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How Education Empower Women Challenges and Issues

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Abstract

With the easy blessings that education confers, a big number of persistent traumatic conditions and barriers hold on to limit access for women to this empowering useful resource. Among these are institutional discrimination, economic hardships, and deeply entrenched social and cultural norms combining to restrict ladies' instructional possibilities. In building the promise of education for all women and obtaining their fair share of participation in society, systemic barriers need to be faced and dismantled. On the other hand, mere provision of educational information does not prompt a woman's full potential. Training has to be a transformative experience to empower girls with competences, self-confidence, and knowledge to meaningfully take part in social, political, and economic life. Girls reaching high levels of education will be much more able to quietly assert their rights, make informed decisions about their health, and take that business opportunity for expansion to an entirely different level. Besides, with education, women gain self reliance and independence, attributes that let them walk past the cycles of vulnerability and poverty that have been an ingrained hallmark in their lives. Education provides the foundation for women's empowerment; it dictates the way in which women breach the thresholds of opportunity and is also a powerful force against the shackles of inequality. Women have historically been better dealt with by hindering them from education through societal conventions, financial boundaries, and cultural predispositions that constantly place a higher price on the training of their male fellows. However, with the rise of the conception of training as an intrinsic human right gaining some ground, there is a tendency towards an upsurge in the popularity of the critical urgency to raise the education of girls for the collective enhancement of society. In this respect, schooling has offered a lot of impetus for girls' empowerment, hence still remaining intensely impactful not just for the woman trajectories of their lives but also for society at large. It is based on a review of the multidimensional stressful conditions and obstacles that bar girls from accessing higher education, emphasizing the need for integrated approaches to break such barriers and create gender equity. By this investigation, the magazine hopes to illustrate the potent agent of change that education has been in giving form and direction to women's lives and in furthering the cause of a more certain and inclusive society.

Keywords: Women's Education; Gender Equality; Socio-Cultural Barriers; Empowerment; Transformative Learning

INTRODUCTION

Importance of Women Empowerment

Empowering women is essential for fostering economic prosperity and accomplishing social development. schooling is a key issue in this empowerment, performing as a effective catalyst that energizes the group of workers and strengthens a state's economic abilities. This effect is in particular obvious in nations like India, in which a sturdy cognizance on girls's schooling is visible as critical for country wide improvement. but, the influence of empowering ladies extends past just economic boom; it also drastically enhances the best of life inside households. knowledgeable women have the potential to make knowledgeable selections about their health, marriage, and own family making plans, often ensuing in lower child mortality fees and normal improved properlybeing for their families.

The blessings of ladies's schooling additionally extend into broader societal contexts, important to significant cultural variations. by difficult and redefining traditional gender roles, educated women are more likely to take on control roles, function mentors, and advise for amazing adjustments inside their groups. schooling equips women with the expertise and

confidence to interact actively in political and civic sports activities, allowing them to participate in choicemaking approaches at both nearby and countrywide degrees. This participation not simplest helps the development of rules that promote gender equality but also contributes to the general nicelybeing of society. in the end, empowering women via training is a crucial step closer to reducing gender inequality, allowing ladies to assert their rights, fight discrimination, and contribute substantially to societal improvement.

Role of Education in Empowering Women

Education as an empowering tool act as a strong intervention of enhancing the quality of women through availing them appropriate knowledge and skills to enable them make the right decisions that would lead to change. Education makes women have more opportunities in their choice of career hence achieving financial and economical breakthrough. The status of educated women and their families will be enhanced and enable the women to contribute to the economy and improve on their self and career aspects. Apart from economic returns education empowers women and makes them strong to fight for change and achieve their ambitions. This in a way empowers individual women and

in the process protects other women and girls who may want to be educated and empowered too.

