

WOMEN EDUCATION IN 21ST CENTURY



Editor
Dr. Bimal Charan Swain

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*With Profound Gratitude
For Her Blessings*



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LEADERSHIP ROLE OF FEMALE PRINCIPALS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS: A STUDY

Dr. Sambit K Padhi & Dr. Bimal Charan Swain

It is widely accepted that 21st century is the century of leadership. Leadership is viewed as a process by which someone as a head of an organisation influences subordinate staff towards the accomplishment of educational goals of an institution. This task requires men and women endowed with skills and attributes in leadership and management and they are expected to function in certain ways in order to provide leadership necessary for the success of their working organization. As can be seen from the various definitions, leadership is first a process, that is to say there is a shared transaction between the leader and those who follow him/her; second leadership is also about influencing others. Leadership is a practical skill and ability of an individual to "lead" or guide other individuals, teams, or entire organisations.

In many parts of the world, including India, there is recognition that schools require effective leaders and managers, in order to provide the best possible education for their learners. School leader is one of the key elements for quality improvement in education, who ultimately influence the organizational performance of the school. The leadership role in a school is played by an educational administrator, known as 'Principal' of the school. The Principal of a school acts an administrator, facilitator, motivator and liaison officer in order to run the school smoothly.

However, practically school leadership is not really a simple activity. It requires multiple skills, regardless of gender. The leader

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