



Role of women empowerment in achieving social transformation and sustainable development

Dr. Pallavi Kumari

Associate Professor, ICFAI University Jharkhand, India

* Corresponding Author: **Dr. Pallavi Kumari**

Article Info

ISSN (online): 2582-7138

Volume: 03

Issue: 06

November-December 2022

Received: 01-10-2022

Accepted: 18-10-2022

Page No: 134-138

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.54660/anfo.2022.3.6.5>

Abstract

Educated women have a high level of morality, a high potential for earning, and live life with a lot more confidence and courage to face any challenging situation. They might grow into an independent businessperson who can maintain the family's financial independence. They can maintain good health and hygiene for the family members. If there exists a lack of education for women the entire society will face a lot of setbacks in terms of development. Even today in rural areas there is a low acceptance of girl children in society. The paper will discuss the Women empowerment and different ways of boosting the women empowerment. There are a lot of studies that talk about the crucial role of educated women in bringing about socioeconomic and political progress in our country. Thus, the empowerment of rural women plays an important role in building up the economic and social pillars of sustainability. It is essential to empower women to achieve gender equality in order to secure the country's sustainable development. Education not only provides women with economic empowerment but also helps to solve issues like gender inequality and removes poverty to foster inclusive economic growth. This paper will bring out the positive outcome that due to education, there has been a changing role of women in society and the family, economic independence, changing attitude, increasing confidence, and the gradual rising of their social and economic status. The paper will also bring out the discussion on challenges faced by women. The paper will also attempt to discuss future suggestions for facilitating women with education and empowerment of women.

Keywords: Women, society, education, sustainable development, empowerment

Introduction

In recent years, the education sector has brought a lot of changes in the nation and with the advancement of education, the impact is also possible in the expenditure pattern of the nation. The improvement of educational facilities leads to the overall advancement of the country. The government of India has started many initiated many educational schemes. Education is crucial because it gives people a lot of liberty and scope to prosper in their careers. Educated people get a lot of scopes to prosper in the future. The current educational system needs to educate moral and ethical principles as well as personality development. Education develops the methods of problem-solving and changes the lifestyles of the person. Education supports the ongoing personal and brings transformation. The women in society after getting an education develop the rethinking process and give a new dimension to foresee the problem. The purpose of education should be to impart learning and education for sustainability.

Need for the study

There is an increasing number of issues related to gender inequality and it has been realized that women's empowerment through education can bring a substantial change in society. Due to the increasing pressure of inflation, it is necessary that women should also come forward and play a pivotal role in economic development.

There is a lack of proper education. Even if there has been a lot of investment and initiatives taken by the government of India, still the benefit is not reaching everyone. Hence, there is a need to understand the importance and scope of increasing women's education and providing them the equal opportunity for representation. Thus investments in education should be targeted to areas that are likely to attain high productivity.

Objectives

1. To study the role of education in bringing women empowerment.
2. To find the emerging opportunities and benefits of education for women.

Methodology

This research was primarily descriptive research emphasizes on explaining the importance of sustainable agriculture and its related challenges and opportunities. Information regarding this concept has been collected from the website, online articles, and ideas from the abstract, journal. Based on the conceptual study the paper discusses the various interpretations. Based on the analysis discussion the conclusions were drawn.

Current Status of Education in India

Recently studies have shown that there has been a lot of drawback to the education system. It has been seen that more focus has been given to the scores rather than the creation and development of knowledge. More emphasis needs to be given to developing the skills to work and experiment with things. There is a need to develop practical knowledge rather than developing theoretical knowledge. If we see the current status of Education in India.

Current Status of Education in India: Data from Census 2011

Table 1: Literacy rate trend in India 1951-2011

Census Year	Persons	Decadal Increase	Males	Females	Gender gap
1951	18.33		27.16	8.86	18.30
1961	28.3	9.97	40.40	15.35	25.05
1971	34.45	6.15	45.96	21.97	23.99
1981	43.57	9.12	56.38	29.76	26.62
1991	52.21	8.64	64.13	39.29	24.84
2001	64.83	12.62	75.26	53.67	21.59
2011	74.04	9.21	82.14	65.46	16.68

Source: Census of India

But it is really sad on our part to know that still, however, despite numerous attempts to modernize and enhance India's educational system through extensive policies and programs, a girl children still not complete even their primary education. Many remote areas lack proper school infrastructure and qualified teaching staff. The quality of education provided at the grassroots level (particularly through public education institutions) and the overall lack of passion for education throughout rural India are two key hurdles in addition to a lack of infrastructure.

