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CHAPTER – VI

**The Role of IGNOU in  
Women Empowerment**



## CHAPTER SIX

# THE ROLE OF IGNOU IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

### **Introduction:**

The women in Indian society had been subjected to, various social, economic disabilities for many years and uneducated or semi-educated women were the major victims in those times. However, their status began to change in early part of the twentieth century by the effort education.

Education is regarded as the key factor in overcoming the barriers that women face and the basic tool for empowering women and bringing them into the main stream of development.

More than conventional education, distance education plays an important role in ensuring access to higher education to women who are unable to take admission in the formal education system. Hence, women prefer distance learning because of its nature, since studies of this type allow them to fulfill their family and career responsibilities. Furthermore, it enables them to learn at their own pace, while minimizing costs-saving money and time on commuting and childcare.

The aim of the present chapter is to examine the role of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in empowerment of women from both individual and social perspectives. For this purpose the social, economic, political, cultural and legal aspects of women empowerment and change in women status has been studied.

### ***Social Empowerment of Respondents:***

In this section we will examine the social status of respondents changed after completion of course, in relation to the gender discrimination, decision making process, social status and freedom of express opinion.

### **Distribution of Respondents by Experience in Gender Discrimination**

The Table no. 6.1 shows the distribution of respondents by experience of gender discrimination in family before joining the course.

**Table 6.1: Experience in Gender Discrimination**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No	47	94.0
Yes	03	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

The above Table shows that, majority (47 or 94%) of the respondents had not experienced gender discrimination before joining the course and 3 (6 %) respondents had experienced the gender discrimination before joining the course. But it may be noted that out of these 3 respondents told that they had not experienced gender discrimination after completion of the course.

### **Respondents Status in Decision-making Process**

Table no. 6.2 shows that the distribution of respondents status in decision-making process in family.

**Table 6.2: Status in Decision-making Process**

<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Husband	23	46.0
Father	17	34.0
Self	08	16.0
Mother	02	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

The above Table no. 6.2 shows that, majority (23 or 46 %) of the respondents told that husband was the major decision taker in the family, 17 (34%) respondents told that father take major decision, 8 (16%) respondents told that they take major decision in family. But it may be noted that all respondents' (50 or 100%) states that they have equal status in their family as compare to other family members.

### **Increase the Social Status**

Table no. 6.3 shows the distribution of respondents by experiences in increase the social status after course.

**Table 6.3: Increase the Social Status**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	48	96.0
No	02	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

It may be noted from the above table that, majority (48 or 96%) of respondents was experienced their social status has increased after completion of the course.

### **Freedom to Express Opinion**

The Table no. 6.4 shows the distribution of respondents by freedom to express opinion regarding family affairs.

**Table 6.4: Freedom to Express Opinion**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Sometimes	19	38.0
Always	18	36.0
Often	11	22.0
Never	02	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

It may be noted from the above table that, majority (19 or 38 %) of respondents had sometimes freedom to express their opinion regarding

family affairs, 18 (36 %) respondents had always freedom to express their opinion regarding family affairs and 11 (22 %) respondents had often freedom to express their opinion regarding family affairs.

### ***Economic Empowerment of Respondents:***

In this section we will examine the economic status of respondents was changed after completion of course, in relation to the occupation, motivation and course helps in getting job, salary, economic independence and freedom for financial assistant.

### **Distribution of Respondents by Employment Status**

The Table no. 6.5 shows distribution of the respondent's by employment status before completion of the course

**Table No. 6.5: Distribution of Respondents by Employment Status**

<b>In Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	22	44.0
No	28	56.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It may be noted from the above tables that, majority (28 or 56 %) of respondents were not in service before completion of the course and remaining 22 (44 %) respondents were in service before completion of the course.

### **Helpfulness of the Course to getting the Job**

The Table no. 6.6 shows distribution of the respondents by experience about the helpfulness of the course for getting the job.

**Table No. 6.6: Course Helps to Getting employment**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	37	74.0
No	13	26.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It may be noted from the above tables that, majority (37 or 74 %) of respondents had told that the course helps them to getting the employment and remaining 13 (26 %) respondents had told that the course not helps them to getting the employment.

### **Get Preference at the time of Recruitment**

The Table no. 6.7 shows distribution of the respondents by getting the preference at the time of recruitment.

