

Education as an Instrument for Women Empowerment

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ABSTRACT

Women's empowerment has become a major topic in today's world of globalization. Now whether there is a western society or a Muslim World, at all the forums including United Nations Organization, women's rights, and issues regarding women empowerment are being discussed. It has been the concern of all the countries to draw out their women from provincial culture and trying to utilize them as skilled human resources. The basic objective of this article is to highlight the need of women empowerment.

Keywords: Empowerment, Women, Education, Encouragement

Both men and women are equal and have common human features, which is a universal reality. There is a reciprocal love and affection between the woman and the man that helps them establish the foundation of their relationship, allowing nature to achieve its aim of man's survival in this way. We should recognize the woman's natural demands and capabilities because she is half of the body of society. The creator of nature reveals his word to the mankind as:

"And be steadfast on the nature where upon Allah (s.w.t.) has created mankind. There can be no alteration in the nature made by Allah (s.w.t) that is the right religion" {Al-Qur'an 30:30}

In previous civilizations and religions women were just like slaves, who were deprived of freedom, rights, position and status. There were no opportunities for them to play their role in the human society. They were lashed with the whip of religion, tradition and man-made ideologies. They were allowed to be alive, only for, to be bed, to bake the bread and to breed the babies. In short, before women were badly crushed between the milestones of tyranny and cruelty, both in the east and the west.

According to Manu, dominance was a fundamental value in India. Women needed to be held by their guardians at all times. Women in Athens had the same conditions as women in Rome or India. Athenians were always considered to be juveniles under the authority of a male, such as their father, brother, or male relatives. Under Roman control, women were completely reliant on men even in the past. If a woman marries, both she and her possessions become her husband's property, and she was bought like a slave and obtained

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solely for his advantage. The code of Hammurabi treated woman as a pet. According to Buddhism, woman is unknowable as the way of a fish in water is the nature of a woman. As far as China is concerned, things did not get any better; the practice of crippling young girls' feet in an effort to keep them defenseless and feminine exposes the mindset of the Chinese. In the Arabian Peninsula woman was facing such crisis which were experienced never, by history, before. They used to bury their daughters alive soon after birth. Beyond this cruel tradition, women were treated like servants, she had no share in the property and was deprived of her rights and honour, polygamy and polyandry were in vogue. It must be kept in mind that in early times, not only women were in the bad condition but total system of human life in disturbance and in corruption and it seemed that humanity is swiftly advancing towards the mass destruction and suicide.

Taking an account of this background, one can conclude that the whole world was facing piled and pitched darkness of ignorance and tyranny, therefore the basic need was to empower the women that can be achieved only by the means of imparting education to all, in particular to women. As a result, women should become more literate. In the post-Independent Era, women's literacy rates do not meet expectations. Our country aspires to become a Super Power by the year 2020. Every aspect of our society or nation should participate in the process of nation building if we are to become a Super Power. But if the majority of this society's female population cannot read and write, we cannot expect to become a Super Power. Therefore, it is critical for us to understand the value of women's education since doing so will inspire the process of women's empowerment. Well-educated women are the keystone that contribute positively to society both at home and in the workplace. It is similar to an extremely potent drug that has the ability to fully heal and restore a patient's health. A well-educated lady can handle both her profession and home. Women make up about half of the population of the nation, so if they lack access to education, the nation as a whole will suffer from poor socioeconomic conditions. Women's education will hasten society's social and economic advancement. Women's education is a significant possibility for the social and economic development of a country. If women's education is neglected, it would be a sign that the country is unaware of its bright future. The aim of this paper is to discuss about need of women empowerment.

Objectives:

1. To discuss role of education on women empowerment.
2. Throw some light on women empowerment from Islamic perspective.

METHODOLOGY

The study is based on collection of data from secondary sources which includes various journals from different cites and books.

