

IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

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Abstract

The main objective of this paper was to determine the role of education for the empowerment of women and analyze different economic roles played by the educated and uneducated women in the society. For the purpose of the study researcher used purposive sampling method for choosing of 200 women. These consist of 100 women from urban and 100 women from slump areas. Here researcher used interview schedule for data collection and percentage used for the purpose of the data analysis. From the study it was found that The women in urban areas are fully literate where as 30% of women in slump areas are illiterate. Further It was found that the women in urban areas are employed mostly in Govt. and private sectors where they earn higher than the women in slump areas who mostly work as daily labourers. Because women in slump areas are less advance in educational fields. 3. The self-employed women in slump areas are generally engaged in traditional works whereas 80% of the self-employed women in urban areas are engaged in modern business such as beauty parlour, dry-cleaning etc 4. The urban self-employed women who are highly educated seek the help of banks for finance of their business where as most of the self-employed women in slump areas depend on private money lenders. 5. Most of the women in slump areas are not aware of different Govt. schemes for women empowerment. Though the women of urban areas are aware of different Govt. schemes but they do not show interest on these schemes. They feel that the acceptance of Govt. schemes for self-employment is not a respectful job for them. 6. It was found that most of the working urban women are engaged in high paid jobs as they highly educated but the working women in slump areas are engaged in low paid jobs (most of them are daily labourers) and earns income in the range of Rs.500/- to Rs.3000/-. 7. In slump areas though the educational qualification and income of working women is lower than the working women of urban areas, but they have greater financial contribution to their families. Most of them are not willingly financial helping to their families rather they are bounded to do so. 8. Most of the women (educated and uneducated) in slump areas used to go for marketing. On the other hand, it was found that only 70% of the women interviewed in urban areas go to market but the bargaining power of women in slump areas is not strong like the women in urban areas who are well informed and educated. 9. Most of the working women in urban areas used to save some money from their income as they are conscious about the future and earn much more than their substance level. On the other hand, the women in slump earn little which is not sufficient to meet their daily expenses. So, the saving rate is low in case of women in slump areas.

Keywords: Education, Women and Economic Empowerment

Introduction

Woman is normally known as the better half of man in reality his worse half. It is a fact for every country in the world and of course for India. Women comprising almost half of the total population of India, continued to remain cipher for ages together. They exist in the society as the invisible but indispensable members. Though they complement the life of the society as mothers, wives and sister, they are considered as the second class citizens inferior to men in the male dominated society. Although their position has undergone various changes from Vedic to modern times, their development is still misnomer. Education is the key which opens the door of life, develops humanity and promotes national development. Education of women means equipping them with more knowledge to enable them to function effectively in discharging their duties as responsible and capable persons. The foundation of education in the country cannot be well laid by an ignorant/uneducated mother. An educated mother has the advantage of her education to help her to bring up a children is a better way and manages house hold affair more efficiently. No family can have bright children unless the parents specifically the mothers are educated. Women are the agents of change. They can bring changes in the society when they will get proper education. So, national development and women education are correlated to each other. It is thus said: "if you educate a boy you educated an individual, but if you educate a girl u educate a family, society and ultimately the nation ". But women education in India has received the least attention. As a result of which changes in our society are slow. It is a matter of fact that education liberates women from ignorance and enhances their self esteem. It enables them to choose their own way and look after families in a better way. *Napoleon* has rightly said, "Give me an educated mother I shall promise you the birth of a civilized civilized nation". **Pillai (1995)** conducted a study on women empowerment. He found that women empowerment is an actives multidimensional process which enables women to realize their full identity and powers in all spheres of life. **Gupta (2000)** has conducted a study on women empowerment. According to him, women become empowered through collectives' reflection and decision making. The parameters of empowerment are building a positive self-image and self-confidence, developing ability to think critically, encouraging group action in order in the society and providing the where with all for economic independence. **Marilee (1995)** conducted a study on women and empowerment participation and decision making. He found that development agencies are gearing their programmers and projects to the empowerment of women through capacity building and through strengthening both women's organizations and women participation in rural association. Gender awareness activities for both and women have also become an important part of some project at the community level. Women's participation as grassroots organization is increasingly recognized as crucial to their empowerment and as a way for them to help shape development policies. **Lucy (1995)** conducted of study on empowerment of women for sustainable development. She found that empowerment of women and their equal status etc. are more easily said, than put into practice. This is,

more especially so, in a society ridden with orthodox and conservatives ideals and ideologies for which religious sanction and support are not lacking. In such societies any improvement in the status of women is almost impossible without the cooperation and change of hearts from the part of men. **NPE (1986)** (with modification undertaken in 1992) stated as follows: "Education will be use as an agent of basic change in the status of women. In order to neutralize the accumulated distortion of the past, there will be well conceived edge in favours of women. The national system will play a positive intervention in the empowerment of women. It will foster the development of new values through redesign curricula, textbooks, the training and orientation of teachers, decision makers and administrators and the active involvement of educational institutions. This will be an act of faith and social engineering. **Bandura (1986)** status that personal efficacy lies at the heart of female empowerment. Efficacy is the degree to which an individual perceives that he or she controls his /her environment. **Sujata (1990)** conducted a study on working women's perception of their self an environment in relation to job and life and satisfaction and found that women in skilled jobs were found more satisfied in their lives than women in semi-skilled and unskilled jobs. **Jaiswal (1989)** conducted a study on professional status of women: A comparative study of women and men scientist and engineers. He found that significant differences were found, in the academic achievement of men and women. **Kakati (1990)** conducted a study on socio-economic status of educated working women and stated that through husbands and parents were in favour of employment of their wives and daughters still working women could not draw sympathy from family members in sharing of house hold activities. In matters of decision making power role of employment was found significant. Employment of women influenced significantly their freedom of movement outside the home.

