



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPING INDIA WITH RESPECT TO EDUCATION

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Abstract

Women empowerment, referring to the 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 marginal genders in a particular political or social context. While often interchangeably used, the more comprehensive concept of Gender empowerment refers to people of any gender, stressing the distinction between biological sex and gender as a role. It thereby also refers to other marginalized genders in a particular political or social context. In India, there are still illiterate and poor village women financially dependent on their family members, even though they are hard working and have their own abilities to be financially self-dependent. Still, they won't get any good job and no financial support to start their own household businesses.

The subject of empowerment of women has becoming a burning issue all over the world including India since last few decades. Many agencies of United Nations in their reports have emphasized that gender issue is to be given utmost priority. It is held that women now cannot be asked to wait for any more for equality. Inequalities between men and women and discrimination against women have also been age-old issues all over the world. Thus, women's quest for equality with man is a universal phenomenon. "Men's jobs and Women's jobs", How can the areas of employment found throughout the world be divided into female and male occupations when certain types of work always done by men in some countries are just as regularly done by women in others? With increasing literacy among women in India, their entry into many types of work, formerly the preserve of men, women can now look upon the bearing and raising of their children not as a life's work in itself but as an episode. It women have started taking men's work, it could be said that men have taken over women's.

Keywords: Education, Empowerment, India, Men, Women

Today virtually there is no field as activity in which the women has not proved her ability. Be it service as technology, politics as administration education as employment. In spite of several restraints imposed by society on women, she always forged ahead for improving her condition.

As per National education communication and various such bodies it had been said that the future of India, at any point of time, rests on the foundation being laid in the classroom. Today's children are leaders of tomorrow. So for development of nation, nation should focus upon growth of education sector in the country as investment made in education will result in Human Resource Development, which is basis of all other developments. As we know that education process is composition of three pillars teacher, students and society. Teachers are the backbone of it. Teachers are the guide and philosophers who shoulder the responsibility of directing the children and youth of the nation in the path of progress, through meaningful education. As we know that today's world is ever changing and dynamic by nature so when we talk about education then we can say that it is also changing at layer. With the scientific and technological advancement taking place in leaps and bounds, changes inevitable in all walks of life. With the advent of modern techniques of communication such as computer network, internet, television and cell phone, acquisition and processing of information have acquired new, stunning and varied dimensions.

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India of 21st century & women

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Inequalities between men and women and discrimination against women have also been age-old issues all over the world. Thus, women's quest for equality with man is a universal phenomenon. What exists for men is demanded by women? They have demanded equality with men in matters of education, employment, inheritance, marriage, politics and recently in the field of religion also to serve as cleric (in Hinduism and Islam). Women want to have for themselves the same strategies of change which men folk have had over the centuries such as equal pay for equal work.



Their quest for equality has given birth to the formation of many women's associations and launching of movements.

The objectives of education formulated in black and white in the National Policy on Education are laudable and of a life standard, but who is responsible for translating the objectives into action and help in bringing about social revolution? Teacher have to incorporate these ideals in the curriculum through a future attended programme & innovative methods of teaching eradicate the social evils and inculcate faith in goodness & honesty, fortitude to oppose injustice tolerance for all religious, equality before law and agility of labour in the minds of the youth the best way to impact values in exemplary behaviour on the part of teachers.

World of 21st century & women

All over the world the occupation which has phenomenally lightened concentration of women is teaching. In teaching profession women's preponderance is much more than men. These are several reasons for this: Our Society gives full sanction for such jobs. The teaching profession is considered as the most respectable & prestigious. Women in teaching can full fill the demands from the household as well as the job marked. Expressive roles of women expect them to be teachers & nurturers.

When we talk about percentage of women teachers as for as secondary & junior colleges

is concerned it is around 40% and in higher and post basic and middle/senior schools the percentage of female tutors were nearly 37%. However in primary the participation is just 25%.

There is disproportionate presentation of women in higher education. At university level only 15% i.e. just 10% of total male percentage is women teacher. The female representation in teaching profession is presented faculty and subject wise as well. An analysis of the share of women at higher institutional level shows certain aspect of their participation in the academic job sphere.

The percentage of women in arts, science and commerce together in 1986-87 was only 26%. In the same year, the highest concentration of women could be found in education (30%). The lowest percentage of women teachers was found in Engineering, technical & architecture faculties followed by law (8%).

In medicine, however a relatively highest number of women teachers were found this could be due to the fact that a large dunk of women were employed in nursery (95%). Only very little percentage of women were employed in institutions of higher education. Once again, the fact gets confirmed that female participation in higher level teaching profession is extremely disproportionate in compassion to their male counterparts.

