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ROLE OF EDUCATION IN THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN INDIA

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Abstract

The contribution of equal participation of men and women is undeniable behind the unimaginable changes that have taken place in human civilization from its inception to the present day. The picture that is catching our eye in the field of women's education is changing today, albeit slowly. Various committees and commissions in India have made various recommendations for the betterment of women's education. The wheel of progress of a society can never be in motion without women's education. If women are educated then human society will be educated, through the upbringing of women. If women are educated then their self-confidence will be formed and they will be able to establish their dignity and respect and stand on the same level with men i.e., take the country in a new direction.

Keywords: *Education, Empowerment, Barriers, Women*

Introduction

Education is one of the tools for human resource development. Women are the progenitrix of civilization. Women are about half of the national population, which means that a human community can survive with both men and women. Only an educated mother can give a good citizen to the country. Any work is accomplished with the equal participation of both men and women. In any country where the wheel of progress of civilization is carried forward by both men and women equally, if one of them becomes weak then the wheel of progress of the society will also come to a standstill. So, the men as well as women have to be educated at the same pace.

In Lenin's words, education brings consciousness, consciousness brings revolution, and revolution brings liberation. Education in the narrow sense means only acquiring knowledge, but it is actually very wide and extensive. Education develops a sense of humanity and develops a person as an elegant, humble, polite, conscientious citizen. Both men and women are born with equal potential, but our society discriminates against women and prevents them from being enlightened in the light of education, but if women are kept in the darkness of illiteracy, then the whole society will run towards that darkness. Will break. In this context, Gandhiji said, "Educating a man means educating a man and educating a woman means educating the whole society." If women are not educated and only men are educated then our society will be crippled like a winged bird. Women's education is essential for the overall quality of education, healthy position and progress of the society. Although the spread of women's education can be seen in the developed countries of the world, the spread of women's education in developing countries

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like India has been slow. And when we review the history of women's education in a developing country like India, it is seen that women's education has never been important or neglected. But now we see that our constitution says to give equal importance to the education of both men and women. In addition, through the joint efforts of the Central and State Governments, women's education has expanded a lot today. Due to the misconceptions of people from ancient times, the lack of education for girls can be noticed today. What will happen to the girls is enough if they know how to do housework. This mentality has been ingrained in every parent since ancient times. Due to this, the education rate of girls today lags behind that of boys.

Objectives of the Study

1. To discuss the recommendations of various commission and committee on women's education.
2. To discuss the barriers to women's education.
3. To discuss the ways to overcome barriers to women's education through education.

Recommendations of various commissions and committee on women's education in post-independence India

In independent India, men and women have equal rights in education. Articles 14, 15 and 16 of the Constitution recognize the dignity, rights, economic freedom, etc. of women, including education, by abolishing gender inequality. The various commissions on women's education in independent India have accelerated the pace of women's education by expressing their views.

The University Education Commission or Radhakrishnan Commission's comment on the improvement of women's education is - "There can't be an educated people without education of women." In this context, the recommendations of the Commission -

- (a) Adequate arrangements should be made in the colleges to meet the basic facilities of life of female students.
- (b) Women's education opportunities need to be expanded.
- (C) We have to make arrangements so that the girls have the opportunity to study the curriculum according to their needs and abilities

Secondary Education Commission - The recommendations of the Mudaliar Commission for Women's Education of 1952-1953 were as follows:

- a) There should be no separate school for girls and equal opportunity for education with boys.
- b) It has been said here that along with general education, girls should be given the opportunity to take home science lessons. Besides, music will be included in the curriculum.

The Kothari Commission said that the role of women's education is very important in the development of human resources and the formation of child character. The commission suggest that-

1. In the next few years, special emphasis should be placed on girls' education programs and the gap between male and female education should be reduced in the shortest possible time.
2. Special agencies should be set up for the expansion of girls' and women's education in both the Central and the states.
3. Colleges for girls should be established according to the local demand. There is no need for separate arrangements for girls at the postgraduate level. Boys and girls will study at the same time.
4. Vocational education should be organized for girls.
5. There will be no difference in the curriculum for boys and girls.

