

Women Empowerment through Higher Education in India- An Analysis**Dr.S.Sasikumar****Assistant Professor in Economics,****St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai-2 (Affiliated to M.S University, Tirunelveli-11
Tamilnadu.)****ABSTRACT**

Women empowerment is major focus of the developing nation like India. The fundamental point and objective of the women empowerment through higher education is develop the individual just as society, with emphasis of social change of the women which help in building the society to make it modernized and gender equality. Empowerment is based on the idea that giving employee's abilities, resources, specialist, opportunity, inspiration, too considering them responsible and accountable for outcomes of their activities, will contribute to their competence and fulfillment. Empowerment of women is a complex concept encompassing physical, social, economic and political aspects. The word 'women empowerment' essentially means that the women have the power or ability to regulate their everyday lives in the social, political and economic terms, a power which enables them to move from the periphery to the center stage. Self-decision regarding education, interest, versatility, economic independency, open speaking, awareness and exercise of rights, political cooperation and a lot more factors ensure women empowerment. Women empowerment is a base up process of changing gender power relations, developing awareness of women's subordination and building their ability to challenge the power relation. This paper is to study the women empowerment and economics of higher education and statistical tools used for the analyzing the data.

KEYWORDS: Women, Empowerment, Higher education, Economic reforms.

INTRODUCTION

India is enhanced with human resources the people can be educated and empowered through ideal use of education. Education is an essential device for reducing inequalities and poverty. It has a special quality, which gives benefits to the society as a whole. Education is considered to be essential in eradicating poverty by developing countries. Attributable to the scope of changes in the worldwide environment, society has become knowledge based. Higher learning and research go about as the essential elements of social and financial development of people and society.

Women Empowerment

Women empowerment and gender equality in India is a disturbing issue. Some problems, for example, endowment, domestic violence, sex selective premature birth, female infanticide are as yet prevalent. Education is the prime avenue for empowering women. This process of empowering entails substantially more than awareness of alternatives, women's rights and the nature of the requirements. It involves the breakdown of powerful sex stereotyping, which prevented women from demanding their rights from men in position of power. For women, the process of empowerment entails breaking far from the cycle of learned and instructed accommodation to separation, learned from one generation of women and passed on to the rest. 'Women empowerment' is the process of enabling and developing capacity or potential in women with the goal that they can think and act freely, exercises their choice and control their lives and thereby reducing segregation and exploitation towards them. It achieves upliftment of women in social, economic and political spheres where they are able to assume an equal role at standard with men in society (2014). Be that as it may, women who constitute half of the population in India yet they have been subjected to the oppression of male centric order and suffered from fewer rights and lower societal position than men for a considerable length of time. This widespread separation and exploitation of women evoke the need for empowerment of women.

Education empowers women more effectively which would help to nullify gender inequality, develop their potentials, increase social and economic return, improve the personal satisfaction, produce educated and healthy children and reduce fertility and death rates. Education is key to empowering women's investment in decision making in democracy, dynamic change of society and forming the destiny of future generations. There is zero chance for the welfare of the world unless the state of women is improved. It is education which can do as such by empowering women. The indicators of social empowerment of women include the base of gender inequality, sex proportions, life expectancy rates and fertility rates which appear the general status of women in terms of literacy, economic development, accessibility of health care and anti-conception medication facilities, educational status of women, age at marriage, literacy rates and investment of women outside the home(2013).

The economic reforms in education plays a vital role in the economy just because a great part of the possibilities for sustained development in the medium and long-run depend on the extent to which the economy can develop and utilize abnormal state human capital. This capital is essential for the association and advancement required in the present worldwide economy.

