

A STUDY OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND ROLE OF EDUCATION

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Abstract

The present conceptual research focused on the study is to discuss the Concepts of Women Empowerment and Role of Education. Empowerment which means “becoming powerful” is a process through which individuals, groups, societies, communities are able to take control of their circumstances and achieve their goals. Power is the key word of the term ‘empowerment’, which means having control over material assets like land and finance, intellectual resources like knowledge, information and ideas and to generate sustain and propagates an ideology. The present paper focused on the study the role of education and discuss various Government Policies on Women Empowerment with prime objectives are (i) To understand the meaning and concept of Women Empowerment. (ii) To illustrate the need of Women Empowerment. (iii) To analyze the role of education for Women Empowerment. (iv) To describe the Government Schemes for Women Empowerment. (v) To criticize the various challenges for Women Empowerment. The methodology of the research is a different type involving an interpretative, conversation, observation and study secondary sources, like books, articles, journals, thesis, university news, expert opinion, and websites, etc.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Role of Education



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Introduction:

Empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps human beings to gain control over their own lives. Empowerment as a concept encompasses their social upliftment, political decision-making and economic independence. Empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building to greater participation and decision making.

Women's empowerment begins with the awareness about their rights and capabilities and the understanding as to how the socio-economic and political forces affect them. Women empowerment is a common word in Indian context. Women are the world's largest excluded group and the first oppressed group in the history of mankind. Women's oppression is the widest form of oppression in the world. The process of empowerment of women enables them to realize their full potential and empowers them in all spheres of life. The issue of empowerment of women moved center-stage with the global paradigm shift from a growth oriented issue to a human development approach. The very issue of Women empowerment

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arises because of the stark reality that even today a large section of women are marginalized and sidelined from the mainstream of the society.

Women Empowerment:

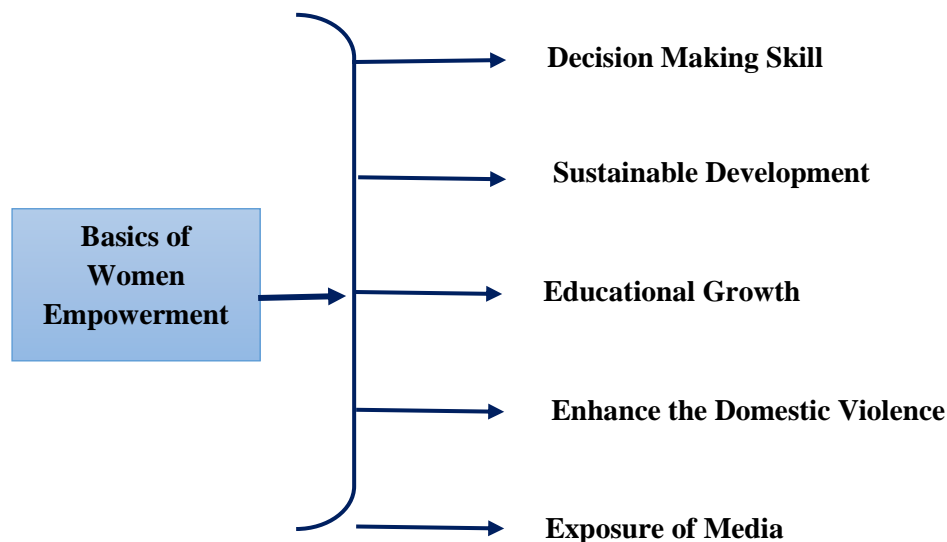
Women’s empowerment can be defined to promoting women’s sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices, and their right to influence social change for themselves and others.

Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Empowerment is a process. Through the process, an individual becomes an agent of change. More simply put, it’s the “can-do” factor, going from “I can’t” to “I can.” – HuffPost

Women's empowerment is the process of empowering women. It may be defined in several ways, including accepting women's viewpoints or making an effort to seek them, raising the status of women through education, awareness, literacy, and training. Women's empowerment equips and allows women to make life-determining decisions through the different problems in society.