National Education Policy 1986 and the Program of Action 1990 - The National Education Policy and Program of Action has taken initiative to show a new direction in women's education-

- a) By 1995, every educational institution has been asked to take active steps to remove obstacles in the way of women's education.
- b) We need to ensure more participation of women in vocational, technical and vocational education.
- c) Adequate number of staff in each state should form an integrated Women's Education Cell.

National Council for Women Education- On 19 May 1958, the Government of India appointed a National Committee for Women's Education. The chairperson of this committee was Mrs. Durgabai Deshmukh. In 1959, the committee submitted its report to the government. What were the important recommendations of this committee

1. The committee said that women's education should be considered as a problem in the education system of the country and a strong policy should be adopted to solve this problem.
2. Where there is no teacher in the primary school, the school mother has to be appointed.
3. Children will have a same curriculum at the primary level. At this level girls need to have arrangements for embroidery, art, drawing, handicrafts etc.
4. Different curricula for middle and secondary level children should be designed, but not completely separate.
5. The National Council for the Education of Girls and Women should be formed at the Center very soon. Every state should also form a state council for the advancement of women's education.
6. In each state, a woman will be appointed as the Joint Director and will be in charge of women's education.
7. State governments will set up additional learning centres and make arrangements for the recruitment of teachers in schools where the number of teachers is less.
8. Teachers can be hired for part-time, so that there is a balance between homework and teaching.
9. The second five-year plan will provide an additional Rs 10 crore for women's education and the third plan will provide adequate funding.
10. Vocational and technical education should be provided at primary and secondary levels. If necessary, separate institutions for scholarship education should be set up.

Hansa Mehta Committee- In 1961, a committee was formed under the leadership of Hans mehta to solve various problems related to girls' curriculum and to compose their curriculum. The important recommendations of this committee were:

1. Co-education should be arranged in primary schools.
2. Girls' education needs to be expanded to bridge the numerical gap between boys and girls.
3. The opinion of the authorities and parents should be taken into consideration in setting up separate institutions for boys and girls at secondary and college level.
4. The curriculum will be the same for secondary and higher secondary level children. However, they will be able to choose the course of their choice from the multipurpose course according to their ability.
5. Girls should be encouraged in math, science and technical lessons.

Bhakata Vatsalam committee- In 1963, the National Council of Women's Education formed a committee headed by the then Chief Minister of Madras, Shri Bhakta vatsalam. The main objective of this committee was to identify and eliminate the causes of indifference towards women's education in rural areas. The important recommendations of this committee were as follows:

1. For the overall expansion of women's education, it is necessary to set up girls' schools as well as government initiatives.
2. Hostels need to be arranged for girls and teachers to stay.
3. In populated areas, one primary school with a radius of one kilometer, one middle school with a radius of three kilometers and one secondary school with a radius of five kilometers should be established.

4. Superstitions related to women's education must be eradicated.
5. Women's education should be made free and compulsory.
6. Co-education should be arranged at the primary level.
7. girls need to be provided with lunch and free books.
8. Women's education should be made popular by organizing conferences and discussion meetings in schools.
9. Rural teachers should be given priority in admission to teaching colleges.
10. The central government has to bear all the expenses of women's education.

Barriers to women's education

Our society is a patriarchal society. In this society, the importance of girls is worthless apart from domestic work. Although the girls want to establish themselves, they have been suppressed for various social, economic, political and religious reasons.

1. Child marriage - Ever since the birth of the daughter, the only responsibility of the parents is to marry the daughter well. Many younger girls get married for this purpose. For this reason, girls have to give up education in the middle. After marriage, girls do not get the opportunity to study at the father-in-law's house. Due to this lack of education of girls can be noticed

2. Poverty- The government provides free mid-day meal, books, notebooks, etc. for schooling. But due to financial constraints of the family, the girls have to go to work in the field. As a result, girls have to drop out of school in the middle.

3. Insufficient of girl's school- Due to the fact that there are less girls' schools than required, girls are being deprived of the opportunity to study even if they want to.

