

## **ROLE OF EDUCATION FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN KASHMIR**

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**ABSTRACT:** *The main purpose of the study was to assess the Role of Education for Empowerment of Women in Kashmir. Sixty women have been selected randomly from all the 10 districts of Kashmir valley. A self-constructed questionnaire was employed to get the relevant data. It was found that 1) 100% women feel that education has a very great role. 2) 100% women are of the opinion that education is very necessary for both boys and girls. 3) 100% women are of the opinion that education makes women powerful and independent. 4) Only 63.33% women know about women empowerment. 5) The study reveals that 100% women feel that education plays a great role in empowering women. 6) Only 90% women know about their rights. 7) 96.66% women feel that education plays a role to securing women rights. 8) 100% women believe that an educated women is empowered. 9) 73% women feel that educated women manage her family well than uneducated. 10) 93% women feel that uneducated women cannot guide her family properly. 11) 100% women are of the opinion that educated women have high status in the society. 12) Only 40% women are of the opinion that educated women are satisfied with their rights. 13) 100% women give message spread education to everyone.*

**KEYWORDS:** Role of Education, Empowerment Women and Kashmir

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Empowerment of women, also called gender empowerment, has become a significant topic of discussion in regard to development and economy. Entire nations, business, communities and groups can benefit from the implementation of programs and policies that adopt the notion of women empowerment. Empowerment is one of the main procedural concerns when addressing human rights and development and capabilities Approach. The millennium Development Goals and other credible approaches/goals point to empowerment and participation as a necessary step if a country is to overcome the obstacles associated with poverty and development. One way to deploy the empowerment of women is through land rights. Land rights offer a key way to economically empower women, giving them the confidence they need to tackle gender inequalities. Having a right to their land gives women a sort of bargaining power that they wouldn't normally have, in turn; they gain the ability to assert themselves in various aspects of their life, both inside and outside the home. Another way to provide women empowerment is to allocate responsibilities to them that normally belong to men. When women have economic empowerment, it is a way for others to see them as equal members of society. Through this, they achieve more self-respect and confidence by their contributions their, they communities. Simply including women as a part of a community can have sweeping positive effects. In a study conducted by Bina Agarwal, women were given a place in a forest conservation group. Not only did this drive up the efficiency of the group, but the women gained incredible self-esteem while others including men, viewed them with more respect participation, which can be seen and gained in variety

of ways, has been argued to be the most beneficial form of gender empowerment. Political participation, be it the ability to vote and opinion, or the ability to run for office with a fair chance of being elected, plays a huge role in the empowerment of peoples. However is not limited to the realm of politics. It can include participation. When women have the agency to do what she wants, a higher equality between men and women is established. It is argued that microcredit also offers a way to provide empowerment for women. Government organizations and individuals have caught hold of the lure of microfinance. They hope the lending money and credit allows women to function in business and society, which in turn empowers them to do more in their communities. One of the primary goals in the foundation of microfinance was women empowerment. Loans with low interest rates are given to women in developing communities in hopes that they can start a small business and provide for her family. It should be said, however, that the success and efficiency of microcredit and microloans is controversial and debated.

Women play a crucial role in the fight against extreme poverty and hunger. Girls and women lag far behind boys and men in progress towards achieving universal basic education. No progress at all can be made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other endemic diseases, unless women are included and without the participation of women, it will be impossible to ensure environmental sustainability. Women normally have to work harder than men, especially in the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. They maintain traditional vegetable gardens raise domestic animals, and do the farming. They are responsible for child rearing, feeding their families, doing the domestic chores, collecting the fire wood and fetching water. They supervise the education of their children and nurse them back to health when they get sick. They guarantee domestic stability taking on any work they can get to secure the family income, more often than not in the formal sector and without the benefit of social security. They do sewing, cooking, hairdressing, or house cleaning, produce market processed agricultural products and handicrafts. More and more they are finding work in clerical and sectarian occupations or in the sector.

Various studies have been carried out from time to time women in panchayat Raj: grass root democracy in India, experiences from Malgudi, Purnimass and Vinod Vyasulu (1999), women's political participation issues and challenges, (2005) Farzana Bari, Baseline report-women and political participation in India (Shanta Mohan *et,al*) Ruma Banerjee's study, women Panchayat Raj: a study in West Bengal (1995). The anatomy of Gram Panchayat's: a study of Dharwal district (2000) Jayasimha K. *et,al* though they continue to be inspirational landmarks, U. P. and Bihar still classify as virgin territory to the best of my knowledge not many meaningful ventures along similar lines have been carried out in these states and considering the pathetically glaring gender divide coupled with innumerable gross instances of women rights violation of all kinds and intensities in these states, the need for the present study becomes even more marked.

The level of education achieved by women is also strongly associated with both lower infant mortality and lower fertility. In, a poorer country where access to health care is often limited, each additional year of schooling is associated with a 5-10 % decline in child mortality. And the impact of women's educational attainment on family size is second only to that of access to family planning services. In combination, high levels of education and access to family planning services translate into both lower infant mortality and lower fertility.

