

5. A Paradigm Shift in Empathising with Women

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Abstract

A patriarchal society, socio-economic barriers, hierarchies and dogmas are challenges which women face. One of the barriers to Indian women realizing their potential is lack of access to affordable, quality education and professional skill training. We need to enable her and make her think she can earn, provide her with relevant skills, convert her work output to economic independence by creating forward linkages so that she can earn a decent livelihood through employment/self-employment, communicate her achievements to her peers, family and community to motivate her and inspire other women. Ironically, men decide what is best suited to empower women. Does it make sense??? In most regions of the world, women receive less formal education than men. A woman's own knowledge, better abilities of coping mechanisms often go unrecognized. The power relations that impede women's attainment of healthy and fulfilling lives operate at many levels of society, from the most personal to the highly public. Achieving change requires policy and programme actions that will improve women's access to secure livelihoods and economic resources, alleviate their extreme responsibilities with regard to housework, remove legal impediments to their participation in public life, and raise social awareness through effective programmes of education and mass communication. When women are given better powers their decision making abilities improve and so does their confidence. Majority of the times decisions taken by women are useful and centred around the improvement of the family. It is rightly said that educating a girl educates a family. One woman empowers many more people. Improving the status of women enhances all those whom she can interact with. Educating a women has shown positive impact on long- term success of population programmes. Experience shows that population and development programmes are most effective when steps have simultaneously been taken to improve the standing of women in the society.

Research Methodology

The researcher has reviewed varied points of views, world and Indian statistical reports and researches to understand and analyse women related issues. The research is based on secondary data that has been recently compiled. Just like women concerns are divergent, to solve