

Women Improvement through Distance Education in India with Special Reference to YCMOU

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Abstract

Empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing individual to think, take action and control work in an autonomous way. It is the process by which one can gain control over One's destiny and the circumstances of One's lives. Empowerment includes control over resources such as physical, human, intellectual and financial and over ideology like beliefs, values and attitudes. Women's Empowerment very essential for the development of society. The greatest signal factor which can incredibly improve the status of women in any society is education. Education of women is the most powerful tool of change of position in society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and function as means of improving their status within the family presently there are 40 lakh students enrolled in open and distance learning system share of distance education in GER is 23%. Education is the most critical element in empowering women with skill and knowledge and giving them access to productive employment in future .

The current paper tries to study women empowerment through distance education in india with special reference to YCMOU.

KEYWORDS - Women empowerment, education, distance education yashwantrao chavan Maharashtra open university .

Introduction

Empowerment can be viewed as means of creating a social environment in which one can Make decision and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation. It strengthens the innate ability by way of acquiring knowledge, power and experience. Empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing individual to think take action and control work in an autonomous way it is the process by which one can gain control over one's destiny and the circumstances of one's lives empowerment includes control over resources such as physical, human intellectual and financial and over ideology like beliefs values and attitudes. According to dr rajeshwari M. Shatter empowerment of women is essential ly the process of upliftment of economic social and political status of women the traditionally underprivileged ones in the society it is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence women empowerment involves the building up of society a political environment wherein women can breathe without the fear of oppression exploitation apprehension discrimination and the general feeling of persecution which goes with being a women in a traditionally male dominated structure according to above analysis this paper attempts to analyze the status of women empowerment through distance education in India .

YCMOU is an open university open to the people who want to produce structure education lack a formal academic profile, established in July 1989 YCMOU is the fifth open university in the country and was established with its territorial jurisdiction being the state of Maharashtra which was subsequently extended for global outreach

with about 50 lakhs students on roll and over 250 programmes on offer with an annual enrolment of 7 lakhs it is a mega university working towards its vision of being a mass university and is the first state university to achieve this distinction In the 7 lakhs the percentage of women enrolment is 40%

Women's empowerment –

Women's empowerment is very essential for the development of society empowerment means individuals acquiring the power to think and act freely exercises choice and fulfil their potential as full and equal members of society as per the United National Development Fund for women (UNIFEM), THE TERM Women's empowerment means:

- Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relations and the ways in which these relations may be changed.
- Developing a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life.
- Gaining the ability to generate choices bargaining power.
- Developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order nationally and internationally. Thus empowerment means a psychological sense of personal control or influence and a

Concern with actual social influence political power and legal rights. It is a multi level construct referring to individuals, organizations and community it is an international ongoing process centred in the local community involving mutual respect critical reflection caring and group participation through which people lacking an equal share of conference 1995 qualitative indicators of women empowerment stated as follows –

Increase in self – esteem individual and collective confidence ;

Increase in articulation knowledge and awareness on health nutrition reproductive rights law and literacy;

- Increase a decrease in personal leisure and time for child care;
- Increase on decrease of workloads in new programmes ;
- Change in roles and responsibility in family & community;
- Visible increase on decrease in violence on women and girls;
- Responses to, changes in social customs like child marriage, dowry, discrimination against widows;
- Visible changes in women's participation level attending meeting participating and demanding participation;
- Increase in bargaining and negotiating power at home on community and the collective ;
- Increase access to and ability to gather information ;
- Formation of women collectives;
- Positive changes on social attitudes;
- Awareness and recognition of women's economic contribution within and outside the household';
- A women's decision – making over her work and income.

Empowerment and distance education –

According to M. G. Kallave , higher education is a potent tool in the emancipation and empowerment of women. The greatest single factor which can incredibly improve

the status of women in any society is education it is indispensable that education enables women not only to gain more knowledge about the world outside of her health and home but helps her to get status, positive self esteem and self confidence necessary courage and inner strength to face challenges in life apparently it is also facilitate them to procure a job and supplement the income of family and achieves social status education especially of women has a major impact on health and nutrition as an instrumental a developing a sustainable strategy for population control moreover educated women can play an equally important role as men in nation building thus there is no denying fact that education empowers women indeed the different organs of the united nations and experts on women's liberations argue for women's education as the basic step to attain equality with men.

