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Certificate

This is to certify that Ms./Mr./Dr. Ayesha Siddiqua
from PESITAMS, Shivamogga
has participated / presented a paper titled "Higher Education - A Strategy for Women Empowerment"

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“Higher Education – A Strategy for Women Empowerment”

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Abstract:

Once Brigham Young said, “You educate a Man; you educate a Man. You educate a Woman; you educate a generation.” Men and women are the two sides of a coin. If one side gets erased, the coin will have no value. So if a family or nation does not give proper attention towards the development of women, then it is impossible to achieve the development. Women in higher education have achieved significant progress, resulting in gender equality. Despite of advancing in gender equality to some extent, the efforts of true empowerment are met with resistance. India holds the second highest position in the world for population. Approximately, 49% of population constitutes women but they are an unheard population in case of higher education. It is very necessary for the compatible development of the country that women should go hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder with men. This paper aims at analyzing the relevance of higher education in empowering the women i.e. once they complete their primary and secondary education; attention must be given on increasing the participation of women equally in the field of higher education.

Key Words: Educate, development, gender equality, empowerment, resistance, compatible, participation.

Introduction:

Education is considered as a primary requirement and a fundamental right for the citizens of any nation. It is a vigorous tool for diminishing inequality it can bestow people the ability to become independent. Education is deemed as an important milestone of women empowerment, because it capacitate them to face the challenges, withstand their traditional role and change life accordingly.

Discrimination of women from womb to tomb is a well known fact. There is inequality and vulnerability of women in all sectors and spheres of life. In order to fight against the gender biases constructed by society, women have to go against the

system that requires more spirit. Such strength and spirit comes from empowerment and empowerment will come from education.

In India, women are treated inferior to men. They were stuck on to their traditional role within the four walls of a house, because of the system of rigid customs and traditions. Education was like a mirage for them. From the last few decades importance is given for women. The traditional role of women as home maker has undergone gradual change with primary and higher education. Education has a direct impact on women empowerment as it creates awareness among them about their rights, their capabilities and the choices and the opportunities available to them. After independence, in 1951

literacy levels were extremely low (25% for men and 9% for women). Many literacy campaigns were launched in different parts of India. Complementary to this, media campaigns and parental awareness programmes for generating a positive climate for girls' education were also started. The Government of India has initiated various policies and procedures with the goal of sensitizing the higher education and increasing the number of women enrolling for higher education. As a result, India is witnessing a impressive growth in higher education for women.

Objectives:

1. To know the need of women empowerment
2. To study the impact of education on empowerment of women.
3. To analyse relationship between women empowerment and higher education in Indiaa.
4. To identify the obstacles in the path of women empowerment.

Research methodology:

The present paper entitled as "Higher Education – A Strategy for Women Empowerment" is theoretical in nature. This paper strives to analyse the blockage in lane of women empowerment as well as to analyse the role of higher education for women in India. For the purpose of the present study, data has been collected from secondary sources.

Review of literature:

1. **Rupali Sharma, Zia Afroz(2014), Women Empowerment through**

Higher Education. International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies (IJIMS), India.

The study helps in understanding that there is a great necessary of empowering Indian women through higher education, imparting higher education doesn't mean providing women literacy but also enlightening them to know their rights and duties.

2. **Duflo, E. (2011), Women's Empowerment and Economic Development, National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge.**

The study analyses the interrelationship of the empowerment and the development are probably too feeble to be self-sustaining and to bring equality between men and women, the continuous policy commitment to equality is needed.

3. **Kingdom G.G (2002), Education of Women and socio- economic Development, Reason and Revaluation: Studies in Babi and Baha'i Religions, volume 13, Los Angeles: Kalimat Press.**

This research paper shows the social and economic benefits of female education. Focuses on giving importance on the ways through which women's schooling leads to social gains.

Meaning of Women

Empowerment:

Women empowerment is the process in which women work out and recreate what is to be in a status that they previously were denied. Women Empowerment means accepting and allowing women who are on exterior of the decision-making process into it. Empowerment is the process that creates power in individual over their own lives, society and in their community.

Meaning of Higher Education:

Higher Education also called as post-secondary education or tertiary education. The term 'Higher Education' refers to training highly skilled specialists in various fields like Economics, Science, Technology and Culture. It is the aggregate of systematized knowledge and practical skills that allows theoretical and practical problems to be solved by a given type of training.

Relationship between Higher Education and Women

Empowerment:

No doubt that majority of women in India are denied of education, hence they are suppressed. Higher Education surely raises women's status in the society. On a contrary, women's role is also important in the development of society. Higher Education develops the ability of critical thinking, decision-making,

enhances self-esteem and self confidence among women. Higher Education will definitely bring an enormous change in women's life resulting in social transformation by inculcating the following attributes among them:

- Reducing dependability and increasing self-esteem
- Bring awareness about their rights and enhancing their mobility
- Enhancing self confidence
- Opening career opportunities

Women in Higher Education:

Table 1. Literacy rate in India: 1951 to 2011

Census year	Male	Female	Male-female gap in literacy rate
1951	27.16	8.86	18.30
1961	40.04	15.35	25.05
1971	45.96	21.97	23.08
1981	56.38	29.76	26.62
1991	64.13	39.21	24.84
2001	75.26	53.67	21.59
2011	82.14	65.46	16.68

Table 2. enrolments in Higher Education

Year	Women	Men
1991-92	32.0	68.9
1992-93	32.7	78.1
1993-94	33.2	66.8
1994-95	33.8	66.2
1995-96	34.1	65.9
1996-97	34.1	65.9

It is obvious from the above data that literacy rate and enrolment of women in Higher Education is less as compared to men and it is been increasing in a slower pace.

Challenges of Women Empowerment and in Higher Education:

- There are many obstacles in the path of Women Empowerment and in Higher Education. Few of them are as mentioned:
- Financial problems
- Lack of education
- Responsibilities of family
- Inadequate school facilities
- Gender discrimination
- Negative cultural and societal attitudes
- Resistance of employers
- Lack of security both in and outside the school
- Early marriages
- Unavailability of toilets

Suggestions:

- Cultivation of positive self- image and self – confidence among women.
- Providing women's studies research centres to identify issues areas and organize seminars and workshops to discuss and analyze women – related issues and disseminate information and encourage interaction with students and the general public through media and create awareness about the need for higher education among women.
- Developing a more relevant and responsive curriculum catering to the

cultural and occupational needs of women.

- Meeting the expenses of higher education for the rural, backward sections with incentives like scholarships and establishing educational institutions in remote and rural areas
- To remove gender barriers and imparting of gender – fair higher education.
- Child marriage, which is still prevalent in our society, must be stopped. This is because an early age at marriage of women curtails the access education.
- Designing of education policies and imparting skill oriented education. Meanwhile facilitating by counselling to know the importance of higher education.
- Arrangement of bank loan with less or no interest for higher education.

Conclusion:

On the basis of above data, it could be concluded that, the evils of poverty, unemployment and inequality cannot be eradicated by men alone as women constitutes almost one half of India's population, without their involvement, economic progress is out of question. Equal and active participation of women is obligatory. Unless the women are educated they will not be able to understand about their rights and their importance. There is no doubt that higher education is the ultimate solution and

milestone for empowering women. Higher education of women plays a crucial role in enabling them to meet the complex challenges of modern world. Through higher education women can find their identity with

all creative skills which are necessary. Various government schemes for the development of women should be implemented nationwide to bring the desired changes.

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