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10. Gender Sensitization for the Improvement of Society through Education

^{a*}Chandrashekhar G. Devkate, ^bDigambar D. Gaikwad

^{a*}Dept. of Chemistry, Indraraj Arts, Commerce and Science College Sillod, Aurangabad.

^bDept. of Chemistry, Govt. College of Arts and Science, Aurangabad.

Abstract

Country like India has been emerging as a developed nation in recent years, by creating more literate, knowledgeable and economically progressive society. Hence development of women power which is key to the economic growth of any country. India is taking efforts to empower women, which can help for there is equal participation in India's economic growth. Improvement in society with reference to gender differences is possible only through gender sensitization. Gender and its associated power relations are built in all institutions of society like family, educational institutions, work place, religious systems, caste, beliefs, norms etc. Here we are trying to explain the need of gender sensitization for the improvement of society through educational.

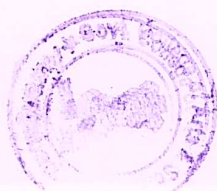
Keywords: Society, Gender, Gender sensitization

Introduction

Gender sensitization refers to theories which claim that modification of the behavior of teachers and parents and others towards children can have a fundamental outcome on gender equality. Gender sensitizing "is about changing behavior and instilling empathy into the views that we hold about our own and the other sex."

Gender sensitivity is not about pitting women in opposition to men. Education that is useful for gender sensitive which benefits members of both sexes. It helps them determine which assumptions in matters of gender are valid and which are stereotyped generalizations. Gender awareness requires not only intellectual understanding and effort but also sensitivity and open-mindedness to change one's views and limited perspectives and values.

Gender equality in and through education, especially in classroom spaces, is important because of the negative and far-reaching implications that gender disparities and inequities have for educational institutions. Education will help trigger change but this will occur only when



Digambar D. Gaikwad
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teachers and learners are assisted in adopting classroom initiatives that reflect new images based on a positive gender equity ideology. Gender equality as a strategy has great potential to create desired change because it has the capacity to address both the practical and strategic needs of boys and girls, of nations and the world at large. In this regard, teachers are strategically positioned to act as agents of change in order to achieve gender equality, especially through what they teach, how they teach and how they role model their own attitudes, beliefs and practices in the classroom and beyond. Frequently it is the hidden curriculum which ensures that gender differentiated practices, procedures and processes occur in classroom spaces and school structures where gender friendly policies and curricula already are present.

In India this process of socialization, education and educational institutions play a essential role. For instance, stereotypes pertaining to responsibilities, roles and opportunities, to which we are originally exposed in family settings, are endorsed at educational institutions. In India, "Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power." Education of women is the most powerful tool of transform of position in society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their position inside the family. To promote the education of women at all levels and for intensity of gender bias in providing knowledge and education, established schools, colleges and universities play significant role.

Gender Sensitization a Need

Gender sensitization increases the sensitivity of people at large towards women and their problems. In the process it creates a class of responsive functionaries at different level, from policy making to grass root level, who are convinced that any form of gender bias is an obstacle on the way of attaining an equitable social and economic order and therefore consider addressing gender associated issues in their circumstances as a matter of priority. Gender sensitization is first instance, tends to change the perception that men and women have of each other. It creates a frame of mind in men that no longer sees in women the conventional image. The thought that women are a weak and unequal entity no more clouds the minds of common man. Relatively they are seen as responsible and equal partners in socio- economic development.

The gender sensitization process enable the teacher to become instrument of change as far as position of women is concerned. To what extent have they become action oriented and alert to see that women are neither being ignored nor discriminated against and they get their due status in society? Gender sensitization program is to carry exact direction in the thoughts.



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practices and approach of persons regarding gender. The gender sensitization process that individuals, particularly the men undergo involves four stages namely change in perception, recognition, accommodation and action. These changes take place in response to certain interventions i.e. gender sensitization program. The focus of study will be to judge effectiveness of gender sensitization program and to what extent we are able to sensitize teachers with reference to existing gender issues at present.

Conclusion

Hence we can conclude that gender sensitization is only possible through education can be an effective and primary tool to bring change in the thought process of students. The major focus should be on breaking the stereotypes and mind set related to gender prevalent in the society. The time has come for women to rise up and force the patriarchal society to underline the importance and necessity of the role played by women in cultivating a strong, balanced and progressive society. Gender sensitization will help for improvement of society which will be possible through education.

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