

# Education As A Tool in Gender Sensitization and Women Empowerment

Paper Submission: 07/12/2021, Date of Acceptance: 18/12/2021, Date of Publication: 23/12/2021

## Abstract

The discrimination is an immoral, behavioral practice of an individual or groups. There are many distinguish areas of discrimination such as color, race, nationality, class, religion, caste, sex, language etc., but one of the most challengeable discrimination is based on gender. In rural areas women are uneducated; they don't have their rights and is dominated by the men. Empowerment can be described in various ways like social transformation, demanding quality, economic independence, self-evaluation and the power of decision making. There is need of socio cultural atmosphere of our society that discourages gender-biased practices. Thus, gender sensitization is an important action point to empower women. Gender sensitized person became an instrument to change the status of women.

With the help of Education, gender sensitization in Educational Institutes can create awareness among the children, parents and social change. In present scenario, gender and women studies have become the main issue. The power of education can make social change, at large. Each Educational institutes and school should take initiative to understand the gender related issues and to sensitize its concern staff, teachers, students and society for their equality. In text books/syllabus, there should be e gender equality related content.

**Keywords:** Women Empowerment, Gender Sensitization, Gender-Inequality, Education, Teachers-Role.



### Shipra

Assistant Professor  
Dept. of English,  
Government Degree  
College, Babrala-  
Gunnaur, Sambhal,  
U.P., India

### Introduction

India has taken challenge of modernizing its economy, reducing poverty and improving the living standards of its population, but as a nation it cannot prosper unless and until efforts are being made to empower women so that there is equal participation of women in economic growth of the country, as women constitute half of the population approximately. Women have been playing a vital role to improve the socio-economic condition of any sub continent. A growing country needs the good economic and social security. Men and women both have to play equal role in the society and in these processes women empowerment is the most important factor in society. Empowered women define their values and frame their believes themselves, they do not derive their sense of being from male authorities nor do they live empathetically through men.

### Status of Women

In contemporary period women have a part of completely in areas such as politics, military sectors, economic, service and technology sectors. In Indian constitution laws and schemes are made without any discrimination. As a result many women have enjoyed high position in our society. Women empowerment and gender inequality is essential for any society to achieve the goal of sustainable development in our country. As a result women have participated in various activities with men. They serve different type of roles such as police officers, teachers, director in companies, doctors, MLA, MP, IAS, IPS etc. The condition of women in India is improved, but there is need to work hard for their further improvement. In spite of the efforts of the society, still women and girls fear for their safety and well-being. They are also considered 'burdens' on their families. Indian Constitution also granted the equal rights for male and female both, but, if we saw the actual situation, women are the source of domination in the society. They do not have right to education. Even in the modern world, most of the girls are not going outside and they don't have even primary level education and married in the early age. Boys are living a better life in comparison to the girls and these differences created by their parents because of their old traditions. India is a developing country and any country should not be developed until women don't have equal participation in the economic growth. In present society in some families and workplace it is observed that-

# Innovation The Research Concept

1. Parents focus and pay more attention for boy's concern whereas girls are left unseen.
2. Boys' should not do the household work because these are not better for their future career.
3. Besides female, male workers are permitted to take the heavy and risky works/jobs.
4. Jobs are not provided to the female with infants.
5. Lower wages are paid to the employed women.

**Research Methodology** This research paper analyses the present status of society, constitutional attempt to empower women and what are the realities. Here we discuss empowerment of women is possible only by gender sensitization approach. It explains the importance of gender sensitization in educational institutions and major to be adopted in school/ colleges to promote gender sensitization.

**Objectives of The Study**

1. To explain the concept of gender, role and status of women in Indian society.
2. To empower women through gender sensitization.
3. The aspect of gender equity ideology and its impact on education.

**Causes of Gender Issue** There are many causes of gender issue-

**Individual**

1. Lack of awareness
2. Refusal to accept the change
3. Humiliation of values and morals.

**Education** Low level of literacy among girls.

**Employment** Time management and decision making problems.

**Laws**

1. Ignorance or legal initiative taken by government.
2. Insensitivity towards/of police employees.
3. Lack of trained employees and training centres in rural areas.

