



EDUCATION ACTS AS A MOTIVATIONAL MECHANISM FOR EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN

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Abstract:

Education is the backbone of women's empowerment. It not only enables them to respond to challenges but also to make decisions about their life. Women's education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of a country. It not only helps in the development of the human resources but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. Education not only tends to promote the girl children but also can provide better guidance to all the children. Rural women are key agents for achieving the transformation of economic, environmental, and social changes required for sustainable development. All these can be achieved if they are educated. But the growth of women education in the rural area is very slow this means that still larger number of women of a country is illiterate, weak, backward and exploited. Limited access to credit health care and education are among the many challenges they face. Empowering them is a key not only to the well-being of individual's families and rural communities but also to overall economic productivity & social economic development. Therefore educating women is the most powerful mechanism to change their position in society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status family within the family.

Keywords: education, women, rural, sustainable, empowering

Introduction:

The development of any Civilization can be decided through the status given to the women in the society. Today we enjoy the benefit of being the citizens of a nation but we really need to think whether the citizen of a country is really free or enjoying freedom in true sense. The constitution of a nation doesn't discriminate between men and women but our society has deprived women of certain basic rights which were bestowed upon them by our constitution. Women education in India has also been a major occupation of both the government and civil society as because educated women can play a very important role in the development of the country. No doubt we will play a very vital role in contributing to the country's development



but in rural parts of the country, it is yet to meet the requirement despite reforms. Little has been achieved in the area of women empowerment, especially in rural areas. India is slowly moving towards becoming one of the largest economies in the world but it fails to give equal status to the women then becoming a developed nation will not be achieved. Therefore, educating the rural women has to be the main target if the country wants all round development. Rural women's education must be taken with importance because these women can change the face of the nation. Education will act as a motivating mechanism for developing the nation.

Importance of the study:

This paper will help you know how education will help rural women to achieve empowerment. Women's education in India plays a very important role in overall development. Educated women play an important role to promote all-round development for their family and society at large.

Review of Literature:

According to Nozaki (2009) higher education gender gap trend is consistent with a general global trend of narrowing gender gaps in education in recent decades. The data – at least, analysis of statistical data from countries around the world – support the contention that the disparity between men and women, at all levels of education and in terms of both academic achievement and enrollment rates, is not as dramatic as it once said to be.

Singh (2019) said that the study reveals that the participation of women in paid activities has been consistently declined. It is observed that the amount of unpaid work activities of women has significantly increased. Moreover, the increase of unpaid activities is more intense for those women who are less educated, marginalized and belong to the poorer household.

Bhardwaj (2014) stated that getting appropriate education helps them with finding sources of innovative ideas and converting these ideas into enterprises. The study also revealed that due to constraints in the time availability and resources, WEs find it hard to train themselves and equip themselves with the recent developments in technology and the market.



The objective of the study:

- ✓ To study importance of education for empowering rural women.
- ✓ To identify the area of obstacles of education for empowering rural women.

Methodology:

It is based on the secondary data generated through the different articles, research paper websites. The data is of qualitative in nature.

Importance of education for empowering rural women:

The various areas of importance for empowering rural women through education are as follows:

- ✓ **Economic Independence:** Indian women in many cases are easily exploited in several instances because of a lack of awareness. If women are not economically free and self-independence then she will have to be a dependency on her future husband or someone else in relation too. She never gets the freedom of economic Independence which is an essential requirement of every woman especially in the case of rural areas.
- ✓ **Building social values:** Education has always been considered as the most powerful instrument for social change. Different policies served by the government to improve the social qualifications of women help them to protect themselves from different types of violence. The amounting number of rape domestic violence dowry death sexual harassment is increasing day by day. If proper education is provided to be women then they will be bold enough to take the decision at appropriate time with awareness and self-consciousness. Ours is the male-dominated society where Different types of social norms are forcefully implemented for women therefore we have to empower women to face all the challenges of the society in a very positive way for enabling them to get life of respect.
- ✓ **Role in socio-cultural development:** A large number of schemes and program has been initiated for women's development but the Indian women have to survive in complex area of social-cultural historical political-economic realities. Position of



women groups in different ways especially in case of rural women the socio-cultural development are suppressed in many ways. With an increasing number of women getting an education has tremendously improved the role of women in social-cultural development nowadays. Women are joining professions like politics, education, space engineering, health, and other different types of professions etc. This type of progressive social-cultural development helps the society to progress.

