

ISSN : 2395-4132

THE EXPRESSION

An International Multidisciplinary e-Journal

Bimonthly Refereed & Indexed Open Access e-Journal



Impact Factor 6.4

Vol. 9 Issue 1 February 2023

Editor-in-Chief : Dr. Bijender Singh

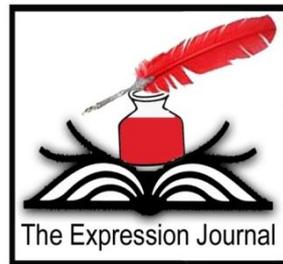
Email : editor@expressionjournal.com

www.expressionjournal.com

The Expression: An International Multidisciplinary e-Journal

(A Peer Reviewed and Indexed Journal with Impact Factor 6.4)

www.expressionjournal.com ISSN: 2395-4132



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH EDUCATION: AN ANALYSIS

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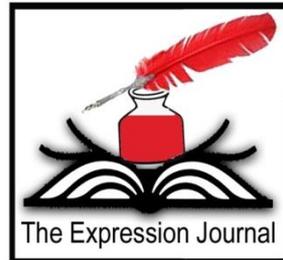
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Abstract

‘Empowerment’ may be described as a process which helps people to assert their control over the factors which affect their lives. Tokenism has gone on for long around us and time has come to understand that empowerment of women has to mean developing them as more aware individuals, who are politically active, economically productive and independent and are able to make intelligent discussion in matters that affect them. In this paper, we are going to learn about concept of women’s empowerment, and parallelly analyzing role of education in empowerment women in India. The government of India enacted various acts and launched schemes for women’s empowerment after independence. A crucial element of women's empowerment is creating a social and political environment where women can live free from exploitation, fear, prejudice, and the general perception of discrimination that comes with being a woman in a historically male-dominated institution. . Let's swear an oath that we desire a gender-neutral society where both men and women have an equal opportunity to express themselves and advance both their own well-being and that of the community at large. Women's participation in politics is crucial for securing women's place in society, empowering them to control their own future, and fostering a real and lasting democracy. Their individuality will be enhanced, and this will pave the road for their social and economic emancipation. Their involvement in public life will help to solve numerous societal issues.

Keywords

Women Empowerment, Parliament, Exploitation, Discrimination, Gendered Identity, Patriarchy, Hegemony, Women’s Education.



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Introduction

The study demonstrates how numerous factors like poverty, gender stereotypes, and institutional cultures affect educational outcomes based on an analysis of the literature. As a result, there is a need for a more equitable distribution of educational resources, institutional cultures and practices that are gender-sensitive, and social norms and expectations of men and women that are challenging. The benefits will include improved wages, easier access to the labor market, and personal empowerment. Finding the ideal policy balance and the political will to address the numerous issues affecting women's and girls' empowerment via education presents a challenge for policymakers.

Review of Literature

The second group of studies looks at various measures of female empowerment. The ability of a woman to make decisions for the home in comparison to her husband is a key indicator of female empowerment. According to the literature, the amount of men and women in the market affects how marriage markets clear. Economists investigate whether factors like education, contraceptive use, and wealth ownership are connected with high levels of female empowerment because this ability cannot be directly assessed. Women's empowerment encompasses a variety of factors, including economic opportunity, social equality, and personal rights. The pursuit of empowerment is challenging without the ability to work for a living (Grishma M. Khobragade 2013). In his study, "Emergence of women-owned enterprises in India-an insight," Dr. Rana Zehra Masood (2011) highlighted that India is a male-dominated society and that women are thought to be economically and socially dependent on male members.

Research Objective:

To learn about the issues of girls' or women's education in India.

To investigate the various measures of women's empowerment and education.

To measure the numerous aspects of educating women to empower them.

To figure out the status of women's education in India by comparing past and present.

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Methodology

This paper the descriptive approach of analysis is used in the research article. In this paper, secondary sources are given higher weight. The workings of research papers, thesis, and books by well-known sociologists are employed as secondary sources of knowledge.

Discussion

Educationist Mr. James Kwegyir Aggrey once said that "If you educate a man, you educate an individual whereas in if you educate a woman you end up educating an entire family" If chances will be given to women, she will frequently play numerous roles and have amazing networking and multitasking skills. They are more empathic and are able to relate to people more readily. Women can undoubtedly have a beneficial impact on the socioeconomic climate in the society with these gifts at their disposal and the education that has provided them with a number of new opportunities. Gaining autonomy and control over one's life, which has various elements, including political, social, psychological, cultural, economic, and ecological dimensions, is what women's empowerment is all about.

