

Higher Education and Women Empowerment in India

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Abstract:

Education plays a vital role in everybody's life. Education in India especially higher education has really captured the world's attention. Women education in India has also been a major Preoccupation of both the government and civil society. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it supports women to achieve success in their life. Higher education promotes equality and social justice and it helps to reduce social and cultural differences.

Higher Education enables women to cultivate confidence and makes her competent. It is through higher education the modern values such a individualism, equality of sex. Democracy, etc. It provides opportunities to excel in various fields, hence, higher education is the most powerful tool of change of position in society itformations as a means of improving their status within the family.

Key Words: Education, Higher Education, University Education Commission, Women empowerment, self-confidence, values.

Introduction:

"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"

-PanditJawaharalalNeharu.

Education plays a vital role in every boy's life. Education in India especially higher education in India has really captured the world's attention. Higher education in India can be defined as "the education attained after the completion of twelve years of schooling". University Education Commission laid special emphasis on the education of women and recommended that in views of the similar fields of activity for men and women maximum facilities should be given for women education.

Higher education is a powerful tool of socioeconomic advancement of the society in general and a vehicle for upward social mobility for deprived and marginalized sections in particular. The deprived sections of the society, especially women. Have had limited access to higher education. Government of India has been making efforts since independence for bridging the socioeconomic gap between male and female population in society. Hence higher education has been recognized as a tool to empower women.

Role of Higher Education in the Empowerment of Women.

Women constitute almost half of the population in the world. The rise of feminist ideas has however, led to the tremendous improvement of women's condition throughout the world in recent times. Moreover, India is poised to emerge as one of the most developed nations by 2020. More literate, knowledgeable and economically at the forefront. So, Women power is crucial to the economic growth of only country. Little has been achieved in the area of women empowerment, but for this to happen, this sector must experience a chain of reforms, Though India could well become one of the largest economies in the world, it is being hindered due to a lack of women's participation.

No doubt the government has taken various measures to provide education to all Indian women. As a result, women's literacy rate has grown over the six decades and the growth of female literacy has in fact been higher than that of male literacy rate. Before independence access to higher education was very limited. And elitist, with enrolment. But after the independence, the government initiative for the planned development of higher education in the country and establishment of University Grants Commission has transformed the elitist system of education.

Higher education is therefore very important to national economies. It improves an individual's quality of life. Higher education will also enable individuals to expand their knowledge and skills, express their thoughts clearly, grasp abstract concepts and theories and increase their understanding of the world and their community.

Women Empowerment through Education:

Women education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources but in

improving the quality of life at home and outside. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl children but also can provide better guidance to all the children.

Women empowerment is a global issue and discussion on women political right are at the forefront of many formal and informal campaigns worldwide. The concept of women empowerment was introduced at the international women conference at NAROIBI in 1985. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it supports women to achieve success in their life. It enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role. So, that we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment in India.

Literacy rate in India has risen sharply in which enrolment of women in education has also risen sharply within the framework of a democratic policy, our laws, development policies; plan and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women. The National Commission of women was set up by an Act of parliament in 1990 to safeguard the right and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of panchayats and municipalities for women laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local level. The constitutional guarantees, protecting laws and sincere efforts by the state and central governments through various schemes and programmes over the last 62 years and above all the United Nation's enormous pressure with regard to the uplift of the plight of women in terms of women education.

Conclusion:

Higher Education is one of the most significant means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. "Empowerment means moving from a weak position to exercise a power". Higher Education of women is the most powerful instrument to change the women position in society as well as in family. It gives an opportunity to women to excel in various fields. It also helps to achieve, democratic, socialistic and egalitarian society. It helps to promote equality and social justice. It functions as a means of improving their status within the

family. Higher Education encourages and empowers women to make good society and to become the strongest part of the economy.

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Websites: <http://www.empowerwomen.org>