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The Effect and Influence of Education on Women Empowerment

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Abstract:

“A Woman is like a Tea Bag you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water”-Eleanor Roosevelt.

Women are the real architect of Society. ‘Women Empowerment’ is the most competent and discussed term today. It is increasingly popular term in human rights and development discourses. Women play very vital and major role in all walks of life.

The main focus of considerable discussion and attention all over the world is how to empower women. Today we are all enjoying democracy. But it really means that everyone aware about their own rights and freedom. The inequalities between men and women and discrimination against women are common issues in our all over the world. Thus women quest for equality with man is a universal phenomenon. In true sense, we find that women have not only given secondary position but also society has deprived women of certain basic rights. Education helps all round development of a person. Education is milestone of women empowerment. It helps women to face new challenges in her life. It is one of the most powerful tools to change the position of society. It increases the status of women in high level. Empowerment of women in all spheres and in particular the political sphere is crucial for their advancement and for the foundation of gender equal society. When women are empowered a society with stability is assured. This paper attempts to discuss about certain issues, principles, and highlight main tools of women empowerment.

Key words: Women, Empowerment, Education, Challenges, Social, Rights, Society.

Introduction

Popular UNESCO Slogan Educate a Man and You Educate an individual; Educate women and you educate a family.

Theoretically Empowerment means becoming powerful. In other words we can defined: “Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power with the help of this power women can developed her life in all directions of political, social, economical, intellectual. Automatically her status and position raises with the tool of education. It is a global issue and it was raised at the International Women Conference. On the other hand, we can say that women empowerment is the process of providing rights, opportunities, powers and responsibilities to women so that they can understand how to face new challenges, how to act freely and think in proper direction. The term women’s empowerment is defined as the process in which their political, social, spiritual or economic status is raised.

According to the United Nation, women’s empowerment mainly has fire components:

- Generating women’s sense of self-worth;
- Women’s right to have and to determine their choices;
- Women’s right to have access to equal opportunities and all kinds of resources;
- Women’s right to have the power to regulate and control their own lives, within and outside the home;

- Women's ability to contribute in creating a more just social and economic order.

Thus, women empowerment is nothing but recognition of women's basic human rights and creating an environment where they are treated as equal's to men.

Meaning and Importance of Women Empowerment.

Empowerment of women leads to development of a good family, good society and ultimately a good nation –Abdul Kalam's Best saying. When women are empowered a society with stability is assured. According to Remeshwari Pandya (2008) Empowerment has become the key solution to many social problems. The aim of empowering women and now women empowerment has become the slogan and motto of many social reformers, governmental agencies and voluntary organizations. Even now the concept women empowerment is a matter of controversy. Empowerment is a course of gaining knowledge and awareness which enable them to move towards life with high respect and self-courage. Women empowerment is a nation's strength. The United Nation's organization had declared the year 1975 as women's year and the decade 1975-1985 as women decade on an international level. Even research studies proof that so long as women remain depressed and exploited no nation can enjoy freedom and justice.

There are so many steps were taken to define the term women empowerment and try to find out different ways through which women can be empowered.

A woman can be considered with women empowerment when:

The ability to live her life independently and freely whether at home or outside.

- The ability to take her own decisions according to her choice.
- She should get equal rights in the society like a man.
- She should feel safe and secure whether at home or outside at work place, street etc.
- They should select their own economic and financial choices by their own.

The fundamental and social rights of women:

- There should be respect and dignity towards women.
- Discrimination between women should be avoided while giving jobs and employment.
- Avoid discrimination while providing any type of education.

Empowering women is to make them independent in all aspects from Mind, THOUGHT, RIGHTS and DECISIONS etc., by leaving all the social and family limitations. It also reduces poverty. In order to make the country fully developed country, women empowerment is an essential tool to get the goal of development. Once women are on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves. Women empowerment help women to stand on their own legs, become independent and also to earn for their family which grows country's economy.

Educational Status of Women

According to the International Encyclopedia on women (1999) in the program of action of the International Conference on population and Development education is considered as one of the most important means to empower women with the knowledge skill and self confidence necessary to participate fully in development process.

The National policy on education (1986) emphasized the promotion of women's education in all areas of learning Employment plays very important role in improving women's educational

status. The Government of India wanted to improve the living conditions of women at different times. There is tremendous changes in the system of education for girl's and condition of women at different levels. The Government of India has undertaken different schemes for welfare upliftment and security of the women. Like MahilaSamridhiYojana (MSY) 1993 Indira, MahilaYojana (IMY), Hostels for working women, working women's Forum etc. BetiBachao, BetiPadhaoprogramme has been launched by the present Prime Minister Modi Government. Education of women is an vital key to improving health, nutrition and education in the family and also helps them to take active participation in decision making. Education enables women to acquire knowledge but also help them to achieve self-confidence, technical skills, courage, good health, security and inner strength to face challenges in every spheres of life and helps them to play equal role as men in nation building. Education is the corner stone of women empowerment education is the key to all problem. Different thinkers define the term education in different ways.

According to Mahatma Phule "Education is that which demonstrates the difference between what is good and what is evil". It is through education only we understand what is good and what is bad, what is proper and what is not proper what is just and what is unjust etc. Now a day we observed that women's participation in Panchayat Raj institution may takes different forms. In every field of education we find there is active participation of women's. We observed that the constitution of our nation doesn'tdiscriminatebetween men and women. But our society deprived women of certain basic rights. "If you educate a man you educate an individual however if you educate a women you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered."- PanditJawaharlal Nehru. The education of women is the most powerful tool to change the condition of our society Women Empowerment leads to decrease in domestic violence. There are some popular women who fought for equality of women rights for example Annie Besant, Kamla Devi Chattopadhyia, Sarojini Naidu.

Women play a veryimportant role in making a nation progressive. Women's education is the key for all problems. It is one of the significant tools to change the position of women status. Education also brings a drastic change in inequalities and gender discrimination.

The women empowerment is becoming an increasingly popular term in human rights. Education is the first step towards empowerment. Many programs have been implemented and run by the government such as International Women Day, Mother's Day etc., in order to bring awareness in the society about the true rights and value of the women in the development of the Nation. Empowerment of women leads to development of a good family, good society, well culture and ultimately a good nation, Abdul Kalam's best saying.

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