Journal Homepage: -www.journalijar.com

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR)

Article DOI:10.21474/IJAR01/24541
DOI URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/24541

ISSN (O): 2320-5407
ISSN (P): 3107-4928

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF GIRL'S EDUCATION IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Manuscript Info

Manuscript History
Received: 08 September 2026
Final Accepted: 10 October 2026
Published: November 2026

Keywords:-
Schooling of girls, access to education, educational challenges, women's empowerment, independence of women, educational equality.

Abstract

Education is the most powerful weapon for changing both society and the world. The role of education is very significant in empowering women to become self-reliant and independent, boosting their confidence to face any difficult situation in their lives, and helping them participate in social, economic, and political spheres. Although the world is progressing, women still face disparities in access to education, including gender inequality, and in their participation in economic and political sectors. This paper provides a comprehensive review about the importance of girls' education in women's empowerm ent, including self-reliance, social development, high standard of living, decision-making capacity, and dealing effectively in any circumstances. The paper examines problems faced by women in access to education, including societal rules and regulations, poverty, parents' conservative perspectives, early marriage, gender discrimination and others. This paper also highlights some measures to promote women's education, including the single girl scholarship scheme, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative, awareness programmes in rural areas, and proper water sanitation disposal in schools. Therefore, educating women is important to empower them and change the society at large. Women's education plays a crucial role in the advancement of society. Pt Jawaharlal Nehru states that "if you educate a man, you educate an individual; however, if you educate a woman, you educate a whole family." Women empowerment means Mother India empowered" (Bhat, 2015; Tamilselvi, 2018). Education is also necessary for women so that women can adjust to the social change and be familiar with the day-to-day updates, alongside education, preparing them for better adjustment in the social environment.

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Introduction:-

Introduction and theoreticalbackground:-

The role of education is most prominent in the progress of human race; the word education is derived from the 'Latin' word 'Educere' which means 'to train' or to draw out knowledge. Education is a lifelong process because it begins at home and continues throughout our life. A Person needs to be well educated for better adjustment in his/her life and the society as well. Education not only give the job opportunity but also, it makes a person more

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civilize and social as well as well mannered. The importance of education in a person life is numerous because education helps in eradicating poverty, superstitious beliefs, unemployment from our society. Education improves the mentality and behavior of people and upgrade social system as well. Through education peoples are aware about worldwide information and basic knowledge of the society. Education is the strongest tool in empowering women. By getting education women can voice out themselves in the society against injustice prevailing to them. Education plays pivotal role in gender equality. Education is the single door to prosperity and key to success.

Concept of Girls Education:-

For changing the status of the women in the society education is a sole weapon. An educated women play a major role in the development of family, society and nation. Women education helps in eliminating inequalities based on gender and sex existing in the society. Education gives more strengths to women and builds their personality. In the ancient time society does not give importance to women education and education of girl was seen as disgrace. Women were treated badly as compared to males and their importance in society was underestimated. They were considered inferior to man. However, during the last few decades, India adopted many strategies and initiatives for increasing the female literacy rate. So, the overall situation and status of women improved and they also have equal status in the society. Education helps women to know about their rights and power to fight against the economic and social discrimination prevailing in society. (Jha,2014) Education enables women to build their views, opinions, perspectives and help families, societies and nations as a whole to acquire proficiency and gain competitiveness. Education plays important role in enhancing the livelihood condition of women(Yourself,2019).

Review of Related Literature:-

Jayaswal and Saha (2023) carried out a study on 'Role of Education in Women Empowerment'. This paper studies the role of education in women empowerment and ultimately how it brings social transformation. Women education plays important role in the advancement of society as well as it gives equal status to women in terms of education, livelihood and helps them to become independent and improve their status in family, society, politics and economic sectors.

Bhat, R.A. (2015) made a study on 'Role of Education in the Empowerment of Women in India'. Education plays most important role in empowering women because it gives strength them to face challenges, rules and regulations of the society, take decisions as well as how to lead a better life. Education of women is the utmost way to change the society. Educating women in India has been a need of the hour, therefore education act as a foundation pillar for empowering women.

Nayak and Mahanta (2010) made a study on 'Women Empowerment in Assam' This paper analyzes the status of women empowerment in terms of access to education, decision making power, political participation etc. This research shows that participation of women in political and government services is quite low.

Chakrabarty M.(2012)carried out a study on 'Women Empowerment in Assam: A Study'. This study reflects the issues related to women in access to education as well as provide some suggestions and measures to promote women empowerment.

Subburaj A.(2014) carried out a study on 'Women Empowerment: Role of education'. This study reflects that; women face inequality and discrimination in every sector so there is a high need of women empowerment so that women can fight against inequality exist in the system. The main aim of this paper is to create awareness among women's and build their strength and confidence level which is possible through empowering them.

