



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract

Globalization has presented new challenges for the realization of the goal of women's equality, the gender impact of which has not been systematically evaluated fully. However, from the micro-level studies that were commissioned by the Department of Women & Child Development, it is evident that there is a need for re-framing policies for access to employment and quality of employment. Benefits of the growing global economy have been unevenly distributed leading to wider economic disparities, the feminization of poverty, increased gender inequality through often deteriorating working conditions and unsafe working environment especially in the informal economy and rural areas. Strategies will be designed to enhance the capacity of women and empower them to meet the negative social and economic impacts, which may flow from the globalization process

Keywords: Women empowerment, Higher education, Globalization, Discrimination

Introduction

Education is an important aspect of developed nations and it is proved that nations without education cannot develop at its full as it cannot take full advantage of its human resources and human resources and human resources is one of the major resource of any nation. Woman make almost half of the population of any country, thus their involvement in the development cannot be ignored, without educated woman a nation cannot see its distant dream as woman are the mothers who write the future of a generation. In last few years there has seen considerable improvement in women education in India. More and more women are coming out of houses and opt for education in India. That is the reason, why we are seeing lot of women on top position in India. They have done considerable improvement in all areas. Today we see women in education, in government, in teaching, in reaches and in forces. Today they are the top companies. They are running successful businesses.

The empowerment of women has been widely acknowledged as an important goal in international development but the meanings and terminologies associated with the concept vary, and methods for systematically measuring and tracking changes in levels of empowerment are not well established. A diverse body of literature has emerged regarding the conceptualization and measurement of women's empowerment and its relationships with other variables of interest in international development. Empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic strength of individuals and communities. It often involves the empowered developing confidence in their own capacities. Women's empowerment is another term that needs clarification. Women's economic and political empowerment was adopted as one of the strategies for advancing the agenda of gender equality at the IV UN Conference on Women in 1995. The term empowerment has different meanings depending on the socio-economic, political and cultural context in which it is presented. Overall empowerment can be perceived as a process or as an outcome that can take place at different levels. Women empowerment means the process through which women, who are currently most discriminated against, achieve gender equity. This will include support for men to change those aspects of their behavior. Roles and privileges which currently discriminate against women. The extent of current disadvantage and inequality means that women's empowerment may require support by development agencies at household, community and also from macro levels.

Women and Economy

Women's perspectives will be included in designing and implementing macro-economic and social policies by institutionalizing their participation in such processes. Their contribution to socio-economic development as producers and workers will be recognized in the formal and informal sectors (including home based workers) and appropriate policies relating to employment and to her working conditions will be drawn up. Such measures could include Reinterpretation and redefinition of conventional concepts of work wherever necessary e.g. in the Census records, to reflect women's contribution as producers and workers.

Women and Agriculture

In view of the critical role of women in the agriculture and allied sectors, as producers, concentrated efforts will be made to ensure that benefits of training, extension and various programmes will reach them in proportion to their numbers. The programmes for training women in soil conservation, social forestry, dairy development and other occupations allied to agriculture like horticulture, livestock including small animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries etc. will be expanded to benefit women workers in the agriculture sector.

Women and Industry

The important role played by women in electronics, information technology and food processing and agro industry and textiles has been crucial to the development of these sectors. They would be given comprehensive support in terms of labour legislation, social security and other support services to participate in various industrial sectors. Women at present cannot work in night shift in factories even if they wish to. Suitable measures will be taken to enable women to work on the night shift in factories. This will be accompanied with support services for security, transportation etc.

Knowledge is life of every Indian woman. It results with the experience that she gains from environment and the supporting world around her, which allow her to live as knowledgeable productive members of the society. The homely environment with mother's love is the first source of learning for the child and an educated mother would create an environment, allowing her children to gather and analyze information, which helps in adapting to bigger society in future. Critical thinking and analysis will make the children better members of society. To educate someone is to deliberately teach them something new and higher education for women is most powerful means to evolve through/beyond current economical and social crisis in India and to teach her children the art of thinking and analysis before entering the

Self-confidence Higher Education helps the women not only in gaining knowledge but also enables her to earn a living.

Necessity of life Money is necessity in maintaining life and education helps in preserving life.

Family welfare An educated woman plays an important role in a family, dealing with both Health care and financial support to the family.

Involvement in Social and political activities Higher education helps women to have a better understanding of social and political processes beyond the home in far-reaching social structure and makes her a wise citizen with effective social and political action.

Complete Living Complete living includes, being physically strong, earning a living, being a responsible parent and an earnest citizen.

Main approaches have been made during XI Plan,

- To offer training programmes focused on increasing sensitivity to gender issues in respect of women managers
- To make capacity building a women's movement
- To involve Vice-chancellors of the Universities or Principals of the concerned
- Colleges in the development of the programme with capacity building is through activities like sensitization, awareness, motivation workshops, development and distribution of resource material, research stimulation workshops, management skill workshops etc.

Conclusion

Women will be involved and their perspectives reflected in the policies and programmes for environment, conservation and restoration. Considering the impact of environmental factors on their livelihoods, women's participation will be ensured in the conservation of the environment and control of environmental degradation. The vast majority of rural women still depends on the locally available non-commercial sources of energy such as animal dung, crop waste and fuel wood. In order to ensure the efficient use of these energy resources in an environmental friendly manner, the Policy will aim at promoting the programmes of non-conventional energy resources. Women will be involved in spreading the use of solar energy, biogas, smokeless and other rural application so as to have a visible impact of these measures in influencing eco system and in changing the life styles of rural women Programmes will be strengthened to bring about a greater involvement of women in science and technology. These will include measures to motivate girls to take up science and technology for higher education and also ensure that development projects with scientific and technical inputs involve women fully. Efforts to develop a scientific temper and awareness will also be stepped up. Special measures would be taken for their training in areas where they have special skills like communication and information technology. Efforts to develop appropriate technologies suited to women's needs as well as to reduce their drudgery will be given a special focus too.

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