



The Role of Education in Women's Empowerment

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ABSTRACT

Women's education is a key concern for both the government and civil society in India, since educated women may play a critical role in the country's growth. Women's empowerment begins with education, which helps them to adapt to difficulties, face their established roles, and transform their lives. As a result, we must not overlook the relevance of education in relation to women's empowerment and India's recent ascension to superpower status. Women's education is the most potent weapon for changing their social status. Women's education has been a pressing issue in India, since education is the cornerstone of women's empowerment. Education also reduces inequities, serves as a method of raising one's standing within the family, and fosters the notion of participation.

Keywords: Education, obsession, milestone, empowerment

1.Introduction

Empowerment may be defined as a technique of establishing a social climate in which people can make decisions and choices for social change, either individually or collectively. By obtaining knowledge, power, and experience, empowerment improves the intrinsic ability (Hashemi Schuler and Riley, 1996). Empowerment is the process of allowing or permitting a person to think, act, and govern their job independently. It is the method through which one may take control of one's fate and circumstances in life. In any culture, state, and country, there are always a number of people who are denied their fundamental rights, but they are unaware of their rights. Women would be at the top of the list if we included such things from society. Women are, in reality, the most significant component in any community. Despite the fact that everyone is aware of it, no one is willing to accept it. As a consequence, in today's culture, women are no longer valued as highly as they once were. The need for women's empowerment was recognized as a result of the rising trend of undervaluing women, such as putting them in a second-class position in society and depriving them of their fundamental rights. Women's empowerment has become a hot topic of debate and discussion across the globe. Today, we enjoy the advantages of being citizens of a free country, but we must consider if everyone of our country's residents is really free or enjoying freedom in the genuine meaning of the word. Inequalities between men and women, as well as discrimination against women, have long been a problem across the globe. As a result, women's struggle for equality with men is a worldwide phenomenon. In issues of education, job, inheritance, marriage, and politics, women should be treated equally to men. Their struggle for equality has resulted in the development of several women's organizations and movements. Our nation's Constitution does not discriminate between men and women, yet our culture has stripped women of many fundamental rights granted by our Constitution. Individual empowerment enables people to achieve their full potential, better their political and social engagement, and have faith in their own talents.

2.Significance of Women's Education

"Educating a man educates an individual; but, educating a woman educates an entire family." "When women are empowered, mother India is also empowered." JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, PT. In India, women's education plays a critical part in the country's overall growth. It not only contributes to the development of half of the world's human resources, but also to the improvement of living quality at home and abroad. 1 It will not be incorrect to say that education is the solution to all problems. A lot of definitions of education have been proposed by thinkers, but M. Phule's term is the most significant. "Education is that which illustrates the distinction between what is good and what is bad," M. Phule says. If we study the preceding concept, we can see that education is at the heart of all the revolutions that have occurred throughout our history. 2 Education entails changing one's behavior in all areas, including thinking, viewpoint, and attitude. Educated women are more likely to encourage their daughters to attend school, as well as give greater advice to all of their children. Furthermore, educated women may aid in the lowering of newborn mortality and population increase. Obstacles: In India, gender prejudice still exists, and there is much more work to be done in the subject of women's education. The literacy rate disparity between men and women is only a basic indication. While male literacy rates exceed 82.14 percent, female literacy rates are at 65.46 percent. (b). Women were considered simply housewives, and it was preferable to reside in the home.

3. Education is a Powerful Tool for Empowering Women

In every culture, state, or nation, women's empowerment is critical. In a child's fundamental existence, it is a woman who performs a prominent role. Women have a significant role in our culture. Women's empowerment via education might result in a good attitude shift. As a result, it is critical for India's socioeconomic and political development. The Indian Constitution authorizes the government to take affirmative action to encourage women's empowerment. Education has a tremendous impact on the lives of women. 3 Women's empowerment is a global problem, and numerous official and informal initiatives throughout the globe focus on women's political rights. The notion of women's empowerment was first established in 1985 at the NAROIBI International Women's Conference. Women's empowerment begins with education, which helps them to adapt to difficulties, face their established roles, and transform their lives. As a result, we must not overlook the value of education in terms of women's empowerment. In light of recent advancements in women's education, India is expected to emerge as a global superpower in the next years. Women's empowerment has become a significant issue in defining women's status as a result of the rising shift in women's education. In order to achieve superpower status, we must focus primarily on women's education. Women's empowerment will be forced as a result of this. Women's empowerment, according to the United National Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), entails:

- gaining knowledge and awareness of gender relations and the methods in which these interactions may be modified.
- Gaining the capacity to develop options and exercise bargaining power;
- Developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change, in order to establish a more fair social and economic order, both domestically and globally.