Reshi,I.A.et al (2022) conduct a study on, educational access of women and its impact on their empowerment: a comprehensive review'. This paper specifically studiesaboutthe what was the impact of women's education in their empowerment. This paper also reflect that education enables women to participate in every sectors also examine those factors which impact on their empowerment.

Objectives of the Study:-

- To explain what are the role of education in empowering women.
- To study about the role of education in enhancing the socio-economic status of women in society.
- To identify the challenges and difficulties faced by women in access to education.
- To study the impact of education in reducing inequalities that are face by women in accessing education.
- To provide some measures and initiatives to promote women empowerment.
- To study the literacy rate and empowerment rate of women in Assam.

Delimitation of the study:-
The study will be delimited to secondary school students because dropouts' rates of girl's students are mostly high in secondary schools due to poverty, low income of parents, lack of proper infrastructure in schools, inadequate sanitation facilities etc. The study will be limited to selected schools of a Morigaon and Kamrup district of Assam. In this study schooling of girls, equality in education and dropout rates of girl's students will be considered here.

Research Methodology:-

For conducting the study, this paper will use descriptive and analytical research design method. The data will be collected by using secondary sources including textbooks, journals, magazines, newspaper, biographies, interviews of people etc. The data has been analyzed through quantitative method.

Population:-
Population of the study in this research include Secondary School students in Assam. Secondary school students are chosen because most of the girl's dropout their education due to various barriers like poverty, gender discrimination, early marriageetc as a result girl's lack of access to quality education.

Sample:-
A sample of 300-500 Secondary School students are selected through random sampling. For collection of data Questionnaire, survey, observation technique will be used here. Data will be collected from annual reports published by international research repositories including UNICEF education database, World Bank Open Knowledge Repository, National educational database and national Census surveys.

Data Analysis:-
For statistical analysis of the data standardized scale, school attendance, school dropout records, Female secondary gross enrollment ratios, literacy rates of females, participation of Females in labor force sectors, Maternal mortality ratios will be used here. Statistical calculations are done by using measures like Arithmetic mean, standard deviation, t-test, Pearson product moment correlation etc.

Significance of the study:-
Women education play very important role in the transformation of whole society in that case withouteducating women of the country we can't hope for a developed nation. Our society is patriarchic and male-dominated in nature. In Ancient times Males are go out and earn for their families and females are expected to live at home and look after the family; this system was strictly followed in society in that time. Even today, a little bit of such mentality can be seen. Due to this mentality, the education of girls suffered a lot. But the time has change now, social conditions and requirements have changed. Our country is in a race for becoming a developed country. Now, the education of girl child cannot be neglected. Nearly half of our population is females. So, along with the boys, girl education becomes equally important. There are many advantages of educating girls, if the girl is educated, she can take care of her health and her family as well, evenmanage the finance. Nowadays, it is very difficult to run a house by one person's income, so female can contribute towards it. The government has taken many steps to promote education of girls. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched to provide free and compulsory education to children ages of 6-14 years. The school uniform and bicycles are provided to the girl students.

Meritorious female students are given financial help for their higher education. So, it can be said that the education of a girl child can't be considered useless now. It is the responsibility of parents to make sure that their daughters also go to school necessarily. Girl will not only help in running their households, but also in strengthening the nation. For the achievement complete equality in prevailing society between male and females, it is necessary to eliminate all aspects of social order and rules and regulations regardless gender (Mandal,2013). In order to achieve development and gender equity for men and women to develop their full potential as individuals, eradication of gender stereotypes is the first step. For the achievement of any kind of development mutual cooperation and active participation of both men and women is very important. Women's empowerment is a process which impact social conditions including, strengthening knowledge economy and nurture the tendency of emancipative beliefs. For the development of economy equal participation of women and men in work sector is very necessary and they must work together and women must have the opportunity to share their opinions as well as utilize their skills. Women empowermentleads to benefit not only individual woman and women groups, but also to the families and community as a whole through collective action for the development (Dominic & Jothi,2012). So, educating women is very necessary for their empowerment.