It is important that if interesting pedagogical change can be brought into the education system, the interest could be generated among Women. It is important to make them realize the need for education to face the challenges. It is

rather important that proper study needs to be done to understand the perspectives of the students, teachers, and learning/teaching methods so that the entire education segment could ripe the benefits.

Total Literacy rate of whole population of India Since 1901 to 2011

Table 2

S.N.	Census year	%	Gap in Male- Female Literacy Rate (in %)
1.	1901	5.4	9.2
2.	1911	5.9	9.6
3.	1921	7.2	10.40
4.	1931	9.5	12.7
5.	1941	16.1	17.6
6.	1951	18.33	12.30
7.	1961	28.3	25.05
8.	1971	34.45	23.98
9.	1981	43.57	26.62
10.	1991	52.21	24.84
11.	2001	64.83	21.59
12.	2011	74.04	16.68

Literacy rate of only Male population in India Since 1901 to 2011

In the last 70 years the male literate population of India has became 4th time from 21% in 1951 to 82% in 2021.

Table 3

S.N.	Census year	% of Male Literacy
1.	1901	9.8
2.	1911	10.6
3.	1921	12.2
4.	1931	15.6
5.	1941	24.9
6.	1951	21.16
7.	1961	40.40
8.	1971	45.96
9.	1981	56.38
10.	1991	64.13
11.	2001	75.26
12.	2011	82.14

Literacy Rate of only Female Population in India Since 1901 to 2011

We can see from the table that 1901 the female % of female literacy was 0.6 % and in 2021 the % of female literacy was 65.46.

Table 4

S.N.	Census year	% of Female literacy
1.	1901	0.6
2.	1911	1.0
3.	1921	1.8
4.	1931	2.9
5.	1941	7.3
6.	1951	8.86
7.	1961	15.35
8.	1971	21.97
9.	1981	29.76
10.	1991	39.29
11.	2001	53.67
12.	2011	65.46

State wise Literacy rate in India 2021

Interestingly, female's literacy level saw a significant jump as compared to males between 2011-2021

The female literacy rate in person state wise is shown in the below table.

Table 5

S.N.	State/ Union Territory	Literacy Rate in % (Person)	Literacy Rate in % (Male)	Literacy Rate in % (Female)
1.	Kerala	94.0	96.1	92.1
2.	Lakshadweep	91.8	95.6	87.9
3.	Mizoram	91.3	93.3	89.3
4.	Goa	88.7	92.6	84.7
5.	Tripura	87.2	91.5	82.7
6.	Daman & Diu	87.1	91.5	79.5
7.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	86.6	90.3	82.4
8.	NCT of Delhi	86.2	90.9	80.8
9.	Chandigarh	86.0	90.0	81.2
10.	Puducherry	85.8	91.3	80.7
11.	Himachal Pradesh	82.8	89.5	75.9
12.	Maharashtra	82.3	88.4	75.9
13.	Sikkim	81.4	86.6	75.6
14.	Tamil Nadu	80.1	86.8	73.4
15.	Nagaland	79.6	82.8	76.1
16.	Manipur	79.2	86.1	72.4
17.	Uttarakhand	78.8	87.4	70.0
18.	Gujarat	78.0	85.8	69.7
19.	West Bengal	76.3	81.7	70.5
20.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	76.2	85.2	64.3
21.	Punjab	75.8	80.4	70.7
22.	Haryana	75.6	84.1	65.9
23.	Karnataka	75.4	82.5	68.1
24.	Meghalaya	74.4	76.0	72.9
25.	Odisha	72.9	81.6	64.0
26.	Assam	72.2	77.8	66.3
27.	Chhattisgarh	70.3	80.3	60.2
28.	Madhya Pradesh	69.3	78.7	59.2
29.	Uttar Pradesh	67.7	77.3	57.2
30.	Jammu & Kashmir	67.2	76.8	56.4
31.	Andhra Pradesh	67.0	74.9	59.1
32.	Jharkhand	66.4	76.8	55.4
33.	Rajasthan	66.1	79.2	52.1
34.	Arunachal Pradesh	65.4	72.6	57.7
35.	Bihar	61.8	71.2	51.5

