

CHALLENGES FACED BY FEMALE RESEARCHERS IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA – A CASE STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

For the development of any country education is very crucial. Education, in general, and higher education, in particular, plays a key role in the realization of India's extraordinary potential and aspirations for economic and technological development. The main focus of this study is to identify the challenges faced by female researchers in higher educational institutions. Introduction Higher education means the education beyond the level of secondary education. It is often assumed that education imparted by the colleges or universities are higher education. But in fact higher educational institutions include Professional Schools in the field of Management, Law, Theology, Medicine, Business, Music and Art. Higher educated women plays a significant role in building the nation, human capital and the overall socio-cultural, economic development of a country to make it sustainable. It helps in the understanding of societal norms; gives individuals self reliance, and discourages discrimination based on gender, beliefs, religion and social class. Female empowerment can be strengthen through higher education. Higher education assists females in two ways. It empowers qualified women to become leaders in society and it permits them to become role models for younger girls. Educated women have a greater sense of control over their lives and more power and control over resources within the family as compared to uneducated women. They get social recognition, which helps them to get insight of and have an awareness of what is undesirable and unfavorable about their current situation. At present, female students and teachers have to face many problems that hamper their potential and adversely affect their personal and professional development. The current study highlights the challenges faced by women in higher education. It also suggests how to minimize and overcome from these problems. The study emphasizes the importance of female education, and a reassessment of the socio-cultural direction of the country to improve female empowerment. The main aim of the study is to determine the challenges faced by female researchers.

AIMS AND/OR OBJECTIVES

To study need and importance of female higher education; to identify main factors inducing women in finishing higher education; to examine the behavior of researchers that how they tackle with the problem; to analyse educational development programme of women through Government initiatives and schemes; to study the impact of challenges on the academic & personal front and to provide suggestions how to minimize and overcome from the problems.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The function of women education is to widen the horizon of our experience, as our direct contact with reality is always limited. Concepts pertaining to the value and necessity of women education from the point of view of the individual as well as a society have varied from society to society in different stages of their evolution. Education is considered as a value in itself because it leads to the development of the overall personality of the individual. The women education in India is that of a potential medium for attaining Mukti (salvation) from the trials and tribulations of life. The function of women education is to widen the horizon of our experience, as our direct contact with reality is always limited. If women education in India expands the mental horizon, it is obvious that the higher the level of education, the wider is the horizon it opens to us. Conscious of this innate value of women education, society has always granted high status to the educated. Another category comprises those who emphasize the utilitarian aspect of women education to society at large for fulfilling economic, political and cultural functions necessary for socio-economic activity. This category sees women education in the service of economic development and social change, thereby eliminating inequalities and ensuring social justice.

However, although learning has always been honoured in India, as evidenced from the respect accorded to the Brahmins because of their knowledge of philosophy and literature, there was inadequate motivation to learn to read and write on account of lack of reward for such learning either in social (which was regulated by the rule of caste hierarchy) or in enhancing the earning capacity of the individual, as jobs beyond the caste profession could not be accessed. The history of the women's liberation movement all over the world shows that, right from the beginning, the importance of women's education was recognized as the most potent agent for improving their status in society. As stated elsewhere, during the 19th century, various social reformers and liberals took up the cause of women's education. However, the idea of motivating these reformers to break away from the then prevalent tradition was evidently the development of the personality of women in India. There was no idea of mobilizing the women's force in the wider social context. The women education in India is one of the biggest potential processes of modernization for generating new forces to bring about fundamental changes in the standard of values and norms of behavior. Besides ensuring development of the personality of the individual, women education provides opportunities for acquiring economic independence. Further, women education provided for upward mobility in modern society, raising the status of an individual in the family and in society at large.

RESEARCH QUESTION OR HYPOTHESES

The following are the provisionally formulated hypothesis-

- a) Educational institutions are very supportive they are not doing gender bias.
- b) Female researchers are not hardworking they are busy in household chores.
- c) Female researchers are from renowned families are facing less challenges in compare to the females who are from uneducated families.
- d) Female who are from strong financial background they are facing less challenges in compare to poor background.
- e) Female who are coming from other states for education they are facing more challenges in compare to the same state.
- f) Female who are from urban areas are facing less challenges in compare to the rural areas women.
- g) Female who have good command in English language they are facing less challenges in compare to the other language knowing women.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

While studying on “CHALLENGES FACED BY FEMALE RESEARCHERS IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA – A CASE STUDY” some such previous works on women education have been reviewed by the investigator. Some of such related review of literature is described below.

