

Role Of Education In Women Empowerment In India: Future Strategy

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Abstract

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said: "If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered". When women who contribute almost half of the population are empowered it will strengthen the national economy. Education is considered as a milestone for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their lives. Increasing access to education notwithstanding, gender discrimination still persists in India and lot more needs to be done in the field of education in India. Women have so much unexplored potential which has never been tapped. As education is both an input and input of human development, educational equity will ensure enabling and entrepreneurial development. Today, the female literacy levels according to the Literacy Rate 2011 census are 65.46% where the male literacy rate is over 80%. Even beyond literacy there is much that education can do for women's rights, dignity and security. Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom for development.

Introduction:

***"To educate your women first and leave them to themselves,
They will tell you what reforms are necessary."***

---- Swami Vivekananda.

In the history of human development, woman has been as important as man. In fact, the status, employment and work performed by women in society is the indicator of a nation's overall progress. Without the participation of women in national activities, the social, economical or political progress of a country will be stagnated. Women constitute half of the humanity, even contributing two-thirds of world's work hours. She earns only one-third of the total income and owns less than one-tenth of the world's

resources. This shows that the economic status of women is in pathetic condition and this is more so in a country like India. Among total Indian population of 1027.10 million, women constitute 495.73 million. Therefore, “women constitute nearly 50 per cent of population, perform two-thirds of the work and produce 50 per cent of food commodities consumed by the country. They earn one third of remuneration and own 10 per cent of the property or wealth of the country.

Concept of Empowerment

Empowerment has become a widely used word. In spheres as different as management and labor unions, health care and ecology, banking and education, one hears of empowerment taking place. The popular use of the word also means that it has been overextended and applied in circumstances that clearly do not involve much power acquisition beyond some symbolic activity or event.

. Defining Empowerment

The subordinate position of women in society, even though this position is somewhat attenuated in higher social classes, has well-known manifestations: limited representation in the formal political system, a large share of the economy's informal sector and other types of labor with reduced financial rewards, almost exclusive responsibility for family and children, and the more subtle signs of narrow career aspirations and low self-esteem. Not infrequently, subordination is also manifested in unwanted pregnancies and wife-beating.

Education of women in India

Education of women in India has been a major issue for both the government and civil society, as the educated women play a very important role in the development of the country. India, at present has largest number of illiterates in the world. As we all know that education is must for everyone but unfortunately, in this male dominating society, the education of women

has been neglected for a long time. Mostly people think that to spend money on daughters would be vain. Now, we see the change in people's mentality that they are worried about the future of their daughters and they are ready to give the same place to position their daughters as they want for their sons. But in rural areas, we see that there are negligible changes in rural people's thinking. Most of the villagers provide education to their daughters but not as much as they want for their sons. If their daughters learn to read or write the letters or count the money, they think that it is sufficient and feel proud that they have done their duty very well.

According to the Government of India, "Empowerment means moving from a weak position to exercise a power." It is the ability to direct and control one's life. It is a process in which women gain control over their own lives of knowing and claiming their right at all levels of society at the international, local and household levels. Women also bear almost all responsibility for meeting basic needs of the family.

Challenge of Education

." According to United Nations World's Women 2010 Trends and Statistics, two-third of the world's illiterate population is female. The majority of school age children, not in school are girls. Women all over the world are challenged by a number of obstacles that restrict their ability to play significant roles in their communities and the broader society.

When we talk about our country, 82.14% of adult men are educated, only 65.46% of adult women are known to be literate in India

Conclusion

Education among women is the most powerful tool of attaining power in the society. Higher Education of women plays a very important role in releasing their energy and creativity and enabling them to meet the complex challenges of the present world. It helps in lessening inequalities and functions as a means for improving their status within the family. The higher

education increases the women to take independent decisions, to reduce violence, women's ability to claim legal rights, participation in civic society, economic independence and many more. The biggest challenge before the Government and NGO's is to create awareness and sensitization among people of all levels, especially in rural areas, about the special needs of women and girls.

Suggestions

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.

Awareness programmes need to be organized for creating awareness among women especially belonging to weaker sections about their rights.

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.

Strict implementation of Programmes and Acts should be there to curb the mal-practices prevalent in the society.

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