

Leadership And Women Education

Dr. S.G.More

Head & Research Guide in Phy Edu.
Vasantnao Naik College, Vasarni, Nanded.

Abstract :

Education is a potent tool in the emancipation and empowerment of women. Education is one of the prominent pillars of every developed Nation. Educating women lead to empowerment of socio-economic and cultural issues in every sphere of life. In history of India various social reformers took efforts to enhance the women’s education, but at that time mentality and awareness of society were against women education, because people would think that there was no use of educating women. Due to this misconception, education movement did not get rapidly and women education put back.

To enhance women education various social reformers like, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Maharshi D.K. Karve, Mahatma Gandhi, Savitribai Phule and so on took efforts. Women education in India plays key role in social and economic development of the country. Ideal female personalities in India like, Savitribai Phule, Indira Gandhi, Dr. Pratibhatai Patil, Astronaut Kalpana Chawla, Sunita Williams, Mother Teresa, etc have focused light on the women capability and contribution. But on contrary, in rural area still women are put away from education. So the mentality of Indian people to promote women education need to be changed. Women should allow for leading and opportunity to contribute for nation’s development should be given.

Introduction

As Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said “in order to awaken the people it is the women who have to awaken. Once she is on move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation also moves, the village moves, the nation also moves.” So education is a potent tool in the emancipation and empowerment of women. Education is one of the prominent pillars of every developed Nation. Educating women lead to development of socio-economic and cultural aspects in every sphere of life. In history of India various social reformers took efforts to enhance the women’s education, but at that time mentality and awareness of society were against women education, because people would think that there was no use of educating women.

Historical Background of women Education in India

According to ancient India scriptures, women enjoyed a respectable position and freedom during that time. During Vedic period women had liberal attitude in the society. Women would take part in the religious rites actively and they also had a sense of knowledge through education.

But in the medieval period the condition of women’s education deteriorated. Due to reign of Muslim reign dynasty, the liberal attitude and freedom became less and various evil practices like child marriage, sati tradition system, Pardah system and negative attitude towards women education etc increased.

In British period, the status of women education quite increased in comparison to medieval period. Women were taking education to develop their status in the society. In modern period the status of women has increased at zenith and led to empowerment in women.

Present status of women education in India

Literacy rate in Indian [in percentage]

Year	Persons	Males	Females
1901	5.3	9.8	0.7
1911	5.9	10.6	1.1
1921	7.2	12.2	1.8
1931	9.5	15.6	2.9
1941	16.1	24.9	7.3
1951	16.7	24.9	7.3
1961	24.0	34.4	13.0
1971	29.5	39.5	18.7
1981	36.2	46.9	24.8
1991	52.1	63.9	39.2
2001	65.38	76.0	54.0
2011	74.04	82.14	65.46

Sources : Census of India (2011)

Above census of India (2011) source shows that the literacy rate of women is quite less as compare to men i.e. 65.46% of women and 82.14% of men. In preindependence period the literacy rate of women education was very poor also in comparison to men literacy rate. Gradually after pre-independence period the rate of women literacy increased in some what percentage yearly. This shows there was lack of women education in the pre-independence and post independence period also. There are various factors that are responsible for women illiteracy such as, the lower enrolment, caste system, dowry system, child labour, early marriage, and poverty etc.

Statewise female literacy rate

As per the 2011 census report the sum of all state's literacy rate i.e. national female literacy average rate is 65.46% in 2011 census of India the high women literacy rate registered in Kerala state that is 92.00% and least rate in Rajasthan i.e. 52.7%. If we compare women literacy rate, there is increase of 11% in the 10 years from 2001 to 2011 i.e. 54.0% to 65.46% respectively.

Women Leadership

Women's participation in Indian independence struggle leads bright future for women in post independence. Due to this women education increased and women contributed in almost every sphere of life. Women started active participation in the political, economic, social and cultural life of nation. Women occupied a respectable position in various fields such as cabinet ministers, scientist, engineers, doctors, police officers, business, magistrates, literature, politics and judicial officers. The great female personalities such as Sarojini Naidu, Mother Teresa, Indira Gandhi, Dr. Anandibai Joshi, Kalpana Chawala, Sunita Williams, Dr. Pratibha Patil, Sonia Gandhi, Arundhati Bhattacharya, Medha Patkar, Mamta Banerjee, Uma Bharati, Mayawati, Sushama Swaraj, Rabadi Devi, Chanda Kochhar & Arundhati Roy etc. These personalities lighted the rays of an inspiration among women to usher women leadership and to empower women status in the society.

Conclusion

Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables women to tackle with obstacles, challenges and to change the position in society. The present are is a modern age of technologies, scientific innovations and achievements so why women should be left behind? So women must be leaders and contribute in all field of life. Education gives women the confidence to face the problems in life. There is a need to spread social awareness regarding women education among the people and the mentality need to be changed. The government must also focus on women education and should launch new initiatives to prosper women education status to help nation's development. Women should be encouraged to play a more active part in every field and may lead in the every task.

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