Furthermore, in the Indian case, it is even more pertinent since every year, a large number of student's complete secondary education. Further, the Indian middle class keeps expanding quickly whereas the land-based economic system is on the decline. The importance of higher education is ever increasing after the economic reforms and it creates an opportunity for the both gender. Hence, the state of the country's higher education system in terms of male and female interest is an issue of serious concern, especially considering the importance of inclusive development of a nation. The economic empowerment included, planning, employment and income generation activities with both forward and in reverse linkages with the ultimate objective of 'making every single potential lady economically independent and self-reliant. The strategy for social empowerment included creation of an environment where they would exercise their easy and equal access to all the fundamental least services of health, education and employment in order to enable them realizes their true abilities (2003).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Rupali Sharma (2014) stated that the India is recorded for the second highest populated country in the world. In any case, on the off chance that we analyze the current status of Indian women with other countries of the world than we can realize that the scene isn't even agreeable however the most noticeably bad. Indian women generally faced a wide range of barriers to success like illiteracy, domestic violence, absence of inspiration and bolster and some more. India is nation where man dominance in the society prevails. It is very essential for the amicable development of the nation that women ought to go hand by hand and shoulder to shoulder with men. Furthermore, for empowering the women, higher education will assume an indispensable role.

NilaniPackianathan et al (2016) in their investigation stated that Knowledge is a distinctive characteristic of individuals with a tremendous ability to acquire and transfer knowledge starting with one generation then onto the next, picking up prominence with advanced science and technology. Higher education is the gateway to economic security and opportunity especially for women in India. Women are a piece of financial system and they up hold rich social and customary values. Indian women assume a noteworthy role in Knowledge Societies as leaders, addressing issues on creating and adjusting data and ideas at an accelerating speed to help economic development and improved personal satisfaction in India addressing issues, for example, Equity, Quality, Relevance and Access, demonstrating that Indian women with any foundation becomes a contributing member of society through learning. Higher education for

women in India has witnessed an impressive development over the years and the Government is pooling resources needed to promote women education.

KumariBerkmans (2014) explained that education is one of the most vital means of empowering women with the knowledge, abilities and self-confidence. For empowering the women, higher education will assume a crucial role. Dependent women are not empowered women. Women have to awake from deep slumber and understand the true meaning of empowerment.. India holds the second position in the realm of having highest population. There are approximately 49% female in all out population of it. In any case, on the off chance that we analyze the current status of Indian women with other countries of the world, then we can realize that the scene isn't even tasteful however the most exceedingly awful. Indian women generally faced a wide range of barriers to success like illiteracy, domestic violence, absence of inspiration and some more. India is a nation where man dominance in the society prevails. It is very essential for the amicable development of the nation that women ought to go hand by hand and shoulder to shoulder with men. Gender equality implies a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, outcomes, rights and commitments in all spheres of life. Equality between men and women exists when both sexes are able to share equally in the appropriation of power and influence. "Empowerment" is "to make stronger and more confident, esp. in controlling their life and asserting their rights." When we talk about women's empowerment, we talk about women taking more of a leadership role.

Dr. Heena Upadhyaya (2013) Education influences Economic Development directly and furthermore indirectly. The direct effect is through efficiency, employment, creation of the work force, division of work, versatility of work, and other such factors. The indirect effect is through investment funds, restricting family size, instilling right attitudes and abilities, and by removing obstacles to social change and progress. It facilitates attitudinal changes for modernization and social change. In her study she examined the development of higher education. The main objective of her examination is analyzed utilizing the year wise development rate recipe. The result demonstrates that the three is agreeable development of higher education in India During study period.

KhushFunerMurtaza(2012)stated that the developing social awareness over the globe has conveyed a number of issues to the fore among which gender equality and empowerment of women are very critical. An oppression woman as male-female differentiation constitutes the core of the genderbiased system. Education is the biggest liberating force and rise in the levels of

education, which nourishes progressive standpoint, and the advent of industrialization and modernization have effected a sea change in the attitudes and thinking pattern about the people. The empowerment isn't essentially political, in the reality; political empowerment won't succeed in the absence of economic empowerment.

Tilak (2003) in his article entitled "Higher Education and Development in Asia" studied the importance of higher education and stated that it plays a very huge role in the development of the societies-in terms of economic development, improvement in health, human development, life expectancy and reduction in fertility, newborn child mortality and poverty. Moreover it helps through teaching what's more, research, in the creation, retention and dissemination of knowledge.