Importance of Girl's Schooling:-

- Social Development: Women education is the need of hour so, schooling of girls is necessary to achieved developed society. Education of a man is only limited to him but when we educated women we educate the whole family. Educating women could be the key to abolish many social evils like dowry system, female infanticide, workplace harassment, domestic or sexual violence etc. For social development women education is necessary.
- Economic Development: For progress of a country women's participation is equally necessary along with men. In that case to make democracy successful women education is very much important because without education empowerment is not possible. Educating women contribute equally to achieve economical nation as more women join the work force.
- Improve socio-economic status: Women education helps to improve socio-economic status of women. In family earnings of both the parents provide better growth opportunity for the children as well as raise living standard of the family as a result it improves socio-economic standards of women in the society.
- Self-Reliance: Educationis very necessary for women as it helps women to become self-reliant and eliminates her need to depend on the third person for her fulfillment of necessities and survival. Education provides women the ability to depend on your own power as well as build confidence and make their own decisions and solve problems by their own.
- Improved Health and Hygiene: An educated women well known about her health and how to maintain hygiene also recognizes the health hazards to her family and knows how to cure them. Educated women are more aware about basic health practices like personal cleanliness.
- High Living Standard: Education helps women to become financially independent as they can carried out their needs, balanced nutrition and sanitation. Educated women are more aware about healthcare practices, healthy lifestyle.
- Increase Literacy rate: Women's education is important because it helps to promote women empowerment as well as it also contributes to increasing literacy rate. Women's education main motto is to improve skills and knowledge of girls.

Concept of Women Empowerment:-

Women Empowerment is the process of empowering women to make them independent to take their own decisions for their personal and social development. Empowerment of women implies to encouraging women to be self-reliant, independent, have positive self-esteem, develop confidence to face any difficult situation in their life and build active participation in various socio-political aspects. In the ancient times period women were treated very badly by family and society as compared to man. They were not given equal opportunity of getting education as like man. Even they were restricted to doing household tasks. They were completely unaware about their rights and development. But in our country half of the population is of women so, in order to make the country powerful women empowerment is very necessary. Therefore, the government and individuals must both come together to make it happen. Girl's education should be compulsory so that women can become literate to lead their life independently.

Role of Education in Women Empowerment:-

In the aspect of women empowerment, development, and welfare of nation education is the prominent factor. Generally, there is showing inequality and vulnerability of women in all sectors. Equal opportunities must be given to women in every field, irrespective of gender, caste, sex, race etc. Moreover, they must also give equal remuneration in work sectors. For empowering women steps can be taken by eliminating child marriages in India, which is commonly seen in village and rural areas therefore various awareness programs must be conducted to make them aware so that they can defend themselves. It is seen that most of the women stay in abusive relationships because of the fear of society and its rules-regulations, judgments etc. In truest sense women empowerment will be achieved only when there is perspective and attitudinal change in the society with regard to treating women in the aspect of giving proper respect, dignity, equality which is possible through the process of empowerment and empowerment is achieved only by the education.

Challenges Faced by Womenin Access to Education:-

- Poverty and economic constraints - Poverty is the one of the major issues which hinder access to education. Poor families can't invest in their children's education because they are deprived from their basic necessities

like food, clothing, shelter. There are many families who obligate their daughters to work. Also, parents prefer to pay for their sons to attend school.

- Gender discrimination- Gender inequality remains a significant issue in many societies that affects people of all genders. Gender inequality means that all individuals have the same rights, opportunities and treatment regardless of their gender. It includes equality in accessto education, employment, healthcare and political representation. It is a fundamental human right and a necessary foundation to maintain peaceful, prosperous and happier world for everyone. Through education it is possible to create awareness among people and promoting gender equality.
- Early marriage - Early marriage is the practice where girls are married before mature or age of 18. Early marriage or child marriage is a global issue. In early days girls are often married at young age, which interrupts or ends their education. Even in the society in many rural areas still early marriage is prevalent due to which girls drop their education in early age. It is one of the major obstacles to girl's education.
- Cultural and social norms - Many cultural social norms and customs like pardasystem, child marriage etc. blocks the way of expanding women education. Indian society is patriarchic in nature and hence the male dominates the women in family as well as social life. This has tremendously influence progress of women education.
- Lack of educational facilities: There are many educational facilities which slow down the progress of women education like lack of girl's school, girls'hostel, lackof female trained teacher, lack of proper toilets and sanitation facility, lack of good library and proper building etc. which are also responsible for the slow growth of women education in India.

MEASURES TO PROMOTE GIRL'S EDUCATION: It is the responsibility of state and central government to promote women education as well as save girl child and educate girl child.

