

The Impact of Education on Women's Empowerment

Dr. Maitradevi Shivaraya Asst. Professor and Head Dept. of Sociology M. S. Irani Degree
College of Arts, Science and Commerce Kalaburagi.

ABSTRACT:

This paper is to analyze the impact of education in Women Empowerment and highlights the concerns and Challenges of Women Empowerment. Today one of the most important concerns of 21st century is empowerment of women in society. Women's empowerment is dependent on various variables that includes geographical location, educational status, social status and age. From that Education is the key to release the freedom for development.

KEYWORDS: education, women empowerment, challenges, freedom

Introduction:

Education plays a vital role in empowering women and girls. It provides them with the knowledge and skills necessary to gain autonomy participate in decision-making processes and contribute to their communities. However, despite the recognized importance of education, women and girls continue to face significant challenges and barriers in achieving equal access to education. Globally, women and girls face persistent barriers to education. These barriers can stem from cultural, social and economic factors, and they often lead to disparities in educational opportunities between girls and boys. For example, in many developing countries, gender disparities in education persist due to traditional social norms and practices, such as early marriages and the burden of household responsibilities. Additionally, factors such as poverty, conflict and limited access to resources also contribute to these disparities. As a result, women and girls are denied the opportunity to reach their full potential and contribute to society on an equal footing with their male counterparts.

Education has countless benefits for women and girls. Firstly, it allows women and girls to gain knowledge, develop skills and make informed decisions. Education empowers women and girls to challenge societal norms and stereotypes, enabling them to advocate for their rights and participate in the public sphere. Additionally, education provides women and girls with opportunities to secure better jobs, earn higher incomes and support their families financially. Education also allows women and girls to become agents of change within their communities, promoting gender equality and social justice. Women empowerment means freedom of women from the ferocious hold of social, economic, political, social group and gender-based intolerance. It means yielding women freedom to make life abundance. Women's empowerment is an important process in reaching gender equality, which means "privileges, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals will not depend on whether they are born male or female."

Different ways for empowerment:

Individual Rights: Individual empowerment means to have the self-confidence to coherent and emphasize the power to discuss and decide.

Social Women Empowerment: A critical aspect of social empowerment of women is the promotion of gender equality.

Educational Women Empowerment: It means empowering women with the knowledge, skills, and selfconfidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. It means making women aware of their rights and developing a confidence to claim them.

Economic and professional empowerment: It means reducing their financial dependence on their male counterparts by making them a significant part of the human resource.

Legal Women Empowerment: It suggests the stipulation of an effective legal structure which is supportive of women empowerment.

Political Women Empowerment: It means the existence of a political system favoring the participation in and control by the women of the political decision-making process and in governance.

The position of Women in India:

Women's Role in Society: The modern women are prone towards the social issues, and trying hard to improve the social status of women at large. Increased awareness and education has inspired women to come out of the four walls of the home. Many women actively supported and participated in the nationalist movement and secured eminent positions and offices in administration and public life in free India. Traditionally Indian women exist because of the family and for the family.

Woman as a wife: Woman as a wife enjoyed ideally a status almost equally to that of her husband and performed both social as well as biological functions. The husband-wife relationship has become more equalitarian in character and much more companionable. More freedom of choice in marriage is thus an accompaniment to the change in form of the family.

Women's role in politics: Some are enrolling themselves as members of political parties, attending party meetings, conventions, and carrying out political programs. Some women are attaining influential political stature of their own and have become instrumental in shaping the public opinion for the betterment of women's conditions in society.

Participation of Women in Socio-economic activities: The woman in modern times is entering into certain new fields that were unknown to the woman's sphere of role-sets. These are the woman's participation in economic, political, and social life

Characteristics of women empowerment:

1. Women empowerment is giving power to women. It is making women better off. It enables a greater degree of self-confidence and sense of independence among women.
2. Women empowerment is a process of acquiring power for women in order to understand their rights and to perform her responsibilities towards oneself and others in a most effective way.
3. Women empowerment enables women to organize themselves increase their self-reliance and it provides greater autonomy.
4. Women empowerment means women's control over material assets intellectual resources and ideology.
5. Women empowerment abolishes all gender base discrimination in all institutions and structures of society.
6. Women empowerment means exposing the oppressive powers of existing gender social relations.
7. Women empowerment makes women more powerful to face the challenges of life, to overcome to the disabilities, handicaps, and inequalities.
8. Decision making greater ability to plan their and freedom from the shackles imposed on them by custom belief and practice.

9. Women empowerment is an ongoing dynamic process which enhances women's abilities to change the structure and ideologies that keep them subordinate. Women empowerment is a process of creating awareness and capacity building.

Challenges:

Despite the recognized benefits of education, women and girls continue to face significant challenges and barriers in achieving equal access to education. These challenges include:

- Because of the inbuilt governance complex among the males, they often don't allow their female counter part to rise as high as them.
- High level of family responsibilities
- Boundaries to participate in social, economic and religious activities
- In our society the boy child often gets preference for education and healthy diet over the girl child
- Preference for male child still exists among many families in the society.
- Gender inequality: It persists in many societies, with women and girls often facing discrimination and marginalization.
 - Cultural barriers: These can include traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and early marriages, that restrict girls' educational opportunities.
 - Poverty: Often acts as a barrier to education, as families cannot afford the costs of education, uniforms and transportation.
 - Violence and discrimination: Violence, both physical and sexual, against women and girls in educational institutions remains a significant concern.

