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**The Impact of Education on the Empowerment of Scheduled Caste Women in India: A Systematic Review of the Literature**

**Abstract**

Education is an instrument for social change; it facilitates uplifting societies and individuals' quality of life and status. However, before independence, the socioeconomic status of all women in India was very pathetic. Therefore, they did not have the right to an education. Worse, women from low-income families and relevant to the lower ladder of the caste system of Indian society are classified as scheduled castes or scheduled tribes. There were several reasons for depriving scheduled caste women of education, such as the old orthodox thinking; caste-based discrimination, superstition, a paucity of awareness, scarcity of permission, and economic deprivation. Therefore, these women in society could not get an education. However, when the Indian constitution was put into place after independence, women were given the right to go to school.

Moreover, scheduled caste and tribe women got an opportunity to get educated through reservations. As we know, scheduled caste women are generally discriminated against at every level in Indian culture, and education is particularly essential for the empowerment of scheduled caste women. This review was conducted to synthesise information on the educational status of scheduled caste women and its impact on their empowerment. The main objective of this search was to map existing literature in social science, sociology, economics, and geography on the impact of education on the empowerment of scheduled caste women in India. The selection criteria were put where they were based on the Prisma statement. For this purpose, 174 studies were selected from Google Scholar and Google search published in 2012–2022 in English and related to the education and empowerment of scheduled caste women in India. The search terminology used in this study was as follows: "educational status" and "Scheduled caste women," "educational status," "Scheduled caste women empowerment," "Dalit women empowerment," and "education." After screening out of a total of 174 research papers, only 15 original full-text research, review, and conference papers were assessed for eligibility in the present study, and after analysis of these studies, it was found that there is a scarcity of full-text research papers based on the current topic and there is more scope for research in this area. It was also found that higher education gives scheduled caste women freedom and helps break superstitions, social taboos, and stigmas. It also improves their financial situation and gives them knowledge about their constitutional rights, respect, and safety in society, giving them more power and improving their lives.

**Keywords: Education,** Empowerment, Scheduled Caste women