



WOMEN'S EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

Women's education is directly related with national development. Women's education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. Women education becomes very essential when we accept that the mothers the first teacher of her children. Good mother is the better than the teacher. Several attempts were made before and after independence for the progress of women's education. The education of women should be regarded, as a major programme in education for some years. Several attempts were made before and after independence for the progress of women's education. An outcome of gender discrimination is gender-based violence. Reforms are needed at various levels to effect transformation towards a gender just society. Early marriage is one of the chief barriers which hinder the girl's further education. Anxiety of the parents about their girl's future is the main reason for their early marriage. In rural India majority of the poor families are unable to meet their basic need. They feel double burden with respect for educating their girl children. Central and state governments should take appropriate steps with the participation of communities in order to bring the girl children to the mainstream of education and development at every level including family and community. To create awareness regarding rights and responsibilities related to laws governing women's status in society. To assist women to achieve economic viability through literacy, skills and resources. Thus, education is the only answer for women empowerment.

Introduction

The women of today are very conscious of their social, economic, intellectual, mental and spiritual development. Their role, both within the home and outside the home, has become an important feature of the social and economic life of the country. After independence, the progress of women's education has been satisfactory. The girls belonging

to remote areas, rural areas and weaker sections of society are being encouraged to receive education. The education of girls should be emphasized only on grounds of social justice, but also because It accelerates economic and social transformation, and above all to achieve cent per cent literacy.

Meaning of Women's Education

The provision of all facilities and opportunities to women for education is called women's education. Indian constitution gives great importance to the equality status and opportunities for men and women. Educational facilities and opportunities are provided to women regardless of their caste, religion or location at par with men. Several attempts were made before and after independence for the progress of women's education.

Need and Importance of Women's Education

India Women's education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development 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 their children. In addition to this, educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality growth of the population. Educated women are more vigilant towards the need of education for children and can take care of their children in the better way. Women education becomes very essential when we accept that the mother is the first teacher of her children. Good mother is the better than the teacher. Several attempts were made before and after independence for the progress of women's education.

Role of Education in Women Empowerment

Education makes the women empowered personally, socially, culturally an economically.

(A) Personal Empowerment

Education is a prominent component for personal empowerment of women. Education women have acquired self-confidence, self-esteem, boldness and independence. Education provides women access to knowledge in areas like health, childcare, nutrition and family planning.

(B) Social Empowerment

The improvement of society could be effected through the development of the potentialities of the women. They are the agents of social change. Education makes woman pillars of the society. Educated women know the rights and their duties in the society. They play the most important role in the social revolution and social reformation. They involve themselves as active, participants in various social activities.

(C) Economic Empowerment

Higher education lays foundation for the economic development of women. Educated women are employed as teacher, doctors, engineers, advocates, police officers, authors etc. Furthermore if women are educated and are gainfully employed, they can assist their husbands in financing the home and the education of their children.

(D) Cultural Empowerment

Culture is nothing but advanced development of the human power, development of the body, mind and spirits by training and experiences. For that education plays a great role in bringing radical change in the culture of women. They transfer the changes in culture to the next generation. Education also changes the lifestyle of women throughout their life. Women in the dark are brought to the light through education.

(E) Technological Empowerment

Educated women are various seekers of knowledge and information. The information and communication technology is a powerful tool to help women in this search. Through their dedicated interests, enthusiasm and courage women have adopted the computer and internet. There is a growing trend among girls and women to adopt information and technology as a profession and they are playing roles as managers, facilitators, advisors and as users and creators as well.

Barriers to Women Education

Barriers to women education are following

1. Women are discriminated against in every sphere such as in childcare, childrearing, education, development, employment, political, social and religious activities, marriage, family systems etc. An outcome of gender discrimination is gender-based violence. Reforms are needed at various levels to effect transformation towards a gender just society.

2. Early marriage is one of the chief barriers which hinder the girl's further education. Anxiety of the parents about their girl's future is the main reason for their early marriage.
3. In rural India majority of the poor families are unable to meet their basic need. They feel double burden with respect for educating their girl children.
4. In villages most of the poor parents think that girl child is a liability, while a boy child is an asset. As a result, parents give more importance for educating their sons rather than daughters.
5. For economic reasons, many parents consider women's education as a waste of funds. Such parents believe that money spent on a girl's education is a waste.
6. The lack of female teachers is another problem for young girls in India. Girls are more likely to attend school and achieve more academically if they have female teachers.
7. Indian text books found that male-dominated curriculum exists. In most lessons, men are the main characters. They hold of higher prestige and are shown as strong, adventurous and intelligence.

Suggestions to Overcome the Barriers to Women's Education

Women's education is directly related with national development. Suggestions to overcome the barriers to women's education are following

1. Central and state governments should take appropriate steps with the participation of communities in order to bring the girl children to the mainstream of education and development at every level including family and community.
2. To create awareness regarding rights and responsibilities related to laws governing women's status in society.
3. To assist women to achieve economic viability through literacy, skills and resources.
4. Women to be given support in term of labour legislation, social security.
5. Special attention to women in difficult circumstances: domestic violence, social discrimination, early marriage, sati and dowry etc.
6. Encourage changes in special laws such as those related to marriage, divorce, maintenance and guardianship.
7. It is need to give appointment of more women teachers.
8. It is need to gain community support for girl's education.

Conclusion

Women play a prominent role in the social, political and economic life of a country. The education of women should be regarded, as a major programme in education for some years. The existing gap between the education of men and women should be bridged. Special schemes must be prepared for this purpose and the funds required for them should be provided on a priority basis. Both the central and the states there should be a special machinery to look after the education of girls and women. Thus, education is the only answer for women empowerment. After independence, the progress of women's education has been satisfactory. The girls belonging to promote areas, rural areas and weaker sections of society are being encouraged to receive education.

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