



## Role of Education in Women Empowerment

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### ABSTRACT

Since the ancient period woman had given importance in the society. In present time men and women both have given equal-importance and they play an important role in the growth and development of society and country. In ancient times women got the chance to get educated. They will be aware of their rights; If they will be educated. Through education they can uplift their status and secure an important position in the society. It is true said that "Family is the first school where mother is the first teacher." Many philosophers and leaders of social, religious movements advocated for women education. Today so many women like Kiran Bedi, Anna George, Bachendri Pal, Sunita Williams, Mrs. Pratibha Patil, Mrs. Draupadi Murmu; etc, have touched their Zenith and they all became the source of inspiration for women. So women empowerment through education is the need and demand of present time for the all-round development of society and country.

### KEY WORDS

**Education, Women Empowerment.**

### INTRODUCTION

It is said that wherever the women is worshipped, the God is there. From the ancient period, woman had great importance in the society. Time-to-time their power and position got changed, there were a lot of social and religious reasons in the ancient and mediaeval period, which were responsible for the backwardness of the woman. They had faced many obstacles for their upliftment; but gradually their status in the society changed due to education.

In this male dominating society; female have no

power to take any decision. There are many families in India, where women are not allowed to get education.

They are only to take care of household matter and give birth to children. This is the thinking of men. For women progress and to stabilize equality between men and women in the society; our Government is taking many steps in this regard. As per article 15 of Indian constitution, there should not be any kind of discrimination on the basis of sex (gender).

In this time, men and women are considered as the two wheels of a cart. So; the participation of both is important in every field for the growth of society and country. Both are incomplete without each other and education can play a key role in this regard. For women empowerment education is must.

### **Women Empowerment in Historical Context**

Ghoshia, Lopamudra, Biswabara, Gargi , Maitreyi, etc. were the learned and dignified women of the Vedic period. In manusmriti, Manu has declared that women has no right to do anything independently at any stage of her life. Child marriage was an old practice in India from ancient times.

Later, Gautam Buddha came forward to promote education among women. They were not allowed to study vedas but Buddha condemned this practice. In that time there were many women like Sanghamitra (daughter of Ashoka), Rajshree (sister of harshwardhan), etc. came forward to promote the words of Buddha across the world. During Buddhist period, many female Buddhist writers came into existence.

Women education, independence of women and their right to leading life have changed the status of women of this time. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when India come in touch of colonial power, they realized the importance of women freedom. Hindu Code Bill, Hindu Marriage Act, Widow Remarriage Act, Hindu Succession Act, Sharda Act, Hindu Women Property Rights Act, Panchayati Raj act, etc. had played an important role in promoting women empowerment. This was the urgent need to encourage all round development of women in India.

### **Role of Education in Women Empowerment**

Education has played a key role in women empowerment and helps to overcome obstacles in its way. It is very necessary to bring women under the light of education to improve the overall situation. As we know that; family is the first school and mother is the first teacher of a child. Hence, it is very important to educate a mother for the well upbringing and development of a child. A woman is the base of society, educating her is to educate the whole society.

Napoleon Bonaparte had said; “Give me educated mother, I will build an educated nation.”

Only educated women can take advantage of the rights constructed for their protection. Due to lack of education, women often misunderstand their rights. Thus, education has an important role in women empowerment and for this, there is a need to increase women literacy, Girl’s education, prevention of girl’s abandonment, and many more initiatives should be taken for the development and education of women so that they will be able to oppose their atrocities.

### **Worldwide Demand of Women Empowerment**

Today women empowerment is a need of the whole world. The barriers to its path is the big problem for any developed country. Many world wide awareness program has been organised on international level in this direction. So many initiatives were also taken to uplift the status of women in India and laws were made for the protection of their rights. If they will be strong, then whole nation will be strong. They are the pillars of family as well as the society. So we can’t ignore their contribution in national development and at international level also they are leading now a days.

### **Proper use of Women Empowerment**

Presently after getting education, they are progressing rapidly. Several prominent women like Indira

Gandhi, Pratibha Patil, Maha Devi Verma, Mayawati, Sunita Williams, Kalpana Chawla, Anna George, Kiran Bedi, Bachendri Pal, Draupadi Murmu, Sania Mirza, Margret Thaicheher, Hillary Clinton, Dayana Heden, Soniya Gandhi, Mitali Raj, Phogat sisters, etc. are well known to all.

Today they are understanding their rights and opposing many atrocities and evil system of the society. They should think that in each and ever field they can challenge the men. It is only possible; when they will be educated, they will know their rights and duties. All women should know their equal-economic-social status to get their share of rights. In this regard, their family support is required. As per the constitution of India; without any discrimination they are equal to men.

## **Steps for Female Empowerment**

### **Empowerment in Family**

First step of women empowerment starts in their families. Today women and men are treated differently in many families. People think the birth of a boy is profitable; while the birth of a girl child is burden. First of all, we have to change this mentality. We should treat a girl child equal as a boy child and we should give importance to her in the family. We can't forget her contributions as a mother, as a sister, as a daughter, and also as a wife.

### **Empowerment in Society**

We should not discriminate men and women in the educational and working field. We have to aware the society and try to change the narrow mentality of the people. Society always play a crucial role to bring any type of revolutionary change. Through this way, we can empower the women.

### **Economic Empowerment of Women**

In India women are not conscious of the financial independency, nor they are economically empowered. They should be aware to save money for their livelihood as well as for their future. Sometimes women hand over their salary or income to their spouse or children. They should understand the importance of money. Money is the key to earn respect. They have to know the power of money and also through this way women empowerment is possible.

### **Educational Empowerment**

This is the main weapon in the hands of the woman for their empowerment. Through this, women can bring any change at the world level.

### **Political Empowerment**

Women can take part in politics too. They can be the policy maker. They can play their key role in political governance, regulation, statues and ordinances and decisions. Through this way, they can exist themselves in politics. Their presence in the political field will be a big threat for men.

## **Women Empowerment in Indian Perspective**

Women are worshipped in India as Durga, Kali, Laxmi and Sarswati as a symbol of Power, Bravery, Glory and Knowledge. Men and women are complimentary to each other and without one the other is incomplete.

Even after so many efforts, women in India are still worried today. Female Infanticide, Dowry System, Women Harassment, Female Illiteracy, negative attitude towards female education, lack of job opportunities, Sexual Harassment, Negligence of women in the family are the main obstacles in the development of women. So; for the woman empowerment, we all have to fight with the ill practices of the society.

## **CONCLUSION**

Today women empowerment is a best weapon in the hands of women to fight for their existence in the society. Through education, they can give a challenge to men in every step of their life. Therefore; it is necessary to promote girls and women education for our better future.

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