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# Education-Based Women's Empowerment

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**Abstract**

*Since educated women may contribute significantly to the growth of their nation, the education of women is a vital concern for both the government and civil society in India. The ability to respond to problems, challenge their established roles, and transform their lives are all made possible by education, which is a major step in the empowerment of women. We must not undervalue the value of education in light of India's recent rise to superpower status and the empowerment of women in general. The most effective method to alter women's status in society is education. India has always recognized the need of educating women since it is the cornerstone of women's empowerment. Education also helps to lessen inequality, enhances a person's standing within the family, and fosters the idea of involvement.*

**Keywords: Empowerment, Gender Disparity, Freedom**

**Introduction**

A fundamental human right and a public good is education. As a result, it has received attention from UNESCO, OECD, and national policy planning. The road to sustainability also leads via education. Education is included in UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals, which also include gender equality, improved health, and environmental preservation. The revised Global Education 2030 Agenda maintains Education as part of Sustainable Development Goal 4. Goal 4 is to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all," and it reaffirmed the commitment of UNESCO and Member States to a comprehensive, motivational, and inclusive vision of education. Furthermore, they make it very obvious that reaching all 17 of the sustainable development objectives depends on education.

Women have a crucial role in fostering civic virtues, reviving the economy, and enacting social changes, as is becoming increasingly clear. Recently, more emphasis has been placed on their education due to the rapidly changing situations in the nation. Despite several Commissions and Committees being occasionally created and recommended to address the issues with women's education and to promote it, certain issues still exist in that area.

Women's empowerment is the process by which people define and reimagine what they can be, do, and achieve in a situation where they were previously denied. This places a strong emphasis on participation in political structures and formal decision-making and, in the economic sphere, on the ability to obtain an income that enables participation in economic decision-making.

While empowerment can be defined in a variety of ways, when discussing women's empowerment, empowerment means accepting and allowing people (women) who are outside of the decision-making process into it. "The process of empowerment gives people control over their own lives, society, and communities. People feel empowered when they have unrestricted access to the options that are open to them in terms of their lifestyle, profession, and education. A sense of empowerment is produced when you believe you have the right to make your own decisions. Raising the status of women via education, awareness-building, literacy campaigns, and training is a part of empowerment. Women's empowerment is all about empowering and enabling women to choose how to live their lives in the face of many societal issues.

As an alternative, it is the process by which women reinterpret gender roles that enables them to get the freedom to select from known options when they would otherwise be unable to do so. Various guiding ideas define women's empowerment, such as the requirement that one be empowered from a place of disempowerment. Additionally, empowerment must be earned by an individual rather than handed to them by an outside source. According to other research, people who are empowered can make significant decisions about their life and have the ability to follow through on those decisions. Last but not least, empowerment and disempowerment are related to one another in the past; as a result, empowerment is a process rather than a finished good.

The economic and development fields now frequently address the empowerment of women. It may also refer to how other trivialized genders are treated in a specific political or social setting. The ability of women to control and profit from their resources, assets, income, and free time, as well as the capacity to manage risk and raise their economic position and general well-being, is referred to as women's economic empowerment. Although the

terms are frequently used interchangeably, gender empowerment emphasizes the contrast between biology and gender as a function and applies to persons of any gender.

In other words, utilizing women's labor force to the fullest for economic progress. Educating and looking for women's health to boost productivity and societal advancement.

### **Education's Role in empowering women**

There should be equitable educational opportunities for all children. Given that women make up more than 60% of the global population, they should set the standard for education. Sadly, cultural prejudices prevent certain nations from prioritizing the education of girls. Women are solely considered important for procreation and in the kitchen. History has shown that "educating a woman educates a nation, but educating a man educates an individual." Education boosts a woman's confidence and sense of self. Additionally, it encourages social engagement in her society. The decision-making process for educational policies has to include more women.

To create equitable educational opportunities and boost the enrollment of girls in schools, the government and society must work together. This alone lowers poverty. Long-term, an educated woman will actively guide her child(ren) through life's path in a better way. The secret to empowering women is education. It gives women better access to employment prospects, which increases their income and reduces their isolation at home or exclusion from financial decisions. Women who pursue their ideals and ambitions can fulfill their dreams thanks to education.

According to studies, child marriage would decrease by 64% if all girls finished 12 years of schooling, and health issues from early pregnancy, such as early deliveries and child deaths, would decrease by 59% and 49%, respectively. Education

for women and girls is also good for the economics of nations, reduces the likelihood of conflict and extremism, and has been dubbed the best climate change investment by the Brookings Institution.

However, there are still several obstacles that stop girls and women from pursuing and finishing their education, which limits the empowerment of women. These may include the expense of attending high school or college, the difficulties of traveling long distances or without a vehicle, the requirement that they labor to support their family, the requirement that they marry and have children or unrest in their city or nation.

The UN discovered that enrolment rates for females drastically decrease when they enter secondary school. Equal numbers of boys and girls are enrolled in secondary school in just 39% of the nations. In poor nations, between 35% and 85% of girls are compelled to miss school to care for their younger siblings and the family while their brothers can pursue their education. Women need the same experiences and abilities that men do to level the playing field and increase their career chances, making post-secondary education an essential component of women's empowerment.

### **Women's Access to Higher Education**

Women who complete higher education, whether at a university or in graduate school, have the skills and background needed to participate in politics, business, and civic society. In addition, women and girls have easier access to health information and other helpful services with greater knowledge.

In contrast, fewer women are enrolling in higher education in nations like Bolivia, Japan, and Korea. Less than 50% of the people enrolled are women, especially in Bolivia and Japan. In the past 20 years, women have continued to make up two-thirds of the adult population that lack literacy.

