



IMPACT OF EDUCATION IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN KARNATAKA STATE

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Abstract

Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. It helps in reducing inequalities and functions as a means for improving their status within the family. Education of women in India has also been a major issue for both the government and civil society as the educational women play a very important role in the development of the country. So we cannot neglect the importance of education in the reference to women empowerment in India.

The growth of women's education in rural areas is very slow. This obviously means that still large womenfolk of our country are illiterate, the weak, backward and exploited. The present study explores the role of education in women empowerment and the status of women education in rural India.

Keywords: Education, Women Empowerment, Family

INTRODUCTION

Women constitute almost half the human race. Education has been recognized as an essential agent of social change and development in any society of any country education is considered as a potent instrument through which process modernization and social change come to existence. Education exposes people to new thoughts and ideas and provides necessary skills. Hence to think harmonious development without educating women is impossibility so education is the key factor for women empowerment, prosperity, development and welfare. Moreover, it has been rightly said that to educate a woman is to educate the whole family. Therefore, the emphasis with regard to women education should be to equip her multiple role as citizens, housewives, mother, and contributor to the family income, builders of new society and builder of the nation. Such strength comes from the process of empowerment and empowerment will come from the education.

History of Women Education in India

The empowerment of women in India has been obstructed for centuries owing the various reasons amongst which the initial blow was in the form of depriving women from basic educational facilities. Beginning with the Rig Vedic period Indian women were denied from many basic rights. During the eighteenth century women suffered from several handicaps like female infanticide, sati, puradha, child marriage, illiteracy and subsequently forced child widowhood in the 9th century. Women were treated no better than domestic animals. Moved by the this extreme plight great social reformers like Raja Ram Mohanroy, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Sri Rama Krishna Paramahamsa, Swami Vivekanand, Swami Dayananda Saraswati, M.G. Ranade, D.K.Karve and Mahatma Gandhi were in the forefront, fighting against social atrocities toward women and emphasized on women's education in India. However women's education get a fillip after the country got independence in 1947 and the governments has taken various measures to provide education to Indian women. In spite of government efforts to the education still women are lagging behind than men. Though the female literacy rate has progressively increased from 8.86% in 1951 to 15.34% in 1961 to 21.97% in 1971 to 29.75% in 1981 to 39.42% in 1991 to 54.16% in 2001, and then to about 74.04% in 2011. It is still below the desired level. The role of illiteracy is particularly higher in rural areas.

Women Empowerment through Education



Education is an important for everyone, but it is especially significant for woman. “Education of boy is education of one person, but education of a woman is the education of the entire family” said Jawaharlal Nehru while underlying the importance of women education. So educated women make the family and the society cultured. Women empowerment is a global issue and discussion on women political right are at the forefront of many formal and informal campaigns worldwide. The concept of women empowerment as introduced at the international women conference at NAROIBI in 1985. Education is the key factor for women empowerment prosperity development and welfare. There is continued in equality and vulnerability of women in all sectors i.e. economic social, political, education, health care, nutrition, right and legal etc, women oppressed in all spheres of life, they need to be empowered in all walk of life. In order to fight against the socially constructed gender basis. Women have to swim against the system that requires more strength. Such strength comes from the process of empowerment and empowerment will come from the education. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women. Education is one of the most important means of empowering women and giving them knowledge. Skills and self-confidence necessary to be full partner in the development process. The National Commission of Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the right and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th amendments (1993) to the constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local level.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Malik and Courtney (2011) studied that how higher education offers empowerment to women. The economic independence and increased standing with the family were the benefits of higher education. It also enabled the women to impact the discriminatory practices. Noreen and Khalid (2012) explored the possibilities and opportunities for women empowerment and how the participants in the study understand the role of higher education in empowerment of women at home and at work. They found out that the women should continue higher education and career by strategizing and acknowledging the support of their family members. Banerjee (2012) studied the empowerment of women through higher education. She concluded that the empowered women challenged the man in their workplace and were seen in the powerful corporate positions. Kandpal et al (2012) studied the participation in community level female empowerment program in India increases participants physical motility, political participation and access to employment. Murtaza (2012) examined the current status of women in higher education in Gilgit Baltistan. He examined the challenges faced by the women were harassment at work places and work load. The parents didn't spend similar amount in educating their daughters as compare to their sons. Sonowal (2013) studied the effect of the SC and ST women in the rural areas of Sonitpur district. He found that the status of women in the present society, attitude of parents and guardians towards girl education. Taxak (2013) studied the disparity in education across the socio economic spectrum in India.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the impact of education in women empowerment in rural areas.