**Political**

1. Lack of participation in social activity.
2. Lack of and hesitation to express their views in front of the society.

**Media** It eventually portrays women as showpiece or side portrait of men. On the basis of above mentioned causes individual needs to be open minded and sensitive to overcome the various discrepancies. Without being sensitive to the needs of a particular gender, an individual may avoid to understand the opposite gender.

**Gender Sensitization** Transformation in society with special reference to gender differences is possible only through gender sensitization. Gender refers to the roles, attitudes, behaviors and activities of men and women in all social relationships. Gender sensitization is about "changing behavior and generates insight into the views that we hold about our own and the other gender". It helps people in exploring their personal attitudes and beliefs and enquiring the realities they thought to know. 'Gender sensitization' means the modification of behavior by raising awareness about gender equality but, 'Empowerment' means moving from a awake position to stronger position to accomplish a power.

**Needs of Gender Sensitization** Gender sensitization is required for the well-being of our future generations to safeguard and encourage their reproductive rights. It is the process of changing the cliché mindset of the society which strongly believes that male and female are 'unequal body' and should function in different socio-economic space. Women are playing multi role in society but they discriminated not only the womb of their mother and childhood, but also every stages of their life. They played an impressive role in the development of society as well as for their country. In race of many challenges, they have potential to personal growth and live a better life for the survival in society. In Indian context, the society is patriarchal society and women have to face hard rules and many challenges to survive such as domestic violence,

## Innovation The Research Concept

literacy rate, forced marriage in early ages, dowry practices etc. These are the worst traditions coming from ancient to present time. All the challenges faced by them related to gender opinion and equality are the result of 'gender ideology'. There are several other causes of the gender issues in the Indian society-

1. Lack of awareness, degradation of values and ethics.
2. Literacy rate among females is very low.
3. Women faced time management problems and this is the cause of not going for workplace.
4. Lack of participation of women in political activities and decision making.

**Importance of Education** Education is a process of learning in obtaining skills, knowledge, morals, beliefs etc. Nowadays everyone knows the value of education. It can help people to create opportunities, become independent and live a happy prosperous life. Education has been the biggest tool for the women empowerment. People used to believe that girls don't require education, as their main goal in life is to become a housewife and take care of the family, rather than working. It was still believe that spending on girl education is waste of money. Instead of spending money on girl education, one should save their money for dowry so that girl can get a respectful life. Women are not included in decision making process which is the biggest obstacle in their empowerment and progress. Schools/colleges are the places where children are furnished with basic life credentials. these credentials can be effectively used for changes in Outlook of society. The whole society should have to be actively involved for this change and allow girls/ women to be revealed to gender equal values and practices.

The positive effects of education include improved maternal health, reduced infant mortality and fertility rates, increased prevention against HIV and AIDS and more probably increased opportunities for women and girls. Government highlighted on establishing sex ratio in enrolment and achievement rates, but we should also focus on how gender equality is to be practiced and promoted through education. The subject matter of education is largely not being evaluated in terms of the attitudes, prejudice and cliché.

**Areas of intercession** Achieving gender equality through education needs a several distinct aspects. There is evidence of effective small-scale initiatives around the world that opened up classrooms to gender-equal thoughts and practices. the areas through which gender equality can be implanted in education practices are-

1. Changes in syllabus.
2. Change in teaching learning environment.
3. Awareness lesson.
4. Management committee of the institutions.
5. Coordinator of infrastructure.

**Gender Sensitization in Education** Education is the formal program that has been established for the preparation of students at the elementary and secondary school levels. Arrangements of one kind or another for the education of the young have existed at all times and in all societies. Gender sensitivity is a human act must be developed among students. Education will help change but only when teachers and learners are assisted in adopting classroom initiatives that reflect new images based on a positive gender equity ideology. In the life cycle of an individual, gender socialization begins with the life which makes easier for young children to manifest gender roles and standards and thus, 'gender inequalities'.

**Measures to Promote Gender Sensitization in India** our constitution provided equal opportunities to women in education as well as in work- field, but in reality it is very different as written in papers. UGC, NGO and many social bodies promote the women education. Thus, considering the socio- economic inequalities, following plan of action can be formulated to promote gender sensitization and Women Empowerment-

1. Women/girl education should be the first priority.
2. Encouraging educational activities in school for inculcating moral values among children and equal respect for boys and girls.
3. Various safety measures for girls in the society.
4. Enhancing gender equity by expanding women's access to justice and women human right.

