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Empowered Woman: The Real Independent Woman

¹Dr. Lalita Behera, ²Dr. Premananda Behera

¹Lecturer, ²Senior Resident

¹Odia Language and Literature, ²Ophthalmology

¹SCS Government Autonomous College, Puri, India, ²SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, India

Abstract: Women in the ancient World history were more powerful and equally potent as men especially in Indian history. The chaste woman at that time was not touched by anyone except her husband; they were holy women, the holiness in them itself is a power and they were born empowered. The creator God though is almighty but has not reserved any power against the will and decision made by a chaste woman only to give respect to them and not to overtake the powers as given by the God to those chaste woman which explains that the God also gives respect to the chaste women. The first ever powerful and daring woman in the history is Goddess Sati, the wife of God Shiva who fought against the injustice and disrespect given to her husband God Shiva due to non-invitation by her father Daksa Prajapati who arranged a Yagyan, the holy fire; so she couldn't tolerated this and protested against the injustice to her husband as given by his father but couldn't got any positive response towards invitation to her husband which was a serious affront to the couple Shiva-Sati, and instead of facing so many resistances she strongly decided and burnt herself to death by jumping into the holy fire that was organised by his father, reveals that she is the first ever woman who fought against the injustice as she was truly empowered with her innate education which made her distinct and unique from others; her dedication to her husband is unmatched and she became the forerunner in chastity. There were so many chaste women in India who were illustrious women for their self education making them immortal in the history. The woman who will be more educated will be more powerful and will have develop more decision making capacity and strong like the Goddess Sati who is crowned the first empowered woman in the history according to Hindu Mythology.

Women education's importance was deeply felt by Pandit Jawaharlal Neheru and he stated that, "If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered". Empowered with all sectors is though necessary but first of all empowered with good health is most important because women must have to be healthy to save their money, time and prevent any physical disability, to live a long and healthy life, and to reduce premature death of the family and ultimately of the nation and world; then to be educated to that minimum level so that women can earn some money to live a better, healthy and disease free life, to lengthen the life which is one of the pillars of empowering women. Empowering women educationally, socially, economically, politically and legally is a strenuous work and not so easy to change the culture of disregard for women that extremely deep-rooted in the Indian society. From the very beginning of time the human race needed empowered women to build powerful, intelligent, healthy offsprings, but due to male dominance the process is very slow but still ongoing. Education has a key role in living a healthy, hygienic life with dignity and honour and decreased mortality in women's society, exploring hidden potential in them we all irrespective of gender should give respect to the women.

Index Terms – Chaste Woman, Empowered Woman, Education, Empowerment.

I. INTRODUCTION

Empowerment means to enable someone independently think, work, make decisions like an autonomous body.¹ Liberation from any type of bondage leading to freedom of doing anything one wants to do by escaping from very long years of bondage free from external forces is the true demand of today's woman enabling her to stand to the same level as that of a man, confirming no discrepancy between a woman and a man in any work or any thought. Empowerment is analysis of power bringing resistance through which ruin of existing system of power can be achieved to go ahead and gaining control over one's destiny and lives.¹⁻² Education is the most vital element to empower anyone providing new dimension to look things in an other and better way as compared to what an illiterate person looks. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule states, "Education is that which demonstrates the difference between what is good and what is evil".² Education is a form of learning process, enables transfer of knowledge, skills and habits of a group of people of one generation to the next through teaching, training or research.³ Shakuntala (2005), in her book "Empowering women: An alternative strategy from rural India", writes that, the most vital obstructing factors in woman Empowerment is leading to the disadvantaged position of women are their ignorance, powerlessness and vulnerability.³ Education is the master key to open the eyes of women make them understand about their rights and power to fight against the economic and social discrimination and enhances prosperity development and welfare. In household i.e in micro economic environment, educated women carries social and economic productiveness by bringing better, healthier, educated children. Educated woman developed better bargaining powers through the mechanisms of increased information making them autonomous.⁴ Education enables and gives confidence to the women in building their views, understanding every matter in helping their own and neighbouring families, societies and nation in competitiveness and plays a vital role in amplifying the livelihood set-up for women.⁵

