Women Empowerment in India

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Abstract

Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. More than 40 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserted that "everyone has the right to education"

The word 'Women Empowerment' itself implies that women are not powerful enough - they need to be empowered. This painful truth has been in existence for a long long time. It is in recent years that noticeable work started beginning to lift women out of the abyss of insignificance and powerlessness. The patriarchal society suppressed women's freedom across the world. Women were not allowed to vote or even put forward any opinion. Women were confined to their homes. As time progressed, they realised that their life meant much more than just serving in the household. As more and more women started crossing the man-made barriers, the world began to witness the rise of women. Unlike men, women never try to stifle the voice of their opposite gender. They hold the hands of all the downtrodden people - men and women both - and they pull them out of misfortune as they try to improve their lives.

Women empowerment can be defined to promoting women's self worth, their ability to determine their own choices and their right to influence social change for themselves and others. Women are gift to the society. In ancient times, the position of women was good. They were provided opportunity to attain high intellectual and spiritual standard. They were treated as mother Goddess. The Sati system was abolished in 1822 by regulation-VIII during the reign of Lord Bentick.

During ancient period India had many learned ladies. There were two types of scholarly women- Brahmaradinis or the women who never married and cluttered the Vedas throughout their lives and Sadyodvahas who studied the Vedas till they married. Like Apala, Ghosha, Aaro got higher education during vedic period. Sanghamitra

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