Table No. 6.7: Getting the Preference at the Time of Recruitment

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	33	66.0
No	05	10.0
N.A.	12	24.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above table shows that, majority (33 or 66 %) of respondents had got preference at the time of recruitment and remaining 5 (10 %) respondents had not got preference at the time of recruitment because employers gave preference to male.

### **Distribution of Respondents by Freedom to Financial Assistance**

Table no. 6.8 shows distribution of the respondents by their freedom to financial assistance to friends and relatives.

Table No. 6.8: Freedom to Financial Assistance

<b>Level of Freedom</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Always	28	56.0
Sometimes	13	26.0
N.A.	09	18.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above table shows that, majority (28 or 56 %) of respondents had got always freedom to financial assistance and 13 (26 %) respondents had sometimes got freedom to financial assistance.

### **Distribution of Respondents by Experience in Economic Independence**

Economic independence plays a vital role in empowerment of women. Hence, it has been studied. The table no. 6.9 shows distribution of respondents by their experience in economic independence was helps in taking decisions in family.

Table No. 6.9: Economic Independence Helps in Taking Decision

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Always	18	36.0
Often	17	34.0
Sometimes	04	8.0
N.A.	11	22.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.9 shows that, majority (18 or 36 %) of respondents had told that economic independence always helps them in taking decision in family, 17 (34 %) respondents had told that economic independence often help them in taking decision and 4 (8 %) of them told that it helps sometimes.

### ***Cultural and Political Aspects of Empowerment:***

In this section we will examine the cultural and political aspects of women empowerment in relation to their participation, increase in level and awareness after completion of course.

### **Distribution of Respondents by their Participation in Cultural Activities**

The Table no. 6.10 shows the distribution of the respondents by their participation in cultural activities before completion of course.

Table No. 6.10 Participation in Cultural Activities before Course

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Sometimes	31	62.0
Never	15	30.0
Often	03	6.0
Always	01	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.10 shows that, majority (31 or 62 %) of respondents had told that they sometimes participated in cultural activities before completion of the course and 15 (30 %) respondents had told that they never participated in cultural activities before completion of the course.

The Table no. 6.11 shows the distribution of the respondents by their participation in cultural activities after completion of course.

Table No. 6.11: **Participation in Cultural Activities after Course**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	45	90.0
No	05	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.11 shows that, majority (45 or 90 %) of respondents had told that they participated in cultural activities after completion of the course and 5 (10 %) respondents had told that they never participated in cultural activities after completion of the course.



Hence, from above data it is clear that after completion of the course the degree of participation in cultural activities has increased among majority of the respondents.

### **Distribution of Respondents by their Participation in Political Activities**

The Table no. 6.12 shows the distribution of the respondents by their participation in political activities before completion of course.

**Table No. 6.12: Participation in Political Activities before Course**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No	49	98.0
Yes	01	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.12 shows that, majority (49 or 98 %) of respondents had told that they not participated in political activities before completion of the course.

**Table No. 6.13: Participation in Political Activities after Course**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Never	38	76.0
Sometimes	11	22.0
Always	01	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.13 shows that, majority (38 or 76 %) of respondents had told that they never participated in political activities after completion of the course and 11 (22 %) respondents had told that they sometimes participated in political activities after completion of the course.

Hence, from above data it is clear that after completion of the course the degree of participation in political activities has increased among very

few of the respondents. The level of the participation among majority of them is local.

### **Distribution of Respondents by Experience in Political Awareness**

The Table no. 6.14 shows distribution of respondents by their experience in help of education was increase in political awareness.

**Table No. 6.14: Help of Education in Increase in Political Awareness**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	48	96.0
No	02	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.14 shows that, majority (48 or 96 %) of respondents had told that the education was helps among them in increase the political awareness.

### **Distribution of Respondents by their membership in Women Organization**

Table no. 6.15 shows the distribution of respondents by their membership in women organization.

**Table No. 6.15: Membership in Women Organization**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No	31	62.0
Yes	19	38.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.15 shows that, majority (31 or 62 %) of respondents had told that they not get membership in women organization and remaining 19 (38 %) of them get membership.

### **Distribution of Respondents by Expression about Political Affairs**

Table no. 6.16 shows the distribution of respondents by their expression about political affairs.

