

A comparative study of under graduate girls on role of education on political empowerment of women

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the role of education on political empowerment of women. Here, the data sheet of 585 girls students of various college was taken as a sample. From these there were 200 girls students of home science, 200 girls students of arts and 185 girls students of commerce. The information was collected by questionnaire method. Statistical analysis was done using mean, standard deviation, standard error and significant test, calculation was done using both level of F-test. Result for home science respondents, arts respondents and commerce respondents were almost same.

KEY WORDS : Political empowerment, Women, Role of education

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INTRODUCTION

The political empowerment of women is one of the most important aspects in the overall empowerment of women for it gives women the capacity to influence the decision-making process (Antrobus, 1989; Araki, 1991). The political empowerment of women in India has made considerable strides with only 4.4 per cent women being represented in the first Parliament of 1952-57 to 7.4 per cent in the election of 1996. Women's representation in the Rajya-Sabha has however, shown greater improvement, having increased from 7.7 per cent in 1952 to 15.5 per cent in 1991. Besides the 33 per cent reservation of seats for women in the Panchayati Raj institutions is certainly a revolutionary step towards empowerment of rural women. The seventy-third and seventy-fourth Constitutional Amendments paved the way for the emergence of about one million women as leaders and decision-makers in the rural and urban elected bodies. Of these, 75000 will be chairpersons in rural areas. This will really empower women politically at the grass-roots level in a revolutionary fashion and it will enable them to take interest at the local level to energize and improve the situation of women in areas like health, education and

employment, which are essential to their basic existence, This will also train them for further political assertions in the form of Members of State Legislatures and Parliament. As a result of the system of periodical elections, woman even in remote rural areas of the country are now familiar with the elections though not with their mystique.

Despite their vast numerical strength, women occupy a marginalized position in society because of several socio-economic constraints. This has inhibited effective participation of women in political processes and the institutional structure of democracy. Even after five decades of the grant of political equality, statistics have over the years revealed that while there is an acceptable visible manifestation of gender quality at the voter level, gender visibility within the power structures show cause for woman concern. According to the document on Women's Development (1985), women's role in political structure had virtually remained unchanged, despite the rapid growth of informal political activity by them.

In general, the women candidates have to cross three hurdles before they could aspire to enter the formal political structures (a) they should be willing to stand for elections, (b) they should be judged suitable by the party

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electorate which is the “gate-keeper of power and (c) they have to be voter friendly. Besides, broad-based political participation of women has been severely limited due to the nexus of traditional factors such as considerations of caste, religion and feudal and family status. Farther, the political parties do not favour the nomination of women candidates, although the political parties do have a women’s wing, few women have access to the inner ring of the party. This is the core of the power structure. This is true of the Indian political system as well. Majority of the women are illiterate not politically conscious due to the lack of information and political awareness and they make their choice on the basis of suggestions from male members of the family. As a result, women were left on the periphery of political process.

However, with the Panchayati Raj institutions getting constitutional status by way of the seventy-third Amendment Act, it is hoped that the women will have greater participation in the political process and decision making capacity as the –Act made such a role mandatory and universal in the whole of India. But, it must be remembered that a change cannot be brought about overnight. Women have been subjected to exploitation forages and this cannot break free of all the shackles of illiteracy, poverty and tradition at one stroke. Even today, most of the women are uneducated, have little or no property and live in a tradition-bound society. In such a case, the politically powerful can make them contest elections for their own political gains. Another problem is that women, especially in rural areas, would not come forward to fight the elections. In case, they do come forward, it would be along the patriarchal whip, under the command and guidance of the males, as proxies and signing or stamping on the dotted lines. But it is a fact that a breakthrough has been made.

