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3. The Role of Education in Women Empowerment

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Introduction:

Women Empowerment is a burning issue all over the world. Women population is around 50% of the total population of the world. They have every right to be treated equally with men in every spheres of life and society.

Women held high status and position in Ancient times. In later ages, her status deteriorated. Evidently, a majority of the women still do not enjoy equal status The position and status of women in India is low despite the myth of her being considered a "goddess" and "shakti" personified. She may be the embodiment of power or Shakti but then there is the concept of this power having to be controlled and channelized and that controlling agent is conveniently man. So woman loses her individuality, her very right to exist for herself: she is to be protected by her father in her youth, by her husband after marriage and then by her son. These ideas persist with little dilution to this day and have caused immense harm to the status of women.

In the Indian society, which puts immense weight on the chastity of a woman, early marriage and permanence of martial relationship are highly valued. Widowhood, divorce or single status makes a woman vulnerable to men's advances. Marriage is almost inevitably accompanied by the obnoxious practice of dowry system in India. Modernization, instead of lessening the evil, has aggravated it. Boys with higher education, government jobs, professional standing with more remunerative jobs demand very high dowry; even girls with high education and a job, have to pay dowry to get married. The low status of woman in India is evident in the phenomenon of dowry deaths. Constant demand for more and more gifts and goods lead to harassment of the young wife. In the name of honor, parents are not ready to give shelter to the tortured daughter. Finally not getting relief at any place, she ends her life or is murdered.

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Research Methodology:

The nature of present Research Paper is explorative and analytical. The study is based on Secondary data collected from reference books and Websites. Objective of the paper is to know the role of Education in Women Empowerment.

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To "empower women" means to authorize power or increase the overall position, status and condition of women in every spheres of life. It refers to strengthening the social, economic and educational powers of women also to an environment where there is no gender bias and have equal rights in community, society and the empowerment of women would result in overall development of society both at micro and macro level. Active participation of women in economic activities and decisions, would contribute towards overall economic development.

Women Empowerment means increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure equal-right to women, and to make them confident enough to claim their rights. It is the creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society.

Empowerment of Women would result in better and more developed society. When women contribute equally along with men for the benefit of society, the world would surely become a better place to live.

Education

The word 'education' comes from the Latin 'educare' which means 'to draw out'. This ctymology is very interesting. It suggests that education is a matter of uncovering, drawing out and developing someone's hidden talents rather than simply filling their minds with knowledge that comes from outside.

Education refers to the intellectual and moral training that systematically enlarges the spheres of knowledge, develops character as well as mental faculties and evolves a definite pattern on relationship between an individual and the society. Education is an important medium of acquiring skills and knowledge. Our education begins at home. Thereafter, as we grow we go to schools, colleges and other educational institutes. Education bring positive changes in human life. It enhances the knowledge, skill, and intelligence of a person and enables him to leaf a

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Education is the systematic process of teachings, training, and guiding students to acquire knowledge, skill and understanding through practical experience or deep study on a subject, especially at a learning institution. It is the practice of being taught things, and learning new skills. Education happens at school and in university but it can also happen at home, in the workplace and through life experience more generally. It is the acquisition of knowledge, various life skills, and values in order to become a better person. Education helps people to become literate and reasonable. Women education refers to every form of education that aims at improving the knowledge, and skill of women and girls.

The Role of Education in Women Empowerment

There was a time when people thought that it was not necessary to educate girls. Savitribai Phule was the first women teacher in India. She opened a girls school along with her husband Jyotirao Phule in Pune, Maharasthra

Educating Women is an essential step towards strengthening the position of women in the society. A modern educated woman give due importance to her social life as well. Education broadens her outlook. It helps in developing her personality. Until the middle of nineteenth century, girls and women were educated only for traditional household works.

The social reformers in the nineteenth century for the first time raised the question of low status of women in India. Raja Rammohun Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, M.G. Ranade, Maharshi Karve, Jyotiba Phule, Dayanand Saraswati and many others got quite concerned with woman's low position in society. They felt very strongly that efforts must be made to raise her status.

