



# Women Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Through Higher Education

Dr. Prashant M. Patil

Associate Professor and Head, Department of Commerce, Late Dr. Haribhau Admane Arts & Commerce College, Saoner, Dist. Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

## ABSTRACT

Currently India is in the second position in the world of having highest population. Approximately half of the population is female in total population of it. But if we analyze the current status of Indian women with other countries of the world than we can realize that the scene is not even satisfactory but the worst. Indian women generally faced all types of barriers to success like illiteracy, domestic violence, lack of motivation and support and many more. India is country where man dominance in the society prevails. It is very essential for the harmonious development of the country that women should go hand by hand and shoulder to shoulder with men. And for empowering the women, higher education will play a vital role. In the recent years, Entrepreneurship and Innovation have taken new turn because of increase in the globalization and liberalization. Women Entrepreneurs means who start a setup or a business activity generating jobs for others. The three important factors that are playing major role in women entrepreneurship.

- 1) Internal factors such as individual's attitude towards risk taking or family encouragement.
- 2) External factors such as government support or reward system.
- 3) Higher education & competencies.

According to 2016 report of Small Industry Development Bank of India (SIDBI), following southern Indian states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have witnessed more than fifty percent of all women run small scale industrial units in India. The GDP of a nation growing as the women of the country progress in the field of entrepreneurship and innovation. Women have to be given fair chance as men in the field of entrepreneurship as most of the talented women end up with responsibilities and working at home. Despite facing a lot of socio-economic challenges, women entrepreneurs have become successful.

**Key words:** Empowerment, Higher Education, Women Entrepreneurship.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Dependent women are not empowered women. If women think just that being highly educated and employed they are empowered, it is a myth. Women have to understand the true meaning of empowerment. Everyone must understand that empowering women doesn't mean empowering them in technical area only. Women should remember that they are also rational, intelligent and thinking human beings. For centuries, women were treated as less-than-equal to men in many ways. Women were not allowed to vote, own property, or

work in many jobs. This situation is due to strong addiction to culture and tradition. Such patience is exercised not only for the sake of society and children, but also due to lack of confidence to live as a single woman and face the challenges of life. Now that we are out of those dark ages, women are more EMPOWERED to do whatever they want. This means that they have the ability to choose their own destiny, business, job, vote, and do anything a man can do.

The Oxford American Dictionary defines "empowerment" as "to make (someone) stronger and more confident. "When we talk about women's empowerment, we talk about women taking more of a leadership role. Whereas until very recently, women were subordinates. Women Entrepreneurship and Education entrepreneurship. Women's development is directly related to the development of a nation. The effective management and development of women as a resource (i.e. their abilities, interests, skills and other resources) can help in national development. Education plays a prominent role in development of Women Entrepreneurship. Education widens the mental horizon and enhances leadership quality stimulating the entrepreneurship skill, promotes efficiency and outlook of the people. It acts as an agent of specialized innovation, new thoughts and visions. These qualities are called as the supreme factors which promotes the quality of entrepreneurship. In today's new waves of globalization women require global leadership qualities in order to best utilize their existing resources to be a entrepreneurship quality should be competitor with the world. To reach out to the world global, developed. Women entrepreneurship is the need of the hour.

### **1. Meaning of Women Empowerment**

The absence of a democratic context has contributed to slow progress in empowering women, particularly in South Asia. Women's empowerment movements have not survived in authoritarian regimes based on gender subordination and ideologies of male dominance. Approaches in South Asia have necessarily focused on opportunities and services rather than on political power. Conceptualizations of gender discrimination and male domination have been

oversimplified and focused on elimination of obvious oppressive practices such as wife beating or dowry demands. Empowerment of women that will have lasting impacts must involve consciousness raising before the social construction of gender which subordinates women in the family, class, caste, religion or society can be changed. Three experimental approaches to empowerment in South Asia have been tried: integrated development, economic empowerment, and consciousness raising. Consciousness raising has been implemented in awareness groups and International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies (IJIMS), 2014, Vol. 1, No.5, 18-22. 19 education that have led to a new consciousness, self worth, social and gender analysis and access to skills and information.

### **2. Meaning of Women Entrepreneurship**

Women Entrepreneurs means the women or a group of women who initiate, organize and operate a business enterprise. A woman entrepreneur is therefore a confident, creative and innovative woman desiring economic independence individually and simultaneously creating employment opportunities for others In the advanced countries of the world, there is a phenomenal increase in the number of self-employed women after the World War II.