Women Empowerment and Education:

Women's empowerment is the process of giving women access to opportunities so they can actively engage in politics, work for financial independence, and improve society. Empowered individuals may be aware of their identities and skills in every aspect of life. It includes having easier access to information and resources, having more freedom to choose how to spend their time, and not being constrained by social norms, beliefs, or customs. According to India's most recent Census, women make up almost 90% of the unorganized sector and 48.49% of the nation's total population. For the most part, women are valued and respected. But they are often invisible in the context of progress. The tale of women's development in education is said to lay between the rhetoric of women's empowerment and

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the reality of programs that are losing financing for women's health, education, and other factors. Education is considered as a basic requirement for empowerment, prosperity, and welfare of society. Education is regarded as a critical turning point in the empowerment of women since it gives them the tools to overcome obstacles and transform their lives. Women who are empowered have a way to learn and acquire skills that will help them better their quality of life. When women are empowered and educated, they can contribute to the best of their potential and abilities. Additionally, governments need to act decisively to support empowerment. Interventions necessitate meticulously thought out plans of action that give women defined responsibilities. The growth of women and their empowerment are related both conceptually and methodologically. In order to enable women to achieve their goals on par with men in various areas of life and to nurture and maintain a culture centered on equity, unity, and dignity, it is crucial to support their education. Financially secure women lay the basis for all other types of women's empowerment, such as social, psychological, technological, and political empowerment. Below are certain points which will enable us to understand how education is essential for women empowerment:

- Aware about that women's education is important. It is said, "educated mothers educate family which results in educated population of a nation which builds strong nation".
- Provides women the self-assurance that, with enough women working together, change is achievable.
- Promotes and guarantees women's socioeconomic involvement in national and international forums.
- Promotes women's involvement in jobs that strengthens economy.
- Modifies the way in which women are treated due to gender prejudice.
- Encourages women to experience a sense of independence.
- Gets rid of gender disparity.
- Promotes the idea that women's education is vital for combating their oppression.
- Recognizes the need to raise awareness about the importance of educating females in order to equip them to make meaningful contributions to the socioeconomic development of the country.
- Eliminates wage disparities between men and women, as well as all types of discrimination in the workplace.
- Raises national awareness of social issues and modifies attitudes toward female education.
- Women's analytical skills can be enhanced through education, leading to broader reforms that promote gender equality.

Women Empowerment in Islam:

Islam is a complete way of life. Every act of Muslim is counted as worship if done with intention of pleasing Allah (SWT). Islam has given all the rights to a women, to realise such rights it is enormously vital that women should be educated, trained and made knowledgeable. Islam brought women a new life. It raised her natural place and returned her honour and humanity. Islam gave her freedom, her rights, her status and position. Islam made her aware to play her role in the society, which is inevitable otherwise the joints of the human society will become badly loosed and corrupted and it will lead humanity towards a manifest death. Islam brought a fresh message to oppressed and suppressed women. The voice of revelation echoed in deserts, mountain and plains:

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Allah (SWT) says,

"O, mankind, fear your Lord, who created you of a single soul, and of same created his mate, and from that pair spread countless men and women over the earth"

Islam gives women a sense of security at every stage of life. Their family treat them like royalty. This demonstrates the extent to which Islam, as a real faith, seeks to uphold and defend women. Islamic families show their daughters a great deal of love, respect, and affection, which gives them a strong sense of security and contentment. They are not left on their own to work hard to meet their fundamental requirements. The family's male members are expected to look after women at every stage of their lives. About 1400 years ago, women were granted rights such as property rights, inheritance laws, the right to marry (Nikah), permission to marry widows, and so on. Both the Holy Quran and the Sunnah encourage men and women to work for legal income, meaning that women can pursue business. Islam granted women privileges, responsibilities, and a role that most modern women—even those in the west—do not. Many of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) female companions, known as Sahabiya, engaged in a variety of commercial ventures that are sanctioned in Islam. In addition, one of the wife (Hazrat Khadija) of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is an example of empowered women.

CONCLUSION

Education is commonly seen as a barometer of women's status and, more significantly, as a catalyst for their empowerment. Women have an important role in a society's well-being, and education is the key to unlocking the golden door of development and welfare. Women's education is critical for a country's future growth because, its women mostly educate the future of a country. All of the elements required for a woman's empowerment are fully interwoven within Islam. Islam has equally empowered men and women. Empowering men is required to make them aware of women's duties, rights, and responsibilities, as well as to empower women through good education facilities to take advantage of opportunities bestowed upon them.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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