

## Education And Women's Empowerment

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“Myself will to my darling be  
Both Law and Impulse”<sup>1</sup>

The word education means to bring out what is hidden in a person, his thoughts, emotions, capacity, assertion and qualities of leadership. There is a vast difference between the three ‘R’s, reading, writing and arithmetic and education. Literacy is a tool to make one reach the height from where a man judge what is right or wrong knowledge is something within that surpasseth show’ ; it is that touchstone for which Socrates remarked ‘know thyself’ and Newman declared knowledge is Power’; this is self evident the ultimate aim of knowledge is empowerment.

When god distributed the gift of wisdom among the chosen, he made no distinction between the ale and the female. We are well aware of the intellects and achievements of Gargi, Maitreyi, Lilawati, Joan of Arc, Maria Theresa, Queen Elizabeth, Madam Curie, Laxmibai, Victoria, Bandara Naik, Golda Myer, Indira Gandhi, etc. and the power that they wielded is not unknown. All of them were not only educated, rather they were instrumentl in changing the very concept of Education according to the requirements of Time and Place:

Out of the bourne of Time and Plate  
The blood may take me For<sup>2</sup>

These were the exceptional women ; what is under question, is the lot of ordinary, downtrodden and grassroot level women. Since independence, the larger percentage of women is illiterate ; of course some women have made progress and achieved greatness, but their number is almost negligible.

What remains to be analysed is what type of empowerment is possible by a particular education and how that motive is achieved. The primary literacy has empowered a woman to deal with finance and deposits through her ownself. Now she has an access to the News papers

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and thus she has become capable of analysing the events that are happening around her village, city town district, state and country.

Then there comes the liberal education classified under the head of subjects of study ; this has enabled her to give primary and elementary lessons to her own children. Besides, she has been empowered to inculcate outural values and ethos in her sons and daughters. This tutorial empowerment is capable of making an Indian woman, the philosopher guide and king in her family.

The higher education has its own charm of empowerment for a middle class woman in Indian society ; higher education is aimed at independent thinking and aptitude for research. Both the aspects are essential in order to inculcate the organisational faculty and leadership quality. Women educated in this field have won an overall distinction in all the sphere ; somewhere such women have replaced and superceded the male predecessors also. In order to make a woman stand on her own economic support this higher education is inevitable.

Much attempts have been made n legislative, executive and academic sphere from the government also. A proper representation to women has been assured to women in local self government ; financial aids and privileges provided to women have become the talk of the day. The only discontentment that torments the mind of woman kind is that women Reservation Bill is still pending.

To coclude, it may be asserted that “all is not lost, the unconquereable will, never to submit or yield’. Let us see when the will arrives ? All that is needed is the growth of logical force and outlook:

‘Those who cannot do geometry, need not enter here.’”<sup>3</sup>.

### References

1. *Wordsworth, William : Education of Nature.*
2. *Tennysor, Alfred : Crossing the Bar.*
3. *Engraved on the gate of Plate's Academy.*