Furthermore, there remains a strong correlation between education and health and welfare of the society. This means that educated women, among them the young ones, are more knowledgeable on health and pass the best health decisions to other members of their families. This knowledge brings about healthier practices, reduced cases of infant mortality and improved reproductive health of women. Also, education is change through empowering people, especially women, to fight the social vices, including early marriage, wife battering, and discrimination. There is a positive correlation between women education levels and stand on their own rights and others besides heaping pressures to transform societies into more just systems. Consequently, the advancement made by women through education goes beyond a few personal achievements thus empowering families, communities, and nations as whole. **Historical Context of Women's Education**

Ancient Period : The facility of Upanayana ritual was first accorded to the women in ancient India, after which they were given the authority to study the Vedas with their male counterparts. Gradually, that facility was withdrawn,

and Vedic education was barred to them. Though restricted, women did continue contributing to the learning process and as scholars in ancient famous universities like Nalanda, Vikramshila, and Takshila.

Medieval Period: In the 11th century, the Muslim rulers established universities in Delhi, Lucknow, and Allahabad where women were involved in educational pursuits. Some royal women, like GulBadan Begum and Zibunnisa Begum, were known for their scholarship during the Mughal period.

British Colonial Period: The arrival of the British brought many changes to the scene of women's education in India. The missionaries played a stellar role in expanding girls' education, and as early as 1819, the Female Juvenile Society did open a number of schools for girls. A little later in the mid 19th century itself, universities in big cities opened their gates to women, though they had less access compared to men.

Evolution of Women's Education

The post independence period has really seen much development in women's educational opportunities and growth in the field of higher education. Many of the prestigious institutions, like Banaras Hindu University, Aligarh Muslim University, and Delhi University, became major

centers for the imparting of education among women.

Traditional Barriers to Women's Education

Social and Cultural Norms: There existed a lot of traditional barriers to women's education, including social and cultural norms that placed women's home responsibilities above educational interests. For example, education played roles in fulfilling the belief in responsibilities, such as that of a wife and mother, readily limiting years of education span that women received.

Economic Factors: Some economic challenges also tended to be barriers to women's education. Time and again, this is an era of families' believes that boys are the breadwinners. They thus invest their resources mainly in boys' education. This notion made the entire investment a better investment.

The Impact of Education on Women's Empowerment Social Empowerment:

Education further contributes to the social empowerment of women by providing equality in breaking traditional barriers. It is through education that a woman learns and, with enough boldness, challenges her roles in society and even redefines them where need be. For it is only through this

avenue that they will have the ability to question norms, make decisions, and engage in social processes proactively. For example, an educated woman will fight for her rights, engage in community development, and struggle for social transfiguration. Besides, education helps develop the skills to think critically and be aware of social discriminations against women; thus, it makes them aware and fight against them. Therefore, they act as role models in society with the zeal to instill in other women and girls the urge to fight for their rights. Education can create a forum where women, in turn, are able to network and improve their status in society toward a more egalitarian society.

Economic Empowerment:

This should leave the level of education and its relevance to women emblazoned in this. Education empowers women with the necessary skills and knowledge to enter into the labor market and look for better jobs, becoming financially independent. This economic empowerment is very essential in enabling these women make household income, make investments in household wellbeing, and cut on poverty. They are also more likely to start up businesses, be actively entrepreneurial, and have their savings, credit, and other financial services available to them. In

addition, education would enable the women acquire skills of keeping updated about financial matters hence enabling them to make informed economic choices. In that vein, they shall be better placed to control the resources and bargain effectively with the households and communities for a better deal. It is not only a way of quality enhancement to life but also a way that could bring in spillover benefits for the economy at large from women into earning and growth.

Political Empowerment:

Education is a major driver of women's political empowerment since it enables them to participate effectively in the political process. It thus enables women to participate in current politics and fight for their rights. Chances are that, with education, they will understand the political system, their legal rights, and their obligations when participating in civic duties. They would, therefore, be better positioned in voting, vying for public office, and undertaking political activism. Moreover, education empowers women to abolish such discriminating laws and policies and claim parity in all decision making bodies. By engaging in politics, they can positively impact the policies that concern their lives and those of other women in general, hence

transforming into more participatory and accountable and gender responsive governance. Educated women can also serve as leaders and mentors who will be an inspiration in bringing political practices into the future generations. Therefore, the political empowerment of women by education has a very crucial role in building a democratic and just society.

