

Empowering Women through Education

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ABSTRACT

Empowering women through education has becoming a stretching issue all over the world. Empowering of women is the self-supportive mechanism starting from decision making and ending to social well-being.

Women empowerment have been partly successful to establish their status in terms of self-esteem, right to choice, access to opportunities and resources, right to control to their own lives and obviously social empowerment. However, the social situation is not the same as it is expected from empowerment. Therefore, Empowering Women through Education is an emergent need of the society to be blended with the other various form of empowerment to have its complete output.

Key Words: Women Empowerment, Education, Women Empowerment Index.

Introduction:

What is Empowerment?

- *Self-supportive mechanism starting from decision making and ending to social well-being.*
- It is selective and transforming all those desired goals into effective outcomes.

Why Empowerment?

- Empowering for lacking individual right to be upgraded to women's decision making.
- Higher access in education and other social democratic set up.
- Women participation in social process is the essential condition of National development.
- *Empowerment for human rights and also for social responsibilities.*

Women empowerment and Education:

Some social barriers which effect the enrolment of women education listed below:

- Socio economic condition.
- Early marriage
- Social Restrictions.
- Household management.
- Gender discrimination.
- Educational opportunity.

In last decade's women literacy rate as well as their participation in higher education has been increasing remarkably but in terms of equality and empowerment, it is not possible to have had its target in a useful way leaving behind some conflicts, which includes:

1. Cognitive empowerment vs Non-cognitive empowerment.
2. Existence vs Reality.
3. Women Empowerment vs Gender empowerment.
4. Development vs Pseudo development.

Women Empowerment can be visualized with the critical analysis of several conflicts as stated. Now we are trying to find out exact components of women empowerment with the discussion based on conflicts and its real outcomes.

Research Questions:

1. What are the facets of women empowerment?
2. How empowerment be measured through Women Empowerment Index?

1. Cognitive empowerment vs Non-cognitive empowerment.

- For interpreting empowerment on the basis of education among women cognitive as well as non cognitive empowerment to be blended.
- Non cognitive empowerment stands for empowerment based on affective domain that is development of personality pattern, development of positive attitude, emotion and other non scholastic skills and abilities.
- Family Environment is another non cognitive factors affecting women empowerment. Attitude of parents and other family members to be changed so that girl students can get entry to the higher education.
- It is true that enrolment of girl students have been increased in last decades and in no way it can be said that they are lacking in higher education but unless it is incorporated into the employability self-expressive ability to be compromised.
- Social support to be provided ensuring empowerment in terms of administrative point of view and also for policy framing favouring women empowerment to be actualised.

2.Existence vs Reality:

The influence of women empowerment is partial and not it has been spreading from all rural parts of our country rather it is urban centric. Therefore it is a conflict existing between empowerment what should be and what it is in reality. The points based on empowerment and its reality were presented below in a tabular form :

sl.no. EmpowermentReality

1. Education Near to70% of women are now literate in India. Even some of advanced states in our country where literacy status is almost 90% or more than of it but till empowerment is far from reality. Based on statistics of social victims against women are reported from those states it is clear that many miles to go for having empowerment to control victims or abuse against women.
2. Right choice to Legally it is satisfactory. But till choice is male dominated.
3. Right control their lives to Women have their control to their own lives specially in urban areas toand some selected places of any state of India but total control is not ownreported.
4. Social Empowerment Empowerment is meaningful if it is supported by society.
5. Decision Making Decision making is the output of Empowerment.

3.Empowerment vs Gender empowerment.

Gender Discrimination:

Women have the right for getting equal opportunity like men in different parts of the society but when that situation is hampered is called gender discrimination. Some of the aspects shown in the table below:

Right of Women	Gender Discrimination
Equal Opportunity	When the opportunity is not available or hampered.
Gender role	Sometimes gender role of our society causes discrimination
Social role	Women are not accepted always.
Employer's role	In many workplaces, women do not get the chance to be promoted or are not given important roles.

Development vs Pseudo development

Empowerment leading to development is essential but result of empowerment is not always reflected in real situation. Suppose in my Education Department in Kalyani University in all semesters about 70% students are girl students but when we find how many faculty members in the department are female it was astonishing to see that only one out of 10 faculties is female.