Basics of Women Empowerment:

Women's empowerment is really needed in the societies. It's so important for women self-esteem and also for societies.



Women empowerment refer to increasing the spiritual, social, political, educational, gender of economic strength of individuals and communities of women.

Objectives of the Study:

- To understand the meaning and concept of Women Empowerment.
- To illustrate the need of Women Empowerment.
- To analyze the role of education for Women Empowerment.
- To describe the Government Schemes for Women Empowerment.
- To criticize the various challenges for Women Empowerment.

Data Collection Methodology:

The study is based on the secondary data sources. The necessary information about the women Empowerment Schemes in India and its various components are collected from various books, journals, internet source of related topics.

Women Empowerment and Role of Education:

Education is the most powerful aspect for Women Empowerment. Empowerment would become more relevant if women are educated, well informed and can take and part in decision making effectively. Women empowerment will not translate in reality till girl's education is given predominance because only an educated mother can build an educated nation. Education is empowerment, "education is a fundamental right for all people, women and men throughout the world". Education is the key to establish and reinforce democracy to development. Everyone is benefited from educational opportunities. Education is the light that annihilates the darkness of ignorance. The need of the hour is to improve female literacy as education holds the key to development. Education is essential for ameliorating the present condition of women of India, In spite of the different steps taken by the govt. For promoting the girl's education today, the situation is still far from satisfactory. It has also been felt that empowerment of women can contribute immensely to the success or universalization of elementary education. Such empowerment not only promotes girl's education but also boots their morale through liberty and equality of sex. Education is a milestone for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to opportunities, to challenge their traditional roles and to change their lives. It was accepted that education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. Educating women benefits the whole society. It has a more significant impact on poverty and development than men's education. It is also one of the most influential factors in improving child health and reducing infant mortality. Educated women can be of immense help in different ways for her family. It

is true that a woman has to play a significant role in the development of family life. Women can also contribute significantly to the social and economic reconstruction of the country.

Importance of Government Schemes for Women Empowerment:

After the Independence, Indian Government focused on Women Empowerment. Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India have focused with various policies, programmes, women social welfare schemes, Health and Nutrition, scholarship for women empowerment, Girl Child pregnant women, mothers, ward members, Anganwadi Workers, Women Health Volunteers, the women living in the rural & tribal areas, ex-servicemen, physically handicapped, nursing women, Lactating mother, widows/destitute, Old age women, women self-help group (SHG), Women Entrepreneurs and Adolescent Girls'. Also, it helps to the women and child belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Minority Category, below poverty line (BPL) and also for General Category. This scheme provides assistance for Education, Training, Financial assistance/Cash, Subsidy on the loans, Scholarship, Nutrition, self-employment and other facilities. The prime goal is for empowerment, development, protection and welfare of Women & Child. (Ref. Women and Child Development)

Following are the various women empowerment scheme-

- Rastria Mahila Kosh (RMK) 1992-1993
- Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) October, 1993.
- Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) 1995.
- Women Entrepreneur Development programme given top priority in 1997-98. Mahila Samakhya being implemented in about 9000 villages.
- Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP).
- Crèches/ Day care centre for the children of working and ailing mother.
- Hostels for working women.
- National Mission for Empowerment of Women.
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (1975),
- Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescence Girls (RGSEAG) (2010).
- The Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers.
- Integrated Child Protection scheme (ICPS) (2009-2010).
- Dhanalakshmi (2008).

