



Transformation Of India: A Study Of Women's Empowerment Through Education

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Abstract

The article entitled, "Transformation of India: A Study of Women's Empowerment through Education" details how India can transform at the world scenario by empowering its women through education. The role which the women of this country play in every sector of Indian life has already left a deep bright imprint on thinkers and law makers of this country. The need for women empowerment and its consequences on a developing country like India and the transition from a developing country to a developed one is impossible without giving women the free will to get educated and empowered at an equal status with that of men. How education is the best way, and credible investment in women empowerment to transform India at all levels is discussed with its profound benefits to the society. The role of Government of India and the Provisions of constitution with regards to women education and empowerment has also been detailed with references from UNIFEM On women empowerment and it's most versatile and unmatched tool of education. The article also carries an account of how the women in India are and have been playing a commendable role for long to make India one of the leading economies of the world not only in economy but also in education and research. The present scenario needs the women of India to be empowered at all levels with the tool of education to transform India and the article sums up the need.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, India, Transform, Education

Introduction

Indian society, since ancient times has been constantly evolving through its flourishing times to its turbulent decades through foreign rule and even after 75 years of independence, India is developing at a rapid pace. The years after independence brought a new light to the old unfulfilled dreams. Due to constant efforts and due to India's resources at hand, India is on the top of world scenario among leading economics and leading developing countries in the world. And all this been achieved by India through a system of education which has produced

some of the brilliant minds of the world. Technologies, Industries, warfare, research, space programs, aviation and almost every field of life is covered by India at present at a decent pace.

A country where education of people for research and study is given a preference and a priority, the ones which invests heavily in the sector of education is the country which is developed and evolving or a developing country. The base for the society is the system of education. Almost every country in the world knows the pressing need of the education and its policies in a society has a deep impact.

India has been a home for research, education, philosophy and other fields of study, since time immemorial. From Kantilla to Romagna the Indian subcontinent has played a credible and crucial role for the contribution of education to the world.

In just, less than century as a free country, India has transformed as a society and as a nation vastly system of India. Even though we had less infra and still lack many other things, still we have always been focusing on the goal to help everybody get educated and be part of a society that demands a citizen to be educated for betterment of both the country and the citizens. The post-colonial world order has seen a dramatic increase in the field of education due to continuous efforts by the people all over the world, and due to availability of knowledge resources at a very fast speed through technologies of phones, laptops, internet, web etc.

The constant efforts by the Government of India to frame and implement different policies of education and financing the education sector so that education can be available to every section of the society. From British rule a tormented colonial system of education was inherited by India after independence but India restructured the whole system to make dream of an educated India, a possibility. Education in Indian society is being viewed as a pioneer quality to be able to think rationally and research in the fields evolving and expending day by day.

The Government of India has taken drastic steps for empowering women to transform India. Through educating the women of the society, India is on a revolution to transform India with both men and women equally. The different policies regarding empowerment of women in India by the Government are listed below:

Government Schemes and Programmes for Women Empowerment

- **Support to training and employment programme for women (STEP):** to increase the self-reliance and autonomy of women by enhancing their productivity and enabling them to take up income generation activity.
- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA):** it is also an effort to universalize elementary education removing the barriers of caste, creed, color or gender.

- **National Rural Health Mission:** Educating women on health care. It has resulted in the decline in fertility rates, maternal mortality rates, and infant mortality rates.
- **Self Help Groups (SHG):** for economic development in women by giving micro finances.
- **The National literacy mission or Saakshar Bharat-** Literacy of women. Literacy is the critical instrument of women's empowerment.

We can clearly see the SSA and National literacy mission or Saakshar Bharat stresses the need of women empowerment through education. The Ministers and law makers make policies regarding women empowerment and lay stress on the Education of women as a tool of empowerment which will help both the women and the nation to transform tremendously.

The patriarchal system of society which has been prevalent in India since long didn't allow the female gender of the country to get educated on an equal base with the male gender. Due to the efforts of the governmental and non-governmental organizations the female education has been flourishing successfully. Government focuses more on women education and policies and Acts Empowering women are implemented to make woman more secure and at an equal for with male counterparts in every field of education and research.

After 1947 the literacy rate of women has risen continuously but there are still many problems associated with the education of women due to traditional concepts of housewives and care-takers. Indian society is continuously working and stressing the need and benefits of women education to make all the women of India achieve a 100% literacy rate and opportunities for female candidates equally as to overcome the burden of patriarchal controlled society and to become self, independent in their earnings, needs, decisions and responsibilities as well.

The Indian thinkers and policy makers know fully well that the dream of a better developed India can't become true unless the education and empowerment of women is not fully imparted and implemented that's why every Government at the center or the states endlessly work to achieve a society where equality, fraternity, justice will prevail, with equal status to both men and women policies. The concept of women empowerment was introduced at the international women conference at NAROI in 1985.

To understand the concept of women empowerment, let us see what constitutes women empowerment as per United National Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

As per the United National Development Fund for women (UNIFEM), the term women's empowerment means:

☑ Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relations and the ways in which these relations may be changed.

