

Rethinking Women's Education in Global Society: Towards Equality: Bridging Gender Divides



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Abstract

Education is the milestone for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to opportunities, to challenge their traditional role. It has a more significant impact on poverty and development than men's education. It is also one of the most influential factors in society.

History of women's Higher Education clearly indicates that there are rare instances of women going for higher education. Those who went for higher education they belonged to a higher or elite section of society. But with the recent awakening and personal consciousness, about the value of getting educated women are on the move to secure higher education.

But today in some cases, women have to study the courses, which are selected by their parents or families. In this paper stress has been given on the educational aspirations of rural and urban female youth of Agra city. The "Descriptive Survey" method was employed. A sample of 120 units of under graduates of II year was selected through random sampling from the 2 colleges of Agra city. To collect the relevant data self made educational aspiration scale was used and to analysis and interpretate the data Mean, SD & t-Test were employed.

Results of the study are :

1. The study reveals the fact that the commerce students have high level of Educational Aspirations than the Arts and Science students.
2. Urban female students have high level of Educational Aspirations than the rural students.
3. Fine Arts and Designing & Multi Media & Management are the courses towards which urban female students were found attracted significantly than the rural female students.
4. Student of Commerce appeared to be satisfied with their career in the field of commerce.
5. The Arts students were found different. Urban girl students were having high educational aspirations in comparison to rural student. Life Sciences course were preferred more by urban girl students than their counterparts.

It can be summarized that the rural female students are not benefited by the social and psychological changes taking place in society. On the basis of major findings it can be concluded that if we really want to empower our women, we should give them opportunities to pursue higher education according to their wish. Govt. should provide job oriented courses in rural areas for upliftment of women.

Introduction:

Education is the milestone for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to opportunities, to challenge their traditional role and to challenge their lives. Similar ideas were supported in *International Conference – 1994*. It was said that Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skill and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. Educating the women benefits the whole society. It has a more significant impact on poverty and development than men's education. It is also one of the most influential factors in society.

Higher education is growing at a brisk pace; today there are 355 universities and 18064 colleges that cater to the rapidly growing demands for higher education in the country. Even then only fewer women attend higher education than men. History of women in Higher