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Role of education in women empowerment

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Abstract

Education the single most powerful tool that posses enough energy to change the world and transform it into a much better place was for ages limitedly accessible to a selected few, the ones who were elite and had royal blood. Later on education spread wide enough to cover and enlighten even the common man and man was what it was limitedly confined to. Women were deprived of education and hence they were often subjected to exploitation and inhuman treatment. In present day world education is a much needed tool for rich and poor man and woman to gain knowledge and eradicate ignorance. As such that are educated will be empowered in the society and will attain greater heights socially, economically, politically and will always be happy for herself and as a result will make her family happy and healthy.

Keywords: Empowerment, gender equality, self-sufficiency, etc.

Introduction

Empowerment can be viewed as means of creating an environment in which one can make decisions and choices either individually or collectively for social and personal transformation. The empowerment involves with acquiring knowledge, power and experience. Empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing individual to think, take action and control work in an autonomous way. It is the process by which one can gain control over one's destiny and the circumstances of one's lives.

Types of empowerment

Empowerment of women now can be categorized into five main classes - social, educational, economic, political and psychological.

Social empowerment

Social empowerment refers to the enabling force that strengthens women's social relation and their position in the society. Social empowerment addresses the social discrimination existing in the society based on disability, race, ethnicity, religion, or gender. Education not only empowers women by ensuring them of their rights and status but also it enlightens the rest of the society to provide a higher social status to women.

Educational empowerment

It is considered as the single most important instrument of socio-political and economic transformation. Education creates self-consciousness, self-esteem and self-sufficiency to a person. It increases social political, intellectual, cultural and religious consciousness. It acts as catalyst to empower women in other forms of empowerment.

Economic empowerment

Economic empowerment is very much necessary for women empowerment. Women earn money and it helps women and girls to become "bread earners", contributing members of households with a strong sense of their own economic independence. This is intern bring her into the mainstream of home affairs and give her equity in household decision making. This will eradicate poverty and will automatically solve many pertaining to women.

Political empowerment

In political empowerment women participation in various level of decision making is to be ensured.

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The participation of women at all levels of governance structure is the highest need of the hour for women's actual empowerment.

Psychological empowerment

When women joins educational institutions, various governing bodies, jobs etc take decisions and travel different places; occupy land and wealth they feel psychologically powerful. This also gives them mental strength and makes them firm, tough and hard working. They also learn the art of living and how to adjust with the changes circumstances. Further it gives them satisfaction in various ways relating to work, living, learning and adjusting to personal and financial situations.

Necessity of women empowerment through education

"If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family.

Women empowered means mother India empowered"

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

All types of women empowerment can only be achieved through the provisions of adequate and functional education to the women. The empowerment suggested is such that entails the process of challenging power relations and of gaining wider control over source of power. This however cannot be a reality without the provision of reasonable access to formal and functional education to the women folk. The formal education for women may become a viable instrument of change in the positive direction. Provision of formal and functional education is needed for the women for following reasons

1. Education would empower them to know and ask their right for other factors of life like health, shelter, food, clothing etc.
2. Education will enlighten them to fight against every form of discrimination, assert themselves about their right to equal treatment with men.
3. Education would enable the women to take decisions and accept responsibilities for taking such decisions concerning themselves.
4. It would give them a chance to hold jobs and thereby gain economic empowerment.
5. Education would empower the women scientifically through exposure to science and technology, education and make them ready for current era.
6. It would help women to fight against all blind believes and get medical facilities to reduce maternal and infant mortality through improved nutrition, improved child rearing practice, health care and prevention against killer diseases.
7. Education would avail women with the opportunity of participating keenly in the world of sophisticated and governance enlightened citizens.

Conclusion

India is a country where women population is almost 50 percent of the total population. So overall, women play an imperative role in making a nation progressive and guide it towards development. They are essential possessions of a lively humanity required for national improvement and hence if we have to see a bright future of women in our country giving education to them must be a preoccupation. Empowerment means moving from a weak position to

execute a power and education of women is the most powerful tool to change the position of the society.

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