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Education is Tool for Empower the Women

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*“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”.*

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

ABSTRACT: The importance of education in empowering women is vital, since it is a potent instrument for societal, economic, and political change. The ability of educated women to overcome societal norms, become financially self-sufficient, and make significant contributions is the subject of this study report. This study sheds light on the role of educational policies, government programs, and NGOs in advancing women's education by comparing and contrasting global and Indian viewpoints. Among the many ways education empowers women-as discussed in the paper are better decision-making skills, a heightened understanding of their rights, and greater opportunities to take part in leadership and governmental roles. Issues including poverty, sexism, cultural norms, and a lack of resources all play a role in preventing women from completing their education. In spite of these challenges, efforts to close the gender gap in education have made great strides, thanks to reforms in policy, skill-based learning, and online education. The study highlights the importance of a well-educated woman's impact on her family and community, which in turn leads to long-term prosperity. In order to combat social injustices and gender inequality, education is crucial since it cultivates self-reliance, critical thinking, and confidence. The study recommends policies to increase access to education and finds that investing in women's education is critical for society advancement as a whole. The study offers a thorough knowledge of how education may shape a more equal and inclusive society by analysing statistical data and case studies.

To ensure that gender-responsive educational policies are in place and that every woman has the chance to study and succeed, future endeavours should concentrate on removing obstacles.

KEYWORDS: Education for All (EFA), Women Education, Female Literacy Rate, Empowerment, Provisions for Girls Education

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is a fundamental means to bring any desired change in society, which is an accepted fact throughout the world. This can be attained only if schools become real centers of learning. Education not only helps in the development of personality of the child but also determines his future. Recent psychological research has shown that favourable attitudes towards life develop in the earliest stages of child growth. Education gives solutions for any type of problems. Through education we promote values and good habits and awareness towards corruption, terrorism and disease. Education helps to continue communication with known and unknown persons through technology and mass media. Education gives strength to the person. They get knowledge and discriminate

which is wrong and which is right with the help of education. Through education we inculcate values in the students and readers. Men and Women are just like the two wheels of a chariot. They are equal in importance and they should work together in life. The one is not superior or inferior to other.

Unlike ancient times, though currently in majority of rural areas of India women are treated well, but with the orthodoxy they are cut off from the main stream of social life. The rural society did not respect them and give them the due position. They have to suffer and work inside the houses. Thus they are completely depended on men. Women constitute almost half of the population in the world. But the hegemonic masculine ideology made them suffer a lot as they were denied equal opportunities in different parts of the world. The rise of feminist ideas has, however, led to the tremendous improvement of women's condition throughout the world in recent times. Access to education has been one of the most pressing demands of these women's rights movements. Women education in India has also been a major preoccupation of both the government and civil society as educated women can play a very important role in the development of the country. India is poised to emerge as one of the most developed nations by 2020, more literate, knowledgeable and economically at the forefront. No doubt, women will play a vital

role in contributing to the country's development. Women power is crucial to the economic growth of any country. In India this is yet to meet the requirements despite reforms. 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.

II. NEED OF WOMEN EDUCATION

Women empowerment can only be achieved through the provision of adequate and functional education to the women folk. This is crucial because no matter how rich or vast a nation is, without an effective, efficient, adequate and functional education for all its citizens (men and women) education which is relevant to its immediate needs, goals and objectives, such a nation would find it difficult to stand on its own. The brand of education being advocated is that type of education in which is embedded the spirit of self realization and all that are needed for the country's overall development like mass literacy, economic empowerment etc.

The need for women education is also informed by the fact that purposeful occupational achievement and satisfaction is ensured by deep self-awareness and understanding which can only be achieved through the provision of effective and functional education and guidance & counseling. This, has been noted is likely to guarantee women empowerment with its root based on women struggle to improve their status. The empowerment suggested is such that entails the process of challenging power relations and of gaining wider control over source of power. This, however, cannot be achieved without the provision of reasonable access to formal and functional education to the women folk. This is based on the premise that education has been adjudged to be a viable instrument of change in the positive direction. Provision of formal and functional education is needed for the women folk, because:

- It would empower them to know and ask for their rights to education, health, shelter, food clothing etc.
- It would empower them to fight against every form of discrimination against their folk, assert themselves about their right to equal treatment with their men counterpart as bonafide citizens of this nation.
- It would enable the women take decisions and accept responsibilities for taking such decisions concerning themselves.
- It would give economic power to the women and there by enable them to contribute their quota to the economic growth of the nation.
- It would empower the women scientifically through exposure to science and technological education for the challenges of the present technological age and information computer technology break through unfolding worldwide.
- It would help women to reduce maternal and infant mortality through improved nutrition, improved child rearing practice, health care and prevention against killer diseases.
- It would avail women with the opportunity of participating keenly in the world of sophisticated politics and governance as enlightened citizens.

Women Education in India

It is very important to know the historical background, if we are to make a study of status of women in India. It is not easy to find answers for questions like when did women start losing their status or who was responsible for this situation. The position that women occupied in the medieval and later the colonial period is of utmost importance. Women were never put on high pedestal in the Shastras.

Women`s Education in Ancient India

In ancient India, women and girls received less education than men. This was due to the set social norms. Interestingly, in the Vedic period women had access to education, but gradually they had lost this right. Women education in ancient India prevailed during the early Vedic period. In addition to that Indian scriptures Rig Veda and Upanishads mention about several women sages and seers. Women enjoyed equivalent position and rights in the early Vedic era. However, after 500 B.C, the position of women started to decline. The Islamic invasion played a vital role in restricting freedom and rights of the women. A radical change attended and there was a terrific constraint for women education in India.