### 3. Meaning of Higher Education

Higher Education is the aggregate of systematized knowledge and practical skills that allow theoretical and practical problems to be solved by a given type of training, utilizing and creatively developing the modern achievements of science, technology, and culture. The term “higher education” is also applied to the training of highly skilled specialists in the fields of economics, science, technology and culture at various types of higher schools, which accept persons who have successfully completed secondary general-education schools or secondary specialized-education institutions.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this research paper are:-

1. To know the relevance of higher education in women’s life.
2. To analyze the need of women empowerment and entrepreneurship through higher education.
3. To identify the hindrances in the path of women empowerment and entrepreneurship through higher education.
4. To examine the impact of women empowerment and entrepreneurship on the growth of the country.

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research paper is basically descriptive and analytical in nature. In this paper attempt has been taken to analyze the importance and need for empowerment and entrepreneurship through higher education for women in India. The data used in it is purely from secondary sources according to the need of this study.

## IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

**Duflo, E. (2011), Women’s Empowerment and Economic Development, National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge.**

The study argues that the inter-relationships of the empowerment and development are probably too weak to be self sustaining and that continuous policy commitment to equality for its own sake may be needed to bring about equality between men and women.

**Sethuraman, K. (2008), The Role of Women’s Empowerment and Domestic Violence in Child Growth and Under nutrition in a Tribal and Rural Community in South India, Research Paper No. 2008/15, United Nations University.**

This research paper explores the relationship between women’s empowerment, domestic violence, maternal nutritional status and the nutritional status and growth over six months in children aged 6 to 24 months in a rural and tribal community. This longitudinal observational study undertaken in rural Karnataka, India included tribal and rural subjects.

### **Need of Women Empowerment and entrepreneurship through higher education**

It is probably the totality of the following or similar capabilities:

- Having decision-making power of their own
- Having access to information and resources for taking proper decision

- Having a range of options from which you can make choices (not just yes/no, either/or.)
- Ability to exercise assertiveness in collective decision making
- Having positive thinking on the ability to make change
- Ability to learn skills for improving one's personal or group power.
- Ability to change others perceptions by democratic means.
- Involving in the growth process and changes that is never ending and self-initiated
- Increasing one's positive self-image and overcoming stigma

So from the above points we can divide the components of Women's empowerment in five components, which is self explanatory that why there is need of women empowerment:-

women's sense of self-worth;

their right to have and to determine choices;

their right to have access to opportunities and resources;

their right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

### **Relationship Between Higher Education and Women Empowerment**

Higher education definitely raises women's status whether she contribute in the income of the family or not. She can be at par with men. Majority of the women in our country are uneducated that is why they are suppressed. It is the duty of school teachers to tell them that becoming a wife is not their ultimate goal. Their standing up on their feet and being something is important.

Education can bring phenomenal change in women's life resulting in social transformation in the long run by inculcating

following attributes among them:

1. Enhancing their confidence
2. Raising their status in the family and society
3. Bring awareness about their rights
4. Boosting their self esteem
5. Increasing their self efficacy
6. Reducing their dependency
7. Enhancing their mobility
8. Opening career opportunities

Increased knowledge, self-confidence and awareness of gender equity are indicators of empowerment process (Murphy-Graham, 2008). There is evidence that these components are usually developed during and as a result of higher education (Maslak and Singhal, 2008).

Women, who are educated and earning, are in much better position in our society as compared to uneducated women worker. This is a commonly understood view about the role of education in transforming women.

### **Hindrances of Women Empowerment & Entrepreneurship in Higher Education**

There are many hindrances in the path of women empowerment and in higher education. Some of them are as follows-

- Lack of education
- Financial constraints
- Family responsibility
- Low mobility
- Low ability to bear risk
- Low need for Achievement
- Absence of Ambitions for the Achievement
- Social status

### **Status of Women in Indian Society**

The worth of a civilization can be judged by the place given to women in the society. The Muslim influence on India caused considerable deterioration in the status of women. They were deprived of their rights of equality with men. Raja Ram Mohan Roy started a movement against this inequality and subjugation. The contact of Indian culture with that of the British also brought improvement in the status of women. The third factor in the revival of women's position was the influence of Mahatma Gandhi who induced women to participate in the Freedom Movement. As a result of this retrieval of freedom, women in Indian have distinguished themselves as teachers, nurses, air-hostesses, booking clerks, receptionists, and doctors. They are also participating in politics and administration. But in spite of this amelioration in the status of women, the evils of illiteracy, dowry, ignorance and economic slavery would have to be fully removed in order to give them their rightful place in Indian society.

### **V. CONCLUSION**

On the basis of above detailed analysis it could be concluded that there is no doubt about the essential need of women empowering and entrepreneurship through higher education. Now it is cleared that only literacy is not the ultimate solution but women should be highly educated to know their rights and duties. And should be able to use their rights as per the need. But it is also mandatory that there should proper implementations what policies are made and what government of India has made different programs regarding women empowerment and entrepreneurship.

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