



**A STUDY OF THE AWARENESS LEVEL OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS AT SENIOR
SECONDARY LEVEL WITH REFERENCE TO DECISION MAKING & PARTICIPATION
CAPABILITY**

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Abstract

Empowerment literally means providing skills, resources, authority, opportunity and motivation. It involves a giving responsibility & accountability for outcomes of the actions that contribute to ones competence and satisfaction. Empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing individual to think, take action and control work in an autonomous manner. It is the process by which one can gain control over one's own destiny and the circumstances that influences one's lives. Females in India have long been suppressed in the male dominated society. Though the government has been taking initiatives in this regard from time to time yet a lot still needs to be done. In light of the above, the study attempted to measure the empowerment of the adolescent girls from a comparative perspective among the private and the government schools in Delhi.

Keywords: *Women Empowerment, Gender Equality, Equity*



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I. Introduction

Empowerment is the process focussing on intrinsic capacity, greater self-confidence and an internal transformation of one's consciousness that enables one to overcome external barriers to accessing resources or changing traditional ideology. Empowerment includes control over resources (physical, human, intellectual and financial) and over ideology (beliefs, values and attitudes). Empowerment enables women to take control of their own lives, set their own agenda, organize to help each other and make demands on the state for support and on the society itself for change.

Researchers have revealed that Education is the most powerful instrument for changing women's position in society as it enables the women to responds to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. It is one of the most critical areas of empowerment for women, as both the Cairo¹ and Beijing² conferences affirmed but simultaneously it is also an area that offers some of the clearest examples of discrimination women suffer. Women Empowerment is now

¹ The Cairo Conference, held from 5 to 13 September 1994, was the largest intergovernmental particularly for girls; and the provision of universal access to a full range

² The Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, resulted in the Beijing Declaration for Women to eliminate discrimination against women and girls and achieve equality in all

currently a global issue and discussion on women political right are at the fore front of many formal and informal campaigns worldwide. Education of women is the instrument to achieve the respect and the rights that the women in world deserve today. Offering girls basic education is one sure way of giving them much greater power -- of enabling them to make correct choices over the kinds of lives they wish to lead.

Education of women has been stressed in India since the very beginning. This principle of gender equality is evident in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles though the action plans for the implementation of the strategies could not reveal the desired results. Thus the study aimed to assess the level of empowerment of the adolescent girls in Schools of Delhi

II. Need & Importance of the Study

From pastoral society to contemporary information and global society, the role of women has changed drastically. Yet, the status of women from all the sections of the society is mixed and not substantially altered. In the face of global competition traditional economic occupations of women have withered. In the new economic regime, the withdrawal of the activities of the state leaves the women in cold. Further gender blind legislation and laws are extending its coverage of shadow on women. In light of the above, the study attempted to measure the women empowerment of the adolescent girls from a comparative perspective among the private and the government schools in Delhi.

III. Objectives of the Study

1. To determine the difference, if any, in the decision making capability of adolescent girls studying in government and private schools.
2. To determine the difference, if any, in the participation capability of adolescent girls studying in government and private schools.

IV. Hypothesis

1. There is no significant difference in the decision making capability of adolescent girls studying in government and private schools.
2. There is no significant difference in the participation capability of adolescent girls studying in government and private schools.

V. Research Methodology

• Sample

Mixed- methods research design was used to investigate awareness level of different prospects in between the adolescent girls of government and private schools and identifying the causes of the extreme scores. Survey methodology was used for the collection of data. Stratified random sampling method was used for selecting schools and random sampling was applied for the selection of prospective adolescent girls for the study. Total 400 girls were chosen from government and private schools of East Delhi, and 40 girls were chosen for the case study with extreme scores.

• **Tools Used**

Adolescence Girl's Empowerment Scale (AGES) by Devendra Singh Sisodia & Alpana Singh (2009)- The scale consisted of 49 announcements isolated into seven parts including power and entitlements, autonomy and self-reliance, decision making, participation, capacity building, Social, political and legal awareness and exposure to information media.

Interview schedule was used to survey the empowerment of girls. Open-ended questions were directed as a means of summing up the answers given through the AGES

• **Analysis of the data**

Since the data was quantitative in nature thus appropriate statistical techniques were employed including the mean, standard deviation, t-value etc. The significance level for the t- test was taken to be 0.01.

The scores obtained from the adolescents of the private and the government schools were independently grouped to calculate the mean and the standard deviation. The t-test was then administered on the same to examine the differences between the awareness of adolescent girls regarding their power and entitlement. The values obtained from the t-test are listed in the table below:

Table 1: The Calculated Values of Mean, S.D., t-value for Decision Making Capability on AGES

Area	School type	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value
Decision Making Capability	Government	23.76	5.65	3.914*
	Private	26.25	7	

*Significant at 0.01 level of significance

The t value for the data came out to be 3.914 which was significant at 0.01 level of significance.

Table 2: The Calculated Values of Mean, S.D., t-value for Participation Capability on AGES

Area	School type	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value
Participation Capability	Government	24.54	5.59	4.84*
	Private	26.46	3.215	

*Significant at 0.01 level of significance

The t value for the data came out to be 4.84 which was significant at 0.01 level of significance.

VI. Findings of the Study

1. The hypothesis "There is no significant difference in the decision making capability of adolescent girls studying in government and private schools" stands rejected
2. The hypothesis "There is no significant difference between in the participation capability of adolescent girls studying in government and private schools" stands rejected.

VII. Conclusion

It may be concluded awareness levels of Adolescent Girls regarding the decision making ability is significantly different in the government and the private schools. With a

slightly higher value of mean, the adolescent girls in the private schools seem to be more aware of their decision making abilities. With respect to participation capability is significantly different with private schools girls having more participation capability than their counter parts.

VIII. Scope & Implications

The paper would help in analyzing the women empowerment awareness among private and government school adolescent girls as adolescents form a major portion of country's population and development of nation depends on them at large. This study assessed the differences in knowledge related to women's rights and women empowerment among adolescent girl of private school and government school and thereby the effectiveness of work done toward women empowerment. Thus it would give an opportunity for further improvement and bridging gaps between the policy and the practice.

IX. References

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