Women`s Education in Medieval India

Women education in medieval India further weakened and declined with the introduction of Purdah system. Different customs and conventions of diverse religions like Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity further deteriorated and depreciated the state of women in the country. A range of socio religious movements contributed to the development of women literacy in the country. Many leaders took several initiatives to make education available to

the women of India. The ordered form of women education in India was incorporated in the early centuries of the Christian era.

Women`s Education in Colonial India

The position of the women education in India revived with the invasion of the British in the country and with the advent of Bhakti movement. The colonial period also introduced the institutional form of imparting learning. Women education in Colonial India witnessed an essential expansion. Various movements were launched to make women of the country literate. Furthermore, this progress journeyed through the years and influenced the modern Indian education system.

Women`s Education in Modern India

The idea of women empowerment was introduced at the International Women Conference at Nairobi in 1985. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to responds to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So that we can't ignore the significance of education in reference to women empowerment India is poised to becoming superpower, a developed country by 2020.

This can became reality only when the women of this nation became empowerment. India presently account for the largest number of illiterates in the world. Literacy rate in India have risen stridently from 18.3% in 1951 to 64.8% in 2001 in which enrolment of women in education have also risen sharply 7% to 54.16%. Despite the significance of women education unfortunately only 39% of women are literate among 64% of the man. Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, plan and programmes that have focused at women`s progression in different spheres. From the fifth five year plan (1974 - 78) onwards has been a marked shift in the approach to women`s issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been accepted as the vital concern in determining the status of women in the Indian society. 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 (1993) to the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayat and Municipalities for women, laying a sturdy basis for their contribution in decision making at the local level.

Women Empowerment through Education

Women Empowerment is a global issue and discussion on women political right are at the fore front 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 enables them to responds to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life.

So that we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment India is poised to becoming superpower, a developed country by 2020. The year 2020 is fast approaching; it is just 7 year away. Provisions for Women`s Education in India

Educational Provisions in the Indian Constitution

The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women for neutralizing the cumulative socio economic, education and political disadvantages faced by them. Fundamental Rights, among others, ensure equality before the law and equal protection of law; prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and guarantee equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters relating to employment.

Article 21A: Free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years

- **Article 41:** Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases.
- **Article 45:** Provision for free and compulsory education for children.
- **Article 46:** Promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.

Minorities

- **Article 29.** Protection of interests of minorities.
- **Article 30.** Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.
- **Article 350A.** Facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage.



Equality

- **Article 14.** Equality before law;
- **Article 15.** Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- **Article 17.** Abolition of Untouchability.
- **Article 24.** Prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc.

Religion

- **Article 25.** Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.
- **Article 26.** Freedom to manage religious affairs.
- **Article 28.** Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions.

Educational Provisions in Centrally Sponsored Schemes in School Education (CSS)

Major Schemes for Elementary Education

1. Operation Black Board
2. Teacher Education
3. Education Guarantee Scheme & Alternative and Innovative Education
4. Mid-day Meal Scheme
5. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
6. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)
7. Shiksha Karmi
8. Mahila Samakhya
9. District Primary Education Programme (DPEP)
10. National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL)
11. Lok Jumbish
12. Janshala Programme
13. Padhe Bitiya Badhe Bitiya
14. Ladali Scheme
15. Govt. Schemes for Uplift the Girls Education.

Major Schemes for Secondary Education

1. Access and Equity
2. Quality Improvement in Schools (QIS)
3. ICT in Schools
4. Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC)
5. Vocationalisation of Education

Recommendations:

- 1. Change in the attitude of men in the society:** Both men and women should aware of about the concept of women empowerment. From the very onset an attitudinal change in the society is necessary towards the concept.
- 2. Change in the attitude of women in the society.** Women's own perception of themselves and on their empowerment should be changed. They should strive to change their image as weak, dependent, passive and docile persons to independent, active, strong and determined human beings.
- 3. In the academic level:** It is important to create awareness about it among the younger generation especially among the students and the youth.
- 4. In the political level :** One of the ways by which women empowerment can became a reality is through proper policies and legislations that are women friendly in nature.
- 5. In the administrative level:** empowerment of women is a necessity for the sustainable development of a nation. So policy of the government should be women friendly in its various schemes. This can be possible through various ways that are listed below.
 - Awareness campaign, Workshops and seminars should be arranged at the village
 - Literature and publications are a major area through which the whole notion of women empowerment can be inculcated to the society.
 - Arranging programmes for interaction with other empowered women in the society is another important way of motivating women.
 - The institutions that are engaged in various fields of social work can start short term diploma or certificate courses in areas of rural development with special emphasis on projects for women's development.
 - Government should make sure that each official body has sufficient number of women members.



III. CONCLUSION

According to the Country Report of the Government of India, education of girls is the most powerful tool of change of position in society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. To encourage the education of women at all levels and for dilution of gender bias in providing knowledge and education, established schools, colleges and universities even exclusively for women in the state. To bring more girls, especially from marginalized families of BPL, in mainstream education, the government is providing a package of concessions in the form of providing free books, uniform, boarding and lodging, clothing for the hostilities mid-day meals, scholarships, free circles and so on. Education for All (EFA) programme and other many educational programmes are providing various facilities to enhance the education for women, so these programmes are very helpful to improving the girl's education in India.

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