- a) **Al-ameen, Medical College, Bijapur, India studied (2014)** about the “Problems faced by Women in the Educational Institutions of Bijapur”. The main findings of the study are- Majority of the respondents lie in the 26-40 age group having an experience of more than 10 years. Most of the respondents served in the private institutions. A majority of the respondents, 62% precisely, believed that they faced problems to some extent, while 25% claimed they face a lot of problems. Another positive aspect of the findings was that 77% of times women opted for this profession based on their interest and only 23% respondents were in this profession for financial reasons. 6. 70% of the respondents were married out of which 67% claimed that unmarried women face lesser problems than married women. A very optimistic finding of this research is that 88% of the respondents find the education institutions in Bijapur good for them. 16.76% of the respondents face time management problems.
- b) In the study of **S M Anushree, B manjunatha (2016) “The Role of Higher Education empowering Indian women”**. It is found that formulating and implementing stringent and powerful laws and policies have addressed the malice of gender discrimination of Higher Education. Most Indian women, with the possibility of economic independence, through respectable employment, have becomes an important earning member of the family. An educated woman has the skills, the self-confidence and the power to be a better citizen. Women have all the power and capacity as that of men and they are manifesting themselves amongst different opportunities provided through higher education. Power and capacity as that of men and they are manifesting themselves amongst different opportunities provided through higher education.
- c) **Rajeshwari M Shettar, (2015)** made a study on “A study an issues & challenges of Women Empowerment in India”. The objectives of the study, upon which this paper is based, were the need of Women Empowerment, to analyze the Factors influencing the Economic Empowerment of Women, to identify the Hindrances in the Path of Women Empowerment. And the findings are Globalization, Liberalization and other Socio - Economic forces have given some respite to a large proportion of the population. However, there are still quite a few areas where women empowerment in India is largely lacking. There needs to be a see – change in the mind set of the people in the country. Not just the women themselves, but the men have to wake up to wake up to a world that is moving towards equality and equity. There are several Government programmes and NGOs in the Country, there is still a wide gap that exists between those under protection and those not. Empowerment of Women could only be achieved if their economic and social status is improved. This could be possible only by adopting definite social and economic

policies with a view of total development of women and to make them realize that they have the potential to be strong human beings. In order to create a sustainable world, we must begin to Empower Women.

- d) **Nandita Singh, (2008)** has worked on “Higher Education for Women in India – Choices and challenges” from her research work she found that gender disparity in education evident across the socio-economic spectrum in India. There is a need to develop gender –specific pedagogy and provide flexibility in the system of education, in which women could fulfill their aspirations, overcoming their domestic obligations. Higher education should prepare them to face a world of opportunities and challenges.
- e) **D. K. Parmar & Modi, (2016)** have analysed in the article “Women in Higher & Technical Education in India” The following findings were found from their research work, Announce &declare attractive scholarships and financial help for both financially poor girls and meritorious scholars to encourage women students in higher &Technical education, make arrangement for appropriate counseling for both family and person concerned at the secondary stage of education for women, create skill-oriented higher education for women in India and in rural area, education policy has design in such a way so that women participation in higher education accelerated, establish more female educational organizations and institutions and Universities in remote, rural and tribal area.
- f) **Nisha Nair,(2010)** studied on “Women’s Education in India : A situational analysis” highlights the overview the state of education with respect to women and the issues and barriers to women education.
- g) **Subha. I and Reddy MSN, (2001)** finds “Education for quality and empowerment of women.” The investigators investigates that education is an effective means to achieve social and economic development.
- h) **Ranganath. N., Santosh Rao, K Atchyuta & Srinivas N,(2011)**made a study on “Gender Equality in Education”. It is found that educational inequality is a major infringement of the rights of women and girls and an important barrier to social and economic development. To promote gender equality and parity in education, States must target their efforts not only towards education itself, but also towards society’s cultural and institutional framework.
- i) Education in India found that Education will be used as an agent of basic change in the status of women. The concept of equality, opportunity and education touches every aspect of women’s lives social, political and economic.
- j) **Dhamija. Neelam, (2006)** has studied on “Women Empowerment through Education: Role of Universities.”From the study it was revealed that educating women benefits the whole society and on the basis of this education they enjoy their status in our 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 improving child health and reducing infant mortality.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The present research work a comprehensive questionnaire will be framed out for which available literature in this area will studied and a pilot questionnaire will draft which will filled up by female researchers followed by detail discussion with them. The questionnaire will divide into two parts. Through Part- I personal information of the respondents, such as age, academic qualification, course, family background etc. will collect. Part – II will bring the very heart of the questionnaire in which all other aspects will discuss. It will try to know whether they are suffered any time with this situation. It will also enquired about the time taken in filling complaint, taking action or about the behaviour of the institution.

Other places of information and statistical data required for the research will take from different publications, various books, Journals and newspaper, besides Government publications will also include. Moreover, the informal meetings will be held with different persons & NGO’s will to research the inner status of the study.

The following methodology is used in the study:-

- Area of the study
The area of the study refers to Academic Institutions
- Sources of data
 - a. Primary data
 - b. Secondary data

RELEVANCE, ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES AND PROPOSED OUTPUTS FROM THE RESEARCH

Women are the ground on which the success of any nation depends. They are the source who always helps for growth and expansion. The present research work is a modest attempt to critically review the environment of academic institution inside the campus. It is hoped that the study will facilitate the academic institutions to understand the problems or challenges faced by female researchers & pave the way to effect necessary improvements in this regard. Females feel comfortable, safe and satisfied when I will talk to her because I am a female and an academician too. From institutions point of view, they make committees, publish complaint procedures and express prohibition of sexual harassment should be notified & circulated. Institutions may know the factors that are responsible for less foot fall of female researchers, they will start training programme for the safety of women and the last but not least important significance is that the institution will make healthy environment inside the campus.

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