- ☒ developing a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life.
- ☒ gaining the ability to generate choices exercise bargaining power.
- ☒ developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change, to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally

Thus, empowerment means a psychological sense of personal control or influence and a concern with actual social influence, political power and legal rights. It is a multi-level construct referring to individuals, organizations and community. It is an international, ongoing process centered in the local community, involving mutual respect, critical reflection, caring and group participation, through which people lacking an equal share of valued resources gain greater access to the control over these resources.

The Indian thinkers, parliamentarians and law makers have done considerably a lot of hard-work to come up with different provisions and getting them implemented under the authority of constitution of India.

Educational Provisions in the Indian Constitution for women education

The constitution of India not only grants equal status to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women for neutralizing the cumulative socio economic, education and political disadvantages faced by them.

Fundamental Rights, among others, ensure equality before the law and equal protection of law; prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and guarantee equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters relating to employment.

☒ **Article 21A.** The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine. (EIGHTYSIXTHAMENDMENT ACT, 2002)

☒ **Article 41.** Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases. The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.

☒ **Article 45.** Provision for free and compulsory education for children. (1) The State shall endeavor to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years. (2) The State shall endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years. (EIGHTY-SIXTH AMENDMENT ACT, 2002)

☒ **Article 46.** Promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections. The State shall promote with special care the

educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

☑ **Article 51A (k)**. Who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years. (EIGHTY-SIXTH AMENDMENT ACT, 2002).

☑ **The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009**, commonly known as the Right To Education (RTE) Act, is being seen with much hope to bring about the long awaited changes in education of children aged 6-14 years, addressing disparities of access and quality. The Act was notified on 27.8.2010 and is in force from 1.4.2010. While stating the duties of appropriate Government authorities at various levels, the Act has also included duties of parents and guardians to get their children /wards admitted for elementary education in neighborhood schools. The biased parental attitude towards girl child in general and to education of girl's child in particular will hopefully register a change by enforcement of the Act.

Women have played an active and a crucial role both in freeing India from colonial rule as well making India as one of leading economics of the world. A society is said to be free if its women enjoy equal rights along with male citizens. And education is the base of a society to make it flourish through ages.

Since last few decades the women education is stressed upon in India and empowering them through education is the best investment a country can make.

India is a country, still developing at the world scenario. And India has transformed and is still transforming its ways into the world politics and research technologies etc. To realize the dream of a better India, women need to play a crucial role. By making women independent and educated. India society is stepping chosen to achieve the dream of a developed India.

The Indian system of education has been successful in imparting education to the women by reserving seats for women in colleges, universities, research sectors etc. to inspire and open up women of India to take the dream of better India forward. The present India has been successful in educating and empowering women. Be it politics, research, space, aviation, robotics, software technologies, Army, police, education, or leading campaigns to authoring boxes, Indian women have penetrated into every field of life.

All of these are possible, if education is imparted to the female section of the society and guaranteeing a secure place for women upliftment in a country. India presently accounts for the largest number no of illiterates in the world. Literacy rate in India has risen sharply from 18.3% in 1951 to 64.8% in 2001 in which enrolment of women in education has also risen sharply from 7% to 54.16%. Despite the importance of women education unfortunately only 39% of women are literate among 64% of the man. Within the framework of a democratic

polity, our laws, development policies, plan and Programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. From the fifth five year plan (1974 – 78) onwards has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women. The National Commission of Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the right and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local level.

The continuous efforts by almost all sections of the society has taken the India society from a dream to a reality, making women to compete in every field of life. The Indian women in present times are leading their own businesses, they are the owners and share-holders in national and international companies of the world, women of India compete for almost every sport, world's famous astronauts and cosmonauts are Indian women. From a cricket match to flying a fighter jet, from Olympics to fight at borders, the Indian women presently are a great strength and a bright sign of a transforming India. India had recently a women president, Pratibha Patil, which shows how deep the influence of women in India has reached. At present the women in India have a profound impact on the politics of the country. The women at present are famous parliamentarians or Central ministers which hold key positions like foreign offices by Sushma Swaraj, or being Chief Ministers, like Mehbooba mufti of J & K. Even Indira Gandhi, who became the first Woman Prime minister of India and lead India in such difficult and turbulent times unsurpassed by any male counterpart. Not just politics, not even a single field in Indian society remains untouched by the women of India.

Conclusion:

But still a lot of women aren't able to get a good education due to social evils and a bit haste by many government organizations. Looking Forward, the Indian society, which has already known the value and dignity of women education in transforming India to the heights of its flourishing heights, the women of India are and will be empowered through education and research and they should be able to compete without any social obligation to regard women as inferior or subordinate to men. The women of the world and India have proved that they could compete even with the best of their male counterparts in any field of their choice and interest.

Still a lot has to be done by Governmental and non-governmental organizations and the enlightened citizens of this country to give women the equal opportunity in every field as the constitution of India declares. In fact it should be our duty to take efforts from our own homes to empower women through education and let them to go after their dreams to make this country proud in every field. If India is truly going to be superpower, the women should

be empowered to make that dream come true. Women are that part integral part on whose part a society as is regarded as civilized or uncivilized. And in civilized and developed societies, it is the position of the women in those places which deem them the name of civilized or human societies.

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