**Table No. 6.16: Expression about Political Affairs**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Sometimes	31	62.0
Never	15	30.0
Always	04	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.16 shows that, majority (31 or 62 %) of respondents had told that they sometimes expressed their views about political affairs, 4 (8 %) of them were always expressed. But 15 (30 %) of them were never expressed their views about political affairs.

### **Distribution of Respondents by Habit of Reading**

Table no. 6.17 shows the distribution of respondents by their habit of reading before getting education from IGNOU.

**Table No. 6.17: Habit of Reading before getting Education**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Sometimes	31	62.0
Always	14	28.0
Never	05	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.17 shows that, majority (31 or 62 %) of respondents had told that they were sometimes habit, 14 (28 %) of them were always habit and 5 (10 %) of them were never habit of reading news paper, books and magazines before getting the education from IGNOU. After completing the education from IGNOU all (50 or 100 %) respondents have expressed that the regular habit of reading.

### **Distribution of Respondents by Experience in Awareness about Health and Nutrition**

The Table no. 6.18 shows distribution of respondents by their experience in increase the awareness of health and nutrition.

**Table No. 6.18: Increase in Awareness about Health and Nutrition**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	47	94.0
No	03	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above table no. 6.18 shows majority (47 or 94 %) of respondents were expressed that the education was helps among them in increase the awareness about their health and nutrition.

### **Distribution of Respondents by Information about Government Schemes**

The Table no. 6.19 shows distribution of respondents by their experience in increase the awareness about the information of government schemes.

**Table No. 6.19: Information about Government Schemes**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	35	70.0
No	15	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.19 shows that, majority (35 or 70 %) of respondents were expressed that the education was helps among them in increase the awareness about their information about various government schemes related to women, 15(30 %) of them were not expressed this view.

### **Distribution of Respondents by their Awareness about Legal Rights**

The Table no. 6.20 shows the distribution of the respondents by their awareness about their legal rights before getting education from IGNOU.

**Table No. 6.20: Awareness about Legal Rights before Course**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No	38	76.0
Yes	12	24.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.20 shows that, majority (38 or 76 %) of respondents were not aware about their legal rights before completion of the course and remaining 12 (24 %) of them are aware about it.

The Table no. 6.21 shows the distribution of respondents by their awareness about their legal rights after getting education from IGNOU.

**Table No. 6.21: Awareness about Legal Rights after Course**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	45	90.0
No	05	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above Table no. 6.21 shows that, majority (45 or 90 %) of respondents were expressed that their awareness of legal rights has increased after completion of the course and 5 (10 %) of them are not expressed this view.

Hence, from above data it is clear that after completion of the course the degree of awareness of legal rights has increased among majority of the respondents.

### Helpfulness of IGNOU's ODL System

The Table no. 6.22 shows distribution of respondents by their experience about ODL helps them in development of self-esteem and self-confidence.

**Table No. 6.22: ODL Helps in Development of Self-esteem and Self-confidence**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Always	33	66.0
Sometimes	17	34.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The Table no. 6.22 shows that, the majority (33 or 66 %) of respondents expressed that ODL always helps them in development of self-esteem and self-confidence, 17 (34 %) of them expressed that ODL sometimes helps them in development of self-esteem and self-confidence.

### Distribution of Respondents by Expression in improved Knowledge and Personality.

The Table no. 6.23 shows distribution of respondents by their expression about ODL helpful them in improved knowledge and personality.

**Table No. 6.23: Expression about Improved Knowledge and Personality**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	47	94.0
No	03	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The Table no. 6.23 shows that, the majority (47 or 94 %) of respondents expressed that ODL always helpful them in improving their knowledge and personality and 3 (6 %) of them expressed that ODL was not helpful them.

### **Distribution of Respondents by Motivation for other to join ODL Course**

The Table no. 6.24 shows distribution of respondents by their motivation for other women to join the ODL course.

**Table No. 6.24: Motivation for other women to join ODL Course**

<b>Level of Motivation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Sometimes	28	56.0
Always	20	40.0
Never	02	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The Table no. 6.24 shows the majority (28 or 56 %) of respondents were sometimes motivated other women to join ODL course and 20 (40 %) of them were always motivated other women to join ODL course.

So far we have tried to evaluate the status, freedom and natural objective responses of the 50 women respondents regarding their changed situation after get IGNOU education. We will now go to the last chapter i.e. Summary and Conclusion.