4. Lack of security - As there are no schools nearby in rural areas, girls have to travel a long way to go to school. And there are no paved roads to go to school. As a result, the girls have to go through various unsafe roads. In this situation the girls stop going to school. As a result, lack of education for girls can be noticed.

5. Shortage of women teacher - There are lack of female teachers than male teachers in different schools, So the trend of not going to school can be noticed as the girls are not able to tell their problems to the teachers.

6. Lack of responsibility of institutional administrative - It is the duty of the school administration to know the reasons why girls are dropping out of school. But the school administration is moving away from that responsibility. For all these reasons, it is not possible to bring girls back to education.

7. School curriculum- The school curriculum is designed with both boys and girls in mind. Yet the girls do not show much interest in this course. As a result, the interest of girls in school decreases.

8. Ignorance of the parents - Due to the misconceptions of people from ancient times, the lack of education for girls can be noticed today. What will happen to the girls is enough if they know how to do housework. This mentality has been ingrained in every parent since ancient times. Due to this, the education rate of girls today lags behind that of boys.

Ways to overcome barriers to women's education through Education

Every boy and girl are a national asset of a country. Due to neglect of women's education, the national resources not fully developed. A good analysis of every developing country reveals that equal participation of men and women is behind the development of that country.

1. **Established girl's school**- In addition to setting up general schools, more girls' schools need to be set up. If there is a school for girls at a certain distance, their interest in education can be noticed.
2. **Improving the transportation system**- Besides setting up schools at certain distances, the government has to take the responsibility of constructing suitable paved roads to reach the schools. So that girls do not stop coming to school due to disconnection of communication.

3. **Provide security to women-** Despite the advancement of science and technology, the society is still lagging behind in providing security to girls. Arrangements have to be made for girls to live independently in schools, roads, etc.
4. **Equity-** In addition to equal opportunities in education, girls should be given special opportunities in education. Because we know that every student is a national asset not only for boys but also for girls.
5. **Provide financial assistance-** Currently, children of poor families have been deprived of financial opportunities given more importance to Equity. So, in order to provide scholarships, we need to provide scholarships with importance of poverty.
6. **Established of girl's hostel-** In order to equalize the education rate of boys with girls, women's hostels should be set up in every educational institution except primary schools. Along with this, food has to be arranged in that hostel. And need to provide financial support to continue their studies.
7. **Development to backward classes -**Standing in the twenty-first century, we still notice that there are still many S.C. and S.T. families who are far behind in education. We have to make arrangements to bring all of them to the field of education.
8. **Increase the social awareness-**The first teacher of a child is his mother. The child receives his childhood education from his mother. we have need to inform our society about the importance of women's education. For this purpose, social awareness should be created about women's education.
9. **Curriculum construction-** At present, girls are not given much importance in curriculum development. The topics of interest to the girls cannot be noticed in the curriculum. The curriculum should be such that the girls show interest in taking lessons. At the same time, the subjects of the girls' choice such as alpina, home decorating, cooking, various handicrafts, etc. get a place in the curriculum.
10. **Recruitment of female teachers-** At present, the rate of female teachers is much lower than the ratio of male teachers. This ratio should be reduced by hiring female teachers. In addition, more female teachers need to be recruited in schools so that girls can express their problems freely.

If we want to make girls interested in education, we have to arrange employment for them. In addition to having co-curricular activities in the school, girls should be given the opportunity to play as they wish. The interest of girls in various competitions should be increased. The girls should have a separate toilet as well as it should be usable. Medical camps should be arranged keeping in view the health of the girls.

Conclusion

Overcoming all the obstacles of the times, today we have reached the touch of modernity, but still in a developing country like India, women's education is still neglected. India has endless reserves of various natural and human resources. And equal participation of men and women is needed in utilizing these resources for national development. Women's education needs to be given importance for the overall development of the country and the nation. At the same time, the philosopher Herbert Spencer said that if a mother is equal to 100 teachers, that is, if women become educated, then the next generation will be educated, so that the society will prosper and reach a better peak. Our largest society must remember that, "For full development of human resources the improvement of human being and for moulding the character of children during the most impressionable years of infancy, the education of women is of great importance than of men"- (Kothari Commission-1964-66).

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