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EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN INDIA THROUGH EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Education plays a pivotal role in all round economic development and growth of any country as they provide an environment for creating jobs and help in reduction of poverty, unemployment and other related social fallouts. India is a second largest country in the world, to reap the benefits of this demographic dividend to the full, India has to provide education to its population through quality education. The Gandhian era and the decades after independence have seen tremendous changes in the status and the position of the women in Indian society. Women constitute about 46 percent of total population of the country as per the 2011 census. They are suffering many disadvantages as compared to men in terms of literacy rates, employment, wage rates, labour participation rates, income earnings, and social and economical status, education being an important tool for social and economic empowerment of women. Women education has very significant since the beginning of 20th century women education got greater importance in our olden days but it was declined in the moderate period. Women education is an essential element on which people need to pay attention in this new era. The great historical women like Jhansi Laxmi Bai, Indira Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, etc. who were very inspirational to other women, the history of India was never blank regarding the women who were very brave and intellectual many people stood as a role model to other women which helps in shaping their lives.

KEYWORDS

women empowerment, women education.

INTRODUCTION

"There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved it is not possible for a bird to fly only with one wing"

- Swami Vivekananda.

Education plays a pivotal role in all round economic development and growth of any country as they provide an environment for creating jobs and help in reduction of poverty, unemployment and other related social fallouts. India is a second largest country in the world, to reap the benefits of this demographic dividend to the full, India has to provide education to its population through quality education. The Gandhian era the decades after independence have seen tremendous changes in the status and the position of the women in Indian society. Educated women can maintain her family and professional aspects in a correct manner. Women constitute about 46 percent of total population of the country as per the 2011 census. They suffer many disadvantages as compared to men in terms of literacy rates, employment, wage rates, labour participation rates, income earnings, and social and economical status, education being an important tool for social and economic empowerment of women. A mother is a first teacher to her child and society which means there is a very urgent for a mother to be educated to keep her child in a proper way and mould his / her career in a correct path. Women education helps in the development of socio and economic aspects. An educated woman can lead a country successfully, there is a saying that "education to man educates the man, but the education to women is the education to society". So people need to understand the significance of women education for the all round growth of a family, society, country. Ultimately before being involved in any relation, a woman is an independent citizen and has all the rights to enjoy her life and develop in each and every aspect like man. There should not be any sexual differences in educating a person. Women should not be isolated in any development activities. Women consists half of the existing population if women are not educated than half of the population is uneducated and remains in darkness which leads to destruction of future generation.

Women Education is a Nation Education is not the amount of information that is kept in your brain and runs riot there undigested all your life, Education is a key to success. It is a systematic long process of development for individual and the society improves their socio – economic status, it is a modification of behavior and balanced development. Education is training for the country, love for the nation and most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. The absolute objectives of education which are universal consisting of the harmonious development of the personality of the child, the development of his character and helps him to prepare himself to face the tasks of life in each country at each time has also to identify the national goals and organize the education process to achieve them. Education is the largest sense is any act or experience that has a formative effect on the mind character or physical ability of an individual. In its technical sense education is the process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge skills and values from generation to another.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the need of women empowerment and analyze factors influencing and the top priority should be given to women development.
2. To study the socio – economic status of women in India and particularly in the rural and urban areas.
3. To study the education level of women in India and the role of women in the economic development.
4. To analyze the impact of empowerment of women where as in many development fields.
5. To find out the taken measures by government of India to improve education and women development.

METHODOLOGY

This study is exclusively based on secondary data. Which is collected from various books, journals, publications, Articles, Indian Economic Survey, Economic and Political Weekly, Economic Times, Indian Economic Journal, government website etc. To examine the first objective i.e. the role and importance of women in economic development of India and the impact of education in empowerment of women in rural and urban areas.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study covers women empowerment, women development activities women education levels in rural – urban, and socio – economic status of women in economic development in India after independence (1951-2011).