Need of the study

Women are the agents of change. Education is considered as a key instrument for this change, which is responsible for national developments. It is true to the saying "If you educate a boy you educate an individual, but if you educated a girl, you educated a family, society and ultimately the nation." But, the changes in our society are slow, it is because we have still not allowed our women to play their actives role in the society which by nature they are most suitable to do. The present study is designed to analyse the relation between women education on the empowerment because the national development is possible only through the empowerment of women as they constitute the half of the total population of our country.

Objectives of the study

1. To determine the role of education for the empowerment of women
2. To analyse different economic roles played by the educated and uneducated women in the society.

Research Methodology

Method of the study

Descriptive method was used for the purpose of this study

Population and Sample of the study

Bhubaneswar city is selected the place of work for the purpose of present investigation. The total population of the city that is about 6.5 lakhs as per 2011 population census. Out of which the number of women is about 2.8 lakhs. This consists of the population of the study. It is not feasible to study the entire population. So, the investigators book a purposive sample of 200 women. These consist of 100 women from urban and 100 women from slump areas. This sample is a purposive one.

Tools and techniques

For the purpose of the study researcher used interview schedule for data collection and percentage used for the purpose data analysis.

Findings of the study

The findings of the present study are as follows:

1. The women in urban areas are fully literate where as 30% of women in slump areas are illiterate.
2. It was found that the women in urban areas are employed mostly in Govt. and private sectors where they earn higher than the women in slump areas who mostly work as daily labourers. Because women in slump areas are less advance in educational fields.
3. The self-employed women in slump areas are generally engaged in traditional works whereas 80% of the self-employed women in urban areas are engaged in modern business such as beauty parlour, dry-cleaning etc
4. The urban self-employed women who are highly educated seek the help of banks for finance of their business where as most of the self-employed women in slump areas depend on private money lenders.
5. Most of the women in slump areas are not aware of different Govt. schemes for women empowerment. Though the women of urban areas are aware of different Govt. schemes but they do not show interest on these schemes. They feel that the acceptance of Govt. schemes for self-employment is not a respectful job for them.
6. It was found that most of the working urban women are engaged in high paid jobs as they highly educated but the working women in slump areas are engaged in low paid jobs (most of them are daily labourers) and earns income in the range of Rs.500/- to Rs.3000/-.
7. In slump areas though the educational qualification and income of working women is lower than the working women of urban areas, but they have greater financial contribution to their families. Most of them are not willingly financial helping to their families rather they are bounded to do so.

8. Most of the women (educated and uneducated) in slum areas used to go for marketing. On the other hand, it was found that only 70% of the women interviewed in urban areas go to market but the bargaining power of women in slum areas is not strong like the women in urban areas who are well informed and educated.

9. Most of the working women in urban areas used to save some money from their income as they are conscious about the future and earn much more than their substance level. On the other hand, the women in slum earn little which is not sufficient to meet their daily expenses. So, the saving rate is low in case of women in slum areas.

10. It was observed that the educated mothers both in urban and slum areas have been sending their girl child to schools and they are conscious about their future of their girl child. But the women in slum areas are not conscious about the education of their girl child. They generally prefer to engage their child in other works at home rather than sending them to school.

Result and Discussion of the study

The women in urban areas are fully literate where as 30% of women in slum areas were illiterate. Further it was found that women in urban areas are employed mostly in Govt. and private sectors where they earn higher than the women in slum areas who mostly work as daily labourers. Because women in slum areas are less advance in educational fields. The result of the present study was well supported by the findings of **Gupta. (2000)**. The self-employed women in slum areas are generally engaged in traditional works whereas 80% of the self-employed women in urban areas are engaged in modern business such as beauty parlour, dry-cleaning etc the result of this item supported by **Bandura (1986)** . The urban self-employed women who are highly educated seek the help of banks for finance of their business where as most of the self-employed women in slum areas depend on private money lenders the result of this item supported by **Sujata (1990)** . 5. Most of the women in slum areas are not aware of different Govt. schemes for women empowerment. Though the women of urban areas are aware of different Govt. schemes but they do not show interest on these schemes. They feel that the acceptance of Govt. schemes for self-employment is not a respectful job for them. It was reflected that most of the working urban women are engaged in high paid jobs as they highly educated but the working women in slum areas are engaged in low paid jobs (most of them are daily labourers) and earns income in the range of Rs.500/- to Rs.3000/- the result of this item was supported by **Mahesh (1991)**.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it may be stated here that women is the mother of the race and liaison between generations. It is the women who have sustained the growth of society and moulded the future of nation. In the emerging complex social scenario, women have a pivotal role to play. They can no longer be considered as mere harbingers of peace, but emerging as a source of power and symbol of

progress. But by and large women have been accorded an inferior social status even now. Coupled with retrograde social customs like child marriage, dowry, sati etc. Women experience several accumulated disadvantages. They face not only gender discrimination of various degrees and types of different levels, but also suffer the most from sexual harassment, atrocities and crimes. These entire factors, coupled with the low female literacy rate, make the role of women education as an agent of social change very challenging.

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