



## Research Article

# IMPACT OF EDUCATION IN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL AND URBAN AREAS WOMEN – A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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**Abstract-** This paper focuses on the role of education on economic empowerment of rural and urban areas women. A study was done on 585 women respondents of four districts viz Jamnagar, Morbi, Rajkot and Surendranagar. The women engaged in various fields of urban and rural areas of Jamnagar, Morbi, Rajkot and Surendranagar districts were taken into consideration. The result of the study indicates that due to certain social foundation and unavailable circumstances, the education level of urban respondents was higher than rural areas respondents because of that economic level of urban respondent was higher than the rural areas respondents.

**Keywords-** Economic empowerment of women, Women empowerment, Women education and empowerment

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## Introduction

Empowerment is a very broad term encompassing all types of empowerment such as education, economic, social, political, psychological, legal and cultural, spiritual empowerment of women. The world declaration in world conference in 1990 laid emphasis on "education of all lays stress on universalising access and promoting equity the two issues which are vital to empowerment of women".

The process of women empowerment is thus concerned with changing the power relations between individuals and groups in the society and involves awareness raising building of self confidence, expansion of choice, involvement in decision making and increased access to and control over resources unless they themselves become conscious of the oppression met out to them and show initiative both to push forward. It can create an opportunity to change their status much. Some of the empowerment could be identified as follows-

- \* Literacy and higher education.
- \* dignity of human being as human
- \* Better health care for herself.
- \* Higher age of marriage.
- \* Greater work, participation in modernized sector
- \* Necessary financial and service support for self employment.
- \* Opportunities for higher position of power.
- \* Complete knowledge of her rights and above all.
- \* Self-reliance, self respect and dignity of being women.

## Benefits of education for women:

### Education as a means to promote development in social & economic condition

According to Dreze and Sen, education has five intrinsic values for improving

social and economic conditions in Third World countries, both benefits for communities and societies, as well as individual social benefits.

First of all education gives personal benefits for the individual in terms of self-confidence leading to motivation and interests in society. Social interactions are easier when persons are capable of reading a newspaper about social and political issues in the community and the rest of the World.

Secondly, education gives access to a wider range of job opportunities and in general enables persons to take advantage of economic opportunities and to participate in local politics.

Thirdly, a higher literacy rate facilitates public debates and demands for health care, social security and other needs. Public discussions enable people to hold politicians accountable for their promises of improvements in the social service sector. Information on one's society provides better possibilities for utilizing the service system.

Fourthly, education indirectly prevents child labour, to the extent that implementation of legislation of basic education for all children, force parents to send their children to school which again gives less time for labour. Entering school broadens horizons for young people. This means that meeting other children and young people could result in new ideas of different opportunities in the future.

The fifth effect of education and literacy enables oppressed groups in a society to become politically organized. Being a larger group makes it easier to insist on one's rights and demands concerning social and political issues. An organized group achieves visibility in the society and is harder to oppress. The ability to resist operation not only concerns disadvantaged groups in society, but education does also have positive effects within families when girls are being educated (Dreze & Sen. 1995).

### Studies on Economic Empowerment of women

#### Poverty Eradication:

Since women comprise the majority of the population below the poverty line and are very often in situations of extreme poverty, given the harsh realities of intra-household and social discrimination, macroeconomic policies and poverty eradication programmes will specifically address the needs and problems of such women. There will be improved implementation of programmes which are already women oriented with special targets for women. Steps will be taken for mobilization of poor women and convergence of services, by offering them a range of economic and social options, along with necessary support measures to enhance their capabilities

#### Women and Economy:

Women's perspectives will be included in designing and implementing macro-economic and social policies by institutionalizing their participation in such processes. Their contribution to socio-economic development as producers and workers will be recognized in the formal and informal sectors (including home based workers) and appropriate policies relating to employment and to her working conditions will drawn up. Such measures could include:

Reinterpretation and redefinition of conventional concepts of work wherever necessary is needed e.g. in the Census records, to reflect women's contribution as producers and workers. Preparation of satellite and national accounts Development of appropriate methodologies for undertaking both.