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

An education is said to be **Third Eye** of the man which burns the evil and lights the good. Women education is not only helps in the development of half 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 children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of poverty and growth of the population. Education gives strength, wealth, health, and power to the all individual. Empowerment of women means developing the mass more aware individuals, who are economically active, politically active, standing in the era of human rights movement with the ambition to develop a better society, the need for women empowerment is getting realized more than ever, it has widely been admitted that improving the status of women in the male dominated society may solve several problems, such as meeting the basic needs of family, overall social advancement and adding quality resources that may bridge the gap between dimensions of socio - cultural existence, women empowerment has been provided with special importance as the subtle methods of gender discrimination are existing within the layers of social

existence. Encouraging corporate leadership capacity with the quality to ascertain gender equality, educating women according to the professional requirement and encourage them to grow further in their life, encouraging adequate respect and support for human rights and non-discrimination and in consequence treating men and women equally at workplaces, making sure that all men and women workers are provided with equal facilities in terms of their overall welfare and safety at workplaces, encouraging women to develop entrepreneurial skills, which in turn, would make them independent, proper measurement and letting people know of the achievement of gender equality, advocating the promotion of gender equality within a community. However, it has also been provided with special importance that the process of women empowerment can be initiated properly if adequate importance is given to women's health. It is due to the same reasons, not only medical health law for women needs to be implemented in a stricter manner but also health organizations should function with more empathy while addressing such sensitive issues.

Education is the heart of sustainable development, the human development index which has been developed by UNDP in 1990 to measure the qualitative change in the lives of people identifies literacy as one of its three dimensions to measure human development. India is committed towards the goal of universal and free basic education. Education is the tool which alone can inculcate national and cultural values and liberate people of prejudicial ignorance and representations. Education provides them required knowledge technique, skills and information which enables them to know their vision and outlook provokes the spirit of healthy competition and a desire to advance for achievements of their consciousness regenerating truth and thereby capability to fight ignorance, injustice, corruption, violence, disparity and communalism the greatest hazards to the progress of the nation. Education is thus a means to step up the consciousness of the people against injustice, violence and disparity generally resulting in unrest and violence.

Education is the creation of a sound mind and in a sound body, inadequacy of the education system to reach out to girls and women can be seen from four different aspects i.e. supply, access, demand and participation. In order to empower women through education, firstly access education for women and girls should be ensured, reducing the gender gap in secondary and higher education should be a focus area. Gender sensitive curriculum should be developed at all levels of educational system. The existing policies should set several time targets for women particularly those belonging to weaker sections.

EDUCATION LEVEL AFTER INDEPENDENCE IN INDIA

After independence all India Education Conference was convened by Maulana Azad the central education ministers in 1948 and accepted the recommendations of the Sargent plan proposed to achieve compulsory elementary education throughout India a time shorter than the forty years proposed by the Sargent plan. That compulsory basic education should be introduced in the country.

WOMEN EDUCATION IN RURAL AND URBAN IN INDIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE FROM 1951 TO 2011

TABLE 1

year	Female Literacy rate in total population	Male literacy rate in total population	Literacy rate in total population	Gender gap	Rural female literacy	Urban female literacy
1951	8.9	27.2	18.3	18.3	4.8	22.3
1961	15.3	40.4	28.3	25.0	8.5	34.5
1971	21.9	45.0	34.5	23.9	13.1	42.1
1981	28.5	56.4	43.4	26.6	21.7	56.3
1991	39.3	64.1	52.2	24.8	30.6	64.0
2001	52.6	75.8	64.8	21.7	46.5	72.9
2011	65.5	82.1	74.0	16.6	57.9	79.1

Source: Dutt and Sundaram Indian economy 2014.

After independence in India the female education is meager, the above data shows that the female education is very low than compared to male education. The female education is 8.9 percent, rural 4.8 percent, and urban 22.3 percent in 1951 it is increased to 65.5 percent, rural 57.9 percent, and urban 79.1 percent in 2011. The male literacy is 27.2 percent in 1951 and 82.1 percent in 2011 so improvement of women education is compulsory.

The government has initiated many schemes for elementary and secondary education some are Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA)- 1982, Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) - 1993, Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) - 1995, Mid Day Meal scheme (MDM) - 1995, Balika Samridhi Yojana (MSY) - 1997, Raja Rajeshawari Mahila Kalyan Yojana (RRMKY) - 1998, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) - 2001, Mahila Swayam Sidha Yojana (MSSY) - 2001, National Programme for Education of Girls at an Elementary Level (NPEGEL) - 2003, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) - July 2004, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) - 2005, Rashtriya Madhyamika Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) - March 2009, National Mission For Empowerment of Women (NMEM)- 2010-11, Indira Gandhi Mitritya Sahayog Yojana (IGMSY) - 2012, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABALA) - 2012-13, Beti Bachavo - Beti Padhao (BBBM) - Jan' 2015, Education Development Index 2012 - 13 EDI is prepared by the National University of Education Planning and Administration (NEUPA) released on 6th December 2013. The Indian - Government expressed strong commitment towards education for all. However, India still has one of the lowest female literacy rates in Asia. This low level of literacy not only has negative impact on women's life but also lives on their country's economic development.

