

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA THROUGH TECHNICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION IN PRESENT SCENARIO

Mr. Om Singh¹

Abstract

With an effective population of nearly 1.25 billion, India is the world's largest democratic country. In India, women technical and higher education has a major preoccupation in both the government and civil society as educated women can play a very important role in the development of the country. In present scenario, it is a milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. In reference to women empowerment we can't neglect its importance. It is the most powerful tool to change the position in society. It also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family and develops the concept of participation.

Keywords: Technical & Higher Women Education, India, Preoccupation, Empowerment and Participation etc.

Introduction

Higher and Technical education of women in India plays an important role in improving living standards and prosperity of the country. Illiterateness rate of women improves the quality of life at home and outside home. By encouraging and promoting education of children, especially female children, and in reducing the child mortality rate. As an independent group, women constitute 48% of the total population of India. Education to everyone, EFA programme was launched in 2002 by the Government of India after its 86th Constitutional Amendment made education from age 6-14 the fundamental right of every Indian child. In India women has made significant progress towards the goal of education for all during the past few years. Women higher and technical Education is milestone and breakthrough strategy of women empowerment because it allows them to responds to the challenges, to provoke their traditional role and change their life style accordance with modern society. Prime minister is starting the

¹ Research Scholar, Department of Sociology Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities Bhupal Nobles University, Rajasthan, Udaipur,
Email: omsinghshekhawat1988@gmail.com

‘Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao’ scheme, which seeks to address gender imbalance and discrimination against the girl child.

Significance of the study

In India there is a huge gap between the literacy rates of male and female i.e. 82.14% of Male and 65.46% of Female in 2011. Low literacy rate of has a huge negative impaction on the overall growth and development of the society—where women are majorly responsible for child care and development.

Why Education is important for Women?

Education for women is most effective way to improve lives and health of a family and a society. A woman with education has the power to educate the children in her family, guide them in taking effective decisions, contribute economically and gives valuable inputs for improvement on home and society both. Education unlocks a whole new world of chances for a girl; it gives her the confidence to tackle different problems of life.

Importance of Women education

The importances of women education are briefly summarized below:

- **Economic empowerment:** Being dependent on men economically, the helpless condition of women can't be altered. Proper financial empowerment and independence can be achieved through proper education.
- **Improved quality of life:** In India, after marriage women lost their identities and sometime freedom and dignity also. Their rights are compressed and crushed down, sometimes situation becomes abusive& in salting.
- **Dignity and honor:** Educated women become a source of inspiration for millions of young girls and women who make them their role-models for social up-liftment.
- **Justice for rights:** Educated women are more knowledgeable of their rights for social justice. It leads to decline in instances of violence and injustice against women.
- **Choice to choose a profession for women:** Educated women can prove be highly successful in the fields of life. A girl-child should get equal opportunity for education, so that, she can plan to become successful and could choose a profession of her choice.

- **Alleviate poverty of India:** Women education is an essential to alleviate poverty. Women need to take equal burden of the huge task of eliminating poverty. This would demand huge contribution from educated women.
- **Improved health:** Educated girls and women are health conscious due to health education; they are prepared to lead a healthy life- style.
- **Improved standard of living:** Educated girls and women improve standard of living of their families with healthy and prosperous life.
- **Develop capacity of women:** Higher education would develop capabilities to discharge duties and responsibilities in the fields of social, economic, political and cultural grounds.

Benefits of Women Education

There are numerous benefits of women education. Here are few of them:

- ❖ Educated women take charge of their future for benefits of their family and society as a whole.
- ❖ Women can earn better and contribute to their family income.
- ❖ Well educated women reduce child and maternal mortality.
- ❖ Educated women are better equipped herself to take care of their children's growth and education.
- ❖ Educated women are less likely to take advantage of and lower disclosure to domestic abuse.
- ❖ Educated women have great confidence and takes right decisions at right time for family and society.
- ❖ Educated Women contributes in a positive way to the society and the nation at large for welfare.
- ❖ Women are included in key decision-making positions; they take holistic decisions for the development and growth.

Educational Development of Women through Government Initiatives and Schemes

The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, as revised in 1992, a path breaking policy document, articulates the Government of India's unequivocal commitment, that "Education will be used as an agent of basic change in the status of women. The removal of women's illiteracy and obstacles inhibiting their services, setting time targets and effective monitoring of entire system..."