Men's jobs and Women's jobs

In her work Medieval Women, Eileen Power wrote that in the Middle Ages there were as yet no occupations from

which women were excluded. There were women butchers, chancellors (in the court), as well as metal-workers, cobblers, glovers, belt-makers, bag-makers, hatters, haberdashers, furriers, gilders, book binders, painters, silk-weavers, embroiderers, grocers, smiths and goldsmiths. Women were found, too in other trades.

It seems high time that the expressions 'men's jobs' or 'women's jobs' ceased to be used and that distinctions should be drawn only between jobs in industry, crafts, agriculture, trade the administration, services, etc. This would mean that the nation of sex is no longer relevant when describing an occupation, which should be open to all, men and women alike, according to their ability and vocation.

"Men's jobs and Women's jobs", How can the areas of employment found throughout the world be divided into female and male occupations when certain types of work always done by men in some countries are just as regularly done by women in others? For instance, building and construction are the exclusive areas of men in many countries, except in India where it is quite natural for women to do this type of work. Conversely, in India, typing and secretarial jobs are done mostly by men whereas in most other countries it is women who do this kind of office work: in Africa, it is fairly evenly divided and there are many men who type and do secretarial work.

Why Women Empowerment is Important?

Under-employed and unemployed: Women population constitutes around 50% of the world population. A large number of women around the world are unemployed. The world economy suffers a lot because of the unequal opportunity for women at workplaces.

Equally competent and intelligent: Women are equally competent. Nowadays, women are even ahead of men in many socio-economic activities.

Talented: Women are as talented as men. Previously, women were not allowed higher education like men and hence their talents were wasted. But nowadays, they are also allowed to go for higher studies and it encourages women to show their talents which will not only benefit her individually but to the whole world at large.

Overall development of society: The main advantage of Women Empowerment is that there will be an overall development of the society. The money that women earn does not only help them and or their family, but it also help develop the society.

Economic Benefits: Women Empowerment also leads to more economic benefits not to the individuals but to the society as well. Unlike earlier days when they stayed at home only and do only kitchen stuffs, nowadays, they roam outside and also earns money like the male members of the



society. Women empowerment helps women to stand on their own legs, become independent and also to earn for their family which grows country's economy.

Reduction in domestic violence: Women Empowerment leads to decrease in domestic violence. Uneducated women are at higher risk for domestic violence than an educated women.

Reduction in corruption: Women Empowerment is also advantageous in case of corruption. Women empowerment helps women to get educated and know their rights and duties and hence can stop corruption.

Reduce Poverty: Women Empowerment also reduces poverty. Sometimes, the money earned by the male member of the family is not sufficient to meet the demands of the family. The added earnings of women helps the family to come out of poverty trap.

National Development: Women are increasingly participating in the national development process. They are making the nation proud by their outstanding performances almost every spheres including medical science, social service, engineering, etc.

Irreplaceable in some sectors: Women are considered irreplaceable for certain jobs.

Measurement index of women empowerment

Women empowerment can be measured through the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), which shows women's participation in a given nation, both politically and economically. GEM is calculated by tracking "the share of seats in parliament held by women; of female legislators, senior officials and managers; and of female profession and technical workers; and the gender disparity in earned income, reflecting economic independence." It then ranks countries given this information. Other measures that take into account the importance of female participation and equality include: the Gender Parity Index and the Gender-related Development Index (GDI).

Various Laws in Indian Constitution for Women

After independence the country made very rapid progress in education. Women's education was one of the prominent features of free India. It was felt that women should be educated and educational opportunities should be available to them. In women's college, women are at comfort level so in all they came forward to take part in college activities. Central & state governments have done much to encourage women in their higher education by offering financial help. The position and status of women all over the world has risen incredibly in the 20th century. We find that it has been very low in 18th and 19th centuries in India and elsewhere when they were treated like 'objects' that can be bought and sold. For a long time women in India remained within the four walls of their household. Their dependence on men folk was total.

A long struggle going back over a century has brought women the property rights, voting rights, an equality in civil rights before the law in matters of marriage and employment (in India women had not to struggle for voting rights as we find in other countries). In addition to these rights, in India, the customs of purdha (veil system), female infanticide, child marriage, sati system (self-immolation by the women with their husbands), dowry system and the state of permanent widowhood were either totally removed or checked to an appreciable extent after independence through legislative measures.