World Bank (1994) in their report on Higher Education they stated that "higher education is one of the fundamental importance for economic and social development. Establishments of higher education have the primary responsibility for equipping people with advanced knowledge, and aptitudes required for places of responsibility in government, business and the profession. Estimated that the social rates of returns are more in many developing countries moreover indicating the investments in higher education contribute to increase in labor profitability and to higher long haul economic development, which are estimated for poverty alleviation".

OBJECTIVES

- To study the relevance of higher education in women empowerment
- To assess the level of women empowerment and employment opportunity
- To analyze the economic reforms and their impacts on women empowerment in higher education

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Details regarding the research design, data collection questionnaire, sampling plan, area of the study and statistical tools used have also been given. Finally the limitations of the study have also been briefed.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Research design is purely and simply the framework or plan for a study that guides the collection and analysis of the data. The research design indicates the methods of research i.e. the method of gathering information and the method of sampling study is descriptive in nature.

Sampling design comprises four major areas: Population, Frame, Sampling method and Sample size estimation.

RESEARCH TOOLS USED FOR THE PRESENT STUDY

- ANOVA
- CHI – SQUARE
- CORRELATION

DATA ANALYSIS

The present chapter helps to analyze and interpret the data. The data gathered for this study from the different sources such as, planning commission reports, UGC reports World Bank Reports and data released from different organizations in various publications in India. thus, it is evaluated and interpreted to arrive at a conclusion for the research.

ONE WAY ANOVA (AGE)

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between age groups with regards to the Economic Reforms, Women Education, Women Empowerment, Technical Education, Education Policies, Elearning, Self-confidence, Employment opportunity and Development

		SUM OF SQUARES	DF	MEAN SQUARE	F	SIG
Economic Reforms	Between Groups	91.552	3	30.517	1.395	.246
	Within Groups	4002.095	183	21.869		
	Total	4093.647	186			
Women Education	Between Groups	27.922	3	9.307	1.027	.382
	Within Groups	1658.345	183	9.062		
	Total	1686.267	186			
Women Empowerment	Between Groups	49.105	3	16.368	1.071	.363
	Within	2796.574	183	15.282		

	Groups					
	Total	2845.679	186			
Technical Education	Between Groups	55.105	3	18.368	1.281	.282
	Within Groups	2624.756	183	14.343		
	Total	2679.861	186			
Education Policies	Between Groups	13.651	3	4.550	.539	.656
	Within Groups	1544.167	183	8.438		
	Total	1557.818	186			
E-learning	Between Groups	204.858	3	68.286	3.594	.015
	Within Groups	3477.152	183	19.001		
	Total	3682.011	186			
Self confidence	Between Groups	45.376	3	15.125	1.558	.201
	Within Groups	1776.720	183	9.709		
	Total	1822.096	186			
Employment opportunity	Between Groups	36.015	3	12.005	.941	.422
	Within Groups	2333.996	183	12.754		
	Total	2370.011	186			
Development	Between Groups	44.185	3	14.728	1.453	.229
	Within Groups	1854.810	183	10.136		

	Total	1898.995	186			
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* Significant at the 5% level

Analysis:

It can be seen from above Table that null hypotheses are accepted as the p values are greater than 0.05 for Economic Reforms, Women Education, Women Empowerment, Technical Education, Education Policies, Elearning, Self-confidence, Employment opportunity and Development

Discussion:

There is no significant difference between age groups with regards to the Economic Reforms, Women Education, Women Empowerment, Technical Education, Education Policies, Elearning, Self-confidence, Employment opportunity and Development

ONE WAY ANOVA (EDUCATION)

H₀₂: There is no significant difference between Education groups with regards to the Economic Reforms, Women Education, Women Empowerment, Technical Education, Education Policies, E-learning, Self-confidence, Employment opportunity and Development

		SUM OF SQUARES	DF	MEAN SQUARE	F	SIG
Economic Reforms	Between Groups	164.209	3	54.736	2.549	.057
	Within Groups	3929.438	183	21.472		
	Total	4093.647	186			
Women Education	Between Groups	41.271	3	13.757	1.530	.208
	Within Groups	1644.997	183	8.989		
	Total	1686.267	186			
Women Empowerment	Between Groups	80.940	3	26.980	1.786	.151
	Within Groups	2764.739	183	15.108		

