

DEFECTIVE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM: SERIOUS THREAT TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Women empowerment being the current issue of India needs much importance. Growth of higher education in India can have ripple effects on the growth of women empowerment. Baffle higher education system, high fee of various courses and streams, traditions, customs and education without employment are some reasons of slow growth of women empowerment. Degree oriented higher study should be replaced with the employment and development based higher study. Women empowerment being a burning issue of India needs much attention of the government. This paper is an effort to shed some light on the defects of Indian higher education system which is causing troubles in the growth of women empowerment. Higher education should be able to produce skillful women and create self confidence among them.

Keywords: - Empowerment, Ripple effects, Employment, Self confidence.

INTRODUCTION

Education develops a person's thinking ability and molds its behavior. Higher education comes after the secondary education. Higher education provides logical skills and better understanding of the environment for the career advancement. Involvement of women in the education system means involvement of whole society. Higher education is meant for growing skills and overall development of a person. Only education can make women self-dependent. No doubt, Indian government is making various efforts to promote higher education in India. Various new colleges and universities have been opened recently. But the trouble is whether these institutions are giving results in form of skills development and women empowerment or not. Recently, the government of India launched various schemes for the affluence of women and their social status like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme, Mahila E-Haat, Working Women Hostel, One Stop Centre Scheme, but the question is whether these efforts are working or not? Women empowerment does not mean only creating employment opportunities

for them; its scope is wider like making them self-dependent, more skillful and more productive. There is a fear that one day the state will withdraw its hand from the higher education and the whole education will be dominated by the private sector. Privatization is very dreadful for the growth of higher education. If higher education will not reach at every gate of society, the goal of women empowerment of country will not be achieved.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sharma Rupali and Afroz Zia (2014) concluded in their study that Higher education will definitely raise women's status whether she contribute in the income of the family or not. She can be at par with men. It is very essential for the harmonious development of the country that women should go hand by hand and shoulder to shoulder with men. And for empowering the women, higher education will play a vital role.

Rajwani Pinki(2016) in her paper- "Women empowerment in India-Actions to empower women" has highlighted the various actions which should be taken to empower women in the society. She quoted that Orthodox Parents of girls must be given proper knowledge of the benefits of higher education and self-dependency of girls.

Shettar M. Rajeshwari, 2015, "A study on issues and challenges of women empowerment in India" -The study argues that Empowerment of women is essentially the process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in the society.

Khushboo Singh (2016), in her paper discussed about the impact of education on the empowerment of women as well as the challenges that we must have to deal with during the process. The educational and other policies for women empowerment should be implemented in reality for empowering women in the world.

Biyani Sujata, Patodiya Pawan, Arora Sakshi, 2018 argues in their study that In 21st century women empowerment is an important factor for their status in national and international level. Government programmers alone are not sufficient to achieve these objectives. Society must take many steps for the betterment and growth of women so that several self decision making opportunities can be taken by them. Education is widely understood as an indicator of women

status and even more importantly as a factor for the empowerment of women.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of this study are;

- a. To study the present defects of Indian higher education system
- b. To analyze the efforts of government in sponsoring women empowerment
- c. To analyze the results of state's efforts in promoting higher education

METHODOLOGY

This study is undertaken to analyze the defects of higher education by taking primary and secondary data. A questionnaire was prepared and data was collected from 80 respondents. It is descriptive and analytical in nature. The data was collected from the students of R.S.D. College and Guru Nanak College, Ferozepur.

(a) Do you think present higher education system is satisfactory for the women empowerment?

S. No.	Alternatives	No.	%
1	Yes	65	81.25
2	No	15	18.75
Total		80	100

(b) Do you satisfied with the state's efforts in betterment of higher education system?

S. No.	Alternatives	No.	%
1	Yes	59	73.75
2	No	21	26.25
Total		80	100

(c) Do you aware about the government various initiatives for women empowerment?

S. No.	Alternatives	No.	%
1	Yes	54	67.5
2	No	26	32.5
Total		80	100

(d) Do you agree education is a finest tool for the women empowerment?

S. No.	Alternatives	No.	%
1	Yes	70	87.5
2	No	10	12.5
Total		80	100

INTERPRETATION

As it is can be analyzed from the above data-

Presently, women empowerment has become a critical issue and the present education system is not acceptable for the growth of women empowerment.

Various showy policies like Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme, Mahila E-Haat, Working Women Hostel, One Stop Centre Scheme are framed by the government but the question is whether these policies are helpful or not. 73.75% of the respondents are not satisfied with the current policies of the government.

The other problem is mass illiteracy about the government schemes in the India. Some people are still not clear about the facilities provided by the government for the betterment of women.

Education is a finest tool for developing women empowerment because it develops skills, capability and innovation among them.

DEFECTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

- **Privatization**

Privatization was welcomed with a motive of achieving excellency in every sphere of the nation. We did not know that privatization will make the education a luxury item. High fee of various courses and streams have made the basic education immensely expensive.

- **Lack of awareness**

Due to backwardness in some areas of the country, people still think that there is no benefit of education. For this, Government is doing every possible effort to increase the enrollment ratio in

the remote areas.

- **Bogus policies of the government**

Heavy funds are sanctioned for the education budget every year. Sanctioned amount in the budget doesn't mean that it is utilized according to the objective.

- **Lack of proper infrastructure**

In some areas there is still lack of appropriate teaching equipment's and proper infrastructure.

- **Lack of quality teaching**

Faculty in some areas is still not up to the mark and outdated knowledge are shared which further results in lack of quality teaching.

- **Education without employability**

Lack of practicality in the education system is not helping is not able to develop skills, capability and employability.

- **Baffle curriculum**

Theory based system of Indian education system put the students in a baffle situation, where it becomes difficult for them to get a job.

DEFECTIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM: A BAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The alarming situation of the higher education is somewhere responsible for the slow escalation of women empowerment. Currently, all focus in on producing quantity in education rather than quality. The problem lay profoundly rooted in the defective educational system that is riddled with flaws of focusing exclusively on producing employees as opposed to employers. Various defects have been mentioned above in the current education. It is the education only which can uplift the status of the women in the society. Defective education system will only produce the youth without any vision. It will create a bogus situation for them. Women empowerment needs more push. It will break down all the barriers of gender equality, geographical differences, caste system. Women empowerment will make a new picture with financial independent women.

Financial strictness, Low entrepreneurial skills, Low awareness are the reasons of slow growth of women empowerment in India.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of above analysis, it could be that concluded that education gives a big push to women empowerment. The stereotype thinking of people is a big barrier to the growth of women empowerment in India. Showy figures in the government budget are nothing more than the pyrrhic victory of the government, because it is not working as expected. Education system needs a reform which will produce intellectual ladies. Education is the finest tool which will nourish entrepreneurial skills among women. Baffle curriculum, theoretical based education, lack of awareness of government initiatives are some barriers in the growth of women education. At last it can be said that, 'Women empowerment will lead to social empowerment'.

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