

IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON WOMEN EDUCATION

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Abstract:

Education is the key factor for women empowerment, prosperity, development and welfare. Discrimination of women from womb to tomb is well known. There is continued inequality and vulnerability of women in all sectors- Economic, Education, Social, Political, Health Care, Nutrition, Right and Legal etc, women are oppressed in all spheres of life, they need to be empowered in all walk of life. In order to fight against the socially constructed gender biases, women have to swim against the system that requires more strength. Such strength comes from the process of empowerment and empowerment will come from the education. And rural development will come from women empowerment. This study “Impact of Globalization on Women Education” aims to find out the effect of globalization on women. This study tries to find out the place of women in present society irrespective of its status in terms of a housewife or a working woman and the impact of her role in terms of development through education.

Key words: Education, globalization, technology, women

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Women constitute almost half the human race. Education has been recognized as an essential agent of social change and development in any society of any country. Education is considered as a potent instrument through which processes modernization and social change come to existence. Education exposes people to new thoughts and ideas and provides necessary skills. Hence to think harmonious development without educating women is impossible. More over it has been rightly said that to educate a woman is to educate the whole family. Therefore, the emphasis with regard to women education should be to equip her multiple role as citizens, housewives, mother, and contributor to family income, builders of new society and builder of the nation. Acharya et al. (2010) aimed to explore the links between women's household position and their autonomy in decision making. The researcher found out the socio-demographic factors that influence the women's autonomy, decision making on health care, purchasing the goods, visiting the family and relatives. Women autonomy in decision making was related with their age, employment and number of living children. The finding of research was that almost half (47.1%) of married women took decisions on their own health care alone or jointly with their husband, participation in own health care decision making gradually increased by age. Education is very important aspect because it is a social institution through which society provides its members with important knowledge, including basic facts, job skills and cultural norms and values (Macionis, 2006). Matthews et al. (2005) measured the women autonomy by the frequency of purchasing important household items. Study shows that usually women purchase household items for daily use herself. In Pakistani society, usually women take care of house so they better know about the required appliances of household. That's why women mostly purchase these items which show women autonomy. They can continue purchasing these things if they are not stopped by anyone from the household. It has been also found that most of the women often buy household items.

Women discovered their own potential and played an equal part in India's struggle for freedom (Baruah, 2003). Many women came to be accepted as great patriots in their own rights. The freedom struggle of India was the platform where women again proved themselves. Women's participation in the revolutionary movement was significant even when they were deprived of basic human rights (Mehta, 2004; Jha and poojary, 1998). The preamble to the Constitution of India promises full equality to all citizens in all respect. Women's development saw a reflection in the Indian constitution wherein laws were enacted to eradicate the social evil of inequality,

five-year plans and voluntary actions by women, state sponsored programmes like rural Mahila Mandals and local self government, participation in social and women's welfare programmes through voluntary action and finally the demand for reservation in political institutions (Pandey, 2002). Even though, after independence, considerable developments have taken place in the lives of women, there remains a bleak picture. A majority of women are still underprivileged in a tradition bound society where there is a distinction between lawful legitimacy and general practice. In spite of women's contribution towards family income, their position in the family hierarchy mostly remains subordinate (Nandal, 2005). The societal attitude is still discriminatory against women. In India more than 6000 women are killed every year because their in-laws consider their dowries inadequate (UNICEF, 2000). Some problems to be given top most priority are female feticide (Census India, 2001), female infanticide, malnutrition, illiteracy, child marriage, dowry harassments and dowry deaths (Rastogi and Therly, 2006), domestic violence, sexual harassment in society as well as in the workplace, bonded labourers, poverty, police neglect and harassment. In this study an attempt has been made to assess the impact of globalization on education of women.

Methodology

Both the primary and secondary data has been used for the study. Primary data has been collected from 800 women selected through purposive random sampling technique and consisted of employed, self-employed and housewife category. Due care has been taken to include both rural and urban women. The information was collected through a structured questionnaire designed for the purpose and questions included background knowledge about globalization, impact on women education, role in decision making etc. The response were received on a five point scale where 1 was strongly disagree, 2 disagree, 3 neutral, 4 agree and 5 was strongly agree. The data thus collected has been tabulated, analyzed and interpreted as per the needs of the study.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 reveals that education has great importance towards the status of women. As it has become lifelong learning and training process (mean score of 3.56) due to which women are in a position to get themselves aware of the latest trend being adopted in education system. They believe globalization brings education opportunity for both sexes (mean score 3.59; Std Dev

1.07). It indicates that globalization has brought tremendous educational facilities for both the groups so they can feel peace of mind.

They agree globalization provides specialized education and training programs for the disadvantaged group and gifted students as the statement observed a mean score of 3.60. It indicates that response is favourable as specialized education is being imparted to train the special group so that they may not feel lack of confidence.

They agree education is particularly a key which prepares a woman to exploit and utilize new technologies. It indicates that through education people can be made conscious regarding the availability and optimal utilization of new technologies in order to improve their worth.