## Innovation The Research Concept

5. Emphasize economic empowerment of women through rural tourism.
6. Strengthening the capacity of organizations that advocate for gender equity, women empowerment and the elimination of gender based violence.
7. Style of treatment by the family and elders.
8. Seminar, conferences and workshop should be organized by the educational bodies to debate on women empowerment and gender sensitization so that the girls/women be aware of their roles and abilities in the family and society and to face a fruitful professional life.
9. Training centres should be organized by government bodies in the remote areas.

### Measures to Promote Gender Sensitization in School/College Level

1. Teacher can create the appearance of gender bias through non-verbal actions. The classroom should be such organized that makes all students feel equal.
2. A teacher should establish a set of rules from the beginning that promote equality such as respecting students, respecting the teacher, respecting the gender and participating in class.
3. It is important to change the sitting order to give all students a chance to sit near the teacher and also make the boys and girls sit together.
4. Teacher should try to avoid making things easier for either male or female students.
5. There will be some male or female students who are not comfortable in speaking in front of class. In order to give all students, the opportunity to take part in class, try doing some activities including both male and female.
6. The teacher must give equality in their teaching process.
7. By encouraging educational activities in basic and elementary level.
8. For girls, school and classrooms should have spaces to discuss processes of decision making, to interrogate the basis of their decisions and to make informed choices.

### Initiative taken by Government of India

Considering the women's contribution to the economy of the country, the Indian Government has introduced some schemes and initiatives for women's education and empowerment.

1. Mahila-E-haat, an online marketing platform, launched in March, 2018.
2. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana, launched in January 2015
3. One Stop Centre Scheme popularly known as 'Sakhi', launched in April 2015.
4. Swadhar Greh, launched in 2002.
5. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), launched in 1986.
6. Ujjwala Yojana, launched in May 2016 by Mr. Narendra Modi.
7. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, launched in 2001-2002 by Mr. Atal Bihari Bajpai.
8. Kanya Saksharta Protsahan Yojana, launched in 2005-2006.
9. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Yojana, launched in 2004
10. Right to Education, commenced in 2010.
11. National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level, launched in 2003.
12. Rajiv Gandhi scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls. (SABLA), launched in 2010.
13. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, launched in 2009 by Dr. Manmohan Singh.

### Conclusion

"If we educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate entire family."- Mahatma Gandhi

This statement is a fact because a man only lives with his family but a woman affected his father as well as his husband family. The top priorities of government are to improve female literacy rate, create skills and capability to stand in respectful manner in the society. Swami Vivekanand said that, "Nation which does not respect women will never become great now and not will even in future". Indian society is still male dominated. Women are treated as weak and dependent beings. The need of the hour is to change insight into the whole society so that it recognizes women with a positive approach.

Thus, we come to the conclusion that both the genders are equally essential for the sustainable development of any society. In this process of gender equality, gender sensitization and empowerment, education plays an important role.

**References**

1. Iyenger, R. G.(2016). *Gender sensitization in education: A pathway to women empowerment*.
2. *Multidisciplinary Studies*, 2(4), 107-113.
3. Afridi, F. (2010). *Women's empowerment and the goal of parity between the sexes in schooling in India*. *Population studies*, 64(2), 131-145.
4. Barlett, K.T. & Kennedy, R. (1991). *Feminist Legal Theory: Readings in law and gender*. Oxford: Westview Press.
5. Chandni, S. (2007, May). *Education and empowerment of women*. *Third concept*,49-51.
6. Dash, H. K. Srinath, K& Sarangi, B. N. (2008). *Gender sensitization: role in reforming the society*.
7. Sharma, R. (2017). *Gender Sensitization: An Appraisal of the Roles of Teachers and Educational institutions*. *International Journal of Humanities and Social science invention*, 6 (6), 38-40.
8. Gure, G.S.(2016). *Gender Sensitization: Significance of Education*. *International Education and Research Journal*, 2(12), 117-119.
9. Allana, A., Asad, N., &Sherali, Y. (2010). *Gender in academic settings, Role of Teachers*. *International Journal of Innovation, Management and Technology*, 1(4), 343-348.
10. Dr. Jatinder Kumar Sharma (March 2016). *Understanding the Concept of Sensitization in Humanities and Social sciences: An Exploration in Philosophy of Mind*. *International Journal of Scientific Research*. 24 (90): 380-400.