So only education can not solve the matter. Suppose in Kerala almost 95% female is literate but rate of employability is just 23%. Therefore it suggests that out of 100 literate female only 23% they can socialize themselves in working condition and take decision to their own where most of the female they are engaging household work or may be involved some unorganized sectors but they are out of main streaming where their decision making do matter.

Similarly some of the states in our country where literacy rate is higher but social victims against women are also higher. Therefore literacy can not supplement the social abuse and domestic violence against women unless social awareness and legal and administrative support is favouring the women.

Therefore to explore the true picture of women empowerment a Women Empowerment Index has been prepared considering average three aspects of women empowerment 1. Rate of Literacy 2. Employability and 3. Rate of social victims.

Therefore the formula of Women Empowerment Index(WEI) will be as follows:

$WEI = \text{Female Literacy Rate \% (A)} + \text{Employability rate\%(B)} + \text{Social Empowerment rate\%(C)} / 3$

or, $WEI = A/3 + B/3 + C/3$

In case of Literacy rate and Employability direct rate of percentage have been taken but in case of Social Empowerment it is indirectly calculated from the social victims happened statewise in India.

Calculation of Social Empowerment Scale:

1. First % of Victims statewise to be collected.
2. Subtract the amount from 100.
3. Then finally multiplied by a 8 point scale as follows:
 - if the score is high multiplied by .6*
 - if the score is average multiplied by .5*
 - is the score is low multiplied by .4*

Table of Women Empowerment Index(WEI)

States & Union Territories	Male Literacy Rate %	Female Literacy Rate %	Average Literacy Rate %	Employment Rate	Social Victims against women in %	Social Empowerment	WEI
Mizoram	93.72	89.4	91.58	59	7.1	55.74	68.04
Nagaland	83.29	76.69	80.11	55.9	0.8	59.52	64.03
Tripura	92.18	83.15	87.75	45.3	4.5	57.3	61.91
Sikkim	87.29	76.43	82.2	48.2	3.5	57.9	60.84
Meghalaya	77.17	73.78	75.48	49.9	6.3	56.22	59.96
Chhattisgarh	85.4	68.7	77.3	54.2	7.2	55.68	59.52
Manipur	86.49	73.17	79.85	46.4	2.3	58.62	59.39
Tamil Nadu	87.9	77.9	82.9	39.3	1	59.4	58.86
Kerala	97.4	95.2	96.2	23.7	11.1	53.34	57.41
Maharashtra	90.7	78.4	84.8	32.8	3.9	57.66	56.28
Puducherry	92.12	81.22	86.55	28.1	1.3	59.22	56.18
Jharkhand	83	64.7	74.3	48.2	7.7	55.38	56.09
Arunachal Pradesh	73.69	59.57	66.95	51.6	8.6	54.84	55.33
Telangana	80.5	65.1	72.8	42.9	4.7	57.18	55.06
Andhra Pradesh	73.4	59.5	66.4	47.0	4.2	57.48	54.78
Lakshadweep	96.11	88.25	92.28	15.5	0	60.00	54.58
Karnataka	83.4	70.5	77.2	33.3	1.6	59.04	54.28
A&N islands	90.11	81.84	86.27	25.1	7.	55.8	54.24
Assam	90.1	81.2	85.9	24.5	10.5	53.7	53.13
Goa	92.81	81.84	87.4	21.2	9.4	54.36	52.46
Uttarakhand	94.3	80.7	87.6	20.5	9.6	54.24	51.81
West Bengal	84.8	76.1	80.5	20.5	2.3	58.62	51.74
Gujarat	89.5	74.8	82.4	19.9	1.6	59.04	51.24
Daman & Diu	91.48	79.59	87.07	15.2	3.1	58.14	50.97
Odisha	84	70.3	77.3	23.7	6.2	56.28	50.09
Himachal Pradesh	92.9	80.5	86.6	15.1	10	54.00	49.86
Rajasthan	80.8	57.6	69.7	31.9	15.9	50.46	49.35
Delhi	93.7	82.4	88.7	11.7	13.5	51.9	48.66
Punjab	88.5	78.5	83.7	9.4	7.1	55.74	47.88
Haryana	88	71.3	80.4	18.7	10.9	53.46	47.82
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	86.46	65.93	77.65	16.1	0	60.00	47.34
Madhya Pradesh	81.2	65.5	73.7	17.2	6.2	56.28	46.32
Bihar	79.7	60.5	70.9	17.8	1.3	59.22	45.84
Chandigarh	90.54	81.38	86.43	8.1	20.7	47.48	45.65
Jammu & Kashmir	85.7	68	77.3	7.9	3.5	57.9	44.6
Uttar Pradesh	81.8	63.4	73.0	12.0	2.8	58.32	44.57
All-India	84.7	70.3	77.7				

