

“Education leads to women empowerment” - A bliss

**Dr. N.SreeRajani,
Assistant professor,
Department of Business Management,
Sri PadmavathiMahila Visva Vidyalayam, Tirupati.*

***Dr. V.Bhargavi Reddy,
Assistant professor,
Department of Business Management,
SrPadmavathiMahila Visva Vidyalayam, Tirupati*

Abstract

Empowerment means accepting and allowing people and a strong emphasis on participation in political structures and in formal decision making and in the economic sphere, on the ability to obtain income, leading to economic decision making.

It is believed that education increases people's self-confidence and also enables them to find better jobs and they can work equally with men. In particular, education enables women to make choices that improve their children's health, their well-being and chances of survival. Basically, education can increase women's awareness about their rights, boost their esteem and provide them opportunity to assert their rights. This paper aims at explaining the education's role in the women empowerment especially in the Indian environment.

Key words: Empowerment, political and economic structure

Introduction:-

“Woman is an incarnation of ‘Shakti’—the Goddess of power. If she is bestowed with education, India's strength will double. Let the campaign of ‘kanyakelavni’ be spread in every home; let the lamp of educating daughters be lit up in every heart”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Education is the most important requirement and the fundamental right for any citizen. It helps the individual to reduce inequality and play a central role in human development that impacts the overall social economic development. Higher level of literacy and education leads to

better attainment of health, nutritional status, economics growth, population control, empowerment of the weaker sections and community as a whole. In context to this over the decades societies have been trying to develop without giving any rights to women. There has always been a gender discrimination toward the development of women. Men are empowered in the society and women are gender discrimination toward the development of women. Men are empowered in the society and women are considered as their servant. Women do not have their rights and neither are considered independent to take any decision. In order to provide equal status in the society women need to be empowerment is a process of acquiring knowledge and awareness which enable them to move towards life with greater dignity and self assurance. Women empowerment includes women awareness of their rights, self-confidence, to have a control over personal and professional lives and their ability to bring a change in the society. empowerment has many elements i.e. economic, social, political and personal. Economic empowerment means to give woman her rights in the economy. Social empowerment means status of woman in the society should be equal to man by eliminating injustice and inequality. Political empowerment means women should have seats in provincial and national assemblies and giving one woman right of one vote. Personal empowerment means women should have freedom in their personal matters. Women contribute to their families, societies and countries financially. This brings development in the economy.

Women empowerment as a concept was introduced at the International women Conference in 1985 at Nairobi, which defined it as redistribution of social power and control of resources in favour of women. Empowerment of women is empowerment of family/household and in turn development of a nation. Empowerment of women leads to benefit not only to the individual woman or to women groups, but also to the families and community as whole through collective action for development. The United Nation's organization had declared the year 1975 as women's year and the decade 1975-1985 as women's decade on an international level. Women can never achieve empowered till they attained the literacy and education. Women education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources, but in improving the quality of life at home and outside.

Women empowerment through education

Women empowerment is the pivotal part in any society, state or country. It is a woman who plays a dominant role in the basic life of a child. Women are in important section of our society. Education as means of empowerment of women can bring about a positive attitudinal change. It is therefore, crucial for the socioeconomic and political progress of India. The Constitution of India empowers the state to adopt affirmative measures for prompting ways and means to empower women. Education significantly makes difference in the lives of women. Women empowerment is a global issue and discussion on women political right are at the fore front of many formal and informal campaigns worldwide. The concept of women empowerment was introduced at the international women conference at NAROIPI in 1985. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to responds to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment. To see the development in women education India is supposed to upcoming super power of the world in recent years. The increasing change in women education, the empowerment of women has been recognised as the central issue in determining the status of women. For becoming super power we have mostly to concentrate upon the women's education. By which it will force on women's empowerment. As per united development fund for women (UNIFEM) the term women's empowerment means:

- Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relations and the ways in which these relations may be changed.
- Developing a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life.
- Gaining the ability to generate choices exercise bargaining power.
- Developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change, to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

Thus, empowerment means a psychological sense of personal control or influence and a concern with actual social influence, political power and legal rights. It is a multi level

construct referring to individuals, organizations and community. It is an international, ongoing process centered in the local community, involving mutual respect, critical reflection, caring and group participation, through which people lacking an equal share of valued resources gain greater access to the control over this resources.

Suggestions for upliftment of Indian women:-

- Women empowerment is an essential element for national development. Since women constitutes half of the population there can be no development unless the needs and interests of women are fully taken into account. Therefore whenever policies are amended or new policy are initiated government has to consider the interest of women towards the new policy initiative. For example as government has initiated 'Make in India' project they should provide concessional interest for bank loan and single window clearance for women entrepreneurs who are participating in this campaign. This initiative will encourage more women to be entrepreneur.
- More and more awareness for women empowerment through education need to be undertaken through free workshop and seminars, women councils in rural areas as even today many women are not aware of their basic rights. In order to motivate rural women for higher education some scholarships should be announced for rural women and government should ensure that this educational scholarship should go to deserving candidates.
- The government body or NGO should arrange programmes for interaction with other empowered women in the society for motivating women. The institutions that are engaged in various fields of social work can start short term diploma or certificate courses in areas of rural development with special emphasis on projects for women's development. Even many female celebrities can participate in these programmes toward empowering women as they are the effective role model for many to follow.
- Health care and education are the least considered sector in financial budget as compared to the rest of the world. It is imperative on the part of the government to scale up the investment in education and health sector for women. The government should increase

investment to achieve gender parity and higher level of enrollment in completion of secondary and tertiary education. Provide women and girls better health care services, social services, decent employment and other support so that they are able to achieve full benefit of education.

- As a corporate social responsibility even the corporate players should also take active interest towards the project related to empowering women by investing funds towards women literacy and education, health and safety of girl child, skill development centers for women entrepreneurs, higher education. Their contribution can change the lives of many women in India.

Conclusion:-

Without women contribution towards society cannot be ignored. When the women is empowered it mean the whole family is empowered and the overall society is empowered. Education plays key role towards empowerment. Women should pursue her education and career opportunities. They should fight for themselves for having better living standard and they should make their own decisions. For the development of the economy women and men both should work together and women should utilize their skills. Women empowerment is an essential element in national development. Since women constitute 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 paramount importance for the mobilization of human resources. Economic development efforts to combat poverty can only succeed if women are part of the solution.

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