Gender discrimination often begins long before a girl enters a school. Deep-rooted traditions of son preference can result in both passive and active neglect. A girl may be given less food than her brothers, be less likely to see a doctor when ill or may be prevented from attending school in order to help with household chores and child care. Access to new technologies is compounding the problem of some preference in some countries, where sex-selective abortion is a growing problem.

Women had played a great role in the development of the state J & K. But unfortunately the status of women has degraded. The entire erina of the Educational spectrum are of the opinion that education has great role to play for the empowerment of women. For this state very few studies have been conducted so for where role of education has been highlighted. Therefore to fill this gap the investigator has taken up this study.

## **OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS**

### **Education:**

Education is helping the growing soul to draw out that is in itself which is best and making it perfect for a noble use.

Education means an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man body, mind and spirit". M. K. Gandhi

### **Women**

An adult human female grows into women.

### **Kashmir**

Kashmir is a region in the northern India. The valley of Kashmir is known all over the world for its beauty and charm. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has rightly said that, "if there is paradise on earth it is this, it is this, it is this".

## **SAMPLE**

Sixty women have been selected randomly from all the 10 districts of Kashmir valley. A self-constructed questionnaire was employed to get the relevant data.

### **Tool**

A self-constructed Questionnaire was employed.

### **Description of the Tool**

The self-constructed Questionnaire consists of 14 questions.

**Table I: Table showing the extent of respondents feeling that education can change the society.****Literate= 15, Illiterate= 15**

<b>Category of Respondent</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Can't say</b>
Literate	15 100%	-	-
Illiterate	15 100%	-	-
Total	100%		

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding the role of education for social change. The table also reflects that 100% of literate women feel that education has a role to play. The table also reflects that 100% of illiterate women feel the same. The above table also shows the 100% of women feel that education can change the society.

**Table II: Table showing the extent of respondents feeling that education is necessary for a person**

<b>Category of Respondent</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Can't say</b>
Literate	15 100%	-	-
Illiterate	15 100%	-	-
Total	100%		

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding the importance of education in a person's life. The table also reflects that 100% of literate women feel that education is very important for a person. The table also reflects that 100% of illiterate women feel the same. The above table shows that in total 100% women are of the opinion that education is necessary for both boys and girls.

**Table III: Table showing the extent of respondents feeling that education is necessary for a girl**

Category of Respondent	Yes	No	Can't say
Literate	15 100%	-	-
Illiterate	15 100%	-	-
Total	100%		

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding is education necessary for girls. The table also reflects that 100% of literate women feel that education is necessary for girl because education of a girl means education of the whole nation. The table also reflects that 100% of illiterate women feel the same. The above table shows that in total 100% women are of the opinion that education is necessary for a girl.

**Table IV: Table showing the extent of respondents feeling that education give her power to know their rights.**

Category of Respondent	Yes	No	Can't say
Literate	15 100%	-	-
Illiterate	15 100%	-	-
Total	100%		

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding why education is necessary for girls. The table reveals that 100% of literate women feel that education give her power and make her independent and strong. The table also reflects that 100% of illiterate women feel the same. The above table shows that in total 100% women are of the opinion that education makes a women powerful and independent.

**Table V: Table showing the extent of respondents knows about women empowerment.**

Category of Respondent	Yes	No	Can't say
Literate	15 100%	-	-
Illiterate	04 26.66%	-	73.33%
Total	63.33%		

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding empowerment of women. The table reveals that 100% of literate women know about women empowerment. The table also reflects that 26.66% of illiterate women know about women empowerment. The above table shows that in total 63.33% women know about women empowerment.

**Table VI: Table showing the extent of respondents feeling that education plays a great role in empowering women.**

Category of Respondent	Yes	No	Can't say
Literate	15 100%	-	-
Illiterate	15 100%	-	-
Total	100%		

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding role of education in women empowerment. The table reveals that 100% of literate women know about role of education in empowering women. The table also reflects that 100% illiterate women knows the same. The above table shows that in total 100% women know that education play a great role in empowering women.

**Table VII: Table showing the extent of respondents know what are the rights of women**

Category of Respondent	Yes	No	Can't say
Literate	15 100%	-	-
Illiterate	12 80%	3 20%	-
Total	90%		

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding rights of women. The table reveals that 100% literate women know what the rights of women are. The table also reflects that 80% illiterate women know the right of women while as 20% did not know. The above table shows that in total 90% women knows about the right of women.

**Table VIII: Table showing the extent of respondents feeling that education is very helpful in securing women rights**

Category of Respondent	Yes	No	Can't say
Literate	15 100%	-	-
Illiterate	14 99.33%	-	1 6.66%
Total	96.66%		

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding is education helpful in securing women rights. The table reveals that 100% of literate women say yes and also 99.33% of illiterate women are in favor and 6.66% of illiterate women cannot say anything. The above table shows that in total 96.66% women feel that education is very helpful in securing women's rights.