Benefits of Empowering Women for Gender Equality

There is no doubt that education provides the opportunity or equal representation in the Society. Overall, gender equality improves the quality of life for women. The implementation of a clear policy framework and the promotion of education regarding women's empowerment can help to achieve the goals of ending the struggle of women in Indian society. Providing education to the women can lead to unrealized the hidden potential of women and can support the economic potential of the country. It is important to provide women equal rights in the extent of women's empowerment in India. Since women have the majority of the population in India, there is a possibility that they can contribute to the economy. The sad part of the society is that there exists a lot of violence and abuse. The crimes are on increase for women. But we have women who would be able to serve as role models for the young group of people, which not only boost the confidence of the women to represent their talent on various platform. There is a lot of awareness among

women related to issues affecting women in India. But it's also important to provide good support to women through the invention of NGO. Women have the capability to prosper economically and escape poverty with better literacy rates and fair compensation for equal work.

Gender Equality and Women

Women's empowerment in India is the most effective strategy for growth. In recent times it has been seen that Women are coming up as leaders and they are performing in many sectors. In comparison to men, women experience fewer chances for economic engagement, less access to primary and secondary education and less political representation globally. There are a number of reasons for gender inequality such as education, poverty, patriarchal setup in our Indian Society, lack of education or illiteracy, lack of awareness among. However, there is a need for impactful implementation of policies.

Women Empowerment in India: An Introduction

Most of the women in the nation roughly 50% of the total population remain economically reliant on one another even in the absence of employment. In the era of modernization, it is important that women must be given liberty and must be given the freedom to choose their lifestyle and occupation. If they are given proper guidance and motivation they may develop and become economically independent. Women are considered to be basic foundation pillars and hence they make teach their children good habits. Hence, if they are educated, they may take responsibility in a more responsible. Women have been living in the chains of captivity for ages, which prevents them from reaching both personal and professional peaks. Women are still not allowed to receive a basic education in the majority of Indian villages and semi-urban areas, despite having acquired the necessary knowledge.

Factors Affecting Women's Empowerment in India

Given below are the factors affecting women's empowerment

1. Need to curb the Gender Discrimination :

The issue of gender discrimination has slowed India's progress on empowering women. To achieve the goal of empowering women, women must be provided with an opportunity to actively participate in decision-making. They must be given a lot of respect so that they can come out of the curse of gender inequality.

2. Uneven access to education

It sheds light on the options for finding work and supporting oneself, which in turn revives women's economic empowerment. For development, education is considered to be one of the important aspects. Now people are realizing the need and importance of women's education, which in fact plays a very vital role in the development.

Early Marriage

The early marriage of girl children also deprives them of the basic facilities and they did not get the opportunity to develop and get the right education. They cannot get a proper job even if they are capable to do a better job. Hence, there is a need to provide them with better training in villages or in rural parts of India. They may develop themselves as successful business women or even start small businesses. If they are

introduced to vocational programs and growth-oriented entrepreneurship development programs, they may become self-reliant. Good opportunities not only make them more confident but also enhances their efficiency and capacity in making prompt decisions.

Government Schemes & Campaigns to promote the Education

- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**

It launched in 2001 with the goal of promoting "Education for All," bolstering the current educational infrastructure, and building new schools.

- **National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level**

The Government of India is making a concentrated effort to reach out to the "Hardest to Reach" females, particularly those who are not enrolled in school. Visit Elementary Education: Moving Toward RTE and Quality Improvement for more information

- **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

All children enrolled in public schools, government-aided schools, local body schools, special training centres (STC), madrasas, and maktabas supported by the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan receive one meal every day (SSA)

- **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan**

This flagship programme places a secondary school within walking distance of every home in an effort to improve secondary education and boost enrollment rates.

- **Scheme for Infrastructure Development in Minority Institutes**

The plan would make it easier for minorities to receive an education by enhancing and improving school infrastructure in minority institutions and expanding access to formal education for minorities' children.

