

Role Of Higher Education In Developing Women Empowerment And Removal Gender Inequality.

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Article History: Received: 11 January 2021; Revised: 12 February 2021; Accepted: 27 March 2021; Published online: 16 April 2021

Abstract: Higher Education provides to women that means independence in decision making. It would develop the capabilities and responsibilities in the field of social, economic, political and cultural areas. Higher Education means whole development of personality. Higher education insured that you will have a better job that will provide stability in life. It means self improvement, job insurance, a development of character and social improvement. India holds the second position in the world of having highest population. There are approximately 49% female in total population of it. But if we analyse the current status of Indian women with other countries of the world than we can realise that the scene is not even satisfactory. Indian women generally faced all types of barriers to success like illiteracy, domestic violence, lack of motivation and support and many more. India is a country where man domains in the society prevail. It is essential for the harmonious development of the country that women should go hand by hand and shoulder to shoulder with men. And for empowering the women, Higher Education will play vital role.

The paper describes the facts related to women empowerment. It widely discusses gender related issues in terms of education, health, their share in employment and national parliament.

* **Key words:** Higher Education, Women empowerment, Active workforce, literacy rate.

INTRODUCTION:

Meaning of women empowerment

Empowerment of women is enabling women to realize their full potentialities and motivating them to utilize them to be truly empowered. Empowerment is a process which neutralises the forces that try to marginalise the development of women socially, politically and economically. Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self – confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. Education in general and higher education in particular, has an enabling role in emboldening the women community. Education of women, therefore, ought to occupy top priority among the many measures taken to improve the status of women in any society. It is a well- known fact that education empowers women, increase women’s status in the community and leads to greater input into family and community decision making.

Meaning of higher education:

Higher education is the aggregate of systematized knowledge and practical skills that allow theoretical and practical problems to be solved by a given type of training, utilizing and creatively developing the modern achievement of science, technology and culture. The term “higher education” is also applied to the training of highly skilled specialists in the fields of economics, science, technology and culture at various types of higher institutions, which accept persons who have successfully completed secondary general – education schools or secondary specialized education institutions

OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of this research paper are:

- i. To know the relevance of higher education in women’s life.
- ii. To analyse the need of women empowerment
- iii. To identify the hindrance in the path of women empowerment.
- iv. To examine the impact of women empowerment on the growth of the country.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This research paper is basically descriptive and analytical in nature. In this paper attempt has been taken to analyse the importance of higher education for women in India. The data used in it is purely from secondary sources according to the need of this study.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Dulfo, E (2011), Women’s Empowerment and Economic Development, National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge.

The study argues that the inter- relationships of the empowerment and development are probably too weak to be self sustaining and that continuous policy commitment to equality for its own sake may be needed to bring about equality between men and women.

Frenette, M., Coulombe, S (2007), Has Higher Education among Young Women Substantially Reduced the Gender Gap in Empowerment and Earnings? Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series, Canada.

Role Of Higher Education In Developing Women Empowerment And Removal Gender Inequality.

This research paper examine the role of rapidly rising educational attainment among young women in raising their relative position in the labour market and suggests that the educational trends have not contributed towards a decline in the full- time employment gap.

Doepke, M., Tertilt, M. (2011), Does Female Empowerment Promote Economic Development?

This study is an empirical analysis suggesting that money in the hands of mothers (as opposed to their husbands) benefits children. This study developed a series of non cooperative family bargaining models to understand what kind of frictions can give rise to observe empirical relationships.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

Higher education plays an important role in empowering the women, can be enlisted as below:

- Explore the world; manipulate it for their survival and establishment of themselves.
- Enable them to cultivate confidence and habits and develop right attitude to work and life as good citizens.
- Provides opportunities to women to fulfil their needs. These needs comprise with special learning tools(such as literacy, oral expression, numeracy and problem solving) and basic learning contents such as knowledge, skills, values and attitudes required by human beings to be able :
 - 1) To survive
 - 2) To live and work in dignity
 - 3) To participate fully in development
 - 4) To improve their lives
 - 5) To make informal decision making
 - 6) To continue learning

Role of Higher Education in Women empowerment in India:

Education is an optional tool in the emancipation and empowerment of women. The greatest single factor which can incredibly improve the status of women in society is education. Education makes the women empowered personally, economically, socially, culturally and politically.

Personal Empowerment:

Educated women have acquired self confidence, self esteem, boldness and independence. Education provides women access to knowledge in areas like health, children, nutrition and family planning.

Economic Empowerment:

Higher education lays foundation for the economic development of women. There are no restrictions for their employment too. They can dare to go beyond the skies, seabed or even in the field of defence. Through their employment they reach higher ranges economically. Even most women are engaged in small scale and large scale business. Furthermore if women are educated and are gainfully employed, they can assist their husbands in financing the home and the education of their children.