Empowerment, therefore, refers to a psychological feeling of personal control or influence, as well as a concern for real social influence, political authority, and legal rights. Individuals, organizations, and communities are all included in this multidimensional architecture. It is a global, continuing process centered in the local community, including mutual respect, critical thought, compassion, and collective engagement, through which individuals who do not have an equitable share of valuable resources achieve greater control over them.

4. Women's Participation is Important

Women's involvement may be utilized by agencies for assistance as well as by legislators as a control instrument. Direct or indirect participation is possible; it may be official or informal; it can be political, social, or administrative in character. Women's involvement in Panchayat Raj institutions may take a variety of forms. It encompasses all acts that demonstrate women's engagement in decision-making and administration, such as participation in policy formulation and program planning, implementation, and assessment of policies and programs aimed at developing target groups. 7 Since the pre-independence era, Indian women have been involved in politics. They were both volunteers and leaders in the independence struggle. When India gained independence, Article 15 of the Indian Constitution guaranteed women's legal equality. Despite the fact that the Indian Constitution promises equal rights to all people, women continue to be underrepresented in Indian politics. The reality is that women do not have enough authority at the federal and state levels. The fact that barely 10% of India's population is represented in the Lok Sabha is a sad state of things. There are 21 women in the current Rajya Sabha out of a total of 233 MPs, which is significantly lower than the Lok Sabha's 9% female representation. Male dominance in Parliament, the bureaucracy, the court, the Army, and the police all speak to gender disparity on a societal level, despite the fact that it is often asserted that women's political leadership will lead to a more cooperative and conflict-free society. Women's subservience and unequal status is exacerbated by their lack of political and economic authority. 8 Despite having its own constitution, India was unable to accomplish ideals such as fairness, equality, and social justice after independence. Women's conditions did not improve despite having a female prime minister for a few years. From the mid-1970s, when the United Nations (UN) recognized 1975 as the 'International Women's Year,' women's presence in politics started to gain traction across the globe. The UN's Women's Decade, which ran from 1976 to 1985, had the theme "Equality, Development, and Peace." Women's engagement in politics has remained mostly insignificant in India, although the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment acts, which provided boost to the position of women at the political level by allowing women to participate in the decision-making process, have made some progress. 9 The 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Indian Constitution (1993) allowed for the reservation of seats for women in panchayats and municipalities, creating a firm framework for female involvement in local decision-making.

5. Equality in Education

The enrollment of boys and girls in schools is another area where adult literacy initiatives have made a significant difference in women's equality. The gender gap in reading levels is steadily narrowing as a consequence of increased female engagement in literacy initiatives. Even more noteworthy is the fact that enrollment disparities between boys and girls in neo-literate homes are much smaller than in non-literate households. 11 Girls and boys now have equal access to basic education across the globe. However, just a few nations have met this goal at all levels of schooling. Women's political engagement continues to rise. In January 2014, women made up more than 30% of members of parliament in at least one chamber in 46 nations. Gender inequality exists in many nations, and women continue to endure discrimination in education, job, and economic assets, as well as involvement in governance. 12 Every industry in which we operate has hurdles and disadvantages for women and girls. 62 million girls are out of school across the globe. In her lifetime, one out of every three women will be subjected to gender-based violence. In the developing world, one in every seven girls marries before she is 15, with some child brides as young as eight or nine years old. Every year, more than 287,000 women, the vast majority of whom live in underdeveloped nations, die as a result of pregnancy and delivery difficulties. Despite the fact that women make up more than 40% of the

agricultural workforce, just 3 to 20% of landowners are women. Women-owned companies account for as low as 10% of all firms in Africa. In South Asia, that percentage is merely 3%. Women make up fewer than 20% of the world's lawmakers, although accounting for half of the world's population. Putting women and girls on a level playing field with men and boys has the potential to alter every industry we operate in. Gender equality and women's empowerment are not just a side effect of progress; they are at the heart of it. To address this, we must develop educational awareness programs on gender equality and women's empowerment in order to reaffirm our commitment to assisting women and girls.

6. Conclusion

Women have a critical role in advancing a country and guiding it toward prosperity. They are necessary belongings of a vibrant humanity for national growth, thus if we want to see a bright future for women in our country, we must prioritize their education. Empowerment is the process of transitioning from a position of weakness to a position of strength. Women's education is the most potent instrument for changing society's stance. Education also helps to alleviate inequities and serves as a tool of raising one's status within the family. To promote women's education at all levels and to reduce gender prejudice in knowledge and education, the state developed schools, colleges, and universities dedicated only to women. For the eradication of gender discrimination, education promotes involvement in government, panchayats, and public affairs.

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