Personal and Psychological Empowerment:

On the other hand, education is equally very instrumental in the personal and psychological empowerment of women, as it mainly seeks to increase their selfesteem, selfconfidence, and autonomy. Education makes them know more about themselves and find potential ways of overcoming the internalized oppression and limitations existing within society. Psychological empowerment will help the woman to assert her rights, work according to her own goals, and make independent decisions. It also equipped them with the cognitive skills that would make them more analytical about their condition, set targets, develop plans, and means for their achievement. The capacity of a woman to withstand such pressure in fulfilling traditional roles increased with rising confidence while she could become more

assertive about her needs and wants. The psychosocial benefits of education transcend to an individual since such an empowered woman will rear an empowered child and affect the cycle of empowerment that can change the face of families and communities.

Issues Faced in Women's Education

Cultural and Social Norms

Traditional gender roles: The women in India, more so those of the rural population, have been made slaves of the house since their childhood. They are second but primary mothers who do cooking, cleaning, and also look after the young siblings. This disallows free association of women in education.

Social Practices: Dowry and bonded labor have restrained female education. For example, families could divert their resources to save for dowries and, therefore, did not invest more in the girl's education because with a high level of education comes the higher demand for a dowry.

Mindsets and Beliefs: Advancement notwithstanding, traditional beliefs about gender roles still hold ground. Many think it is considered the prime assignment of women as caretakers and homemakers, rather than individuals having the potential

for attaining educational and professional heights.

Economic Constraints

Poverty: Most of the families, especially those from low economic classes, view girls as an asset for financing where they can contribute to work around the household opposite to education.

Costs Related to Education: Education can be free by law, but most of the time, the other needed resources that complement it, especially concerning books, uniform, and transport, become too costly for a low-income family.

Value of Education: In some cultures, it is not deemed an investment to educate the girl child as she is raised just to be married to end up in the husband's houses.

Geographic and Infrastructural Barriers

Accessibility to Schools in Rural Areas: Most of these educational facilities are so bulky in their set-ups that considerations of distance to them could be a major concern, especially for secondary schools, where safety concerns of travel are overriding.

School Infrastructure: Most schools lack basic facilities of toilets and safe drinking water. Girls are the worst sufferers.

Absence of proper sanitation facilities acts as a strong disincentive for girls to attend school, more so during their menstruation days.

Safety concerns: Many girls face unsafe travels to and from school, which explains the parent's refusal to send daughters to school, especially when there is no decent public transportation.

Limited Access to Quality Education

Teacher Availability and Quality: Most rural schools face a shortage of qualified teachers. Female teachers, in particular, are seldom found, although they would be more appropriate to teach girls.

Curriculum Relevance: The curriculum in education lacks relevance to the needs or situations of girls from rural or marginalized areas and therefore cannot adequately engage them meaningfully or give relevant life skills.

High dropout rates are evident among female students, mainly due to academic challenges, financial crises, or marrying off early. Especially, the lack of friendly supports in the instructional environment adds fuel to these fires.

The Role of Government and Non-Governmental Organizations

It is a long and multifaceted process that enables him or her to realize his or her full identity and potential in all aspects of life. This entails increased access to knowledge and other resources, increased autonomy in decision-making processes, and increased ability of the person to conduct their life. Empowerment is a psychological feeling that compels one to make striving efforts through fulfillment of goals. Women's empowerment is imperative for their all-round development and to raise the level of their status in society.

Indian women face manifold problems and issues that include sex-selective abortion and female infanticide, sexual harassment, dowry-related violence and bride burning, inequality in educational opportunities, domestic abuse, child marriage, inadequate nutrition, low status in family structures, and multiple forms of violence against women. These are deeply entrenched pathologies and will take an all-rounded and multi-faceted approach to correction.

The National Policy for Empowerment of Women 2001 is a policy framed to further advance and develop the womenfolk. Varied objectives enshrined in this policy are those of achieving the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, ensuring equal opportunities in education,

health, economic opportunities, and ensuring that she is equally participating in decision-making roles.

It further takes into consideration the economic empowerment of women and other issues as poverty reduction, micro-credit, and participation of women in the economy. The policy would, therefore, focus on the promotion of participation of women in science and technology, agriculture and industry, support services that facilitate this process comprising child-care facilities and homes for the aged and disabled with women-friendly personnel policies.

