

## **Importance of Education in the Empowerment of Women in India**

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**Abstract:** Education of Women in India has a major preoccupation of both the government and civil society as educated women can play a very important role in the development of country. Increased knowledge, self confidence and awareness of gender equity are the indicators of the empowerment process. These components get develop through education. Educated woman is aware about her rights and does not face any discrimination. A number of studies have revealed that uneducated women will have high-level morality, low potential for earning, poor dietary status and little independence in the household. Education of women is a multi-faceted factor that can be held responsible for the low rate of education among women in India. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family and develops the concept of participation.

**Key Words:** Women Empowerment, Education, Health, Socio-Economic Status, Preoccupation.

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### **Introduction**

A woman plays a very important role in progress of a family, society and country. Educated women are the real source of happiness in the family. Education is one of the milestones for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional roles and change their lifestyle. Empowerment can be viewed as means of creating a social environment in which one can make decisions and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation.

Empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing individual to think, take action at control work in an autonomous way. It is process by which one can control over one's life. There are always a number of elements in the society which are deprived of their basic rights in every society, state and nation, but these elements lack in awareness of their rights. Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio whereby females populations has been comparatively lower than males.

Education is a key factor for women empowerment prosperity, development and welfare. Education has been recognized as an essential agent of social change and development in any society and country. According to Nelson Mandela, education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. Women are entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of all forms of discrimination this is fundamental to achieve human rights, peace, security and sustainable development. Women empowerment in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. So, in order to make the country fully developed women empowerment is an essential tool for the country in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Importance of Women Education**

There are two powers in the world, one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a third power stronger than both, that of women. By Malala Yousafzai, 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. If it is said that education is the key to our problems, then it won't be improper.

If you educate a man you educated an individual, however if you educate a women you educate a whole family. Women empower means Mother India is Empowered. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, education means modification of behavior in every aspect such as mentality, outlook, attitude etc. educated women not only tend to promote education of their children, but also can provide guidance to all their children. Moreover, educated women can also help in the deduction of infant mortality rate and growth of population.

### **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 an important section of our society. Education as means of empowerment of woman can bring about a positive attitudinal change. If we take an example of women education in Ancient Vedic Era then, then we can say that education in that Era was very good. Women in Ancient India have few excess to education. They were expected to participate in Vedic sacrifices and utter mantras. In the earlier Vedic and Upanishad time, girls were free to go through the Upanayana ceremony, live a life of Celibacy, Studies, Vedas, and Vedangas and other subjects along with their brother pupils. The Vedas give a very honorable and respectable status to women. Education significantly makes difference in

the lives of women. The constitution of India empowers the state to adopt affirmative measures for prompting ways and means to empower women. The concept of women empowerment was introduced at the International Women Conference at Nairobi in 1985. As per United Nation Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) the term women empowerment means-

1. Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relations and the way in which these relations may be changed.
2. Developing a sense of self worth, a belief in once ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life.

3. Gaining the ability to generate choices exercise bargaining power.
4. Developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change, to create a more just a social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

Thus, empowerment means psychological sense of personal control or influence and a concerned with actual social influence, political power and legal rights.

Let's see the difference in the Literacy Rate between Men and Women in the given table are as under.

**Literacy Rate In India**

YEAR	PERSONS	MALES	FEMALES
1901	5.3	9.8	0.7
1911	5.9	10.6	1.1
1921	7.2	12.2	1.8
1931	9.5	15.6	2.9
1941	16.1	24.9	7.3
1951	16.7	24.9	7.3
1981	36.2	46.9	24.8
1991	52.1	63.9	39.2
2001	62.38	76.0	54.0
2011	74	82.1	65.46

On observing the above table, we come to know that at no point could the literacy rate of women match that of men. As a result, even after 65 years of Independence women occupy the secondary position in our social hierarchy. Therefore, women empowerment can't be affected unless we persuade the importance of women education.

**Importance of Women Participation**

Women's participation may be used both for an agency and as a control device by the law makers. Participation maybe direct or indirect, formal or informal, it may be political, social or administrative in nature. Indian women have been associated with politics since the pre independence period. They were part of the freedom movement both as volunteers and leaders. On independence, article 15 of the Indian Constitution granted equality to of women under the law. Though the Indian Constitution guarantees equal rights to all citizens, women are still marginally represented in the Indian Political Arena. It is sad state of affairs that about half of India's population has only 10% representation the Lok Sabha. At the societal level male dominance in Parliament, Bureaucracy, Judiciary, Army, Police all point towards gender inequality, not with standing the fact that it is often argued that women's political leadership would bring about a more cooperative and less conflict prone world. The former President of India Smt.

Draupadi Murmur is the best example of the empowerment of women in education.

**Conclusion**

Women play an imperative role in making the nation progressive and guide it towards development. They are essential possessions of a lively humanity required were national improvement. So, if we have to see a bright future of women in our country, giving education to them must be a pre occupation. "when women move forward the family moves, the village ,moves and the nation moves". To encourage the education of women at all levels and establish schools, colleges and universities even exclusively for women in these state. The education develops the idea of participation in government, panchayats, public matters etc, for elimination of gender discrimination.

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