Findings and conclusion:

1. Empowerment of women is possible by means of three consecutive process:

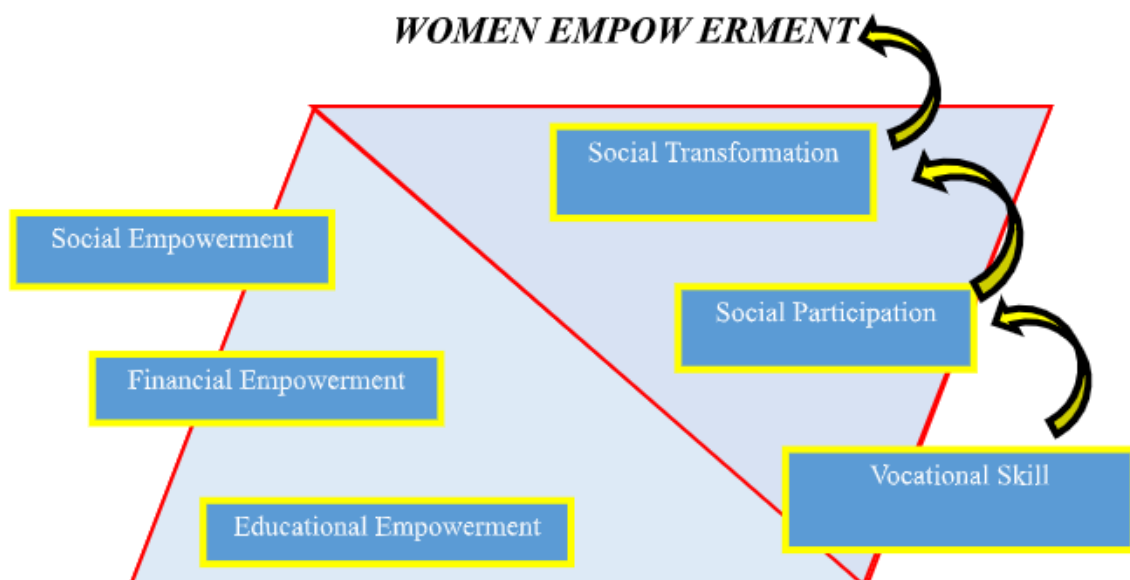
- a) Educational Empowerment\
- b) Financial Empowerment
- c) Social Empowerment
- d) Social Transformation

Educational Empowerment is basic criteria for empowerment. But unless it is supported by vocational skill with the help of employment then Educational Empowerment will be more meaningful and employability here considered as a social process for nurturing empowerment. As the empowerment is not only subjective simultaneously it is social therefore it must be given social access for its pragmatic utility where social participation will be the considered as a social process. But still empowerment will be meaningful when empowered women will have a social transformation. It is showed in a pictorial form in the next conclusion.

2. The Women Empowerment Index has been prepared with the help of above formula based on average of Female Literacy, Employability and Social Empowerment.

Similarly a theory of empowerment may be suggested considering for empowerment education is essential condition but to have empowerment a reality to be merged with employability as well as social empowerment to be incorporated with it.

Bipolar theory of women empowerment



Women Empowerment is the self supportive mechanism started from educational empowerment and followed by economic and social empowerment . But women empowerment will be meaningful when it is blended with social transformation and it stands for when the decision making capacity of women is giving direction for social construction.

Therefore it can be interpreted that greater will be the empowerment index higher will be the possibility of social support of women leading to meaningful women empowerment.

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