Women's position in the family very much depends upon the level of their education. Higher the level of her education, greater equality she enjoys in the family. It appears that Indian woman is still not treated at par with man in social and family life. The educated women even today though earning, are in acquiescence with the doctrine of the male domination. The education may have made them economically independent, but they still lack the needed selfconfidence.

Traditionally, an Indian woman had four fold status-role sequences. These were her role as a daughter, wife, housewife (homemaker), and mother. Traditionally Indian women exist because of the family and for the family. The woman, whose status and role traditionally was well defined and almost fixed in the society, is now experiencing far-reaching changes.

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The woman in modern times is entering into certain new fields that were unknown to the woman's sphere of role-sets. They are activating participating in social, economic, and political activities. The women of the present generation have generally received higher education than the women of their preceding generation. There have been far reaching conse quences in the economic status of their families. Increased awareness and education has inspired women to come out of the four walls of the home. Many woman actively supported and participated in the nationalist movement and secured eminent positions and offices in administration, and public life in free India.

Women freely live her life with a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity. She want to have complete control of her life, both within and outside of her home and workplace, trying, struggling and awaring with herself as well as surrounding to make her own choices and decisions, have equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities, equal social status in the society, equal rights for social and economic justice, determine financial and economic choices, get equal opportunity for education, get equal employment opportunity without any gender bias, get safe and comfortable working environment.

Previously, men-folk used to discourage women from leaving their households for attending social functions. Now the spread of education, especially that of women, and with that the changing social attitudes of educated women have changed the order.

Educated women are capable of bringing socio-economic changes. The constitution of almost all democratic countries, including India, guarantees equal rights to both men and women. Primary education is now a fundamental right. When a woman (or a girl) is ensured of her rights, the society at large is ensured of its sustainability.

Realizing the importance of women education, the government and many non-government organizations took a lot of projects to appear women education. Literacy programs are being taken in favor of women.

Education is empowering women to come forward and contribute towards the development and prosperity of the country. So long as women remain backward and economically dependent on men, the helpless condition of them cannot be changed. Economic empowerment and independence is coming only through proper aducation and employment of women.

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Education is helping a woman to live a good life. Her identity as an individual would never get lost. She-can read and learn about her rights. Her rights would not get trodoen down. The life or condition of women would improve a lot, if we take a broad outlook in the field of female education. Educated girls and women are aware of the importance of health. Through health education, they are empowered to lead a healthy life-style. Educated mothers can take better care of both herself and her baby. Educated women are now looked upon with dignity and honor. They become a source of inspiration for millions of young girls who make them their role-models. Educated women are more informed of their rights for justice. It would eventually lead to decline in instances of violence and injustice against women such as dowry, forced-prostitution, child-marriage, female foeticide, etc. Educated women can prove be highly successful in the fields of life. A girl-child should get equal opportunity for education, so that, she can plan to become a successful doctors, engineers, nurses air-hostesses, cook, or choose a profession of her choice.

Education of women has not only helped them to become aware of the political problems, but they are gradually becoming active participants in the political life. Some are enrolling themselves as members of political parties, attending party meetings, conventions, and carrying out political programs. Some women are attaining influential political stature of their own and have become instrumental in shaping the public opinion for the betterment of women's conditions in society.

The woman in now-a-days is entering into certain new fields that were unknown to the woman's sphere of role-sets. These are the woman's participation in economic, political, and rial life. The educated woman keenly desires to enter into a work career because of the pressing economic needs of the family. In middle class families, much emphasis is given to the maintenance of high standard of living. To fulfill the economic needs of the family and to achieve higher standard of living the woman participates in economic activities.

Canclusion

There are many barriers in Women Empowerment such as Illiteracy, poverty, decline of industries, competition from factories, and technological changes etc but Women's stands in the way powerfully.

Education has changed her role. She is in the forefront in almost all fields. The belief were inferior to men has been broken. Society has started recognizing her

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