Today, India is a force in the global economy, with a high demand for talent. A key source of talent is educated women. While Indian corporations have not yet fully recognized or utilized this talent pool, the growing gender diversity in Indian managerial ranks now offers a pathway for change for Indian women. Cultural and social change means a shift away from traditional views, stereotypes and societal attitudes, with increasing opportunities for Indian women in management. While change is slow for Indian women to gain executive positions, they have made progress in management in a relatively short time. As social values change, Indian women have been entering the workforce in the past couple decades, Globalization has brought an influx of multinational corporations to India, with western HR practices and concepts such as gender diversity in leadership roles. As opportunities for women in management in India slowly increase, women are entering professions previously seen as the domain of men in the corporate world: advertising, banking, civil services, engineering, financial services, manufacturing, police and armed forces, and emerging fields such as IT and communications. The Indian rural women actively participated in the field agriculture sector the backbone of the family, they are working equal to male farmers and also supported to agriculture and the majority women lead their families in the rural areas.

India has been ranked at a poor 115 by a global survey which looked into the level of economical empowerment of women in 128 countries. The list was topped by Australia and followed by three Scandinavian countries- Norway, Sweden, and Finland, at the bottom of the list were Yemen, Pakistan, Sudan, and Chad. The research done by an international consulting and management firm Booz, and company ranked the India at 115 and noted that with the second largest population in the world, India generates 14 percent of the global talent pool, among which are the 5.5 million women entering India's work force each year all overwhelmingly driven to succeed. National Mission for Empowerment of Women this initiative for holistic empowerment of women through better convergence and engendering of policies, programs, and schemes of different ministries was operationalized in 2010-11. Under the mission institutional structures at state level including state mission authorities headed by Chief Ministers and State Resource Centers for Women (SRCWs) for spearheading initiatives for women empowerment have been established across the country. The education sustains the human values which contribute to individual and collective well being. It forms the basis for lifelong learning and inspires confidence to face challenges. It provides the skills to individuals to become more self reliance and aware of opportunities and duties and rights. It also enhances the ability of individuals to manage health and family problems, improve nutrition and childcare, and plan for the future. The education not only impacts on human development and economic growth, but also is the fundamental requirement of democracy. Through education more responsible and informed citizens it is essential for sustain democracy. It is essential for eradicating poverty and it allows people to be more productive playing greater roles in economic and social life and earning a better living.

SUGGESTIONS

1. The first priority should be given to the education of women in rural and urban areas, which is the grassroots problem. Hence, education for women has to be paid special attention in the rural India.
2. Awareness programmes need to be organized for creating awareness among women especially belonging to weaker sections in the rural areas about their rights.
3. Women should be allowed to work and should be provided enough safety and support to work. They should be provided with proper wages and work at par with men so that their status can be elevated in the society particularly weaker sections.
4. Providing education and health facilities and social awareness programmes to the rural and urban poor women.

CONCLUSION

In spite of all reasons women must understand and realize that education can actually end the vicious cycle of poverty. Their misfortune in life it is education that would help her not anything else. We should encourage the girl child in getting education to create a balanced and educated society. We are the responsible citizens don't Wait for a perfect movement, take a movement and make it perfect. Educate Women Educate World, no nation can develop half free and half chained, empowerment of women through their full participation in education, employment, political and social life is vital for this purpose. In July 1937 Gandhi wrote in HARIJAN, as "nation we are so backward in education that we cannot hope to fulfill our obligations to the nation in this respect in a given time during this generation". In this program is to depend on money came with the startling suggestion that education should be self supporting. If education given to man only individual is educated, if education is given to women the entire family is educated. An educated mother gives to the birth of civilized educational nation. The women education reflects that the relationship between development of nation as well as the importance of education to women. We make our women more powerful. If we want a healthy society woman 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 rises of feminist ideas have however led to the tremendous improvement of women's condition throughout the world in recent times. Historically education has been a determining factor of the progress of human civilization, creation of social opportunities for all sections for society. It is a reflection of the progress of the society. Education is the principal instrument for all round development and inclusive growth. In the principle of devolution primary and secondary education could increase the accountability of teachers and improve efficiency and relate decisions on school infrastructure to local needs of rapid expansion. The involvement of the local community could lead to a greater alignment of the supply of quality and excellence education to its demand, the present Government is encourage to women in many fields and taken steps to providing social, economical, political, cultural freedom, through the India is a stable economy or fastest growing country in the feature.

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