It is also a question about social empowerment in regard to the educational, health, and nutritional status of water and sanitation. It includes the elimination of violence against women, the protection of girls' rights, and social caring among women in difficult conditions.

The policy has also laid stress on institutional mechanisms like the National and State Councils, National and State Resource Centres, and women's organisations. Another added feather is the stipulation of resource management whereby the benefits accrued to women are estimated and in turn adequate resources are given and underwritten by its

staff of various departments synergistically.

Other priorities are legislative measures that involve a review of existing laws, the eradication of those with gender bias in their wording, and effective provisions for the law to which, in the process lists, gender sensitization, educating the staff, raising public consciousness, and erasing pejorative references to women from official documents.

The policy further highlights the role of organizations working in the voluntary sector and international cooperation. In fact, it works toward fulfilling such international commitments and obligations taken for women's empowerment through international, regional, and sub- regional cooperation.

Overall, the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (2001) is a comprehensive policy that aims to address the various issues and challenges faced by women in India. It emphasizes the importance of economic, social, and political empowerment of women and provides a framework for the advancement, development, and empowerment of women.

Strategies to Overcome Challenges

Increasing access to education for educated girls

Establishing infrastructure: Educational facilities should be established close to rural populations to reduce the time they spend on commuting, thus increasing access to education for girls.

Providing scholarships: Tuition fees, school uniforms and educational resource needs will be provided as scholarships, easing the economic burden on families.

Protection: Safe learning and travel environments for children can encourage parents to send girls to school.

Also, we need to provide lots of different learning materials, like books, online tools, and hands-on things to help kids understand what they're learning better!

Community Engagement Campaigns and Awareness- PTA: Establish, reinvigorate and strengthen PTAs and PTAs to strengthen links between PTAs and raise interest in education in the community.-
Awareness Campaigns: Implement programs that make school meaningful for students regardless of gender and in spite of cultural or social barriers.

Role Models: Engage local female role models in the community to inspire girls

and their parents by showing them the benefits of an education.

The Role of Technology in Women's Education

Digital Learning Platforms

Better technology has furthered equal education opportunities for females through online learning platforms, making learning flexible and accessible. It is mostly cost-effective in most cases and enables more women to live in rural or disadvantaged areas with access to higher education or vocational training. MOOCs, for example, include Coursera, edX, and Udemy, on a variety of topics/subjects presented by top universities/colleges across the globe. Such websites enable women to learn at their own speed and with their own timetable, making it quite easy for those who have to juggle education with either work or raising a family.

Online learning can bridge the educational gap in providing courses not locally offered to women for the needed skill acquisition for them to get into or upgrade at work. Make it Human:

Digital literacy plays a role in empowering women to get the best out of technological advancement for education. These programs have timely been integrated to

empower women with skills that will enable them to manipulate digital devices and platforms with ease. In terms of empirical evidence, the programs focus on basic computer operations, internet navigation, and software application usable on a daily basis and in professionalism. A program that provides women with the easiest way to overcome barriers of accessing online resources, participating in the digital economy, and protecting themselves from cyber dangers by developing digital literacy has much appreciation from governments, NGOs, and private sector players, especially in developing countries where the gender gap in digital access is far more pronounced.

Mobile Learning and E-Learning Programs

Mobile technology has emerged as a powerful approach to increasing women's access to education, especially in remote and poorly infrastructured regions. M-learning, or mobile education, takes further the ubiquity of smart devices using simple SMS-based learning and extending to applications with support for interactive learning processes and training. This situation is very pertinent for women who may not have a computer and may not have access to the internet on a reliable basis, but possibly have learning materials that they can access through mobile technology. Additionally, e-learning

programs via mobile technology create an opportunity for women to learn at their convenience, such as when in transit, at home, or during other family commitments. In this regard, events such as the UNESCO Mobile Learning Week are but an example of the kind of partnership promotion that is bound to bring better learning opportunities to women around the world.

For this report, specific sections under "Policy Recommendations for Governments," "Role of

Stakeholders in promoting Education," and "Encouragement towards Research and Development" do not appear in the given document. However, using general knowledge and research practice, I can make them.