Gender as a political ideology view, women are basically different from men-psychologically, physiologically and often intellectually. Women’s perception of life is a web. Man’s is that of a ladder. Women emphasize stress attachment, affiliation, empathy and interdependence. Men emphasize competition, independence, separation and formal rights. Combined with the first-past the winning post-theory, an inherent weakness of the democratic electoral process, the visibility issue gets further compounded

Gender empowerment strategies under these circumstances require structural systemic change and basic attitudinal and value change. The real empowerment of women requires a thorough going renewal of the political process on a democratic basis. Unless women are equipped with the necessary skill in political decision-

making, their increased representation in the local bodies may not alter the existing set up. It is, therefore necessary to sensitize the women in the women’s perspective, not in the narrow feminist sense, but in the sense of honourable co-existence with men for this will enable women to exercise their “will” and advance towards their complete emancipation. This, of course, requires sensitizing men as well, as they are currently the holders of power. Besides the success of the Panchayati Raj institutions largely depend on the collective participation, they are at a take off point, where the basic indicators are positive and the women who will be elected in the election have a challenging and an operas task ahead. And, thus there is a need to extend greater affirmative action from the Panchayati level, to the state and national level and political conscious raising and supportive action by women’s organization at the voter level to enhance self potency and political efficacy. If these measures are followed, political participation of women will open up new vistas of development, which will automatically result in the real political empowerment of women in the society.

Women will have to use all methods and means available to achieve the equality.

METHODS

For collection of data, first reachers told the under graduate students about the purpose of the study and asked them to fill the statement.

From total population, 585 under graduate students were selected randomly as a sample from Home science 200, from Arts 200 and 185 from commerce (Table A).

Table A : Scores obtained by homescience, arts and commerce respondents of political empowerment of women

Class	Frequency		
	Home Science	Arts	Commerce
21-30	0	1	0
31-40	1	2	2
41-50	10	13	8
51-60	35	34	17
61-70	46	60	59
71-80	56	55	57
81-90	45	25	26
91-100	3	7	15
101-110	4	3	1
Total	200	200	185

Statistical analysis:

Statistical analysis was done using mean, standard deviation, standard error and significance test calculation

was done using both level of 'f' test.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Data presented in Table 1 that the mean score of Home science respondents was 71.5100, Arts respondents was 68.7650 and of Commerce was 71.8000. The standard deviation of Home science respondents was 13.27483, Arts respondents was 12.96535 and that of Commerce was 12.41790. The standard error of Home science respondents was 0.93867, of Arts respondents was 0.91679 and Commerce was 0.91298.

Faculty	Women empowerment			
	N	Mean	Std. deviation	Std. error
Home science	200	71.5100	13.27483	0.93867
Arts	200	68.7650	12.96535	0.91679
Commerce	185	71.8000	12.41790	0.91298
Total	585			

	Women empowerment				Table value	
	S.S.	Df	M.S.	F-value	0.05 level	0.01 level
Between groups	1103.125	2	551.562	3.313	19.50	99.50
Within groups	96893.535	582	166.488			

F-value is not significant at any level

The difference between mean of Home Science and Arts was 2.74500, the difference between mean of Home Science and Commerce was -0.29000 and the difference between mean of arts and commerce was -3.03500. The standard error of difference between means was not significant at any level (Table 2).

Women empowerment LSD			
(I) Stream	(J) Stream	Mean difference (I-J)	Std. error
Home science	Arts	2.74500	1.29029
	Com	-.29000	1.31618
Arts	Home	-2.74500	1.29029
	Com.	-3.03500	1.31618
Commerce	Home	0.29000	1.31618
	Arts	3.03500	1.31618

ANOVA shows that the sum of square of between groups was 1103.125 and within groups, it was 96893.535 and df between groups was 2 and within groups was 582.

The mean square of between groups was 551.562 and within groups was 166.484. And the 'f' - value of 3.313 was not significant at any level.

Multiple comparisons showed that mean difference of Home science respondents and Arts respondents was 74.88095 and Home science respondents and Commerce respondents was 94.35500 and Arts respondents and Commerce respondents was 19.47405 and that standard error of difference between mean of Home science and Arts respondents was 12.12389, Home science and Commerce respondents was 11.88537 and Commerce and Arts respondents was 12.12389 which was significant at 0.05 level.

So, it can be said that role of education on political empowerment of Home science, Arts and Commerce respondents was almost same.

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