Two Acts have also been enacted to emancipate women in India. These are: Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and the Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act, 2006. The Domestic Violence Act recognizes that abuse be physical as well as mental. Anything that makes a woman feel inferior and takes away her self-respect is abuse. Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act can be beneficial in preventing the abuse of institution of marriage and hindering social justice especially in relation to women. It would help the innumerable women in the country who get abandoned by their husbands and have no means of proving their marital status. It would also help check child marriages, bigamy and polygamy, enable women to seek maintenance and custody of their children and widows can claim inheritance rights. The Act is applicable on all women irrespective of caste, creed or religion. It would truly empower Indian women to exercise their rights.

To what extent legislative measures have been able to raise the status of women in India? Are women now feel empowered in the sense that they are being equally treated by men in all spheres of life and are able to express one's true feminine urges and energies? These are the important questions to be investigated with regard to women's empowerment in India.

Conclusion

We all know that girls are now doing better at school than boys. The annual results of Secondary and Higher Secondary Board examinations reveal this fact. More women are getting degrees than men, and are filling most new jobs in every field. There was a time when women's education was not a priority even among the elite. Since the last quarter of the 20th century and more so after the opening up of die economy, post-1991, a growing number of women have been entering into the economic field, seeking paid work (remunerative jobs) outside the family.

Women are playing bigger and bigger role in economic field: as workers, consumers, entrepreneurs, managers and investors. According to a report of 'The Economist, 'Women and the World Economy', in 1950, only one-third of American women of working age had a paid job. Today, two-thirds do, and women make up almost half of American's workforce.



In fact, almost everywhere, including India, more women are employed, though their share is still very low. Manufacturing work, traditionally a male preserve, has declined, while jobs in services have expanded, reducing the demand for manual labour and putting the sexes on equal footing. We can now see women in almost every field: architecture, lawyers, financial services, engineering, medical and IT jobs. They have also entered service occupations such as a nurse, a beautician, a sales worker, a waitress, etc. They are increasingly and gradually seen marching into domains which were previously reserved for males (police, driver's army, pilots, chartered accountants, commandos). In spite of their increasing number in every field, women still remain perhaps the world's most underutilized resources. Many are still excluded from paid work and many do not make best use of their skills.

The rapid pace of economic development has increased the demand for educated female labour force almost in all fields. Women are earning as much as their husbands do, their employment nonetheless adds substantially to family and gives family an economic advantage over the family with only one breadwinner. This new phenomenon has also given economic power in the hands of women for which they were earlier totally dependent on males. Economically independent women feel more confident about their personal lives. Hence, they are taking more personal decisions, for instance, about their further education, marriage, etc. More and more women want freedom of work and control their own reproduction, freedom of mobility and freedom to define one's own style of life. It is contended that freedom leads to greater openness, generosity and tolerance.

This new pattern of working wives and mothers has affected the status of women in many ways. Women's monetary independence leads them to the way to empowerment. Sociologist Robert Blood (1965) observes, 'Employment emancipates women from domination by their husbands and secondarily, raises their daughters from inferiority to their brothers' (Blood and Wolfe, 1965). In brief, economic independence of women is changing their overall equations, perspective and outlook.

Economic independence of women has also affected the gender relationships. New forms of gender relationships (live-in relationships are challenging the long-rooted conception of marriages as a permanent arrangement between families and communities. In traditional marriages the relationships were hierarchical and authoritarian. The modern conjugal relationships are based on freedom and desire rather than convention. People's attitudes about marriage are also changing. Educated women now feel that there is more to life than marriage. They can get most of the things they want (income, status, identity) without marriage, while they find it harder to find a suitable accomplished mate. This is why

their marriage is delayed. With increasing literacy among women in India, their entry into many types of work, formerly the preserve of men, women can now look upon the bearing and raising of their children not as a life's work in itself but as an episode. It women have started taking men's work, it could be said that men have taken over women's.

Young fathers could be seen wash up and making beds, caring of the young and doing many other domestic works. The division of labour between sexes has changed somewhat. They do similar work and share both household activities and tastes. Women wear trousers, jeans, suits and put on ties. The facts about working wives suggest a basic change in Indian family. The traditional (nuclear) household, in which the husband works and the wife remains at home to care for the children, though still a dominant pattern, is changing gradually but steadily. A new pattern is emerging in which both partners work outside the home but do not share equally in housework and child care as we see in Western families. In India, the paternalistic attitude of the male has not undergone much change.

In spite of such drawbacks and hurdles that still prevail, Indian women (especially educated) are no longer hesitant or apologetic about claiming a share and visibility within the family, at work, in public places, and in the public discourse

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