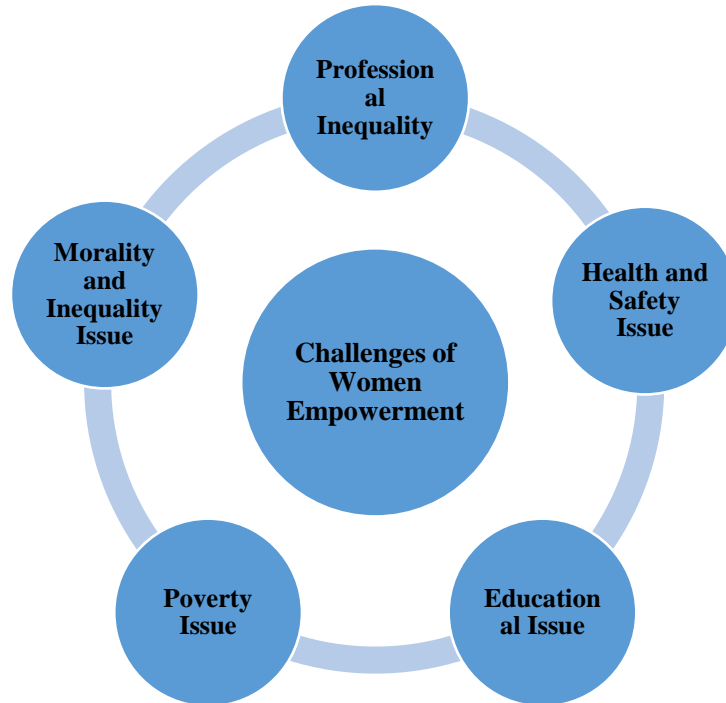
- Ujjawala (2007).
- Scheme for Gender Budgeting (XI Plan).
- Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).
- Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM).
- Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY).
- Women's Development Corporation Scheme (WDCS).
- Working Women's Forum.
- Indira Mahila Kendra.
- Mahila Samiti Yojana.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission.
- Indira Priyadarshini Yojana.
- SBI's Sree Shakti Scheme.
- SIDBI's Mahila Udyam Nidhi Mahila Vikas Nidhi.
- NGO's Credit Schemes.
- National Banks for Agriculture and Rural Development's Schemes

The efforts of government and its different agencies are ably supplemented by nongovernmental organizations that are playing an equally important role in facilitating women empowerment. Despite concerted efforts of governments and NGOs there are certain gaps. Of course we have come a long way in empowering women yet the future journey is difficult and demanding.

Various Challenges Faced by Women Empowerment in India:

There are several constraints that check the process of women empowerment in India. Social norms and family structure in developing countries like India, manifests and perpetuate the subordinate status of women. One of the norms is the continuing preference for a son over the birth of a girl child which is present in almost all societies and communities. The society is more biased in favor of male child in respect of education, nutrition and other opportunities. The root cause of this type of attitude lies in the belief that male child inherits the clan in India with an exception of Meghalaya. Women often internalize the traditional concept of their role as natural thus inflicting an injustice upon them. Poverty is the reality of life for the vast majority women in India. It is the factor that poses challenge in realizing women's empowerment.

There are several challenges that are plaguing the issues of women's right in India. Targeting these issues will directly benefit the empowerment of women in India.



Educational Issue:

While the country has grown from hops and bounds since independence where education is concerned. The gap between women and men is severe. While 82.14% of adult men are educated, only 65.46% of adult women are known to be knowledgeable in India. The gender bias is in advanced education, specialized professional trainings which hit women veritably hard in employment and attaining top leadership in any field.

Poverty Issue:

Poverty is considered the topmost trouble to peace in the world, and eradication of poverty should be a public thing as important as the eradication of ignorance. Due to this, women are exploited as domestic helps.

Health and Safety Issue:

The health and safety enterprises of women are consummate for the good of a country and is an important factor in gauging the commission of women in a country. Still there are intimidating enterprises where motherly healthcare is concerned.

Professional Inequality:

This inequality is rehearsed in employment beach elevations. Women face countless debits in manly customized and dominated environs in Government Services and Private enterprises.

Morality and Inequality Issue:

Due to gender bias in health and nutrition there's surprisingly high mortality rate in women reducing their population further especially in Asia, Africa and demitasse.

Conclusion

Women Commission is veritably important for the sustainable development and gender equivalency. There's lot of obstacles in front of the women education; it's the duty of the state and responsibility of the society to give space and occasion for girls' education. Maximum rallying of mortal and material coffers for qualitative and quantitative development of women's education through formal and non-formal approach will go a long way in women commission. The speech of "Gender mainstreaming" is pointless without empowering women, so, in this education plays a veritably important part. Without education of women, we can't raise social and educational standard in the country.

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