



## Education: A powerful instrument against Obstacles in path of Women Empowerment in India

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ABSTRACT

Concept of division of labour compelled the women to remain behind the walls of the home and the reasons responsible for deteriorated condition of women are mainly socio-political and economical. One thing which is common behind each reason is low education level which is the root cause of the problem due to which women lag behind in being part of economic development of country. But now situation has changed they are marching ahead in every field of life competing with the male members of society. Special social movements and awareness campaigns are required to bring changes in social perception and prejudices deep rooted in minds of male members of society, that women are inferior to them and should always work in their subordination.

### KEYWORDS

Competing, Deprived, Perception, Subordination

### Introduction:

**"You can tell the condition of nation by looking at status of women"**

- Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

Several year before women in India were compelled to remain behind boundary walls of the home for performing secondary type of works. Our male dominated society explained it as division of labour. This concept became the main reason for deteriorated status of women in society. Although in India women are given equal rights under constitution without any gender bias, but after passing more than six decades since independence provisions in Constitution remain limited to paper only.

We talk about being super power in year 2020. Is it possible for any nation to become super power where almost half of the population left out with no power? There is no chance for development of nation unless the condition of the woman remains marginalised. She has been lagging behind in terms of access to education, access to employment, sustainability in employment etc. There are many hurdles in the way of the women such as dowry, child marriage, illiteracy, social and economic inequality and crimes such as rape, dowry, immoral trafficking, molestation and domestic violence etc. Thus to liberate women from all these chains, empowerment is needed. On global basis our country is considered as fourth most dangerous country for women. A survey conducted by international consulting and management firm Booz and Co. ranked India at 115 out of 128 countries on issue of economic empowerment of women.

### What is Women Empowerment?

In simple words Women Empowerment means creating an environment where women can make independent decisions for their personal development. It is only possible when they are treated equal to men up to extent that if a women rises to the top of her field, it should be acceptable to society in general sense. There is a wrong perception in the male dominated society where term "Women Empowerment" is considered as powering the women against men but it does not mean so. The concept of Women Empowerment only demands equal status for women in society comparable to men.

### Obstacles in Women Empowerment:

Why women are lagging behind inspite their ability to rule world? Reasons could be either social or economical. Some of the important issues of concern in path of women empowerment are mentioned here –

#### ➤ Gender discrimination:

It is a common feature of Indian society. Boys are provided with all the resources and facilities as compare to girls which results in better all round development of male. Although a lot of efforts have been made to remove gender discrimination, results are not very appraising.

#### ➤ Family restriction:

Due to male dominated structure of society, family puts lot of restrictions on female members of the family such as- they cannot go out without male family member. Even the style of clothing, style of walking, style of talking is put under several restrictions.

#### ➤ Early marriages:

Early marriages still exist in country, especially in rural areas where maximum number of women gets married before the age of twenty. Even they are not able to complete their education. Due to the early marriages girls do not get enough time for their self development and left behind in the race of economic upliftment.

#### ➤ Illiterate parents:

Literacy of parents also affects the status of female member of family. In rural India where both parents are illiterate we find that condition of girls is even worse but it changes as we move toward urban areas where both the parents and one of them is well educated they treat their girl child in better way.

#### ➤ Limited land ownership and economic rights:

Still women in India rarely get the chance to make their own independent economic decisions. Generally all the decisions are taken by head of the family who is generally a male. One more feature responsible for low economic status of women is that inspite of laws and Acts available in favour of women they are not given their due share of property during inheritance.

#### ➤ Dependency on men:

Dependency on men is another reason for their low status in society. Even if a woman is well educated with good economic condition even find difficult to come out of the social dilemma. We find very limited women reaching to top of their field.

#### ➤ Stereotypical image in society:

In India stereotypical social image of women that female member of family will stay at home performing less important unpaid task like cooking food, taking care of children while male member of family will go out to earn livelihood for family, has forced the women to remain away from primary works

related to managing economy of family.

➤ **Overall poor economic status of country:**

Overall poor economic condition of country is also responsible for relatively poor condition of women. Normally in other parts of world it is seen that condition of women is better in those countries whose per capita income is at higher side.

➤ **Safety and security reasons:**

Safety and security concern for women has been a burning issue of country in recent days. It is observed that employers avoid employing women because they have to make special security arrangements for them. They cannot work in night shifts.

➤ **Health and nutrition issues:**

It has been a major concern for rural areas in India. Women and girl child are not provided enough nutritious food which affects their physical as well as mental development. An underdeveloped individual male or female cannot equate himself to other members of society.

➤ **Limited exposure to outside world:**

Girls and women restricted with in boundary wall of home have very little or no chance to exposure to outside world. Due to this women lack the required confidence to communicate freely.

➤ **Government policies and laws:**

Government policies and laws are so reluctant in country that criminal do not fear in committing crime against women. Even boys who are still not adult can be seen involved in eve teasing. Meaningless Acts and long process of litigation is another major concern.

Every reason mentioned above reflects that our society is still in primitive stage of development where 'powerful rules' is the basic formula for survival. Government has made lot of effort in making the country literate now its time to educate the country. Education means changing the views of society towards women and towards other social issues. In recent years our school curriculum has changed tremendously and in due process we lost the lessons which used to teach us different moral values. Just remember the golden days when parents and grandparents use to tell the stories of Ramayan, Mahabharat and biographies of historical and religious leaders before going to sleep. Due to technological advancement we engaged ourselves in different activities, left with no time for such stories. Even curriculum has been moulded in a way that neither the child has time to listen the stories nor he is interested.

Parents are so busy in earning money that they have no time for their children and the time they realise that they have made a mistake it is already quiet late. Government, Parents and Teachers should rethink that which type of education they are passing to their next generation. Educating the society can be the only solution for removing obstacles in the path of women empowerment.

**Suggestions:**

Here are the some suggestions, if implemented with serious effort in right direction can make the difference –

- Create awareness among women toward their rights available to them under law and constitution. More efforts are required in rural areas where literacy rate of women is comparatively on lower side, even if they school or college level education it is not possible for them to get complete knowledge about their rights.
- Proper formal Education must be provided to each and every women of country at least up to graduation level. It will help to boost their confidence level high.
- Women should be provided some type of vocational training so that they can stand on their feet and able to earn their livelihood along with self respect.
- Government should create an environment of security for women so that women can work freely without restriction of time and place.
- Government organisations and NGOs should come together try to bring step by step changes in social attitude especially in minds of male so that they should not feel inferiority complex when they has to work in subordination to a woman..
- Laws and Acts which provides special rights to women must be implemented strictly and if needed, they should be changed from time to time as per need with objective of women welfare and empowerment.
- Crime rate against women must be reduced because it creates an adverse environment where neither women nor nation can develop.
- Women should be provided more economic rights in making decisions at family and social level, it is only possible when they are engaged in those earning activities which are recognised as primary activities at social level such as doing jobs, carrying out own business etc

**Conclusion:**

From above discussion we come to conclusion that efforts being made in the direction of Women Empowerment are not heading in right direction. All the efforts made has only succeeded in bringing awareness among women about their rights, Empowerment is still to achieve. A clear vision is needed to remove barriers in the path of women Empowerment. There is a proverb 'charity begins from home' so instead of making fruitless talks, let's start respecting women from home – our wife, mother, sister and daughter so on. Women never demand any special rights or privilege; we only want equality nothing less than that and nothing more. Serious efforts are needed to be directed toward all round development of women including personal, intellectual, social, economical, political, dimensions and that is only possible through Education. Education do not means just providing school or college level education to women but in broader sense Education means educating the society as a whole so that overall perception against women can be changed.

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