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**

The programme to encourage the education of girls in India.

Findings

Women play a very important role both in society and in the economy. Equally, it is important to remove all the gender inequality against them and empower them through the effective tools of education. Working women teach their children good values and impart to their ways of quality life. Education is not only when women have higher employment and income levels, the impact of their employment on family and society is increasingly obvious. When women are employed at high levels of employment, their level of empowerment is likewise higher. The Indian government undoubtedly possesses a variety of tools to promote women's empowerment.

Future suggestions for facilitating women with education and empowerment of women

- Equal opportunity to women for education. Encourage them to complete their education before getting into marriage.
- Girls must be given more responsibility to prepare them

well for future challenges.

- They must be the protection of their rights, so that they may pursue their career confidently
- They must be given equal job opportunities and chances to show their talent.
- Efforts must be made to end the high dropouts from Schools and efforts should be made to increase the retention of school-going students.
- The girl children must be provided with an adequate Teaching and Learning environment.
- There is a need to give proper counselling to the girl children so that they became mentally strong to face different challenges in society.
- Significant efforts must be made to Support girls and women in crisis with suitable measures.
- They must be provided with financial support so that proper investment must be made in a small business owner.

Conclusion

Education plays a critical role in Women's Economic Empowerment. Although it occupies the attention, most women, particularly those in rural regions, have long been denied this right and subjected to extremely degrading situations. Girls who are educated are more able to succeed in their social, professional, economic, and family lives. For women, education can be given basic training, they can build capacity-building and develop the skill to perform better in the future, I think that depriving women and girls of equality and fairness harms not only them but also the rest of society. There is a need to enhance women's education and through proper counselling, changes must be made in 'Women's Attitude'. There is a better scope for women to develop once they get educated.

References

1. Kumari P. Role of Women Empowerment in achieving social transformation and sustainable development. Literacy. 2011;12(74.04):16-68.
2. Krishna V. Empowerment of women teachers and public participation: Women's role in urban city. OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development. 2013;6(08):51-62.
3. Mishra JK. Empowerment of women in India. The Indian Journal of Political Science. 2006;867:872-878.
4. Suvarna VS. Education for Sustainable Development and Empowerment of Women. IMPACT: International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Literature (IMPACT: IJRHAL). 2017;5(5):87-92.
5. Mistri JP. Importance of girl's education for Sustainable Development. Haridra Journal. 2022;3(10):46-49.
6. Preethi KA. Education and Economic Empowerment of Women. Anveshana. 2015;5(1):32-45.
7. Khari DS. Women Empowerment in India. New Delhi: ALP Books; c2009.
8. Ganesamurthy VS. India: Economic Empowerment of Women. New Delhi: New Century Publications; c2007. p. 87-102.
9. Hazarika D. Women Empowerment in India: A Brief Discussion. International Journal of Educational Planning & Administration. 2011;1(3):199-202.
10. Halder D, Jaishankar K. Cyber gender harassment and secondary victimization: A comparative analysis of the United States, the UK, and India. Victims & Offenders.

- 2011;6(4):386-398.
11. Rahman SS, Sultana N. Empowerment of women for social development (A case study of Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad, Hyderabad district). *Researchers World*. 2012;3(3):50.
 12. Mukhejee D. *Women and Urban Crime*. New Delhi; c2005.
 13. Tripathi RS, Tiwari RP. *Perspective on Indian Women*. New Delhi; c1999.
 14. Avasthi A, Srivastava AK, eds. *Modernity Feminism and Women Empowerment*. Jaipur and New Delhi: Rawat Publication; c2001. p. 170-173.
 15. Narula S. *Broken People: Caste Violence Against India's Untouchables*. United States of America: Human Rights Watch; c1999. p. 24.
 16. Sharma KL. *Social Stratification in India: Issues and Themes*. New Delhi: Sage Publication; c1997. p. 16.
 17. Selvy T. *Ideology, Caste, Class and Gender*. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd.; c1993. p. 13.
 18. Joshi R, Liddle J, eds. *Daughters of Independence: Gender, Caste and Class in India*. New Delhi: Kali for Women; c1986. p. 59.
 19. Mathur O, Bimasayeed. *Conflict Management in India*. *Journal of Social Work*. 1986;44:176.