DEVELOPMENT IN HIGHER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

It has always been a constant endeavor of the Department of Higher Education to frame different schemes and projects to ensure larger participation and enrolment of women. Therefore, reducing the gender gap in higher education is a focus area. Under above segment government is providing various facilities and services:-

- **University Grants Commission (UGC):** The women education has been the priority area for the University Grants Commission a premier apex body governing university education purpose; the Commission has launched a number of schemes to encourage the enrolment and promotion of girls in Higher Education. Such schemes being run by UGC are briefly as under.
- **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** was set-up in November 1945 as a national level Apex Advisory Body to conduct survey on the facilities on technical education and to promote development in the country in a coordinated and integrated manner.
- **Post Graduate Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child for Pursuing Higher and Technical Education:** The scheme support higher education through scholarships to girls who happen to be the only child in their families. Girl students up to the age of 30 years at the time of admission of Postgraduate courses are only eligible.
- **Post-Doctoral Fellowships for Women:** The scheme is implemented for the unemployed women candidates holding Ph.D. degree in their respective subject areas with an aim to accelerate the talented instincts of the women candidates to carry out the advanced studies and research.
- **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU):** IGNOU has been making conscious efforts to reach out to the Women learners especially in remote and rural areas.
- **Development of Women's Studies in Universities and Colleges:** The scheme gives assistance to universities for setting up new women study centers as well as to strengthen and sustain the university women study centers.

Main Factors Inducing Women in Finishing Higher and Technical Education

1. Women are strong in their task and job, so their performance is outstanding.
2. There are some courses which provide scholarship facilities and stipend for women.

3. Women enthusiasm and passion to take equal responsibility of the family impules them to complete their higher study and higher and technical education.
4. Due to higher and rewarding pay scale for the employees working in higher educational institutions.
5. In some cases in India women are dependent on male for both finance and decision making.
6. In rural areas highly educated women are considered equivalent to „dowry “ of a bride because educated women become one of the earning member of family.
7. The global scenario of modern society has changed many respects which helps women to complete their higher studies.
8. In India central and state government should implement policies for stopping drop out of girl students in primary and secondary schools.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of literature is the base for considering the research problems, selecting objectives and formulating the research paper.

L. Radhakrishnan (2008), in his study “Empowerment of Women through Entrepreneurship” analyses of women entrepreneurship and problems and prospects in Women Entrepreneurship. When we talk of women entrepreneurship throughout the world, Women’s participation in economic activities is fast increasing. In this changing socio-cultural environment in India, women are entering a new era.

B. M. Sharma (2005) in his study “Women and Education” analyses various topics related to women empowerment. The first part of the study discusses the view of Gandhi on women empowerment and the other author highlights the importance of various training programs for women empowerment.

N. Nagarajan (1998) in his study “Progress of Women Literacy in India: Challenges for 21st Century”, highlights the challenges faced in eradicating illiteracy from India. He argues formulation strategies to address the problem of women illiteracy.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out need and importance of women education.
2. To trace out benefits of women education.

3. To examine educational development of women through Government initiatives and schemes.
4. To recognize main factors Inducing women in finishing Higher and Technical education.

Hypothesis of the study

1. Higher and technical education of women are very essential and important for empowerment
2. Higher and technical education of women is beneficial for women development in different sectors.
3. Government initiatives and schemes have major contribution in educational development of women.
4. Higher and Technical education of women will influenced by different dimensions of human life.

Research Methodology:

In the present study descriptive methods are followed and secondary data has been collected. For this study data and information has been collected from various books, Research Article, Magazines, Research Journal, E-journal, Report of UGC, and Report of the higher & technical education and other websites.

Suggestions

1. Creates skill-oriented higher education for women.
2. Design in such a way so that women involvement in higher education is accelerated.
3. Establish organizations, institutions and Universities in remote, rural and tribal area.
4. Establish higher educational institutions in rural and tribal areas for up-liftment of women education in this area.
5. Make provision of appropriate transport facilities in this area for women.
6. Stop sexual harassment within or outside institutions.
7. Women teachers in co- educational institutions of higher and technical education.
8. Women involvement in decision making bodies of higher and technical educational institutions.
9. Government should launch special schemes for welfare of women.

Conclusion

In 21st century education is widely recognized as the new opening for economic security, safetyman opportunity particularly for girls and women. An educated woman has high skills, the self-confidence

and the information, an educated woman wants to become a better paternal, worker and citizen for the overall development of India. When woman is financially in dependent she has the ability to live life on her own terms. Women in technical and higher education have a major pre-occupation in both the government and civil society. An educated woman plays an important role in the development of the country. Women made significant progress towards the education during the past few years. Women in higher and technical Education are milestone and breakthrough strategy of women empowerment.

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