Conceptual Framework:

The term "empowerment," which is increasingly gaining in popularity, is essential to the growth and development of any emerging civilization. Since independence, India's social system has seen substantial development, although some groups are still battling for equal rights in society. None of the purported changes in the emerging economy have materially affected the majority of their lives, and several facets of society have not yet reaped the benefits of the social assistance programme.

Need for Women's Empowerment:

India is the world's most populated country after China. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) forecasted that India's population is anticipated to grow from 121.1 billion in 2011 to 151.8 billion in 2036. Unless as a nation we do not tap their potentiality into productivity the development will not happen. One-third of the population is not accessible to their basic need like health, education, training, and development. On the flip side, Women are to be brought to the mainstream by awarding equal rights of representation in all sectors. The education of women will aid in the advancement of society and the economy. Enhancing education can be expected to improve efficiency as well as the overall quality of life. Education gives women the confidence to take on difficulties, question their old roles, and transform their lives, education is viewed as a crucial step toward the empowerment of women. Women's education is the most effective instrument for changing their status in society. The majority of women in our nation are still illiterate, as a result they have been exploited. Additionally, education helps to diminish inequality and raises the status of students within their families. Women have access to empowerment and capacity building as a means of obtaining useful knowledge and skills for bettering their lives. Only if women contribute to the best of their skill and capacity, which is only achievable when they are educated and empowered, can India become a developed country. While women in developed nations enjoy equal rights and freedoms, those in emerging nations continue to battle for those same rights and liberties.

Challenges facing by Women

Gender Discrimination:

Every child is unable to reach their full potential because of gender discrepancies in both the lives of the adults who care for them and the lives of the children. The only country in the world where girls die more frequently than boys is India. Throughout the world, women have

higher survival rates at birth, are more likely to have a healthy development, and are just as likely to attend preschool as boys.

Inadequate Education:

The country's literacy rate is 74.04%, with 82.14 percent of men and 65.46 percent of women. (Know India.Gov.in)

Atrocities:

428,278 of the six million offenses that the Indian police reported between January 1 and December 31, 2013, involved crimes against women. In six years, it has increased by 26.35 percent, from 338,954 instances in 2016. (NCRB). The entire world is expressing concern about the mass kidnapping and abduction of women. The National Crime Record Bureau shows 1,01,707 cases reported in the year 2022 against 84,805 of last year's figures, there is a 19.93% increase it is intimidating.

Child Marriage & Dowry System:

UNICEF says 6.5 Crore girls gets married before they celebrate their 18th birthday. 40% of the representation is from South Asia. Some of the states in India like Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and Andra Pradesh still they are practicing it. Child marriage impacts the child's psychology. The legal definition of dowry is any property or valuable security provided or agreed to be delivered, either directly or indirectly. The dowry death was 6,753 in 2021 against 6,966 in 2020 there is some reduction in the number.

Lack of Health & well-being:

Women are an essential part of society and are the main caregivers in every nation, but despite this, they experience greater suffering and have worse health outcomes globally, which has an impact on not just the women themselves but also their families. It connects to women reproduction a well- being. If malnutrition happens to the women the infant death will happens and it have a great risk of maternal mortality. Sill some of the rural women's are suffer from anaemia, inadequate intake of iron and folic acid. Government of India have taken some initiatives to quash it.

Financial Exclusion:

India has the second-largest population of unbanked people in the world, after China. There was a serious problems Lack of cooperation among stakeholders, improper planning, and operational concerns were serious obstacles to financial inclusion in India. Significant behavioural biases impede women's confidence in managing finances, their participation in occupations and business initiatives, and force them to play more traditional, "feminine" roles in their households and the larger economy. After Indian Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) it helped the women by providing the financial inclusions.

Analysis and interpretation of women's education in India for their empowerment.

During old age:

The standing of women in Vedic India was enviable. She was revered as a goddess, comparable to the Greek goddess Athena, who served as the greatest inspiration for mankind. She went by the name "Ardhangini." In the Vedic era, we learn of female scholars and sages. But during the Brahmanic era, women's positions took a hit. Women under Muslim domination fully lost their splendour, were cast aside and were excluded from society's main streams. They were rendered lifeless and dependent on men. The Puradah' system was the most prominent of the evil and inhumane ill practices that were promoted in the society to disharmonies. "Sati" system, schooling deprivation due to child marriage, and a lifetime restriction on widow remarriages.