The government must take some initiative and awareness program for advancement of girl's education:-

1) Beti- Bachao Beti- padhao initiative: For the development of a country both boys and girls are equally responsible. Although our country has been achieving the progress even in many underdeveloped societies the biggest crime is the female infanticide in which after sex tests through ultrasound girls are killed in mother womb. Therefore, Beti bachao Beti padhao initiative will be taken this scheme main motto is to educate the girl child and save them from early marriage. As per the 2011 census of sex ratio, in our country the number of women is less as compared to men. The main objective of this scheme is the elimination of female infanticide, increasing the level of girl child literacy, and remove the inequality prevailing between son and daughter in society, opportunities for girls to go ahead and a safe environment.
2) Girl's Scholarship program (GSP): The girl's scholarship scheme is a merit-based scholarship program not only increased test scores of girls for attain scholarship but also play a prominent role in promoting women education along with women empowerment by addressing barriers that prevent girls from accessing education. Many families due to poverty and financial issues parents prioritize boys to get education in such a case scholarship helps girl to access education and motivate girls to perform better academically.
3) Provision of girl's hostel should be made available in every school: More women teachers should be appointed in schools especially in girl's school so that girl's feel comfortable to share their problems with teacher. This may also help in removing the hospitality of parents to sending their daughter to school.
4) Provide adequate knowledge to adolescent girls about Puberty, Sexuality, and sexual Reproductive Health: Girls in developing countries face significant gaps because they are unaware about menstrual changes, pubertal body changes and sexual and reproductive health etc. As a result, girls receive inaccurate information, that create negative attitude toward menstruation, reproductive health. It creates issues like fear, phobia, panic, confusion, and anxiety among girls and in some case education at risk.
5) Improvements of water, sanitation and hygiene facility: Generally, it seen that in most of the school campus girls are facing issues like lack of adequate water, sanitation, toilets etc. In every school campus basic necessitylike water, sanitation, adequate hygiene interventions are important for improving the school environment, which helps to boost attendance of girls. These interventions also help in improving student health and make adolescent girls especially those who are menstruating, feel more comfortable in school.

Conclusion:-

This paper provided a comprehensive review about role of girl's education in women empowerment. For upbringing of society at worldwide basis education acts as a most powerful weapon. A person needs to be well educated for smooth functioning in his/her life. Education provides us with worldwide information and basic knowledge about

society. By getting education women can voice out themselves in thesociety against injustice done to them. Women must be given equal opportunity in access to education, workplace sector, political participation. Although women still face difficulties in access education in developing countries as well as they are not free from their boundaries, therefore government must take some initiative and awareness program to promote girl's education which play a pivotal role on women empowerment. As we know that for the development of a country mutual participation of both men and women is necessary. In order to achieve economic, political, societal development both men and women should work together for progressive development of a country.

Women empowerment not only implies empower women and develop their positive outlook but also covertly influence in the progress of a nation. Therefore, Women'seducation is very strong tool for their empowerment. Around the globe, government and non-government organizations make endless efforts to increase women's empowerment by implementing different interventions like offering access toequal education, independence in the selection of jobs, offer their views and opinion in different sectors, political participation etc. for promoting sustainable development (Huisb,et al 2017). An educated woman provides protective environment to their family for their grow up in a competitive world. An educated woman has better capacity of bargaining power to lead a livelihood and bundle of information which provides autonomy to them and an educated women build better educated and healthier environment for their child which carries social and economic productiveness. (Jha,2014). Education empowers women to build their views, opinions, perspectivesto understand and help families, societies and nation as a whole to gain competitiveness. Education plays an important role in enhancing the livelihood conditions for women (Yourself,2019).

Expected Outcomes:-

After going through the study, the outcome will be that for change the society at worldwide basis education is sole weapon. The study is expected to identify the schooling of girl's, empowerment of women, access to education, independence of women, equality in education, women participation in socio-political sphere, and challenges faced by girls in pursuing education. The study also reveals the differences based on gender which are faced by girls in access to education. This study also reflects the dropout rates of secondary school girl's students. The study also reflects some measures and suggestions to promote women empowerment. Empowerment is the process ofautonomy in decision making. On the other hand, empowerment is a critical analysis of power that might bring resistance through which existing systems of power can be damaged. Through this process the individual can gain control over one's destiny and the circumstances of one's lives (Bhat, 2015; Kaur,2018). The process of empowerment not only assist in development of human resources but also help in the improvement of quality of life of the people. It results that Education is a very vital element for bringing empowerment.

Educationist Jyotiba Phule states that, "Education is that which distinguish the difference between what is good and what is evil" (Bhat,2015). Education makes women aware about their rights and power to fight against societal rules and regulations, economic and social discrimination. Education is a key for prosperity development and welfare (Jha, 2014). Education is a key component in shaping the personality of an individual and governs his overall development. Education is the most significant means to bring social change and social mobility. Society is constituted with both the male and female so it is said that women are the important part of the society because they constituted half of the population. India's first feminist Savitribai Phule stated that education develop critical thinking and reasoning and it should curb superstations and orthodox beliefs. She asserted that education was the only medium to bring social transformation. Therefore, in the development of any nation, it is important to empower each member of the society. Therefore, empowerment of women is an important subject of discussion in these days. (Kaur,20183). In conclusion it can be clarifies that education is the most powerfulweapon for the empowerment of women.

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