

Role of Education in the Empowerment of Women in India

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Abstract

Women education in India has a major preoccupation of both the government and civil society as educated women can play a very important role in the development of the country. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So that we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family and develops the concept of participation. Women empowerment is the pivotal part in any society, state or a 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 a positive attitudinal change. Women constitute almost half of the population in the world. But the hegemonic masculine ideology made them suffer a lot as they were denied equal opportunities in different parts of the world. The rise of feminist idea has, however, led to the tremendous improvement of women's condition throughout the world in recent times. Access to education has been one of the most pressing demands of these women's rights movements. India is poised to emerge as one of the most developed nations by 2020, more literate, knowledgeable and economically at the forefront.

Keywords: Education, preoccupation, milestone, empowerment, participation

Introduction

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 (Hashemi Schuler and Riley, 1996).

Empowerment is the process of enabling and authorizing individual to think, take action and control work in an autonomous way. It is the process by which one can gain control over one's destiny and the circumstances of one's lives. There are always a number of elements in the society which are deprived of their basic rights in every society, state, and nation, but these elements lack in the awareness of their rights. If we enlist such elements from the society, then women would top this list. In fact, women are the most important factor of every society. Even though everybody is aware of this fact, but nobody is ready to accept this fact. As a result, the importance which used to be given to women is declining in today's society. As a consequence of this growing tendency of underestimating women such as to make them occupy a secondary position in the society and to deprive them of their basic rights, the need of empowering women was felt. Empowering women has become the focus of considerable discussion and attention all over the world. Today we enjoy being citizens of a free nation, but we really need to think whether each of the citizens of our country is really or enjoying freedom. In the true sense of the term. The inequalities between men and women and discrimination against women are an age old issue all over the world. Thus women quest for equality with a man is a universal phenomenon. Women should equal with men in matters of education, employment, inheritance, marriage, and politics etc. their quest for equality has given birth to the formation of many women's associations and launching of

movements. The constitution of our nation doesn't discriminate between man and women, but our society has deprived women of certain basic rights, which were bestowed upon them by our constitution. Empowerment allows individuals to reach their full potentials, to improve their political and social participation, and to believe in their own capabilities.

Importance of women education

"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." – Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. 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. If it is said that education is the key to all problems, then it won't be improper. Education means modification of behavior in every aspect, such as mentality, outlook, attitude etc. educated women not only tend to promote education to 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.

It is therefore, crucial for the socio economic and political progress of India. The Constitution of India empowers the state to adopt affirmative measures for promoting ways and means to empower women. Education significantly makes difference in the lives of women. Women empowerment is a global issue and discussion on women political right are at the fore front of many formal and informal campaigns worldwide. The concept of women empowerment was introduced because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment. Women's participation may be used both for support by an agency and as a control device by the law makers. Participation may be direct or indirect, formal or informal; it may be political, social or administrative in nature. Women's participation in Panchayat Raj institution may take many forms. It refers to all those activities which show the women's involvement in the processes and administration, that is, participation in policy formulation and programme planning, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes meant for development target groups. Indian women have been associated with politics since pre independence period.

Education Equality

Another area in which women's equality has shown a major improvement as a result of adult literacy programs is the area of enrolment of boys and girls in schools. As a result of higher participation of women in literacy campaigns, the gender gap in literacy levels is gradually getting reduced. Even more significant is the fact that disparity in enrolment of boys and girls in neo-literate households is much lowered compared to the non literate householders.

Conclusion

Women play an imperative role in making a nation progressive and guide it towards development. They are essential possession 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 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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