Study Area

This study an impact of education in women empowered aims to find out the effect of education in rural area of Dharwad district. This study tries to find out the status of women in present society and problems associate with women empowerment.

Research Design

As the present study tries to find out the impact of modern education in the women of rural areas of Dharwad district, it falls under the descriptive survey category of education research. This study will also focus in the facilities provided for women empowerment and rural development in different parts



of Bagalkot district.

Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. A questionnaire of 40 inquiries were presented by investigator and presented to the age group 18-40 years women of different families of Dharwad district.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Educational Backwardness

It has been found while analyzing the data that village women of Bagalkot district are logging behind in comparison to state literacy rate.

Table 1. Educational Standards of the Rural Women

| <i>Academic Standard</i> | <i>Illiterate</i> | <i>School Edn (1st-8th)</i> | <i>Matric 10th Pass</i> | <i>PUC Pass</i> | <i>Graduate</i> | <i>PG Holder</i> | <i>Professional Holder</i> | <i>Others</i> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| No. of Respondents | 21 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 1 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Percentage | 52.5% | 22.5% | 17.5% | 5% | 2.5% | - | - | - |

The study shows that out of 40 respondents 52.5% are illiterate, 22.5% are under matrics, 17.5% are matriculates 5% are intermediates, and 2.5% are graduates. There are no single PG holder and professional women in the village area. This study shows that village women of Bagalkot district are still much backward in education than 68.15% women literacy rate of Karnataka State (census report 2011). The study shows that 77.5% women were believe that 3R is not sufficient education for women and 95% respondent answered the inquires that there are no night schools, adult schools, part time schools and any other special education in their area for women education.

Occupational Backwardness

Table 2. Respondents Occupation

| <i>Service</i> | <i>Professional</i> | <i>Business</i> | <i>Housewife</i> | <i>Cultivation</i> | <i>Wage Earner</i> | <i>Other</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 40 |
| (2.5 %) | - | - | (85 %) | - | (12.5 %) | - | 100% |

In this study, it has been found that 85 % village women are housewives, 12.5 % women are wage earner and 2.5 % women were working in different govt. semi govt. and private sectors. There are no single professionals and business women in the village area.

Economic Backwardness

Table 3. Economic Status of Family

| <i>Group</i> | <i>No. of Family</i> | <i>Percentage (%)</i> |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Below 21,000 | 22 | 55% |
| 21,001-50,000 | 13 | 32.5% |
| 50,001 – 1,00,000 | 5 | 12.5% |
| Above 1,00,000 | Nil | Nil |



Most of the village women are poorer and they live under the billow poverty line. In this study, 73.33 % women in the village area come from the BPL families. There are no single respondent above group 1,00,000 in village area. There for women from the village area are not able to bear the expensive expenditure of education, health care and family welfare, nutrition, co-curricular activities, uses of mass media etc. out of total 40 of our respondents only 7.5 % women living in rural area plan their family budget and 92.5 % depend on their husband and guardian.

Social Backwardness

Women are living in rural area socially backward. Prejudices, Super Stations, Daini, Tantra- Mantra, Bhoot etc. are more among the rural area people as compared to the town area. In this study we found that 95 % women have taken treatment from Bez or Kabiraj (quacks) instead of Doctors advice, superstitious believes are still exists among different communities like SC,ST, minorities and others. 75% women and girls are still facing restriction from their parents to travel any place and anywhere. 95 % women were feeling insecure to travel anywhere due to lake of knowledge and empowerment. Women are still dominated by their husband and other male member of paternal society. On the other hand out of 40 respondent 12.5 % women were in favour of separate school for girls.

Political Backwardness

Women of villages are very backward in political aspects. Out of 40 respondents 30 % responded that they have not participated in the election process of Panchayat, Assembly and Parliament. In this study it is also found that only 7.5 % women are active member of political parties. On the other hand 92.5 % women of village area never tried to solve their local problem through the MLA, Society, DC, BDO, President Panchayat, Ward Member, Head of Village, NGO and club.

Backwardness in Decision Making Process

In this study, it has been found that 37.5 % women living in the rural area are active member of self-help group, 40 % women member of SHG related to deposit money for loan scheme, 20 % women member of SHG related to Weaving, Cutting and Knitting, 15 % women were related to animal husbandry and only 5 % women were related to grocery and retaliating. Out of total 40 of our respondents only 7.5 % women of rural area plan their family budget and 92.5 % depend on their husband and guardian, 22.5 % women of rural area sometimes purchases their daily used essential commodities and 77.5 % women depend on their husband and guardian. On the other hand 45 % women were often, 55 % were sometimes participate in all the decision making process of their family. There are no single respondent actively involved in all the decision making process.

