



State Education Policy and Women's Empowerment with Special Reference to Bihar

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Abstract : *Etymologically, Empowerment means 'to enable'. It refers to the accessibility and control over the existing resources that includes material, human and intellectual aspect. Women's Empowerment basically means to enable women to utilise the existing resources so as to enhance their quality of life. Women have been subject to various atrocities right from womb to tomb. There is no denying the fact that the significant advancement in the field of science and technology has considerably elevated the standard of living of mankind*

but it does not rule out the miseries caused to women in various conditions of life. The dual and ambiguous shades of human nature are reflected even in the popular culture of our society where women on the one hand are worshipped as Goddesses and are oppressed on the other hand.

The inculcation of feeling in women that they are inferior to men and will always be, starts right from their childhood (covert socialisation) needs to be challenged through women's awareness. Women suffer discrimination basically because of 'SEXISM' also known as 'sex discrimination' or 'gender discrimination'. It is defined as prejudice or discrimination based on sex i.e. treating women inferior to men.

There are different parameters of women's Empowerment as it is a multi-faceted process. Women's Empowerment can be achieved to a great extent through education. Education brings the qualitative change in people's life, empowers them in the area of employment and also prepares them for active participation in the political system. Education is that magic wand which can make things change radically and this work endeavours to highlight the major positive impacts and greater role which education can play in empowering women. The term 'education' is often confused with literacy. Literacy is the ability to read and write while education is the transmission of the values and accumulated knowledge of society. It not only brings knowledge, information and awareness to an individual but also brings development and change in human society. It is a single most instrument for social and economic transformation.

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