Empowerment of women through Education: a Special Reference to Mahatma Gandhi

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ABSTRACT
In any society, the individual is the real and unique center of life. Each individual may have unique nature. But all individuals in the society are having inseparable relationship with one another. In this regard by nature both man and woman have inseparable relation with each other. They can't lead their lives comfortably alone. Both of them are complementary to each other. Education is the vital factor for the growth of each and every country and also the people of the country. Which is the most important step to avenue to attain extra types of development goal: girls and women's empowerment.

Keywords: Women, Empowerment, Education, Equality.

Introduction:
The topic of women empowerment is the much discussion subject today. Women are more empowered to determine their lives and job opportunities to understand their full potential. To fight against socially created gender discrimination, she has to swim against the system where it needs more strength. Such strength which comes during the process of empowerment and empowerment will come from the education. 'As the International Conference on Population and Development program of action states: "Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process". Undoubtedly in the contemporary period women's status has progressed economically socially and politically. They were fighting to gain equality of gender with regard to employment opportunities and improvement in the existing law. Establishing a female identity is a central task in women empowerment. These days various types of studies and discussions are undergoing about female identity wherein Malala Yousafzai's name receives very special attention. Malala Yousafzai has emerged as a powerful female in the contemporary world through challenging the persons who raised death threat against her for voicing the basic educational rights for female children. She has turned out to be the role model for many children in every part of the world.

Presently Women in India are able to undertake most of the social activities on par with male. They represent half of the population and have played a vital role in every walk of life. A good number of Indian women are occupying various admirable positions in different offices. The Government of India considered 2001 as the year of women's empowerment. As part of celebrating International Women's day, Rajyasabha passed women’s Reservation Bill which has ensured 33 % reservation for women in parliament and state legislative bodies. The Bill has been framed in 2010 March. After granting reservation also women continue to suffer due to the existing customs and traditions'.

The lives of women in India are in danger and Delhi is the fourth dangerous cities in the world according to Thomson Reuters foundation. The national crime record bureau point out that rape happens every 20 minutes in India and every three minutes sexual abuse is taking place. The global survey has found that India is the most dangerous place to live in the world. The survey was conducted by academic field, health promoters, policy makers and NGO’s. Sexual harassment and human trafficking are the main factors India came fourth position as a dangerous country. The U.S.A has come to the third position as an unsafe city due to sexual harassment, rape and forced sexual violence.

In a country like India, which is the second most populous countries in the world, large numbers of women are brutally harassed by compulsory labor, sexual slavery and domestic slavery. After the Nirbaya case that took place in Delhi in 2012 the security of women in India came like as a questioning subject and this incident led to protest all over the world. Even the crime record bureau’s statistics do not show the real depth of this crime. Even though the survivors of rape and sexual violence are coming out for justice they say that they have been brutally tortured even by the police and doctors. Reports make it clear that many people don’t reveal about this because of the fear of disgrace from public. India is back to give for justice in the case of rape and sexual assault this the reason behind these types of criminal activates increased in our county.
‘One can’t ever ignore the fact that for breaking the chains of injustice and restrictions in India many great leaders have sacrificed their lives. Among them a few opted the path of violence to achieve their goal. But Gandhi followed the theories of non-violence, non-cooperation and civil disobedience to liberate India. He has also adopted these techniques for women’s empowerment. There are many Indians who are great leaders and rulers of the world. Gandhi was also a world leader who prescribed ahimsa to the whole world. He was very well aware of the fact about the goal of human life and how it can be achieved. It is a great thing that, with the help of ahimsa he was able to defeat the Britishers from the nation and Indians can be proud to say it. He felt that all Indians are his flesh and blood. All his actions and experiments are appreciable.’

Women empowerment through education

When all the women in the society are considered, the percentage of educated women is much less than men. The importance of female education is summarized in short.

- Education helps women to come forward with courage to the future and also will be able to wipeout gender inequality and injustice.
- As long as women are backward, they will not be able to enjoy life security and safety in life. But through education women can get financial opportunities, employment opportunities and safe working environment.
- Education helps women to live a decent life as a person in the society and also helps to understand about their rights in the society. However they are able to get a quick and easy legal battle against the major types of violence against women such as dowry, forced prostitution, female feticide, child marriage etc.
- Education helps women to understand the importance of health and wellness of the body and helps them to lead a more healthy life.
- Education helps women to prove to be very successful in the area of life. Through equal opportunities she can become successful doctors, engineers, nurses, air hostess or choose a job of her choice. If girls and women do not have the right to education, our society will not have any social and economic improvement.

‘Gandhi gave special importance to the requirement of mandatory education for girls bearing in mind it as an important means for ‘enabling women to assert their natural rights, to make use of them wisely and to work for their development and also to release from male supremacy. In his point of view, “A human being without education is not much different from an animal. He emphasized the requirement of education which would certainly support women to think on their own. He pointed out that “today few women take part in politics and most of these do not do independent thinking. They are content to carry out their parents or their husbands behests Gandhi believed that in our society majority of women don't have much education and they don't aware what is going around the world which is the reason behind a good number of the evil practices persist against women. Hence education is essential for women. He undoubtedly understood that education is important to declare their natural rights, to exercise them wisely and to work for their own development. “He stood for proper education for women as he believed that after receiving education they become sensitive to the glaring inequalities to which they are subjected.’

Conclusion

Cultural factors play an important role in creating obstacles to female education. Some cultures do not appreciate the education of women and girls, and they do not offer the opportunity and support to succeed. Women’s contributions to society are not ignored. When the women become empowered, the whole family is empowered and this strengthens the entire community. We should encourage women in all spheres to promote women’s education at all levels, establish gender for vast knowledge and education, and establish schools, colleges and universities. Educated women must compel their civil, social, political, and economic rights. This will help to improve the overall balance of women in the community

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