During the Colonial Era:

It is stated that when the British arrived in India, women completely vanished from the scene. The state of female education was appalling. In certain regions of India before independence, seldom even 1% of women received an education. After the Hunter Commission raised some optimism. Some excellent institutions and universities for women were opened in various regions of the country, including Bengal, Bombay, and Madras, so they could access education. However, several zenana missions for women were established with the assistance of some Christian missionaries, where they were instructed at home by female professors in addition to domestic science and other subjects. Another side Savitribai and Jyotirao founded an education society to open new schools for women and girls of all classes.

Post-Independence:

After getting Independence with great struggle Union government given some benefit it resulted Between 1951 and 1981, the female literacy rate increased from 7.95 to 24.82 percent (Post-Independence Educational Development among Women in India, Balaji Pandey)

Indian Constitution on Women's Education and Empowerment:

The Indian constitution not only grants equal rights but also gives the State the authority to take positive discriminatory measures in its favor in order to counteract the accumulated socioeconomic, educational, and political disadvantages that women suffer. Among other things, fundamental rights guarantee everyone's equality before the law and equal protection under the law, forbid discrimination against any citizen based on their race, religion, caste, sex, or place of birth, and ensure that everyone has an equal chance to succeed in matters relating to employment.

Article -14 Indian Constitution

Equal rights under the law The State may not restrict anyone's ability to receive equal legal protection or treatment inside the borders of India. discrimination against people based on their place of birth, race, caste, religion, or sexual orientation is prohibited.

Article -15 Indian Constitution

Discrimination against people based on their place of birth, race, caste, religion, or sexual orientation is forbidden. The State is not allowed to treat any citizen differently just because of their race, caste, sex, or country of birth. Any citizen who wishes to enter a store, a public restaurant, a hotel, or an entertainment venue, as well as to use wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads, and public resorts that are wholly or partially supported by State funds or that are intended for public use, shall be free from any disability, liability, restriction, or condition.

Article -16 Indian Constitution

All citizens shall have an equal opportunity to apply for jobs or be appointed to positions within the state. "No citizen will be excluded from or subject to discrimination in connection with any employment or office under the State solely on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, or domicile, or any combination of these factors".

Article -39, (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f)&(g) of Indian Constitution

The State shall adopt and implement the following principles of policy: In particular, the State shall focus its policies on ensuring "(a) that the citizens, including men and women, The State shall adopt and implement the following principles of policy: The State shall, in particular, focus its policy on ensuring that (a) all citizens, men and women alike, have the right to an adequate standard of living; (b) ownership and control of the community's material resources are distributed in a way that best serves the common good, and (c) the operation of the economic system does not lead to the concentration of wealth and production-related resources to the

detriment of the general welfare. (d) that men and women receive equal pay for equal work; (e) that workers' health and strength, both men and women, and children's tender age are not exploited; (f) that citizens are not compelled by economic necessity to engage in occupations that are inappropriate for their age or strength, (g) that children are provided with the opportunities and resources they need to develop in a healthy way and in conditions of freedom and dignity, and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation."

Government Initiatives for women's education:

Making sure future generations are fairly represented, educated, and capable of carrying the burden of progress is essential for a nation's future. As a country, we have a long history of gender inequality, but the government is working to change that by empowering, educating, and elevating young girls. In recent years, the Indian government has developed a number of initiatives in collaboration with nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) that are expressly geared toward securing the economic stability and social respect of women. In light of the history of gender inequality in Indian society, the government has taken steps to promote gender equality at all levels, give women more influence, and enhance child education. Some of them we are going to discuss.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):

The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) program was launched by the Indian government in 2015 to address issues with gender inequality and women's empowerment in the nation. The phrase "Save the girl child, educate the girl kid" is the meaning behind the name Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. The program's objectives are to increase the effectiveness of social services for girls and to sensitize the public to gender bias.

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana(SSY):

The Government of India's Sukanya Samridhi Yojana is a savings program designed to improve the lives of girls in the nation. To ensure that girls have a bright future, the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana was established. It allows parents to set aside money for their daughters' future education and marriage costs.

One-Stop Centre Scheme:

There will be one-stop centers set up all around the nation to offer comprehensive support and help to women who have experienced violence in both private and public settings under one roof.

Women Helpline Scheme (WHL):

The Government of India launched the Scheme of Universalization of Women Helpline, which aims to provide 24-hour rapid and emergency assistance to women who have experienced violence in both private and public settings. Every State and Union Territory now has a Women Helpline (WHL), which offers comprehensive support and assistance to women nationwide through a single uniform number.