II. HISTORY OF EMPOWERED WOMEN

Indian mythology gives evidence of Goddess Sati the consort of God Shiva is said to be first empowered and daring woman in the history. Women in the beginning of human race were equally potent even more powerful than men especially in Indian history. Indian Mythology tells that the chaste woman at that time was not allowed to be touched by anyone except her husband as they were holy women, the holiness in them itself is a power and maintained by those women and they were born empowered. The God, the creator of everything though is almighty but has not reserved any power against the will and decision made by a chaste woman only to give respect to them and not to overtake the powers as given by the God to those chaste woman which explains that the God also gives respect to the chaste women. The first ever powerful and fearless woman in the history is Goddess Sati the wife of God Shiva who fought against the injustice and disrespect given to her husband God Shiva due to non-invitation to a Yagyan, the holy fire, organised by her father Daksa Prajapati; so she couldn't tolerate this inequity and protested against the injustice to her husband as given by his father but couldn't get any positive response towards invitation to her husband which was a serious affront to the couple Shiva-Sati, and instead of facing so many resistances she strongly decided and burnt herself to death by jumping into the holy fire that was organised by his father, reveals that she is the first ever woman who fought against the injustice as she was truly empowered with her innate education which made her distinct and unique from others; her dedication to her husband is unmatched and she became the forerunner in chastity. There were so many chaste women in India who were illustrious women for their self education making them immortal in the history. The woman who will be more educated will be more powerful and will have develop more decision making capacity in her independent way and strong in opposing the injustice like Goddess Sati who is crowned the first empowered woman in the history.

III. EVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IN WOMEN EDUCATION

Women in ancient India were given the power to choose the groom for themselves, they were given freedom in several sectors as compared to the men of that era and also men and women of today. In Upanayana rites women were participating and had right to study Vedas like men but in course of time they were barred from reading Vedas and Vedic education.⁶ Women education in India dates back to third century B.C. when the education was transmitted from generation to generation orally. At that time Universities like Nalanda, Vikramshila, Takshila gave chance to women to work as researchers.⁷ Muslim rulers also established Universities in Delhi, Lucknow and Allahabad given chance to so many women to study there including the Royal ladies of household like Gul Badan Begum the daughter of Babar, Noor Jahan the celebrated wife of Jahangir, Mumtaz Mahal the wife of Saha Jahan, Jahanara Begum the eldest daughter of Saha Jahan, Zibunnisa Begum the eldest daughter of Aurangzeb etc.⁶ Jamindar families encouraged their daughters to study at home by home teachers appointment. British period made significant changes in education; Female Juvenile Society

a non-religious organization, in 1819, established schools for girls and gradually many Universities established and women were promoted to study.⁶

IV. EDUCATION EMPOWERS PEOPLE

Education awakens people from darkness to brightness. Friere's concept of education is to knowing and intentionally changing the World. Education gives rise to transformation, liberation and emancipation.⁸ Girls' education, the human right is an international objective provides economical and social benefits as well as living healthy. Women education is equally important and necessary as educating males, to educate her children from the very beginning of time.⁹

V. SOCIAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Education has the capability to uplift women socially, economically, psychologically. Women participate increasingly in decision making leads to their accelerating development and empowerment enables to fulfil significant control over production factors, resources access and distribution of benefits.¹⁰ Discussion on Education-Empowerment gives significant benefits from the investigations by the procedure by which Education transforms attitudes, values, outcomes for women.¹¹

VI. FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Women having good educational knowledge have very robust financial planning. Women's micro-finance services in household or in local society is the parameter of their financial independence, can also be measured by their purchasing power. Education is not only a path to formal employment in cash economy but also associated with modern and Western life.¹²

VII. PSYCHOLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT

Education empowers people psychologically to manage any type of personal problems. Women build their self-confidence, recognize self-worth when they are able to do income by joining for jobs in educational institutions, political parties, occupy or purchases lands or things.¹³ Psychologically they can become stable, confident on their knowledge, recognize which is good or bad, choose or reject things, persons etc of their choice, can judge every household events, can resist against any social, economical injustice to their family and society.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Educating women indicates social, economical development of a Nation. An educated woman can do positive changes, in her own home as well as in the Society and also in the World; a woman is responsible for a Nation's literacy rate by sending her children to school, creates scientists, doctors, engineers, researchers, poets, writers, musicians etc by encouraging her children to do excel in the path he/she wants to go and do some positive work for the human being. Empowerment of women not only gives benefit to individual woman and women groups, but also to their families and families of others also and their community through collective action for development of the woman society of the World.¹⁴ To what level a man or woman reaches is the only achievement of a mother behind them. Women were worshiped in ancient India had got supreme powers like men of that time and includes the chaste women namely Sati, Sita, Parvati, Ahalya, Anasuya and many others who became immortal in the history were the real independent women.

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