Even if women have access to education, additional barriers could prevent them from fully

using their abilities. The societal burden of being the primary housewives and carers still falls on women and girls. They have less time and energy to devote to their education as a result of this unpaid "second shift". The mix of household, financial, professional, and educational duties is much more challenging to handle when women are the only providers for their families, as is frequently the situation with victims of domestic abuse. Many women who want to pursue their education face obstacles because of the outrageous expense of tuition in the United States.

### **Education and Entrepreneurship**

By enhancing women's employability, enabling them to support their families and contribute to the economic growth of their communities, and empowering them via education and entrepreneurship, poverty is reduced. Without education, girls are more likely to be trafficked or to marry young, and their families are also more likely to be poor. Since education makes it possible for women to find employment, support their families, and boost local economies, it is essential for reducing poverty.

Women's salaries increase by 10–20 percent for every year of schooling. Given that women spend 90 percent of their money back into their families—50–60% more than males do—this increase in income may be the catalyst that lifts families out of poverty. This can boost a family's financial situation and raise their level of food security.

### **Reducing and Addressing Global Poverty**

The world needs women to end poverty, but women also need the chance to go to school and work in the economy. The Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act and the Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act both promote women's empowerment. They each would cost less than \$500,000 over four years and have the potential to eliminate poverty by assisting women in achieving equality.

With the Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act, efforts to give girls and women access to secure basic and secondary education will be given priority, especially those who live in dangerous areas like refugee camps and conflict zones. It will put a special emphasis on enhancing the educational and business options for displaced females as well as minimizing prejudice against them.

To better address gender inequities in the workplace, the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act would require the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to perform a gender analysis. In USAID programs, gender-specific measures to empower women would be implemented, and the organization would increase assistance for companies run and controlled by women. The act also stresses how crucial it is to eradicate gender-based violence.

**The Process of Empowerment Involves:**

- Equal opportunity to utilize the resources of society.
- Violence-free environment
- Financial independence
- Involvement in all governing bodies
- The ability to make decisions regarding one's life

**Equal Opportunity to Utilize the Resources of Society**

Equal access to society's resources should be provided to all women. It is important to take into account the gender disparity. It is important to take into account the gender disparity. In the majority of South Asian nations, inequality results in economic loss. Women's economic possibilities are important not simply because they can pay their bills. They are important because of the changes that empower women more generally in society, which can benefit others. The difficulty of eradicating inequality is as great as the expenses associated with it. The

persistent and widespread societal norms that give men and boys preference in access to opportunities and resources over women and girls are the cause of the opportunity inequalities between men and women. Therefore, a consistent, all-encompassing effort to eradicate inequality is needed. To achieve this, numerous and persistent impediments to equality within families, in the labor and product markets, as well as across official and informal institutions, must be removed. Improving girls' access to school would be the first step in reducing the inherent disadvantages that they face from birth. The second step would be to address institutional and market shortcomings that force women into low-paying, extremely risky kinds of employment. Addressing violence against women and girls will be the third phase. If half of a nation's citizens are unable to fully engage in the economy, no country will ever be able to realize its full economic potential and attain universal prosperity. It is crucial to keep in mind that everyone benefits when women have equality as we observe Women's Day.

**Violence-free Environment**

Violence against women, according to the United Nations, is "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." Domestic violence, which can take many different forms, includes physical and sexual assault against intimate partners and family members, rape, female genital mutilation, early and forced marriage, economic control, coercion, and emotional abuse. Women's fundamental human rights are violated by violence, frequently with tragic results. Women often live shorter lives than males in nations where domestic abuse is not criminalized, which is the situation in 46 nations. 38% of all murdered women worldwide were killed by their romantic

relationships. abuse has a detrimental effect on each woman's ability to support herself; in a formal paid job, women who experience severe partner abuse earn 60% less than those who do not.

States are required by several international human rights treaties to prevent and address violence against women. Legislation alone is insufficient; it also has to be advocated and implemented. Women fleeing abuse must have access to support services, including shelters. The ultimate solution to putting a stop to violence against women and girls lies in altering conventional gender roles and power dynamics, as well as the attitudes and beliefs that support the continuation of violence.

### **Financial Independence**

Women's inequality and disempowerment constantly come up when we discuss women's lack of access to and control of economic resources in their own right, be it land, property, education, or money. Women's economic empowerment involves women's capacity to participate equally in current markets. Equal access to and ownership of land, property, education, and money should be granted to women.

### **The Ability to Make Decisions Regarding One's Life**

Women are frequently active change agents who inspire both sexes to take action, assert their rights, build stronger communities, and save the environment. Democratic government is fundamentally dependent on their participation. To expedite the equitable involvement of women in decision-making at all levels, from the family to the community to national parliament buildings, peace-making initiatives, and international fora, UNDP helps partners in developing and implementing advocacy, policy, and legal changes. This entails encouraging women to participate in political processes as voters and candidates as well as supporting their

representation in institutions of government, including constitutional committees, parliaments, public administrations, and the courts.

### **Conclusion**

To sum up the current situation, it can be said that education is the foundation of women's empowerment, which can be attained through the sincere and collaborative efforts of the government and Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs), as well as by eradicating traditional attitudes, norms, and practices through appropriate education and guidance. Government and social reformers' attempts to empower women will be ineffective unless women are well-educated, capable of supporting themselves, and autonomous in all aspects of life. Many outstanding women have achieved incredible success and influence in their lives by working hard on their own. The ladies of today get inspiration and motivation from them. In this world, a woman is capable of doing whatever a male is. They must have self-confidence for women to be empowered. If we compare Indian women's literacy rates to global averages, they are incredibly low.

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