- ✓ **Role in the economy building:** Nowadays we see women entrepreneurs in every sector like electronic drugs readymade garments Handicrafts printing toy-making beauty parlors etc. contribute to the economy of the country. If an opportunity is given to them they will deliver the best results with tolerance and honesty of hard work, corporation, adjustment and dependence. In a developing country like India, the presences of more educated women arevery much necessary to achieve all-round development of a nation.

Obstacles to women empowerment:

- ✓ **Violence:** Violence is the prime factor that opposes women's empowerment. Physical violence, emotional violence, mental torture and agony are rooted in the society from ancient times which are responsible for the decline in female sex ratio. Therefore violence is one of the most dangerous obstacles for women empowerment
- ✓ **Gender inequality:** Women's empowerment is not only limited to the economic independence of women gender equality but it is the other site which affects the development of women. Indian society is a male-dominated society where women have to depend on male partners either it can be her father, brother or husband.
- ✓ **Family restrictions:** Illiterate parents who were not willing to send their children to education institutions deprive them of fundamental freedoms of education. Especially in village areas the uneducated parents have superstitious beliefs of social values. These types of restrictions also become a measure of obstacles for women empowerment.



- ✓ **Early marriages:** In rural areas because of family poverty early marriages are being practiced. Dropout from schools leading to a lack of awareness among young women who become victim of different types of violence.

Various mechanism and measures for empowering women:

In recent years the empowerment of women is considered as the central issue in determining the status of women. The national policy on education 1986 revised in 1992 is perhaps the most radiant document on women's education. It emerged as a major breakthrough in addressing gender issues in government policies which projected that education can be used as a stop in the status of women. According to the human development report, 1993 literacy is a person's first and good learning knowledge building. Various measures were taken time to time but in the year 2001 the Government of India declared it as the year of women empowerment. The policy aims at upliftments development and empowerment in social economic and political by creating in themselves an awareness on various issues like human rights, mental freedom, healthcare quality, education at all levels, carrier building, vocational guidance employment, equal remuneration, occupational opportunity, health safety, social security and public life etc. Inequality in education is a global issue but in our country, one of the challenges accepted during the 12th plan was to establish more women Universities. Focused and genuine majors and mechanisms for the empowerment of women can give each and every woman a strength to progress and become bread earner.

Some Points of recommendation for empowering women:

- ✓ removal of gender inequality
- ✓ change the approach towards women based on sex discrimination
- ✓ to reduce the feeling of self-dependence among women
- ✓ Awareness of daughter's education is essential. Now daughter in future a mother. It is said that educated mothers will not only educate a family but built an entire nation.
- ✓ Spread the message that education of women is a precondition for fighting against their oppression
- ✓ introduce a large number of modern schools for rural girl children



Conclusion:

Empowerment of women is strongly associated with the level of education that is higher the level of education greater the empowerment of women. Family size family planning program prediction of girl child healthy and productive children is closely associated with the education of women. The woman is a backbone of a family playing multiple roles by nature; she is a dynamic source of power. Educating women in the process of development of nations can be accelerated. This would help women to take of themselves and leads to development and this is only possible if strong and positive attitude of Government and Society is functional. Education brings reduction inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. To encourage the education of women at all levels in providing knowledge establishment of colleges, schools & universities for women in the rural areas must increase in numbers. The main focus is to bring more girls especially from marginalized families or below the poverty level in mainstream education so that the entire nation can bid towards development. Nowadays the government has introduced several types of packages of concession in the form of providing free books uniform clothing mid-day meal scholarship free cycles and many more to encourage girl education.

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