



Education and women empowerment – issues and challenges

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Abstract : *Education and Health are considered as the most important social variables influencing the pace of economic progress of a nation. In spite of the all efforts of the government nearly 40 percent of the population of India continues to be illiterate. Female illiteracy is even higher with more than 50 percent being illiterate. Further it is evident that there are substantial literacy disparities between the rural and urban areas and among females and males. In view of this highest priority is to be accorded to the development literacy among women. The gross backwardness of the women folk was the result of the age-long deprivation. Women were neglected in the social, political and economic spheres of a life. As such, the government of India had to consider the women empowerment as one of the priority area in the planning programmes. It was realised that unless women are made competitive enough in the social class ladder through positioning them on the political platform, sustainable economic development would remain as a mere dream.*

Introduction: Education is the milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So that we cannot neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment. Empowerment through education is ideally seen as a continuous holistic process with cognitive, Psychological and political dimensions in order to achieve emancipation. Empowerment can be defined as a process of giving an individual, the power or authority to act. The able women should be given the power to access information, quality education, equal opportunities, training for the upgradation of skills and acquire job competency and thus paving the way

for proper employment. Education and empowerment are the keys to improve the welfare. Education and Health are considered as the most important social variables influencing the pace of economic progress of a nation. In spite of the all efforts of the government nearly 40 percent of the population of India continues to be illiterate. Female illiteracy is even higher with more than 50 percent being illiterate. Further it is evident that there are substantial literacy disparities between the rural and urban areas and among females and males. In view of this highest priority is to be accorded to the development literacy among women. The gross backwardness of the women folk was the result of the age-long deprivation. Women were neglected in the social,



political and economic spheres of a life. As such, the government of India had to consider the women empowerment as one of the priority area in the planning programmes. It was realised that unless women are made competitive enough in the social class ladder through positioning them on the political platform, sustainable economic development would remain as a mere dream.

Need for women Education:

1. Mainly to eliminate illiteracy
2. Develop self – esteem and self confidence
3. To raise the womens awareness of their rights
4. To have ability to make their won decision.
5. To provide skills for income generation.
6. To prepare them to be good women leaders.

Further, the gender inequality is very pronounced in rural households and backward societies of India. The girl child is discriminated in terms of access to education due to poverty and backwardness of the rural households. According to the Economic

Survey (2007-2008) of the government of India, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) among girls in the age group of 6 - 14 years is very less (i.e. 89.87 percent) compared to the GER among boys in the same age

group (i.e. 96.91 per cent) .It is argued that education plays a key role in women empowerment by enhancing their skills, and awareness towards the changes taking place in contemporary society. This infact is linked with the overall socio-economic development of the country. Hundred percent literacy is the pre-requisite for the success of our development policies. In view of this, women empowerment and women education are considered as the most important components of our growth strategy. In 2011, the male literacy rate as reached to 82 percent and female literacy rate 65.5 percent. Male literacy rate is higher than that of female literacy rate, the gender gap in literacy needs to be reduced to zero in order to achieve the development goals. Inclusive growth largely depends on the women education in India

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Problems and Prospects of Self Help Groups in Jayashankar (Bhupalapally) District of Telangana State

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Abstract: *In recent years, empowerment of women has become a subject of great concern for the nations all over the world especially in poor and developing countries. Empowerment means emancipation of women in harmonious co-existence with men in the society. Power provides social recognition, dignity, prosperity, property, value and security. Hence empowerment has acquired considerable importance. Empowerment is a way of acquiring the ability and opportunity to participate in decision making and implementation of decisions with proper knowledge of self-dignity and self-confidence. The concept 'empowerment' was introduced at the International Women's Conference at Nairobi in 1985, where it was defined as "a redistribution of social power and control of resources in favour of women. Empowerment is not only essential in political field; but also in personal, economical, social, and political dimensions with personal empowerment". Self Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as the most successful strategy in the process of participatory development and empowerment of women. Women SHGs in India have become successful in bringing the women in the main stream of decision making. SHGs are also a viable organized setup to disburse micro credit to the rural women and encourage them to enter into entrepreneurial ventures.*

Key Words: *Women, Empowerment, Self help Groups,*

INTRODUCTION

Women are an integral part of every economy. All round development and harmonious growth of a nation would be possible only when women are considered as equal partners in progress with men. Empowerment of women is essential to harness the women labor in the main stream of economic development. Empowerment of women is a holistic concept. It is multi-dimensional in its approach and covers social, political, economic and social aspects. Of all these facets of women's development, economic empowerment is of utmost significance in order to achieve a lasting and sustainable development of society. Empowerment of

Women Empowerment of women is nothing but women who live their own life in which they think appropriate, on the basis of their condition of family circumstances, qualities and capabilities of those things, and consider themselves as the best judges. Women empowerment can further be studied as political empowerment, economic empowerment and social empowerment. Since the researcher has concentrated his studies only on the economic empowerment that includes financial empowerment which is characterised by factors like income, expenditure, savings and investment.

SHG as an Instrument to Empower Women