Future Directions and Recommendations

Policy Advice to Governmental Authorities

Governments occupy a crucial role in regulating educational architecture. Following are a few policy recommendations to ensure inclusiveness and innovation for a better future of education:

1. Digital Infrastructure

Investments: Access to high-speed internet must be provided in all schools to make digital infrastructure a part of school learning. New technological resources should be provided in rural and economically disadvantaged regions.

2. Provision of Lifelong Education:

Policies that provide for lifelong learning and skills acquisition over the life course lay a foundation to support the workforce in a transitioning work setting.

3. Inclusive Education Policies:

Governments must make policies that provide equal education opportunities for all but particularly the disadvantaged and marginalized in society. These invest in special education programs in addition to ensuring that the curriculum is inclusive and followed in the teaching methodology.

4. Encouragement of Public-Private

Partnerships: Governments must encourage public institutions to collaborate with private companies in voluntary innovations in the field of education, particularly through the absorption of technology and re-engineering of curricula.

5. Funding Research in Education:

The need for research in education could not be overemphasized. Increased financing toward this enterprise would

cause better teaching practices, assessments, and learning technologies to adhere.

Stakeholder's Role in the Promotion of Education

Stakeholders in education, therefore, provide the keenest responsibility, right from the educationists to the parents, businesses, and communities. It implies that, with their involvement, it ensures all education endeavors are effective and responsive to the student's needs.

1. Educator as an Innovator:

Educators need to be given the opportunity to accept and change in the new teaching methodologies using the new technologies. Professional development can equip them with the needed skills to innovate in the classroom.

2. Parental Involvement:

Parents should be partnering involved in the learning process of their children's education and school settings. The school can instill this by two-way communication, where parents contribute towards the decision-making process.

3. Engagement of Business and

Industries: Business firms can advance education through internships and apprenticeships or other means of experiential learning. They can also

collaborate with schools to provide the design of programs that will meet the current labor market.

4. Community Support: Volunteer programs, mentoring, and resource provision are ways in which local communities support education. The involvement of the community promotes an enabling environment on the student; hence, learning becomes possible.

Promoting Research and Development

R&D is a key to enhancing education and ensuring that it meets future needs.

1. Promoting Educational Research: Over time, universities and research institutions should be incentivized to conduct investigations that regard methodologies of education, learning results, and the effectiveness of different teaching formulas; maybe that research leads to policy and practice.

2. Innovation Funding: From governments, private organizations, and foundations, there will be grants and funding opportunities for various innovative educational projects that may extend to new technologies, new teaching methods, and tools associated with assessments.

3. Academic-Industry

Collaboration: There is a fertile base for the interaction in ideas between the university academy and the real industrial world, thereby offering the potential to create innovative learning resources and platforms with support from the latest research in focus on market needs.

4. Emphasis on Novel Technologies:

It is imperative to invest in research examining the integration of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and personalized learning platforms, into educational contexts in order to adequately prepare students for future challenges.

5. International Collaboration:

Researchers across borders could facilitate a collaborative academic writer sharing of best practices and innovative ways in which best can be brought to students across the globe. Therefore, the recommendations would be expected for overall activities that would build a strong, flexible, and inclusive educational structure able to respond to the upcoming challenges and opportunities.

Conclusion

Empowering women is crucial for both economic prosperity and social development, with education playing a

pivotal role. In countries like India, focusing on women's education is essential for national progress. Educated women make informed decisions about health, marriage, and family planning, leading to improved well-being and reduced child mortality rates. Education also challenges traditional gender roles, enabling women to take on leadership positions, advocate for change, and participate in political and civic activities. Historically, women in India faced significant barriers to education due to social, cultural, and economic constraints. However, advancements in technology, such as digital learning platforms and mobile education, have increased access to education, especially for women in rural areas. The Indian government and non-governmental organizations have implemented policies to promote women's education and empowerment, addressing issues like safety, infrastructure, and economic barriers. Continued efforts are needed to enhance digital infrastructure, promote lifelong learning, and encourage public-private partnerships to ensure inclusive and innovative education for women. Ultimately, empowering women through education not only benefits individuals but also strengthens families, communities, and the nation as a whole.

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