Abstract

This paper discusses the women education and empowerment for sustainable development of India. In this way many needs are taken for the better improvement of the women. Education is the main factor for the development of the women. We analyze broadly in different ways of the women empowerment. Education is the main factor in the development of any country and the people of the country. How education is empowering women and how education help in empowering women in various countries where education is just a magical word for women. India is poised to emerge as one of the most developed nations by 2020, more literate, knowledgeable and economically at the forefront. No doubt, women will play a vital role in contributing to the country's development. Women power is crucial to the economic growth of any country. In India this is yet to meet the requirements despite reforms. Little has been achieved in the area of women empowerment, but for this to happen, this sector must experience a chain of reforms. Though India could well become one of the largest economies in the world, it is being hindered due to a lack of women's participation.

1. Introduction

Education is a part and parcel of human life itself irrespective of the field of activity. Every field of human activity has developed its own value systems. Education has also accumulated its own value systems over a period of time. In order to make value education a powerful tool, education should be made more open, more reflective and more vocal with greater participation of teachers, students, parents and the society in deciding all major aspects of education.

So far, the education system in India is a closed one with outdated teacher training programmes and syllabi, heavy and mind bogging exercises with lots of paper work. There is little that a student can look into the society and learn and much less the relevance of his learning to the...
society. For most of the times, parents look at their children like scapegoats, since they cannot participate in their children’s education. Thus, in our country education has become a blunt and invalid tool. Therefore, education has lost its relevance to the social, economic, political, ethical, cultural and spiritual values of our country. Under such circumstances one cannot expect education to play the role of a most effective powerful tool that can influence human life.

Women 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 rise of feminist ideas has, however, led to the tremendous improvement of women's condition throughout the world in recent times. Access to education has been one of the most pressing demands of these women's rights movements. Women education in India has also been a major preoccupation of both the government and civil society as educated women can play a very important role in the development of the country.

2. **History Of Women Education In India**

   Although in the Vedic period women had access to education in India, they had gradually lost this right. However, in the British period there was revival of interest in women's education in India. During this period, various socio religious movements led by eminent persons like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar emphasized on women's education in India. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Periyar and Baba Saheb Ambedkar were leaders of the lower castes in India who took various initiatives to make education available to the women of India. However women's education got a fillip after the country got independence in 1947 and the government has taken various measures to provide education to all Indian women. As a result women's literacy rate has grown over the six decades and the growth of female literacy has in fact been higher than that of male literacy rate. While in 2001 only 54.16% of Indian women were literate, by the end of 2011 65.46% female were literate. The growth of female literacy rate is 11.30% as compared to 6.29% of that of male literacy rate.

3. **Importance Of Women Education In India**

   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. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl children, but also can provide better guidance to all their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of the population.

3.1 **Need For Women Empowerment**

   - "There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing." - Swami Vivekananda.
   - There are so many women, who are silently baring the harassment of their life partners because of the lack of education, lack of legal awareness and lack of empowerment in women.
   - When women are empowered, all the society benefits.
   - Educating women about health care promotes healthier families.
   - Even though a woman works 24/7 to raise her children and to maintain her family, she is not getting recognition for her work at least in her home.
3.2 Women Empowerment Through Education

Women Empowerment is a global issue and discussion on women political right are at the forefront of many formal and informal campaigns worldwide. The concept of women empowerment was introduced at the international women conference at NAROIBI in 1985. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So that we can’t neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment India is poised to becoming superpower, a developed country by 2020. The year 2020 is fast approaching; it is just 7 year away.

This can became reality only when the women of this nation became empowerment. India presently account for the largest number no of illiterates in the world. Literacy rate in India have risen sharply from 18.3% in 1951 to 74.04% in 2011 in which enrolment of women in education have also risen sharply 7% to 65.46%. Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, plan and programmes have aimed at women’s advancement in difference spheres. From the fifth five year plan (1974–78) onwards has been a marked shift in the approach to women’s issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women. The National Commission of Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the right and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local level.

3.3 Challenges For Women Empowerment

- Female Foeticide.
- Dowry.
- Restriction on widow remarriage.
- Gender Bias.
- Neglect during childhood.
- Childhood marriages.
- Gender specific specialization at work.
- Cultural definition of appropriate gender roles.
- Belief in the inherent superiority of males.
- Notion of the family as the private sphere and under male control.
- Limited access to cash and credit.
- Limited employment opportunities.
- Limited access to education.
- Right to property is still exists only for sons.
- Female infanticide.
- Poverty effects women more.
- India’s maternal mortality is highest in South Asia.
- Domestic violence.
- Crimes against women.
- Honor killings.
- Trafficking of women.
- Lack of awareness of Govt. programs.
3.4 The Role Of Education In The Empowerment Of Women

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India is poised to emerge as one of the most developed nations by 2020, more literate, knowledgeable and economically at the forefront. No doubt, women will play a vital role in contributing to the country's development. Women power is crucial to the economic growth of any country. In India this is yet to meet the requirements despite reforms. Little has been achieved in the area of women empowerment, but for this to happen, this sector must experience a chain of reforms. Though India could well become one of the largest economies in the world, it is being hindered due to a lack of women's participation.

4. Conclusion

According to the Country Report of the Government of India, “Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power.” Education of women in the education of women is the most powerful tool of change of position in society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. To encourage the education of women at all levels and for dilution of gender bias in providing knowledge and education, established schools, colleges and universities even exclusively for women in the state. To bring more girls, especially from marginalized families of BPL, in mainstream education, the government is providing a package of concessions in the form of providing free books, uniform, boarding and lodging, clothing for the hostilities, midday meals, scholarships, free circles and so on.

5. References

[6] Nair, J. (1996). Women and Law in Colonial India: A Social History, Delhi, Kali for Women (published in collaboration with the National Law School of India University, Bangalore)