**Table IX: Table showing the extent of respondents feel that there is difference between educated and uneducated**

<b>Opinion</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>
Both look different	6 23.33%
Literate women has the ability to understand everything easily	2 6.66%
Educated women differentiated between good and bad	3 10%
Educated women can solve every problem	1 3.33%
Educated women manage every situation nicely	2 6.66%
Educated women is intelligent than uneducated women	2 6.66%
Uneducated women faces difficulties in every field	1 3.33%
Educated women is broad minded	1 3.33%
Educated women knows her rights	3 10%
Educated women is empowered	1 3.33%
Educated women is free than uneducated women	1 3.33%
Educated women has developed mental horizon	1 3.33%
Uneducated are not civilized	1 3.33%
Educated women knows basic values	1 3.33%
Uneducated women is narrow minded	1 3.33%
Both are different in their thinking way and behaviour	1 3.33%
Educated women educate whole society	1 3.33%

Percentage is given in parenthesis. The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding difference between educated and uneducated women. The table reveals that 100% of literate as well as illiterate women are of the same opinion that there is difference between them. The above table shows that in total 100% women are of the opinion that an educated women is empowered.



**Table X: Table showing the extent of respondents feel that uneducated women can change her family and some respondents feel that uneducated women cannot.**

Category of Respondent	Yes	No	Can't say
Literate	15 100%	-	-
Illiterate	7 46.66%	8 53.33%	-
Total	73%		

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding does educated women manage her family well than uneducated women. The table reveals that 100% of literate women say educated women say that educated women manage her family well. The above table also reveals that 46.66% of illiterate women say yes and 53.33% say no. The above table shows that in total 73% women feel that an educated women manages her family well than uneducated women.

**Table XI: Table showing the extent of respondents feel that uneducated women cannot guide her family properly**

Category of Respondent	Yes	No	Can't say
Literate	15 100%	-	-
Illiterate	13 86.66%	2 13.33%	-
Total	93%		

The above table shows the opinion of respondents cannot an uneducated women guide her family properly. The table reveals that 100% of literate women say uneducated women cannot guide her family properly and 86.66% of illiterate women feel the same. The above table also reveals that 13.33% say no. The above table shows that in total 93% women feel that an uneducated women cannot guide her family properly.

**Table XII: Table showing the extent of respondents feel that there is high status of educated women in the society.**

Opinion	No. of Respondents
Educated women have very high status in the society	27 90%
It depends on what type of society she lives in	1 3.33%
Education hardly determines her status	1 3.33%
In Kashmir girls exploited	1 3.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding status of educated women. The table reveals that 90% of literate as well as illiterate women are of the opinion that educated women have high status in the society but 9.99% of literate as well as illiterate have different opinion. The table shows that in total 100% women are of the opinion that educated women have high status in the society.

**Table XII: Table showing the extent of respondents feel that some women are satisfied with their right and some not**

Category of Respondent	Yes	No	Can't say
Literate	08 53.33%	5 33.33%	-
Illiterate	04 26.66%	5 33.33%	4 26.66%
Total	40%		

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding is women satisfied with her rights as given by the society. The table reveals that 53.33% of literate women say yes and 33.33% say no. The above table also reveals that 13.33% say no. The above table also reveals that 26.66% of illiterate women say yes and 33.33 % say no. Then table also shows that 26.66% of illiterate women did not know. The above table shows that in total 40% women satisfy with her rights.

**Table XIII: Table showing the extent of respondents feel that education is must**

<b>Opinions</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>
We should give education to women	85 26.66%
Women should be fully respected	4 13.33%
We must guide our girls properly	1 3.33%
Spread education	13 43.33%
Provide all rights to a women	4 13.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Percentage is given in parenthesis

The above table shows the opinion of respondents regarding education. The table reveals that 26.66% give message to the society that provide education to girls 13.33% give message that women should be respected, 3.33% give message that we must guide our girls properly. 43.44% of women literate as well as illiterate women are of the opinion to spread education. The table also reveals that 13.33% of literate as well as illiterate women's is to provide all rights to her. The above table shows that in total 100% women give message to the society that provides education to girls.

## MAJOR FINDINGS

1. 100% women feel that education has a very great role.
2. 100% women are of the opinion that education is very necessary for both boys and girls.
3. 100% women are of the opinion that education makes women powerful and independent.
4. Only 63.33% women know about women empowerment.
5. The study reveals that 100% women feel that education plays a great role in empowering a women.
6. Only 90% women know about their rights.
7. 96.66% women feel that education plays a role to securing women rights.
8. 100% women believe that an educated women is empowered.
9. 73% women feel that educated women manage her family well than uneducated.
10. 93% women feel that uneducated women cannot guide her family properly.
11. 100% women are of the opinion that educated women have high status in the society.
12. Only 40% women are of the opinion that educated women are satisfied with their rights.
13. 100% women give message spread education to everyone.

## SUGGESTIONS

The further study may be conducted in the following areas:

1. Role of education for women's rights.
2. Empowerment of women in rural and urban areas.

3. Role of education for removing disparity.
4. Social justice and role of education.
5. Access to education for women.

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