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# EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE

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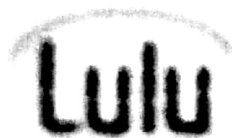


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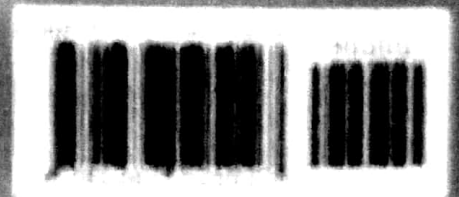
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# PERSPECTIVES AND IDEAS OF WOMAN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION "AS A BOON TO WOMAN"

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## Abstract

"If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered".

**P.T. Jawaharlal Nehru.**

Empowering the women, higher education will play a vital role. Higher education can open up better paying jobs for women in a country like India. The longer the girl is able to stay in the field of higher education, the greater her chances to pursue worthwhile employment. Higher educated girls can play proactive roles for women empowerment which is the challenge for 21<sup>st</sup> century. An important means of women's empowerment is economic independence through information, knowledge and necessary skills. Educated women not only tend to promote education, care and know how to seek it for themselves and their children. Indian women generally faced all types of barriers to success like illiteracy, domestic violence, lack of motivation and support and many more. India is a country where male dominance in the society prevails. This paper refers about the empowerment and education concept with need, strategies, importance and suggestions for betterment to future. It is very essential for the harmonious development of the country that women should go hand by hand and shoulder to shoulder with men.

## Introduction

Women education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources, but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. India is poised to emerge as one of the most developed nations by 2020, more literate, knowledgeable and economically at the forefront. No doubt, women will play a vital role in contributing to the country's development. Women power is crucial to the economic growth of any country. Higher Education enables Women to fix themselves up in the society into which they have found themselves. It equips individuals with the ability that will enable them to explore the world, manipulate it for their survival and establish themselves. Potentials deposited in individuals are exposed through Higher education so that individuals can acquire training and knowledge in a profession and higher education enables women to cultivate confidence, good habits and develop the right attitude to work and life as good citizens.

## Higher Education

Higher Education is the aggregate of systematized knowledge and practical skills that allow theoretical and practical problems to be solved by a given type of training, utilizing and creatively developing the modern achievements of science, technology, and culture. The term "higher education" is also applied to the training of highly skilled specialists in the fields of economics, science, technology, and culture at various types of higher schools, which accept persons who have successfully completed secondary general-education schools or secondary specialized-education institutions.

## Meaning of Empowerment

Education is an art of imparting knowledge to others for the betterment of their life and preparing them for achieving their aim, as a profession. Whereas the term "higher education" means training of highly skilled specialists in the fields of economics, science, technology, and culture at various types of higher schools, which accept persons who have successfully completed secondary general-education schools or secondary specialised education institutions.

- ❖ The Oxford American Dictionary defines "empowerment" as "to make (someone) stronger and more confident, esp. in controlling their life and claiming their rights."
- ❖ According to Pillai (1995), "empowerment is an active, multi-dimensional process which enables women to realize their full identity and powers in all spheres of life. Power is not a commodity to be transacted; nor can it be given away as aims".
- ❖ According to UNESCO, women empowerment means the following:
  - Having decision-making power of their own