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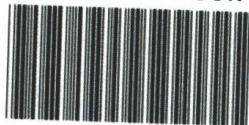


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A STUDY ON PROGRESSION OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN INDIA

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Abstract

This study is mainly focused on the areas of women education and its development in India. This paper examines the issue of women's access to education in India. The various statistics concerning women's education, the study provides an overview of the state of education with respect to women and highlights some of the measures taken to improve Women's education. Our main finding is that a number of effective policies can improve the progression of Women Education in India.

'You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women'

- Jawaharlal Nehru

Keywords: opportunities, women education, progression, measures

Introduction

"Educate a Girl, Empower a Nation."

Women play a vital role in the development of the nation as they contribute their level of human resources of a country. In this century the economic wealth of the country not only depends on the men but also in the hands of the women. To improve the role of women in the society the government mainly concentrated on their education and increasing employment opportunities. Around the world, women are making huge strides as leaders, innovators and income-earners. Women are not born, but made. In these circumstances, we require the further improvement in the equality in gender, level of literacy and empowerment of women in every corner of the world. For that, the Indian Government has launched quite a few programmes and schemes to carry them into conventional of development. These actions have brought about observable changes in the socio-economic conditions of women.

After India got independence, the participation of women nationalists was widely acknowledged. When the Indian Constitution was formulated, it granted equal rights to women, considering them legal citizens of the country and as an equal to men in terms of freedom and opportunity.

Free and compulsory education to the children between the ages of 6 to 14 is a fundamental right of Indian citizens according to the Indian Constitution under the 86th Amendment. Yet the state of education of women in India is distant from 'free' or as totalizing and encircling as the right appears to guarantee.

Even though the Indian government, has taken some measures such as the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' (the main intend of this program is to give primary education particularly to girl children from poor rural areas), aimed to pick up the education of women, the hurdle to educating women is not always fiscal and within the purview of the state.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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Introduction

In the 21st century, women enjoy more freedom and power than ever before. However, they are still disadvantaged when compared to men in virtually all aspects of life. Women are deprived of equal access to education, health care, capital, and decision making powers in the political, social, and business sectors. Whereas men are credited with performing three quarters of all economic activities in developing countries, women actually perform 53 percent of the work, according to the United Nations. The 1995 UN Human Development Report, states that "an estimated \$16 trillion in global output is currently 'invisible,' of which \$11 trillion is estimated to be produced by women."

The world has recognized the vital importance of education as a main aspect of human security and as a means to empower women. According to the UNDP Human Development Report, women in Africa represent 52 per cent of the total population, contribute approximately 75 percent of the agricultural work, and produce 60 to 80 percent of the food. Yet they earn only 10 percent of African incomes and own just 1 per cent of the continent's assets. These numbers indicate the tremendous challenges women face on their road to gender equality. Despite repeated efforts made by governments, NGOs, and multilateral development agencies, the majority of women in the developing world are still relegated to micro enterprises and informal tasks.

In addition, women still make-up the majority of part-time and temporary workers in developed countries. Consequently, these women working in informal economies are likely to have less access to basic health care services, education, financial capital, political appointments, employee rights, and land ownership.

However, there is wide consensus that investment in the economic empowerment of women can and will help reverse these trends. Increased income controlled by women gives them self confidence, which helps them obtain a voice and vote in:

- Household decisions such as domestic well-being decisions. For instance, women tend to use income clout for more equitable decisions about sons and daughters' diet, education and health.
- Economic decisions: acquiring, allocating, and selling assets.
- Fertility decisions: economically empowered women tend to have fewer children