Working literate women believe that due to modernization, nature of education has changed to electronic library which scored a mean of 3.67. It indicates that taste of education has changed a lot, due to which electronic library is being used to deliver quality education among the women. It was also established that globalization has been instrumental in taking special measure for universalisation of education and eradicating illiteracy from the society in general and women in particular.

Table 2 shows that both literate and illiterate women agree that globalization provides equal access to the education both for women and girls (mean score 3.65 and 3.47 respectively). It indicates that most of the educated women agree for an equal access on education. The total mean of 3.59 for both literate and illiterate housewives show a favourable response where the effect of globalization on education has brought rapid development towards the educational status of women. They agree that globalization reduces the gender gap in secondary and higher secondary level (mean score of 3.59).

The data reveals that literate and illiterate housewives have an identical mean score of 3.63 on a statement that education provides lifelong learning as well as development of occupation and vocational technical skills to women. It indicates that basic education provides girls and women with an understanding of vocational technical skills and occupation which serves as a power to decide over their own lives and bodies.

They believe globalization transfer education from western countries to the developing countries (mean score of 3.37). It indicates that education gets well developed in these developed countries and globalization facilitates transfer of new education trends to other countries. It has also been revealed that education plays a significant role as a foundation for the women

development towards adult life. Education has revolutionized due to modern innovations of information technology. The data indicates that education through globalization has changed a lot due to which electronic devices are being implemented to impart quality education (mean score of 3.52 and 3.63 for literate illiterate housewives).

Table 3 reveals that literate and illiterate self employed women agree that the system of education gets modified frequently due to the globalization (mean score 3.59). It is believed that education is one of the best way to ensure productive growth with lifelong learning and training process. Self employed illiterate women with means score of 3.77 agree that globalization provides equal access to education both for women and girls. It indicates that educational efforts can access to quality libraries, participation in knowledge network and involvement in the information revolution and it offers escape from the various circle of poverty. As education is essential not only to enable people to share in the benefits of progress but also enable them economically to ensure sustained development through competitiveness based on more intensive knowledge use.

The data indicates that education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skill and self confidence which are necessary to participate fully in the development process. The mean score of 3.40 for literate women indicates that increasing innovation and expanding knowledge increases education everywhere. The total mean score of 3.45 shows a positive response where education plays an important role for the utilization of technologies.

The mean score of 3.38 for self employed illiterate women indicates that due to the modernization, the techniques of education has changed the way of life of women by implementation of electronic library. The data shows a positive response where electronic devices and internet have great impact on imparting quality education to the masses and at the same time providing access to lots of libraries which are available at Internet via different sources.

Data suggest that self employed illiterate women (mean score 3.77) agree on this viewpoint that through globalization quality and standard to teaching improve. It indicates that education has improved the standard of teaching in a predominant manner. The mean score of 3.72 for literate self employed women indicates that globalization has brought tremendous changes not only in the quality of education but also in the standard of teaching. The overall mean score of 3.73

shows a positive change where modernization in education has brought revolutionary changes in the mode of quality and standard of teaching.

There has been a vast change in the pattern of education due to globalization. Women would exercise their choices in different fields. Respondents felt that the education away from home gives a sense of independence, confidence and power to take decisions. There is no doubt about the fact that development of women has always been the central focus of planning. Clear vision is needed to remove the obstacles to the path of women's emancipation both from government and women themselves. Literacy rate is not uniform among different groups like working, housewives and self-employed. Several reasons justify these differences which include poor and socio economic status of the neglect poor people. Role of female is also confined to domestic work and looking after their children. The problem of women illiteracy has been exacerbated due to the low enrollment and dropout rate among girls. Inadequate facilities in the schools, not having enough classrooms, sanitary facilities and drinking water etc could also be reasons.

Conclusion

In the 21st century, education systems face the dual challenge of equipping students with the new knowledge, skills and values needed to be competitive in a global market while at the same time producing graduates who are responsible to mould the nature of the society. The society can be bestowed with pearls to change the complexion of the whole society. Therefore, globalization challenges the society to rethink not only how much education is being imparted but also its ultimate purpose is to provide equal access to education both for women and girls, working and self employed women. It has also been observed that globalization provides specialized education and training programs for the disadvantaged groups and gifted children, so that they can participate in the whole society. Therefore, education is the key to prepare people irrespective of caste, colour and creed to utilize new trends and technologies to become more and more self-reliant for changing the complexion of the whole society. Thus most of the women believe that through globalization a new curriculum can be developed at all levels of educational system which can eradicate gender discrimination prevailing to all classes including working, self-employed and housewives. Through globalization quality and standard of teaching improves phenomenally so as to expand educational opportunities to meet the social demands not only for

women but also for housewives. Therefore it is the need of the hour to take drastic measures to universalize education among women.