Education as means of empowerment of women can bring about a positive attitudinal change it is therefore crucial for the socio-economic and political progress of India the constitution of India empowers the state to adopt affirmative measures for prompting ways and means to empower women education significantly makes difference in the lives of women the situation faced by women in India is one of the bleakest in the world of all the discrimination and denial of opportunity that these women suffer the most damaging is the denial of the right and opportunity to education widespread poverty and discriminatory cultural practices are frequently cited as prime reasons for the persistence of their gap in education if poverty is the chief culprit how do we explain the achievement of countries like Kenya Vietnam and Tajekisthan, which have a lower per capita income than India but score much better, with literacy rates of 78 percent, 94 percent and 100 percent compared to 52 percent for India (1995).

The corresponding literacy rates for these countries are: Kenya 70 percent, Vietnam 91 percent, Tajekisthan 100 percent and India 38 percent. The word empowerment in the context of women in the Indian policy was used in 1986- Educational Policy which is known as the "NPE 1986" and the title of the chapter is Education for Women's Equality and Empowerment". It has actually two aspects — empowerment first means self empowerment that is women being able to help themselves through whatever is imparted to them and use them to get strength for themselves. It may be education, health or so on and the second is that they should be able to help others to become empowered. Education is important because literacy has become a tool of evaluating a person- whether one can read or write. Illiteracy has become a very pejorative word in our society. Today we find that literacy itself gives you status. If one can read or write is educated he/she may get access to so much of information. Information about what you can access for others and for yourself, whether it is educational facilities, health, employment opportunity, legal literacy and so forth. These are very extrinsic reasons, but intrinsically education is important for individual development and confidence.

Distance education system is a crucial vehicle in the sustained development of a knowledge society. Its potential for flexible education delivery, Scope for self and life-long learning and cost effectiveness makes it instrumental in meeting the needs of individual and communities at this juncture-in the rapid transition being made from the industrial to the information age.

Distance Education plays an important role in the progress and development of any nation by integrating and strengthening and social, economic and political systems. The easy access and technologically advanced new ways of acquiring knowledge has changed the role of teachers and students. The quality and sustainability of Distance education is bases on futuristic and job oriented course

structure. The improve the employability of the graduates'; introduction of soft skills, professional skills, critical thinking, and industry internship should be included in the course.

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YCMOU have helped to reach out to such students who would otherwise have remained outside the pale of higher education. The effectiveness of Distance Education is now well acknowledged. "various studies have shown that well designed and well managed Distance Education programmes produces learning outcome equal to those of conventional face to face instructions.

YCMOU Features:

- + Emphasis on imparting vocational and technical skills.
- use of Latest information and Communication Technologies.
- Relaxed entry rules. flexibility in course combinations and credit transfer facilities.
- Extensive network of study centres.
- Scientific system of student evaluation.
- Special attention to Quality.
- Thrust on empirical Research.
- Recognition of our degrees and diplomas by other universities and professional bodies.
- Global outreach.

PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT OF YCMOU

Particular	Year 1989 -1990	Year 2015 - 2016
Programmers	03	197
Enrolment	3750	6,80,331
Study canters	15	4,723
Virtual Learning Canters	-	47
Regional Canters	-	8
Books	44	2105
Audios , videos	-	Over 300 each

Gender Wise Enrolment In YCMOU For This Year OF 2015-2016

Sr. No	Male	Female	Total
1	4,35,780	2,44,551	6,80,331

Table show the Gender wise enrolment of students in YCMOU. Total 2,44,551 female getting educations thought distance mode & female percentage is 36%. In the 22nd convocation 'ceremony total degree awarded by YCMOU 1,43,459 .From this total awarded there were 53,901 degree awarded to woman.

Conclusion - From the above analysis it is concluded that empowerment first means self Empowerment that is women being able to help themselves through whatever is imparted to them and use them to get strength for them. It may be education. Health or so and the second is that they should be able to help others to become empowered. in ether word “Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power.” Distance Education of women is the most powerful tool of change of position in society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family.

In the view of this. it is heartening to note the YCMOU is evolving as a quality mass University with a keen focus and commitment en including to pay special attention to the educational needs of the is advantaged sections of society. people in rural area and women.

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