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A STUDY OF EMPOWERMENT OF POST GRADUATE STUDENTS' OF S.N.D.T. WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY.

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Introduction:

India is a developing country aspiring to be a developed country. In the process of becoming developed country it has to handle various aspects of the development like infrastructural, human, economical and so on which are associated with the indicators of development.

The human development is indeed the most important as well as complex task . In India population is unevenly distributed geographically but there are many groups which are considered as deprived. These groups are need to be given more attention so as to accelerate the process of development.

Women come in deprived groups which constitute about 48.47%of population in India as per the 2011 census. But they are not well represented in social, political and economic life as per their numerical strength. From the standpoint of UNESCO's gender empowerment index, a person becomes empowered when he/she is able to make decision for himself/ herself and others; socially and politically. Women's participation in Panchayat Raj to parliament is highly essential to enable critical mass take critical actions and play an active role in national development. Thus the empowerment occurs at different levels in various dimensions such as psychological, economic, social and political.

Higher education is considered to be one of the most important means of empowering women with knowledge, skills and self confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process.

Concept of Women Empowerment:

Empowerment is generally understood as a financial independence acquired by women. This understanding is misleading because empowerment is a multidimensional and involves many things such as economic opportunities, property rights, political representation, social equality, personal rights and so on. The approaches to women empowerment can be divided into four broad heads: educational empowerment, social empowerment, political and economic. According to Blanchard," Empowerment is not giving people power but letting this power out. It encourages people to gain the skills and knowledge that will allow them to overcome obstacles in life or work environment and ultimately, help them develop within themselves or in the society. (Pandey G, Das P, Joshi C, Pg.17)

For the present study the Women empowerment is considered in terms of Self esteem, Scientific Attitude and Decision Making Ability.

Need of the study:

The review of researches indicates that the researches have been conducted on self esteem are on its relationship with academic achievement, influence of gender and ethnicity of adolescents.

Studies on Scientific Attitude are conducted mostly at school levels and variables considered are science literacy, thinking process, logical thinking, interest in science and perception of teaching process

Mostly the Women empowerment is studied in terms of earnings. Education plays important role in the development of individual and society. Few studies are conducted on ICT literacy of females, legal literacy.

No doubt Scientific Attitude is the most important indicator of developed society thus it was thought that it should be studied. The women in India is not fully participating in Decision Making process therefore it is interesting to study the extent to which new educated women is involved in the process of Decision Making .

Significance of the Study:

➢ This study will be helpful for Curriculum designers who can get a feedback and make changes in the curriculum of different faculties.

➢ The management can take decisions for organizing various enrichment programmes for students and variety of activities for students and teachers belonging to specific faculties.

➢ It will be also useful for the teachers who can enrich their content as well as other activities by integrating with technology, presentations, projects and other assignments.

Title of the Study:

A Study of Empowerment of Post Graduate Students' of S.N.D.T. Women's University.

Operational definitions:

For the present study the empowerment of women is considered on the basis of their Self Esteem, Scientific Attitude, Decision Making Ability.

Self esteem: It is defined as the stable sense of personal worth.

Scientific Attitude: It is the ability of an individual to think logically, identify the relationship between components and think independently.

Decision Making Ability: It is the ability of an individual to make decisions in day to day life after analyzing the situation and verifying it.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To Study the Self Esteem of students.

2. To Study the Scientific Attitude of students.

3. To Study the Decision Making Ability of students.

4. To Study the faculty wise difference in the Self esteem of students.

5. To Study the faculty wise difference in Scientific Attitude of students.

6. To Study the faculty wise difference in Decision Making Ability of students.

7. To Study the category wise difference in the Self esteem of students.

8. To Study the category wise difference in the Scientific Attitude of students.

9. To Study the category wise difference in the Decision Making Ability of students.

Hypotheses of the Study:

1. There is no significant faculty wise difference in Self esteem of students

2. There is no significant faculty wise difference in Scientific Attitude of students.

3. There is no significant faculty wise difference in Decision Making Ability of students.

4. There is no significant category wise difference in Self esteem of students.

5. There is no significant category wise difference in Scientific Attitude of students.

6. There is no significant category wise difference in Decision Making Ability of students.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study:

The present study dealt with second year student of Arts and Commerce from colleges affiliated to S.N.D.T. Women's University. The university has only one department with post graduation in science therefore are not considered for the present study. The data has been collected from colleges situated in greater Mumbai. The students from English medium are considered. The Self esteem , Scientific Attitude and Decision Making Ability are considered as indicators of empowerment.

