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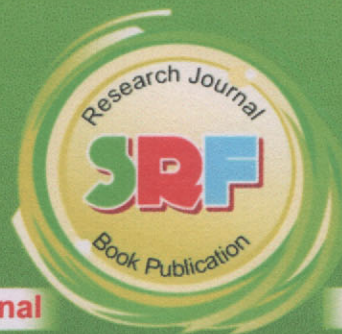
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Women Empowerment and Higher Education : Problems and Prospects

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Introduction :- Considering the history of India we only know about the women as a worker between the wall for her family. Now a day women is everything because of educating women. They are dynamically related to society. The nature, type, content, and process of education and the production of knowledge in institutions of higher learning reflect the power structure that defines research priorities and topics, resource allocation, the position of various actual and potential agents of research in the decision making process.

Empowerment :- There was consensus among the participants that "empowerment" has become one of the most widely used development terms. Women's group, non-governmental development organizations, activities, politicians, governments and international agencies refer to empowerment as one of their goals. Yet it is one of the least understood in terms of how it is to be measured or observed. It is precisely because this word has now been one of the fashionable concepts to include in policies that there is a need to clarify and come up with tentative definitions. Furthermore, the particular implication of empowerment of women is an area that needs to be discussed.

Empowerment can also be observed at different levels. The above mentioned definitions already point to inter personal relations and institutions as possible sites of empowerment.

Paz's Definition "the ability to direct and control one's own life"

Self empowerment means that women gain autonomy is able to set their own agenda and are fully involved in the economic, political and social decision making process.

"Empowerment is also moving state it is a continuum that varies in degree of power. It is relative one can move from an extreme state of absolute lack of power to other extreme of having absolute power".

Strategies for future :- Empowerment through education is ideally seen as a continuous holistic process with cognitive, psychological, economic and political dimensions in order to achieve emancipation. Given the complexity of political, societal and international interrelations, one has to systematically think about the strategies and concrete proposals for future action if one hopes to achieve such a goal.

A set strategies on education,

Education : the formal and informal education system would need to consider

Research/documentation : While participating research was considered to be important, it was recognized that traditional quantitative research was also necessary. The guiding principle, however, was to share the results with the women in a language and manner that was understandable to them

Campaigns : It is important to undertake campaign and lobby activities that will put the issue of gender in the minds of the legislators, policy makers and the larger public.

Networking : Through networking, it would be possible to share experiences and learn from one another. In this manner, understanding and solidarity among women's organizations and multilateral agencies could be forged.



Training : In our societies, there is a gender division of labour which dictates the kind of training one acquires. If one talks about women's empowerment, it is important that women have access to the different training opportunities

Suggested components of women empowerment

1. Promotion of gender awareness
2. Lessons on health and nutrition
3. Integration of technical, entrepreneurial
4. Cultural and communal aspects
5. Information and lesson on politics
6. Provision of planning and thinking skills

Goals of Womens education

- To eliminate illiteracy
- To develop self-esteem and self-confidence

- To have knowledge about their bodies and sexuality
- To have the ability to make their own decisions and negotiate
- To raise the women's awareness of their civil rights
- To provide skills for income generation
- To make participation in society more effective
- To prepare them to be good women leaders

Trends and patterns in female employment :- The positive income effect of higher real wages in the economy and positive outcomes of educational programmes are the main reasons. Attributed to the decline in women's employment. However neither increasing participation of females in education nor the increase in incomes of households can explain the massive decline.

Distribution of workers across broad industrial divisions of the service sector 1999-00 to 2011-12

Service	1999-00		2004-05		2011-12	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Trade	40.8	27.8	41.3	21.4	39.7	22.7
Hotels & Restaurants	4.8	5.1	5.2	5.8	6.2	5.2
Transport/Storage & Communication	18.3	2.7	19.4	2.6	19.2	1.8
Public Administration & Defence	12.1	7.5	8.6	5.4	6.8	4.4
Education	6.8	21.1	7.2	24.3	7.6	27
Other Community Social and Personal Services	8.4	19.1	7	9.3	6.2	11.5
Private Households with employed persons	0.7	6.7	1.5	16.6	1.2	11.7
Other Services	8.0	10.1	9.9	11.5	13.0	15.7
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Unit-level data, various rounds, NSSO

Even after many years of passing of equal remuneration act 1974, wage gap between women and men remains same affecting women of all ages classes communities and regions. The implementation of the Act is serious matter of concern. A recent ILO study 2017 shows that India has one of the worst level of gender wage disparity with men earning more than women in similar jobs, with the gap exceeding 30%. Further, while women form 60% of the lowest paid wage labour categories, there are only 15% of highest wage earners.

Conclusion :- Holistic critical employment of women is the need of the hour wherein all stakeholders should have synergy for concrete action on the ground, especially for security, inclusion and development and both women and men will have to work together in supplementary collaborative partnership with each other. Undoubtedly women's emancipation should adopt a strategy of "think globally act locally". Woman is an incarnation of 'Shakti' The Goddess of power. If she is bestowed with education, India's strength will double, let the lamp of educating daughters be lit up in every heart.



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