Political Empowerment:

It is none but the education which can help women to walk in the field of politics and make empowerment in this field. Political participation of women is necessary not only for their development and improving their status, but also for their mass participation in the national development. Once they are politically empowered they will realize themselves as full, equal citizens and play their role in changing the political structure in their favour.

Social Empowerment:

Education makes women pillars of the society. She is able to overcome the social evils such as dowry system, early marriage, slavery, abortion of the girl child. Educated women know the rights and the duties of them in the society. They can play the most important role in the social revolution and development of the society.

Position of Women in higher Education:

After independence the higher education institution and number of student both are increasing. In 1854 the east India Company acknowledged women education and employment. Only well establish section of society took interest in this facility. In 1958, the government of India appointed a national committee for the women education. Committee took a decision in favour of women education and it accepted by government of India. There is revolutionary change in India higher education system and women participation. It is great advancement that the presence of women in college and universities are growing. It is also found that in higher education institutions women are gaining entry without availing gender quota. This is undoubtedly credit for them. Kerela is the only state in India that have achieved 100% universal female literacy rates and after that Lakshyadweep, Mizram, Goa and Tripura have high literacy rate. Education and employment is necessary for women empowerment and the government needs to take step for that. To improving higher education the world bank will give \$300 million to the state governed. According to minister for health and government spokesman Narotam Mishra, the government has decided to contribute another \$130 million for higher education project. The total funds for upgrading higher education institution and facilities in the state would be \$430 million which is equivalent to Rs 2,728 core.

Why need of women empowerment:

The most famous saying said by the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is "To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves". In

India, to empower the women, first it needs to kill all the demons killing women's rights and values in the society such as dowry system, illiteracy, sexual harassment, inequality, female infanticide, domestic violence against women, rape, prostitution, illegal trafficking and other issues. Gender discrimination in the nation brings cultural, social, economic and educational differences which push country back. The most effective remedy to kill such devils is making women empowered by ensuring the Right to Equality mentioned in the Constitution of India. Giving priority to the gender equality facilitates women empowerment all over the country. To get the high level goal of women empowerment, it should be promoted from the childhood in each and every family. It needs women to be strong physically, mentally and socially. Since the better education can be started at home from childhood, the upliftment of women needs healthy family to bring a holistic development of the nation. Still in many backward areas, there is a trend of early marriage and childbirth because of the poverty, insecurity and illiteracy of the parents. In order to empower women, various steps have been taken by the government to prevent violence, social separation, gender discrimination and abuse against women. The 108 Constitutional Amendment Bill.

Challenges:

There are several challenges that are plaguing the issues of women's right in India. Targeting these issues will directly benefit the empowerment of women in India

Education:

While the country has grown from leaps and bounds since independence where education is concerned. The gap between women and men is severe. While 82.14% of adult men are educated, only 65.46% of adult women are known to be literate in India. The gender bias is in higher education, specialized professional trainings which hit women very hard in employment and attaining top leadership in any field.

Poverty:

Poverty is considered the greatest threat to peace in the world, and eradication of poverty should be a national goal as important as the eradication of illiteracy. Due to this, women are exploited as domestic helps.

Health and Safety:

The health and safety concerns of women are paramount for the wellbeing of a country and are an important factor in gauging the empowerment of women in a country. However there are alarming concerns where maternal healthcare is concerned.

Professional Inequality:

This inequality is practiced in employment and promotions. Women face countless handicaps in male customized and dominated environs in Government Offices and Private enterprises.

Morality and Inequality:

Due to gender bias in health and nutrition there is unusually high mortality rate in women reducing their population further especially in Asia, Africa and china.

Household Inequality:

Household relations show gender bias in infinitesimally small but significant manners all across the globe, more so, in India e.g. sharing burden of housework, childcare and menial works by so called division of work.

Suggestions:

1. The first and foremost priority should be given to the education of women, which is the grassroots problem. Hence, education for women has to be paid special attention.
2. Awareness programmes need to be organized for creating awareness among women especially belonging to weaker sections about their rights.
3. Women should be allowed to work and should be provided enough safety and support to work. They should be provided with proper wages and work at par with men so that their status can be elevated in the society.
4. Strict implementation of Programmes and Acts should be there to curb the mal-practices prevalent in the society.

Conclusion:

“When women move forward the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves”. It is essential as their thought and their value systems lead the development of a good family, good society and ultimately a good nation. The best way of empowerment is perhaps through inducting women in the mainstream of development. Women empowerment will be real and effective only when they are endowed income and property so that they may stand on their feet and build up their identity in the society. The Empowerment of Women has become one of the most important concerns of 21st century not only at national level but also at the international level. Government initiatives alone would not be sufficient to achieve this goal. Society must take initiative to create a climate in which there is no gender discrimination and women have full opportunities of self decision making and participating in social, political and economic life of the country with a sense of equality.

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