affect them. Empowerment can be viewed as means of creating a social environment in which one can make decisions and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation. The empowerment strengthens the innate ability by way of acquiring knowledge, power and experience. Women empowerment is the pivotal part in any society, state or country. It is a woman who plays a dominant role in the basic life of a child. Women are an important section of our society. Education as means of empowerment of women can bring about a positive attitudinal change. Empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing individual to think, take action and control work in an autonomous way. Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and communities of women. Empowerment of women is essentially the

process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally disadvantaged ones, in the society. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. Women empowerment involves the building up of a society, a political environment, wherein women can breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension, discrimination and the general feeling of persecution which goes with being a woman in a traditionally male dominated structure.

Benefits of Women Education

If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family, this is very famous quotation said for the importance of women education in contemporary society. Women education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources, but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. An educated woman is a developmental pillar of any society, if a society educate his women the ultimate benefits is for society and its members. If women are educated than she not only can be independent in terms of economy, rather she helps her family to achieve better livelihoods. An educated woman can work equally with man and receive high status in her society. Education empower women to know and ask for their rights to education, health, shelter, food clothing etc. It would empower them to fight against every form of discrimination against their folk, assert themselves about their right to equal treatment with their men's counterpart. Educated women can guide her family and society for better pathways. Educated women are respected in most of the societies they come from. Hence education gives dignity and honour. Educated women will be a source of inspiration to many young girls as they will be perceived as role models. Apart from this there are numerous benefits of women education in contemporary society, here are few of them:

➤ **Women can Take Charge of Their Future**

Women who are educated are able to take charge of their future, they will not depend on others for their life decisions. Educated women are self-sufficient for better planning of their future. They may take individually a better decision for future related issues, those are beneficial for their family, society as well as nation.

➤ **Contribute to Their Family Income**

Educated women can contribute their family income by doing a job in any field. Their earning is extra family income and it will help them for better adjustment in society in terms of financial matters. There is no any doubt that when they will earn money, of course they will contribute for their family expenditure and which we can also say that it is helpful for their family as well as society.

➤ **Better Equipped to Take Care of Their Children**

Education teach women to caring and sharing. Educated women are better equipped to take care of their children, educated women means not only to get the job but they can also take care of their children in a

proper way, as education teach them to understand the importance and real value of life. They apply their knowledge and education for making their child's future.

➤ **Lowers Exposure to Domestic Violence**

If women are educated than there have a less chance for domestic violence against women. Education empower them to fight against every form of violence against them, discrimination against their folk, assert themselves about their right to equal treatment with their men's counterpart. Through education they will understand well about their right, and the rate of domestic violence will reduce.

➤ **Confidence and takes Right Decisions**

Educated woman possess a better confidence in any field against the non-educated woman, and takes right decision regarding their future benefit. Women education helps for confidence building and decision taking skills within women. We all know that there has lot of difference between literate person and illiterate person. So after getting education their confidence level automatically increase for the taking right decisions in her life.

➤ **Economic and Social Impact**

Women education plays very significant role for economic and social development of the country. Education give economic power to women and thereby enable them to contribute their quota to the economic growth of the nation. It has direct impact on their families and on wider society. A number of studies have shown that increasing the number of girls benefiting from education has a positive effect on a country's per capita economic growth. This is true for both primary and secondary level education. Women education directly link with economic and social aspect, so it helps for nation's progress.

➤ **Reducing Infant and Child Mortality**

After being educated, woman can reduce infant and child mortality. Education help women to reduce maternal and infant mortality through improved nutrition, improved child rearing practices, health care and prevention against killer diseases. Most prominent is the role of mothers' education in reducing infant and child mortality, lowering fertility, and promoting children's education.

Conclusion

Women play an imperative role in making a nation progressive and guide it towards development. 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. Women have been successful in improving their status in India. Social workers and political and legal environment enabled them to prove themselves as an equal partner in promoting social economic and political development of the society. Women education is very much significant for contemporary Indian society. Through educating a single women we can increase the standard of living in a family as well as society, a women can guide her entire family and community

through their level of understanding about certain phenomena, and these understandings can be built through the quality women education. Women education largely impacts the societal process, without women education we can't imagine a better society where each and every person contribute equally for optimal development of society. Education enables woman to acquire basic skills, abilities and fosters a value system which is conducive to raising their status in society. Educating a woman creates a vital opportunity for the social and economic development of country. Women Education will not only ensure more participation in developmental processes but also enhance awareness of rights and entitlements in society, so that women can enhance their participation in society on an equal footing in all areas.

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