



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

J. Jayapriya,

Asst. Professor,

SCSVMV, Kanchipuram.

Email: jpriya.nathan@gmail.com

Abstract

Education does not mean possessing number of qualification. It means to empower a person. It prepares the individual to live harmony in the society. Education is the fundamental right for everyone irrespective gender, caste and creed. Women play a variety of role in humans life as a daughter, as a sister, as a wife, as a mother, as a friend, as a grandmother etc., everywhere her role is so important. They are playing each role extraordinarily. But people are ill treated them. Education can improve the status of women. Proper education gives power and earn respect from others. It gives strength, boldness and assertiveness to them. It helps to protest against the problem they faced from others. Education is essential for every women whether they go for a job or homemaker. Education gives the ability to get employment and employment removes the dependency over men. It enhances confidence and courage of women. We should tell the stories of the famous contemporary women personalities like Kalpana Chawla, Sunitha Williams, Indira Nooyi, Nirmala Seetharaman, etc. to the younger generation and make them realise the value of education and through this education alone they achieved highest positions in their life. Dependency on Education gives independent to women in all aspects. In this paper, we discuss about how women can be empower through education.

Keywords: Women, Education, Empowerment, barriers.

Introduction

In the present scenario, everyone realise about the importance of women education. Earlier women were not given much important; even they have not allowed to come out from their home. Now the scenario has totally changed. Women are ruling the world now. They have entered in all the sectors and proved that they are capable of doing work. This desirable changes happened only because of their access to education. Education makes significant difference in the lives of women. Before they identified only with their relationship with male; his daughter, his wife etc., now they identified by their individuality. The dignity of the women increased in society. Now they remembered by their hard work, power, assertiveness, bold, commitment, intelligence, responsibility, dedication, sympathy, empathy, courage, strength and leadership quality. Education gives awareness of their rights. It helps them to

protect themselves and others who are facing difficulty. It enhances the ability to analyze and solve their problems effectively. Education makes them capable of doing any kind of work. There is no limit for them to achieve success in their life, if they are educated. Women approach everything in a different manner. It enhance their self - esteem and ability to perform well in task what they come across in their life.

Empowerment

Empowerment is the process of increasing autonomy and confidence in individual or groups in order to enable them in controlling their life and demanding for their right.

Meaning of Women Empowerment

Empowerment of women would mean inspiring women to be self-confident, economically independent, have positive self-esteem, generate self-reliance to face any kind of difficult situation and motivate dynamic participation in various activities. ^[1]

Barriers of Women Empowerment

In the process of empowerment, women are facing number of obstacles. They are,

- Orthodox mentality of the people
- Female infanticide (deliberate killing of female child within one year)
- Female feticide (sex selective killing of girl child before birth)
- Male dominance
- Gender discrimination
- Preference over male children
- Child marriages
- Dowry system
- Cost of arranging marriage of girl child
- Patriarchal society
- Lack of personal health care
- Sexual harassment
- Inequality in sharing the household work & salary
- No right to choose profession
- No freedom to choose her life partner
- Gender stereotype
- Eve teasing
- Acid throwing
- Woman trafficking
- Family responsibilities of woman

- No power to take decision in their life
- Lack of transport facilities in rural areas to go school
- Lack of hostel facilities for girls
- Physical & domestic violence
- Rapism
- Decline sex ratio
- Lack of proper awareness programme on importance of women education.

Women empowerment through Education

Education means modification of behavior in every aspect. Women education refers to improving the knowledge, abilities, skills, right attitude of women. Education can increase women's consciousness and enhance their worthiness. It develops women self-confidence, self-regulation, self-reliance, positive self-esteem, positive self-concept, decision-making skills, critical thinking skills and problem solving skills. Educated women are capable of bringing socio-economic changes. To fulfill their desires they have to depend on the male figure in the family. However, education eliminated the dependency. Because of their education, they can get good job and they can use and save their money wisely. It does not mean that women need to get educated only to earn money. They have to get education to lead their life in a effective way ie., to follow healthy food habits, to teach lessons to their children, to be an innovative person, to know how to behave and speak with others, to teach values, to make decision wisely etc., . They will contribute to the development of their family. It gives them self-respect and self-determination. The society also respect and admire them. All these things gives happiness and increase their confidence level. It will motivate them to do anything without any hesitation.

Through Education, women can attain better position in their professional life. It enables them to take decision independently. Because of financial independent, they can satisfy their own needs and develop the status of their family. Moreover, educated women follow the healthy food habits it will reduce the pregnancy deaths. Education is a main source to solve the problems of women. It gives women knowledge of the difference between good and bad. Education modifies the women thinking process, attitude, outlook, aptitude, behavior etc. Education is the way to achieve gender equality. People are started treating men and women equally only because of education. Educated women are enjoying highest position in the workplace, but still they have to perform household works in home. Hope change may come in home too. Both home and workplace their contribution is more. Education helps them to identify their strength and weaknesses, it may help them to develop their positive things and made effort to overcome their negative. They ignore others opinion on them. Educated women

spread awareness and give guidance to other women who think themselves as weak. No one can force them to do things without her willingness. Education gives the courage to do things whatever she wants to do. Giving education to girls is an investment for the family. Dont think that for the sake of earning money women should educated, which is not right. Women should be educated to get knowledge, to earn respect from others, to make her independent, to lead a healthy life style, to take care of family members, to follow healthy food habits, to teach children, to take wise decision, to know their rights, to make right choice in education, to earn knowledge and to assess people, to protest against the social evils, to be aware of national and international issues, to prove her talents to others, to pursue a course what she likes, to develop decision making skills, to solve problem effectively, to think critically, to live happily, to express her thoughts boldly, to present herself based on her wish, to earn social status and to eradicate harassment etc.,

Conclusion

Education is the most powerful tool to change the position of women in the patriarchal society in India. If we give education to a man we are giving education to only a man, but we give education to a woman we are giving education to a family through family the whole nation will get education. However, mindset of the Indian society is not changed. Still some people like to keep women in the four walls of home. Women are not educated; half of the population of our country is uneducated. Then our country never reach the goal of hundred percent educated. We should create awareness among the people to the importance of women education. At present, we can see some desirable changes in the parents of the female children. They realize the importance of education to the girl child. Educated women can stand on their own leg without depending on anyone. Parents need not save money for arranging marriage for their child. Spend money for her education. It is an essential ornament for the girl child. It save her life more than anything does. It is a powerful weapon for the woman. Through the weapon they can empower them, protect them and they can lead their life happily. Education is the one and only source which can bring happiness in the life of women. It is our duty to support and encourage women education. We should not interfere in the independent and wishes of women. Let her live life as per her wish.

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