

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

A woman is the most important part of a family, and is the basic foundation on which a family stands. Thus women become the very foundation of the society and country. Women contribution in the national development is also very crucial and forms half of the workforce. In a developing country like India, women's role has changed dramatically in various fronts. Since ancient times they have been struggling to get the status at par to the male folks in almost every strata and roles. **Women Empowerment is a process through which a woman is able to have the ability to make choices, control resources or enact decisions.** This covers large aspects of a woman's life i.e. financial, social, legal and political.

KEYWORDS

Education, inequalities, women empowerment, socio-economic development, exploitation

INTRODUCTION

“I don't mind if I have to sit on the floor at school. All I want is education. And I'm afraid of no one.”

-Malala Yousufzai

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create any ripples”

-Mother Teresa

The present study reveals how the women, empowered through education is a basic need for a better family, society and country.

This whole process of women empowerment was very slow throughout the history. However, after independence substantial progress has been made in this direction. The most important factor which enforced the whole process of achieving women empowerment in all the aspects of life is undoubtedly the 'Education'. This single factor has dramatically changed the whole scenario of women empowerment and rightly considered as the single most influential factor to achieve 'Women Empowerment' in all the aspects of life. Education of women is the most powerful tool of change of position in society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. Education also enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. Women Education is an essential need to change their status in the Society and also empowered them intellectually as educated women can play a very important role in the society for socio-economic development, besides political and legal. This also helps in eliminating inequalities and disparities as the means of recovering their status within and out of their families. Government has started to make substantial progress in women education and launched various development programs for women and girls through education such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Sarasvati Cycle Yojana etc. However still there is lot of works to be done in this front as literacy and enrolment indicators still shows that the growth of women's education in rural areas is still slow. This obviously means that still large womenfolk of our country are illiterate,

weak, backward and exploited. But we can still say that women education in India has also become a major objective of both the government and civil society as there is no denying of the fact that educated women can play a very important role in the development of the country and we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment especially when India is poised to becoming superpower and a developed country by 2020 and thus we can say '**Only empowered women make empowered country**'.

CONCLUSION

Education is one of the most important part of the life, especially for the life of women. In past, the life of women was much more difficult as compared to men. Illiteracy of women in past leads to the exploitation and made them even more vulnerable. But now increasing Education status among women leads to their empowerment and now it leads them to better life as good as male- folk and even performing better than them in many aspects of life.

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