	Total	2845.679	186			
Technical Education	Between Groups	72.586	3	24.195	1.698	.169
	Within Groups	2607.275	183	14.247		
	Total	2679.861	186			
Education Policies	Between Groups	9.054	3	3.018	.357	.784
	Within Groups	1548.764	183	8.463		
	Total	1557.818	186			
Elearning	Between Groups	222.396	3	74.132	3.921	.010
	Within Groups	3459.614	183	18.905		
	Total	3682.011	186			
Self confidence	Between Groups	31.112	3	10.371	1.060	.368
	Within Groups	1790.984	183	9.787		
	Total	1822.096	186			
Employment opportunity	Between Groups	87.778	3	29.259	2.346	.074
	Within Groups	2282.233	183	12.471		
	Total	2370.011	186			
Development	Between Groups	65.466	3	21.822	2.178	.092
	Within Groups	1833.529	183	10.019		
	Total	1898.995	186			

* Significant at the 5% level

Analysis:

It can be seen from above Table that null hypotheses are accepted as the p values are greater than 0.05 for Economic Reforms, Women Education, Women Empowerment, Technical Education, Education Policies, E-learning, Self-confidence, Employment opportunity and Development

Discussion:

There is no significant difference between education groups with regards to the Economic Reforms, Women Education, Women Empowerment, Technical Education, Education Policies, E-learning, Self-confidence, Employment opportunity and Development

Chi Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Statistical Inference
Pearson Chi-Square	478.483^a	9	.000	X²=478.483^a Df = 9 P= .000 <0.05 *Significant at 5% level
Likelihood Ratio	239.147	9	.000	
Linear-by-Linear Association	19.649	1	.000	
N of Valid Cases	187			

Significant at 5% level

Analysis:

It can be seen from above Table the P value is lesser than our chosen Significance at = 0.05 levels, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Discussion

It is therefore concluded that there is an association between Age and Education factors.

CORRELATION

Correlation Test between Economic Reforms and Women Empowerment

H₀₃: there is no correlation between Economic Reforms and Women Empowerment

		Economic Reforms	Women Empowerment
Economic Reforms	Pearson Correlation	1	.634**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	187	187
Women Empowerment	Pearson Correlation	.634**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	187	187

Analysis:

The above Table Shows the Result of Pearson's correlation test between the Economic Reforms and the Women Empowerment from the above table it is found that there is a significant correlation between the variables. Also, it is evident that there is a high positive correlation ($r=.634p<0.01$ sig) between Correlation test between Economic Reforms and the Women Empowerment.

Correlation Test between Technical Education and Training and Development

H₀₄: there is no correlation between Technical Education and Training and Development

		Technical Education	Training and Development
Technical Education	Pearson Correlation	1	.415**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	187	187
Training and Development	Pearson Correlation	.415**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	187	187

Analysis:

The above Table Shows the Result of Pearson's correlation test between the Technical Education and Training and Development from the above table it is found that there is a significant correlation between the variables. Also, it is evident that there is a high positive correlation ($r=.415p<0.01$ sig) between Correlation test between Technical Education and Training and Development.

CONCLUSION

The empowerment of women has been a vital point of discourse and debate from the beginning of history. However, women empowerment has been an area of need of the vast majority of the welfare state and prominent democracy. Women's education and empowerment assumes an essential role in the development. Empowerment is a very expansive term encompassing a wide range of empowerment, for example, education, economic, social, political, legal and social empowerment of women. Education is the most vital instrument for human resource development furthermore, the most essential mediums through which knowledge and data is acquired. Hence, access to education has been recognized as a fundamental right of the two men and women. The empowering role of lady's education is multi-pronged; affecting every aspect of women's lives, as well as the lives of their children furthermore, others who are likely to depend on them. Education has the potential of empowering women in several different routes by equipping them with the awareness furthermore, knowledge required to make beneficial life choices by increasing their capacity

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