To address these challenges and empower women and girls through education, it is crucial to implement comprehensive strategies. Firstly, it is essential to promote gender equality and advocate for the rights of women and girls. Governments, international organizations and civil society organizations must work together to create policies and legislation that promote equal access to education for women and girls. This includes providing resources, such as educational facilities, textbooks & scholarships, and ensuring the safety of girls and women in educational settings.

Secondly, it is essential to involve men and boys in the fight for gender equality in education. Engaging men and boys as advocates for women and girls' education can play a crucial role in challenging traditional gender norms and stereotypes. This can include awareness campaigns, educational programs and initiatives that promote gender equality and gender equality in education. Furthermore, it is crucial to educate women and girls about their rights, including their right to education. Educating women and girls about the importance of education can create a sense of agency and encourage them to pursue educational opportunities. This can be done through awareness campaigns, mentoring programs and community-based education initiatives.

Finally, it is crucial to address the structural barriers that limit women and girls' access to education. This includes tackling poverty, providing access to educational opportunities in remote and rural areas and ensuring the safety of women and girls in educational institutions. This can be done by implementing targeted programs, such as cash transfers, education programs and infrastructure development.

Result and Findings :

- Education liberates: Education liberates the mind. Books which educate open up our minds to places, people and possibilities we,d never have thought of otherwise. Therefore, an educated woman will also be a liberated woman.
- Education breaks down barriers: Education enables us to break down all barriers- religious, linguistic, cultural, political, gender and geographical.
- Education allows the privilege of choice: Education will teach them to discriminate between wrong and right, and make the correct choices in life.
- Education mobilizes: Education will galvanize women into fighting against the social evils which still plague Indian society.
- Education fosters independence: Most young, educated women of today are coming into their own being. They live how they want to, they date who they like, they also chose their lifepartners and just about everything else.
- Education helps choose a career and gets financial independence: This is an extension of my previous point. Education, today, is enabling women to go beyond professions considered traditionally good for them, like medicine, nursing, teaching, librarian etc. Today, women are becoming models, actors, fighter pilots, gym instructors, cops, writers, engineers, architects, journalists, scientists, corporate, law, filmmaking and what not they are breaking the glass ceiling
- An educated woman contributes to economy: Imagine a nation where women are qualified and are able to get jobs. The contribution to the workforce will enhance the output, and therefore, the economy will develop. And I'm not just talking about industries and corporations, but also about healthcare, the education sector itself, arts, science, literature etc.

Conclusion:

Without women involvement towards civilization cannot be ignored. Women should practice her education and career opportunities. When the woman is empowered it means the whole family is empowered and the overall society is empowered. Education play most important role towards empowerment. They should fight for themselves for having better living standard and they should make their own decisions. Women empowerment is an essential element in national development. Since women comprise half of the population there can be no development unless the needs and interests of women are fully taken into account. The effective management and development of women's resources, their capabilities, interests, skills and potentialities are of supreme importance for the mobilization of human resources.

Education plays a crucial role in empowering women and girls. It provides them with the knowledge and skills necessary to gain autonomy participate in decision-making processes and contribute to their communities. However, women and girls continue to face significant challenges and barriers in achieving equal access to education. By promoting gender equality, advocating for the rights of women and girls, addressing the structural barriers and empowering them through education, we can work towards creating a more equitable and inclusive society for women and girls.

References:

1. IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS) Volume 27, Issue 9, Series 1 (September, 2022) 61-63 e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845. www.iosrjournals.org DOI: 10.9790/0837-2709016163 www.iosrjournals.org 61 |Page Impact of E
2. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/importance-education-empowering-women-girls-footprintsofhope-i4pdf#:~:text=Education%20empowers%20women%20and%20girls,and%20support%20their%20families%20financially.>
3. Danaher, William F. Sexual Power: The Influence of the Blues Queens, 1921-1929. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 48 (11), 2005 (July): pp. 1453-467.
4. Ashok Pankaj and Tankha, Rukmini. Strengthening the impact of NREGS on female workers: a four-state study. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45 (30), 2010 (Jul 24): 45-55.
5. Awadhesh Kumar and Ganguli née Maulick, Barna. Gender differences in primary education and upper primary education: a concern of Bihar. *Nagarlok* , 45 (2), 2013 (April-June): pp. 50-66. [4]. Azim, Shaukath. Gender empowerment: where is India? *Social welfare* , 48 (2), 2001 (May): 9-11
6. Dr. Rita Khatri (2016) — The Role of Education towards women empowerment in India||, *International Journal of Advanced Research*,(550-555) DOI: 10.21474/IJAR01/2117
7. Eeva ERIKSSON, “Women's empowerment and its links to sustainable development” Policy Department C: Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs European Parliament B-1047 Brussels.