Mahila E-Haat:

Mahila E-Haat aims to serve the needs and goals of female entrepreneurs. It is an online marketing platform with a female audience where users can advertise their products. All women in the country are eligible for the programme, which is a part of the "Digital India" and "Stand Up India" efforts. The platform was established by Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, a section of the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Indian Government (RMK)

Mahila Police Volunteers (MPV):

The MPVs in the States and UTs, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, and the Department of Home Affairs together launched the Mahila Police Volunteers Scheme. It is a

central sector program that aims to connect public policy with public assistance for women in need.

STEP (Support to Training and Employment Program for Women):

The STEP Program seeks to “provide women with the abilities and skills necessary for employment as well as self-employment and entrepreneurship. The Scheme is meant to help all women in the country who are 16 years of age or older.”

SWADHAR Greh:

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme for women who have been placed in challenging circumstances and who desire institutional support for rehabilitation so they can live their lives with dignity. The Plan contains provisions for these women's home, food, clothing, and health care as well as economic and social security.

Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme:

The National Creche Scheme, formerly known as the Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme, is being carried out as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme through the States/UTs to offer daycare facilities for children (between the ages of 6 months and 6 years) of working mothers.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan:

A national flagship initiative, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme is being carried out in all Indian districts. All children in the age range of 6 to 14 years will receive a practical and pertinent elementary education under this programme.

Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK):

The MSK is a centrally sponsored scheme to empower rural women through community participation. The scheme aims to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women.

UJJWALA:

The Ujjwala yojana is provides free LPG connections to women from households living below the poverty line.

Working Women Hostel:

A grant-in-aid programme known as the "working women hostel" was developed by the Indian government in 1972–1973. It provides funds for the development of new or expanding existing structures to house working women in urban, suburban, and rural regions where there are employment prospects for women.

Nirbhaya:

The Indian government set up a special fund dubbed the "Nirbhaya Fund" to carry out initiatives aimed at enhancing women's safety and security in the country. An Empowered Committee (EC) of officers constituted under the Nirbhaya Framework analyses and approves the proposals for funding under the Nirbhaya Fund in cooperation with the pertinent Ministries, Departments, and Implementing Agencies. The appropriate Ministries/Departments acquire the approval of their respective competent financial authorities to release funds from their respective budgets and carry out the authorised projects/schemes directly or through States/UTs/Implementing Agencies after the EC has evaluated them.

Findings/ Suggestions:

One of the key causes of the need for female education in India is the empowerment of women. A woman will feel empowered if she has education since it will help her develop self-confidence. To Empowering women's she should be given other incentives such as: Social

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www.expressionjournal.com ISSN: 2395-4132

Empowerment, Economic Empowerment and Political Empowerment these equifinality will end up the holistic development of women.

- **Social Empowerment:** From being venerated as goddesses to being harassed and molested—horrific domestic violence instances, acid attacks, and rapes—women in Indian society have come a long way. Social empowerment will make the women to think on social acceptances it makes reality.
- **Economic Empowerment:** This economic empower will offer control on income, control on their financial assets and control on decision making. Economic Empowerment of Women: Promoting Skills Development in Slum Areas identifies and captures various aspects of the skill programmes run by Vocational Training Providers (VTP) in ten major cities across the nation.
- **Political Empowerment:** Women's political empowerment is a societal process that is essential to growth and advancement. Internationally, women's standing is gauged by their empowerment and involvement in politics. Women's advancement and the development of a culture that values gender equality are dependent on their empowerment in all spheres, but particularly in politics. It is necessary for the pursuit of equality, growth, and peace.

Conclusion:

One-third of the total seats for women from scheduled castes, backward classes, scheduled tribes, and general castes upliftment have happened after 73rd amendment to the constitution of Panchayati Raj Institution. The situation of women's empowerment appears to be somewhat poor in terms of attainment in the areas of income, employment, and education. Finding the gaps or restrictions that prevent women from achieving their full potential is urgently needed. This initiative must come from the women themselves, but it is also crucial that the state and society make appropriate legislative decisions in this regard. Let's swear an oath that we desire a gender-neutral society where both men and women have an equal opportunity to express themselves and advance both their own well-being and that of the community at large. Women's participation in politics is crucial for securing women's place in society, empowering them to control their own future, and fostering a real and lasting democracy. Their individuality will be enhanced, and this will pave the road for their social and economic emancipation. Their involvement in public life will help to solve numerous societal issues.

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www.expressionjournal.com ISSN: 2395-4132

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