



Education for Women's Empowerment

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KEYWORDS :

Education of women is an area which has worked great interest through out the world not only to compensate for their suppression through the ages but also to empower them in order to ensure optimum social development. It can open up ample opportunities for women and girls to enter the areas of productive work, decision making processes, to participate in development and to change their lives.

Education is the key to gender –equality and women's empowerment. It determines the women's access to paid employment, control over her earning her fertility, family size and standard of living .It actually opens up wider horizons creates new opportunities and empowers women with choice.

The majorities of rural women in India are illiterates, exploited cheated,oppressed, financially dependents, mentally closeted, morally run down and physically violated. A country's socioeconomic development cannot take place if half of its population is downtrodden. It is essential to understand the female psyche and her socialization if we have to think in terms of growth and development .Submissiveness is in –built in their socialization pattern, their culture norms weight heavy on their shoulders lack of education makes them more superstitious and prone to prejudicial thinking. This becomes a wedding vicious circle only through proper education we can promote development among rural women. I would like to conclude this paper with a Chinese adage.

"If you want to plan for a year, you plant wheat;
If you want to plan for ten years, you plant tress;
If you want to plan for 100 years, you educate women"

The national policy on Education (NPE1986) envisages that education would be used as strategy for achieving a basic change in the status of women, National education system would,

- i) Play a positive interventionist role in the empowerment of women.
- ii) Contribution towards development of new values through redesigned curricula and text books.
- iii) Women's studies will be promoted as part of various courses. The main features of the targets and implementation strategy will consist of the following.
 - 1) To great the entire education system to plan a positive interventionists role in the empowerment of women.
 - 2) To promote women's studies as a part of various courses and encouragement to educational institutions to take up active program to further women's developments.
 - 3) To widen the access of women in programmes of vocational, technical and professional education.
 - 4) To create dynamic managerial structure to cope with the targets envisaged.

NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATION (WITH MODIFICATIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 1992)

Education will be used as an agent of basic change in the status of woman. In order to neutralize the accumulated distortions of the past, there will be a well-conceived edge in favor of women. The National Education System will play a positive, interventionist role in the empowerment of women. It will foster the development of new values through redesigned curricula, textbooks, the training and orientation of teachers, decision-makers and administrators, and the active involvement of educational institutions. This will be an act of faith and

social engineering.

Women's studies will be promoted as a part of various courses and educational institutions encouraged taking up active program to further women's development. The removal of women's illiteracy and obstacles inhibiting their access to, and retention in, elementary education will receive overriding priority, through provision of special support services, setting of time targets, and effective monitoring. Major emphasis will be laid on women's participation in vocational, technical and professional education at different levels. The policy of non-discrimination will be pursued vigorously to eliminate sex stereotyping in vocational and professional courses and to promote women's participation in non-traditional occupations, as well as in existing and emergent technologies