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Statement	Mean	S.D
Globalization provides equal access to education both for women and girls	3.60	1.18
Through Globalization education is becoming a lifelong learning and training process	3.56	1.05
Globalization brings educational opportunity for both sexes	3.59	1.07

Globalization reduces the gender gap in secondary and higher secondary level.	3.54	1.11
Globalization provides specialized education and training programmes for the disadvantaged group and gifted students	3.60	1.04
Education provides lifelong learning as well as development of occupation, vocation technical skills to women	3.70	1.00
Education is particularly key which prepare people to utilize the new technologies.	3.51	1.18
Globalization transfer education from western countries to the developing countries.	3.31	1.14
Due to modernization nature of education has changed to electronic library.	3.67	1.10
The effect of Globalization on education brings rapid developments in technology and communication	3.44	1.09
Through Globalization a new curriculum would be developed at all levels of education system which eradicates gender discrimination	3.49	1.08
Through Globalization quality and standard of teaching improves.	3.74	1.00
Globalization expands educational opportunities to meet social demands.	3.66	1.10
Through Globalization special measures are taken to universalize education and eradicate illiteracy.	3.73	.96

Table 2. Globalization and its impact on the educational status of housewives

Statement		Literate	Illiterate	Total
Globalization provides equal access to education both for women and girls	Mean	3.65	3.47	3.59
	S.D	1.19	1.17	1.18
Through Globalization education is becoming a lifelong learning and training process	Mean	3.60	3.61	3.61
	S.D	1.02	1.05	1.03
Globalization brings educational opportunity for both sexes	Mean	3.54	3.55	3.54
	S.D	1.15	1.18	1.16
Globalization reduces the gender gap in secondary and higher secondary level.	Mean	3.63	3.50	3.59
	S.D	1.08	1.22	1.13
Globalization provides specialized education and training programmes for the disadvantaged group and gifted students	Mean	3.59	3.52	3.56
	S.D	1.06	1.11	1.08
Education provides lifelong learning as well as development of occupation, vocation technical skills to women	Mean	3.63	3.63	3.63
	S.D	1.00	1.05	1.02
Education is particularly key which prepare people to utilize the new technologies.	Mean	3.46	3.41	3.44
	S.D	1.10	1.13	1.11
Globalization transfer education from western countries to the developing countries.	Mean	3.35	3.37	3.36
	S.D	1.17	1.07	1.13
Due to modernization nature of education has changed to electronic library.	Mean	3.65	3.51	3.60
	S.D	1.06	1.10	1.08
The effect of Globalization on education brings rapid developments in technology and communication	Mean	3.52	3.63	3.56
	S.D	1.01	.97	1.00
Through Globalization a new curriculum	Mean	3.38	3.40	3.39

would be developed at all levels of education system which eradicates gender discrimination	S.D	1.03	.92	.99
Through Globalization quality and standard of teaching improves.	Mean	3.64	3.71	3.67
	S.D	1.04	1.02	1.03
Globalization expands educational opportunities to meet social demands.	Mean	3.61	3.67	3.63
	S.D	.95	.95	.95
Through Globalization special measures are taken to universalize education and eradicate illiteracy.	Mean	3.64	3.75	3.68
	S.D	.97	.98	.97

Table 3. Globalization and its impact on the educational status of self-employed Women

Statement		Literate	Illiterate	Total
Globalization provides equal access to education both for women and girls	Mean	3.76	3.77	3.76
	S.D	1.22	.93	1.17
Through Globalization education is becoming a lifelong learning and training process	Mean	3.57	3.69	3.59
	S.D	1.03	.75	.99
Globalization brings educational opportunity for both sexes	Mean	3.91	3.77	3.89
	S.D	.97	1.24	1.01
Globalization reduces the gender gap in secondary and higher secondary level.	Mean	3.64	3.92	3.69
	S.D	1.04	.86	1.01
Globalization provides specialized education and training programmes for the disadvantaged group and gifted students	Mean	3.37	3.54	3.40
	S.D	1.27	1.20	1.25
Education provides lifelong learning as well as development of occupation, vocation technical skills to women	Mean	3.54	3.38	3.51
	S.D	1.17	1.45	1.21
Education is particularly key which prepare people to utilize the new technologies.	Mean	3.40	3.69	3.45
	S.D	1.31	.95	1.26

Globalization transfer education from western countries to the developing countries.	Mean	3.25	3.15	3.24
	S.D	1.21	1.52	1.26
Due to modernization nature of education has changed to electronic library.	Mean	3.54	3.38	3.51
	S.D	1.21	1.39	1.23
The effect of Globalization on education brings rapid developments in technology and communication	Mean	3.64	3.00	3.54
	S.D	1.20	1.29	1.23
Through Globalization a new curriculum would be developed at all levels of education system which eradicates gender discrimination	Mean	3.69	4.00	3.74
	S.D	.94	.58	.90
Through Globalization quality and standard of teaching improves.	Mean	3.72	3.77	3.73
	S.D	1.03	1.24	1.06
Globalization expands educational opportunities to meet social demands.	Mean	3.52	3.46	3.51
	S.D	.96	.88	.94
Through Globalization special measures are taken to universalize education and eradicate illiteracy.	Mean	3.55	3.77	3.59
	S.D	1.08	.60	1.01

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