

LITERACY- A TOOL FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

K. Venkata Lakshmi,

Research Scholar, Dept of English K.L.E.F Deemed to be University. A.P

Dr. M. Sandra Carmel Sophia,

Professor of English, K.L.E.F Deemed to be University. A.P.

ABSTRACT

Globalisation has brought about drastic changes not just in terms of technology, but also in the field of education particularly for women who have been groping in the dark for ages without liberty, freedom, and individualism. Thanks to tremendous advances made in the field of science that great strides for women have opened novel pathways for tremendous literacy progress. Today, women are more revived up and connected to each other than ever before through literacy. The immense focus laid on the education of girls and women from the 21st century onwards has made motivating and passionate impact on girls and women to be educated highly. Eventually the literacy rate flared up in leaps and bounds and girls and women are now being educated with high qualifications and are making a mark in all fields. The article aims to throw light on literacy as a tool of empowerment for women.

Keywords: Globalisation, technology, education, tool, women, empowerment.

FULL ARTICLE

INTRODUCTION

“It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent.”

Madeleine Albright

Globalisation has brought about drastic changes not just in terms of technology, but also in the field of education particularly for women who have been groping in the dark for ages without any liberty, freedom, and individualism. Thanks to tremendous advances made in the field of science that great strides for women have been opened. The immense focus laid on the education of girls and women from the 21st century onwards has made motivating and passionate impact on girls and women to be educated highly. Eventually the literacy rate flared up in leaps and bounds and girls and women are now being educated with high qualifications and are making a mark in all fields.

MEANING OF EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment is defined as enforcing and developing the might of women socially, economically, politically, and lawfully to guarantee rights to women. Empowerment assists and soothes them to have a check over their social security and assures them of the ability to bear and manage risks to improve their economic status and wellbeing. Empowering women

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constructs stronger and attain international targets for progress and sustainability. Hence, women empowerment is the need of the hour.

The process of obtaining power favouring women to grant rights to shoulder their responsibilities towards themselves and their families in efficient manner is known as Women empowerment. It strengthens their confidence to become more self-reliant and independent and helps in granting considerable autonomy to women. According to K. Sayulu, G. Sardar & B. Sridevi, (2005)

Women empowerment is any process that provides greater autonomy to women through the sharing of relevant information and provision of control over factors affecting their performance

(Impact of Self-Help Groups on Women Empowerment-An Empirical Study, 22).

LITERACY AS A TOOL OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Girls and women are willing to sharpen their talents for a successful career. Drastic changes have been made in all aspects of life especially in the field of education and hence the Literacy rate of women has increased tremendously. Various movements and aspects have brought about advancements in the literacy rate of women. Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic for further aggravating the education scenario of women to curb gender inequality and provide accessibility to girls and women to attain quality in education and increase the literacy. Ms. Hassina Sherjan is of the opinion that:

“3.500 female learners are still at home. It is not clear if girls will be able to return to school under the current regime, nevertheless, there may be the possibility of online education for female learners”.

Women empowerment is a universal issue which denotes the process of creating an atmosphere where women can take independent decisions for themselves and society's welfare, and where they can access their rights and opportunities that they were previously denied. Women empowerment is important for achieving gender equality and socio-economic development, as well as for overcoming the obstacles that women face in various aspects of life, such as education, work, health, and participation.

NEED FOR EMPOWERMENT

There is certainly a need for empowerment of women as it creates ample opportunities for girls and women in all spheres of life. Through Literacy, women can air out their opinions and chances are more for progress in their lives. Educating women has increased

opportunities for academic success. Education certainly helps women in achieving Empowerment. Literacy as a tool of empowerment has the power to transform lives. Some of the results of literacy:

- If women receive the education, they will become more confident about themselves, and it will also enhance their self-esteem.
- Development in skills which will enhance their ability to think critically and creatively.
- Education will help them in providing various information, knowledge, and information about their rights so no one can exploit their rights.
- It also helps them develop decision-making skills with a clear thought process.

The key factor in fostering good health and providing nutritious food for sustainability is Women's literacy. Research Studies show that women's literacy promoted by governments and other help agencies has improved the general conditions of women in poor families. Literacy lifts individuals out of poverty with productivity of the workforce flourishing on a large scale.

As a tool of empowerment, Literacy brings a change and inculcates a positive attitude in women and girls. Right from the beginning of India's independence, attempts and efforts have been made by prominent men and leaders to provide equality and justice to women and give equal opportunities on par with men. This is visible in the growing changes in the education of women that empowerment has come to be realised and recognised as the focal point of debate in deciding the status of women. Women are given opportunities to the extent that they have occupied important positions in the society.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

The most crucial factor for empowering women is Literacy. Literacy fosters the rights of women and helps them in attaining empowerment. When a woman is empowered, automatically the family is strengthened chance of livelihood are mores and easy. Participating in activities outside the sphere of women's domestic life makes women strengthen and become better wives and mothers with efficient leadership skills, thus ensuring them gender equality. In this regard, The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in September 2015, Goal 4 states:

“to ensure inclusive and equitable
quality education and promote lifelong
learning opportunities for all”.

A need to explore on a wider lens about literacy is the dire need because it is not just ‘what works, but also find out the how and why’ literacy programmes can create economic progress

for empowerment. Educating women advocates competencies associated with continued growth.

FEW WAYS TO EMPOWER GIRLS AND WOMEN

1. Acclaim her intellect and spirit—not just her anatomy.
2. Provide equal education on par with men and boys without any bias.
3. Creating opportunities for self-employment to earn their bread and butter.
4. Providing basic amenities such as food, clothing, shelter, and sanitation.
5. Changes in the attitude and mindset of people around both men and women.
6. Encouraging women to develop in their respective talents and skills.
7. Creating and giving a better life to have peace and happiness
8. Supporting girls and women in times of crisis and when there is a dire need.
9. Proper counselling and mentoring to take decisions appropriately
10. Helping girls and women to voice out their opinions.
11. Validate women's self-expression.
12. Giving access to networks that benefit women
13. Making women part of serious discussions and conversation
14. Paying attention to women's suffering

CONCLUSION

Women's empowerment leads to increased economic growth, gender equality, and social development. So, it is high time that the literacy rate should be increased to empower women and girls. The only solution for women empowerment is empowering women. The integrated voice of women is powerful and capable of uplifting communities. Therefore, women should be standing up for each other in all aspects and all arenas of life narrating their success stories and binding together not to be ignored. Finally, women empowerment can fully be attained through literacy. Educating a woman ensures the overall wellbeing of a family, society, and nation. By sponsoring and investing in women's education and standing up for them will strengthen women and nation.

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