Tools of the Research:

The following tools were used for data collection.

- Personal data sheet.

- Self esteem scale by Rosenberg.

- Scientific Attitude Scale by George

- Decision Making Ability Scale by Kesarkar and wakpainjan.

Sample: Its Nature and Size:

The following table indicates the sample of the study. The reason for selecting the sample is specific because S.N.D.T.Women's University has been established to empower women through education.

Table 1.1

Faculty wise distribution of Sample

No. of Arts students	No. of Commerce students	Total students
118	55	173

For the present study 173 students were selected. There were 118 students from Arts, 55 students from Commerce were selected randomly. At first level ,degree colleges were selected randomly. It is also a purposive sampling as the colleges affiliated to S.N.D.T.Women's university were included .The students were selected randomly. The students doing their second year of post graduation who were ready to give information were included in the study.

Methodology of the Study:

The study deals with the students' present level of Self esteem, Scientific Attitude and Decision Making Ability hence descriptive type of method has been used. Within descriptive method Survey type is used.

Data collection:

The data has been collected after taking prior permission from principals of colleges.

Analysis of data:

The data has been analyzed by using descriptive and inferential analysis. In descriptive analysis the mean, median, mode has been calculated to understand the central tendencies. Standard deviation, Skewness, kurtosis has been calculated to study the variability of the group.

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Table 1.2

Self Esteem of students

level	No. of students	Percentage
Low	0	0%
Moderate	117	67.63%
High	56	32.37%

It is seen from the table that 67.63 % of the students have moderate Self esteem and only 32.36 % of students have high Self esteem.

Table 1.3

Scientific Attitude of students

level	No. of students	percentage
Low	0	0%
Moderate	53	30.64%
High	120	69.46%

It is seen from the table that 30.64 % of the students are moderate on Scientific Attitude 69.46% of the students have high Scientific Attitude.

Table 1.4

Decision Making Ability of students

Level	No. of students	percentage
Low	15	8.67%
Moderate	56	32.37%
High	102	68.96%

It is seen from the table that 8.67% of the students are low on Decision Making Ability , 32.37% of the students have Decision Making Ability and 68.96 % of students have high Decision Making Ability .

For comparing the Self esteem, Legal literacy Scientific Attitude and Decision Making Ability of student on the basis of faculty and category 't' tests were carried out. Following tables indicate the detailed analysis.

For **testing hypothesis** 1, the't' test was carried out. The following table indicates the details of analysis.

Table 1.5

Significance of Mean difference of Self Esteem of students.

Faculty	N	Mean	SD	t- value	L.O.S.
Arts	117	30.15	3.12		
Commerce	55	30.27	4.46	0.18	NS

Interpretation:

The tabulated t value for df (N-2) is 1.96 at 0.05 level, The obtained value of t is less tan tabulated t value therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Conclusion:

There is no significant difference in the Self esteem of Post graduate students of Arts and Commerce.

For **testing hypothesis** 2, the't' test was carried out. The following table indicates the details of analysis.

Table 1.6

Significance of Mean difference of Scientific Attitude of students.

Faculty	N	Mean	SD	t- value	L.O.S.
Arts	118	271.19	28.08		
Commerce	55	268.1	34.67	0.57	NS

Interpretation:

The tabulated t value for df (N-2) is 1.96 at 0.05 level, The obtained value of t is less tan tabulated t value therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Conclusion:

There is no significant difference in the Scientific Attitude of Post graduate students of Arts and Commerce. The mean score of Arts student is higher than Commerce students.

For **testing hypothesis** 3,the 't' test was carried out. The following table indicates the details of analysis.