Right and Judicial Backwardness

In this study, it has been found that out of 40 respondents 35 i.e. 87.5 % women are living in rural area are not aware of their constitutional right and legal facilities and safeguards of equal opportunities to women. In this study it is found that 90% women living in rural area do not know constitutional provision of reservation for women and other facilities provided by the Indian constitution, 92.5 % women are living in rural area do not know about the Right to Education Act (RTE) of Indian constitution.

Backwardness in Health and Family Welfare

The third world women's has been using empowerment process effectively to improve their own condition. Empowerment seems to be a particularly important strategy to improve woman's health. Maximum women living in rural area and more particular in SC and ST communities are ignorant about the health care facilities and family welfare programmes. This study shows that 42.5 % women are living in rural area still do not know about the Janani Shuraksha Yojana, 92.5 % women of rural area do not have knowledge about the ICTC testing centre. In this study, it is found that 95 % women do not know about the cause of Night Blindness, 80 % women do not know about the causes of Anemia, 72.5 % women do not know about the HIV/AIDS and STDs and its related diseases. In this study shows that 40 % women are living in rural area still do not have knowledge about the national immunization programme, DOTs, J. E. vaccine, adolescent reproductive health clinic etc.



Backwardness in Communication and General Awareness

In this study, it has been found that women living in rural area are not aware of the current affairs of the world. The study shows that 70 % women living in village area were incapable to answer the name who was first women President of India, where 75 % women of village area do not know about the GYANPITH AWARD winner. It is also found that 92.5 women are living in rural area do not know about the present women speaker of Loksabha or parliament and Member of Legislative Assembly/Council. On the other hand 92.5 % women living in village area do not read News Papers and Magazines, 37.5 % women do not enjoy TV due to not availability of TV set and 27.5 % house hold there are no proper electricity facility in the village area. No single women in rural area use interment facilities. In this study it is also found that there are no proper communication and transport facilities in the rural area.

SUGGESTIONS

Following measures may be suggested to overcome the problems which are found in the study.

Proper care should be taken for development of women education in rural and remote area of Bagalkot district for encouraging the girls to school. Guardian, teachers, NGO officials and govt. will have to take bold steps for empowerment of women.

Hostel for girls at the middle and high school stages and subsidized transport facilities, wherever necessary and possible should arrange in rural area.

Attendance scholarships for girl students which serve as a compensation to the parents should be given. This will also ensure reduction of wastage and stagnation.

Women reservation policy should strictly be maintained in all aspects like appointment in govt. and semi govt. offices, admission in to the educational institutions, participating in the politics etc.

Women of rural areas should be trained up in different vocational courses like handloom and textile, poultry farms, fish farming, piggyery, dairy farm, food and nutrition, fashion and designing, beauty parlour etc. still 95 % women of rural area are not getting vocational training.

General awareness programmes should be taken among the women of village area to sensitize them about the modern development of science and technology so that they could give up superstitious beliefs and attitudes.

Health awareness camps should be organized not only for pregnant women but also for general people of the village community. HIV/AIDS and STD awareness programmes, awareness programmes about Blindness, Adolescents Reproductive Health Clinic, JE, Malaria, TB, Leprosy, and Anemia etc. Should be organized at different rural areas of the district for development.

In this study, it has been found that 27.5 % responded that they have no electricity facilities and 60 % responded that they have no proper transport and communication facilities in their villages. The Govt. department should adopt proper policies and proper implementation of govt. scheme for the benefit of rural masses and rural development. To attract the children towards the education, Variety incentives should be provided like free distribution of text book and stationery, mid-day meal, uniform, attendance scholarship, free transportation facility, free of cost hostel facilities should be provided. There should be opening the large number of adult schools with facilities of sewing, knitting, handicrafts, animal husbandry etc., and basic knowledge of health care and food habit.

CONCLUSION

From the above analysis the discussion, it is found that modern education and facilities have influenced much in women empowerment. But still rural women in Bagalkot district are lagging behind in comparison to women living in urban areas. Moreover, women are living in village areas are more lagging behind in comparison to urban women living in these places. On the other hand we did not think about the rural development without empowering the women. There is continued inequality and vulnerability of women in all sectors – Economic, Social, Political, Educational, Health-Care, Nutrition, Right and Legal etc. Education is the key factor for women empowerment and rural development.

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