

## Role of Education in Women Empowerment

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### Abstract

There is no denying the fact that women in India have made a considerable progress in almost seven decades of Independence, but they still have to struggle against many handicaps and social evils in the male-dominated society. Many evil and masculine forces still prevail in the modern Indian society that resists the forward march of its women folk. It is ironical that a country, which has recently acclaimed the status of the first Asian country to accomplish its Mars mission in the maiden attempt, is positioned at the 29th rank among 146 countries across the globe on the basis of Gender Inequality Index. There has been amelioration in the position of women, but their true empowerment is still awaited.

### Introduction

Women's empowerment, referring to empowerment of women in our present society, has become a significant topic of discussion in regards to development and economics. It can also point to approaches regarding other trivialized genders in particular political or social contexts. Entire nations, businesses, communities and groups can benefit from the implementation of programs and policies that adopt the notion of women empowerment. Empowerment is one of the main procedural concerns when addressing human rights and development. The Human Development and Capabilities Approach, the Millennium Development Goals, and other credible approaches/goals point to empowerment and participation as a necessary step if a country is to overcome the obstacles associated with poverty and development

Education is a 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 women education in reference to women empowerment India is poised to becoming a superpower, a developed country by 2020. This can become a reality only when the women of this nation become empowerment. Though education is important for every individual living on this earth, but it is more significant for women. Educating girls is not only important because it gives them an opportunity to earn but the most important reason of educating women is because they are the one who develop the whole family. No doubt, an educated woman can support her family in managing the budget as well as helping them save some money for future. Therefore young girls should always be given every opportunity to gain a proper women education. According to the ICPD Programme of Action, paragraph 4.2 "Education is one of the most important means of women empowerment with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the process."

The concept of women empowerment was introduced at the women conference in 1985 at Nairobi. There the 5 components of women empowerment were defined, each showing how women can be empowered and what is the significance of doing so. Women education is one of them, when we say empowering women through education, it means that using women education as a tool to bring women face to face with herself worth, giving her the sense to choose between right and wrong, empowering her with the skills to take advantage of the opportunities and embedding confidence in her to meet the challenges of life.

Thus educating a woman is actually providing her with a weapon to live up her customary part, fight with the challenges and bring positive change in her life. It is said that no nation can be a great nation unless and until they have educated and healthy mothers. Therefore, it is utmost important to educate a woman because being a mother she is the one who will decide how the future generations will be. The future of a nation is dependent on well-groomed mothers.

In today's world, we are facing so many changes within seconds that it is becoming difficult to cope with this fast moving world. To avoid the generation gap between mother and her kids, women education is very important. If a mother is not aware of the technological advancements and the new terminologies etc. she won't be able to guide her kids properly. Also, this is important for herself grooming. Thus women education opens up the new horizons, broadens her thinking, develops new ideas and hopes, enhances knowledge and skills, provides the courage to meet the challenges of life and give freedom of expressions. Best examples of women empowerment can be seen in today's world as we see many women in top positions working side by side with their male colleagues. Though this used to be a male dominant society but from few years a clear rise in women participation in the workforce is noticed. We can now find women in sports, politics, education field, army; they are engineers, doctors, pilots and involved in so many other professions. Thus, women should be encouraged to learn and should be provided with the opportunity to gain education to groom them as well as to educate the nation.

In our countries, different states some specific programmes were taken for women empowerment with the financial support from the Government of India and motivational and managerial co-operation from Government and non-government agencies in the States. For example, women empowerment (Manila Samaksha) through Education Project was executed as a part of the implementation of the NPE. It was felt that Education can be used as an agent of basic change to improve the status of women, to promote women empowerment and to enable them to take control of their own lives. It provided the crucial, conceptual and practical link between women empowerment and education, it worked on the premises that women empowerment is essential for women to be active participants in the educational process.

### **Conclusion**

The role of women outside the home has become an important feature of the social and economic life of the country and in the years to come this will become still more significant. From this point of view, greater attention will have to be paid to the problems of training and development of women. The education of girls, therefore, should be emphasized not only on grounds of social justice but also because it accelerates social transformation. Promoting women education is a challenging task and it required multipronged efforts for a solution.

This burning issue is being aggravated by socio-economic, psychological and other factors most of which are age-old and deep-rooted in our society. Since the practice dies hard, social ethos and superstitions are emotionally surcharged, it is very difficult to tackle these problems easily. But with a strong determination, commitment, and involvement of people and organizations with philanthropic motive and a rational outlook, this problem can be solved and hurdled be overcome for promoting national rejuvenation and development.