#### Women and Agriculture:

In view of the critical role of women in the agriculture and allied sectors, as producers, concentrated efforts will be made to ensure that benefits of training, various extension programmes will reach them in proportion to their numbers. The programmes for training women in soil conservations, social forestry, dairy development and other occupations allied to agriculture like horticulture, livestock including small animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries etc. will be expanded to benefit women workers in the agriculture sector.

#### Women and Industry:

The important role played by women in electronics, information technology and food processing and agro industry and textiles have been crucial to the development of these sectors. They would be given comprehensive support in terms of labour legislation, social security and other support services participate in various industrial sectors.

Women at present cannot work in night shift in factories even if they wish to. Suitable measures will be taken to enable women to work on the night shift in factories. This will be accompanied with support services for security, transportation etc.

#### Objectives of the Study

To compare the level of economic empowerment of women in Jamnagar, Morbi, Rajkot and Surendranagar city urban and rural area respondents.

#### Materials and Methods

The 585 respondents. urban respondents are Jamnagar city 102, Morbi city 88, Rajkot city 146 and Surendranagar city 92 total urban respondents are 428 and rural respondents are Jamnagar city 24, Morbi city 48, Rajkot city 59 and Surendranagar city 26 total rural respondents are 157 & then divided into different economic, empowerment level of women. Statistical analysis was done using mean, standard deviation, standard error, significance test. & T- test. Calculation was done using both the level of significance

**Table-1** Showing Scores Obtained By Urban and Rural Respondents Regarding Economic Empowerment.

Class	Frequency	
	Urban	Rural
51-100	6	2
101-150	18	9
151-200	89	41

201-250	159	71
251-300	106	27
301-350	44	6
351-400	6	1
Total	428	157

Group Statistics					
Economic Empowerment	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
	urban	428	234.0444	52.41186	2.53342
	rural	157	219.3567	46.82332	3.73691

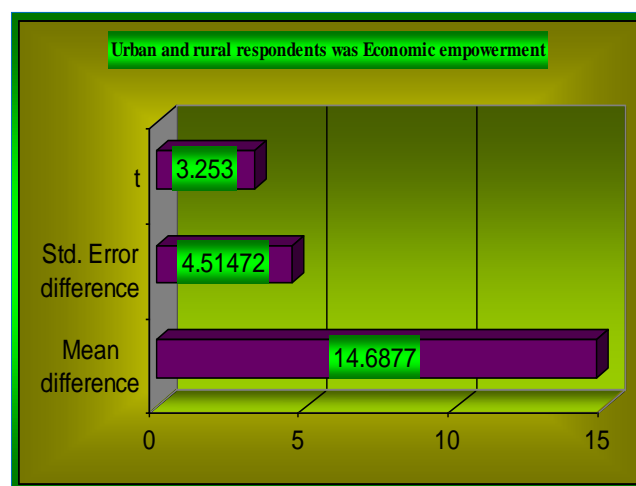
Independent Sample Test				
Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of means		
Economic Empowerment	df	Mean difference	Std. Error Difference	T
Equal variances not Assumed	308.541	14.68770	4.51472	3.253

t-value is Significant at 0.01 level

#### Result and Discussion

Shows that the mean score of urban respondents was 234.0444 and the rural respondents was 219.3567. The standard deviation of urban respondent was 52.41186 and rural respondent was 46.82332. Standard error of mean of urban respondents was 2.53342 and rural respondent was 3.73691. The difference between mean was 14.68770 and it was in favour of urban respondent. The standard error of difference between mean was 4.51472 and t value was 3.253 which was significant at 0.01 levels.

So it can be said that the role of education on economic empowerment of urban respondent was higher than the rural respondents.



**Fig-1** Showing Scores Obtained By Urban and Rural Respondents Regarding Economic Empowerment

#### Conclusion

The women engaged in various fields of urban and rural areas of Jamnagar, Morbi, Rajkot and Surendranagar districts were taken into consideration. The result of the study indicates that due to certain social foundation and unavailable circumstances, the education level of urban respondents scored more than rural areas respondents because of that economic level of urban respondent was higher than the rural areas respondents.

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**Conflict of Interest: None declared**

and Fertility in rural India, Population Studies.

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