Table1.7

Significance of Mean difference of Decision Making Ability of students.

Faculty	N	Mean	SD	t- value	L.O.S.
Arts	118	30.7	3.55	0.31	NS
Commerce	55	30.5	4.2		

Interpretation:

The tabulated t value for df (N-2 = 171) is 1.96 at 0.05 level, The obtained value of t is less tan tabulated t value therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Conclusion:

There is no significant difference in the Scientific Attitude of Post graduate students of Arts and Commerce. The mean score of Arts student is higher than Commerce students.

For **testing hypothesis** 4,the 't' test was carried out. The following table indicates the details of analysis.

Table1.8

Significance of Mean difference of Self esteem of Open and Reserved

Category Student

Category	N	Mean	SD	t- value	L.O.S.
Open	111	30.23	3.74		
Reserved	62	30.11	3.32	0.22	NS

Interpretation:

The tabulated t value for df (N-2 = 171) is 1.96 at 0.05 level, The obtained value of t is less tan tabulated t value therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Conclusion:

There is no significant difference in the Self esteem of Post graduate students of Open and Reserved category.

For **testing hypothesis** 5,the 't' test was carried out. The following table indicates the details of analysis.

Table1.9

Significance of Mean difference of Scientific Attitude of Open and

Reserved Category Student

Category	N	Mean	SD	t- value	L.O.S.
Open	111	269.78	29.59		
Reserved	62	270.98	31.72	0.24	NS

Interpretation:

The tabulated t value for df (N-2 = 171) is 1.96 at 0.05 level, The obtained value of t is less tan tabulated t value therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Conclusion:

There is no significant difference in the Scientific Attitude of Post graduate students of Open and Reserved category.

For **testing hypothesis** 6,the 't' test was carried out. The following table indicates the details of analysis.

Table1.10

Significance of Mean difference of Decision Making Ability of Open and

Reserved Category Students.

Category	N	Mean	SD	t- value	L.O.S.
Open	111	30.63	3.75		
Reserved	62	30.66	3.8	0.05	NS

Interpretation:

The tabulated t value for df (N-2 = 171) is 1.96 at 0.05 level, The obtained value of t is less tan tabulated t value therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Conclusion:

There is no significant difference in the Decision Making Ability of Post graduate students from Open and Reserved category.

Findings of the study:

➢ There are 67.63% of the students have moderate Self esteem and only 32.37 % of students have high self esteem.

➢ It is found that 30.64% students are moderate on Scientific Attitude , 69.46% of the students have high Scientific Attitude .

➢ The findings shows that 8.67% of the students are low on Decision Making Ability , 32.37% of the students have moderate Decision Making Ability and 68.96 % of students have high Decision Making Ability .

➢ There is no significant difference in the Self Esteem, Scientific Attitude and Decision Making Ability of the students from different faculties

➢ There is no significant difference in the Self esteem, Scientific Attitude, Decision Making Ability of students from open category or reserved category. Hence the null Hypotheses are accepted.

Discussion:

There is no significant difference in the self esteem , Scientific Attitude and Decision Making Ability of students from Arts and Commerce Faculties and also students from open and reserved category. The reason could be that the colleges affiliated to S.N.D.T. Women's University are situated in Mumbai. Its being cosmopolitan city students are treated equally in the colleges and are exposed to various activities. There is no discrimination based on faculty or categories which help in providing a healthy learning environment. The syllabus framed with the intention of empowering women which is a motto of the University. To some extent they might have participation in making decision which make them independent individuals.

Suggestions:

Following are the suggestions which can help in developing self esteem of students

➢ Teacher should design challenging assignment for students and motivate them to complete it.

➢ The students' efforts must be recognized and appreciated by the colleges and by parents.

➢ The deliberate efforts should be put to take participation of these female students in different social activities. The challenging projects can be given which can help in enhancing Decision Making Ability

➢ The college authorities can organize enrichment programme for enhancing Self esteem of students. They can plan for a reward scheme for students which can help in Developing the self confidence of the students.

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