

Education of Women in India

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Abstract - In the sphere of women's education, India is presently a world leader. In India, women's education has been a key issue for both the individuals and organizations, since educated women may play a critical role in the country's growth. Women's empowerment focuses on education since it allows them to react to problems, confront their established roles, and transform their lives. In rural regions, the rise of women's education is quite sluggish. After the 86th Constitutional Amendment proclaimed education from the age of 6 to 14 a basic right of every Indian child, the Government of India began the TEFA programme in 2002. However, according to the specified criteria for women, the status of girls' education is not improving. This research was undertaken by us in order to learn more about the current state of women's education. According to the report, the rate of female education is growing, but not in a healthy way.

Keywords - Women education, Barriers, Society, National development

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout many cultures, education is believed to be the most important component in promoting the advancement of women's position. It's possible to see education as both a means to a goal and an end in itself. Changing the status of women in society is believed to be a primary goal of education. The post-independence government in India has taken many steps, such as universalization of elementary education, enrolment and retention of girls in schools, increasing the number of schools and colleges, adult education programmes, etc., to ensure that women have access to educational opportunities.[1] An important suggestion in the National Policy of Education (1986) aimed at increasing educational opportunities for female students. The National Literacy Mission has made significant progress toward its goal of eliminating illiteracy among those aged 15 to 35. Every five-year plan term, women's education receives particular attention. International organisations also underlined the importance of education in the advancement of women's place in society after World War II. For many years, UNESCO has worked to advance gender equality by setting a 2015 deadline for attaining universal, free primary education for all children.[2]

World Education Conference in Dhaka, Senegal brought together officials from more than 170 nations in order to create six goals to promote gender equality and gender balance. Gender equality is addressed in three of the six goals of the EFA. By

2015, all children, especially girls, are expected to have free and obligatory access to and completion of elementary education, according to Goal 2. A 50% increase in adult literacy levels by 2015 is the target for goal number four. In order to achieve gender equality in public education by 2015, Goal 5 requires the elimination of gender inequities.[3] Unemployment in India's adult literacy rate is the country's most serious shortcoming, as noted in a recent UNESCO study issued in New York. Despite the efforts of the government of India and other national institutions, women still fall behind males when it comes to education. According to the 2011 census, just 65.46 percent of women are literate, which is lower than men's literacy rate of 82.14 percent.[4]

A disproportionately high proportion of females in this country do not attend school, despite several government initiatives, such as the "complete literacy campaign," "district primary education programme," and "national programme of nutritional assistance to primary education," among others. In 2010-11, the GER for girls in elementary schools was 116.7, while the GER for males was 115.4. At the middle-class level Urban female literacy rates were 79.9% in 2011, but just 58.8% in rural areas, according to the census. The rural-urban divide in female literacy has been caused by a lack of proper educational facilities, awareness among girls and their parents, and a lack of economic opportunity in rural regions[5]. States' disparities in literacy rates are also striking. In 2011, over 91.98 percent of women in Kerala were literate, making it the state with the

highest female literacy rate. Only 89.4 percent of women in Mizoram and 88.25 percent in Lakshadweep have literacy, the second and third highest percentages in the world for women, respectively. Despite this, Rajasthan has the low female literacy level of 52.66 percent, based on the 2011 census. In the 2011 census, Bihar and Jharkhand ranked second and third in terms of literacy rates. Table 1.3 displays the literacy rate by state, according to the 2011 census.[6]

Caste and religion are other major dividing lines in Indian society. Female literacy rates among scheduled caste girls are 68.6 percent in urban areas, but just 52.6 percent in rural regions, according to the 2011 census. According to the 2011 census, the female literacy rate among Schedule tribes is 70.3 percent in urban areas and 46.9 percent in rural regions. Compared to females from higher castes, just one in twenty SC girls have access to advanced education.[7]

It's a bleak outlook for India's higher education. According to the total number of students enrolled in higher education, males outnumbered females in terms of enrollment. It's also true, though, that the number of women enrolled in higher education is on the rise. In 1985-86, women made up 29.6 percent of all undergraduate students; by 2011-12, that number had risen to 42.7 percent.[8]

Education is the process of bringing out the best in a person on all levels: physically, mentally, and spiritually. It is now widely understood that education is a need for both personal and societal advancement. All contemporary countries regard education spending to be of paramount importance. In poor nations, such an investment makes sense. All education and training should culminate in the creation of men and women. The ultimate goal of any training programme is to help the athlete develop. Education refers to the process through which one learns to regulate and use one's thoughts and feelings. In order for people to live a peaceful and gracious existence, they must be given the right tools via education.[9]

Throughout the globe, education is widely acknowledged as a basic tool of bringing about desired change in society. This can only be achieved if schools are transformed into centres of education. Not only can education aid a child's personal growth, but it also serves to shape his or her future. It has emerged from recent psychology study that positive outlooks on life are formed at the very beginnings of the child's development. Education provides answers to all kinds of issues. There are many benefits to educating our children, including instilling in them moral ideals and a healthy sense of self-discipline. Through the use of modern technology and mass media, we may stay in touch with both familiar and unfamiliar people alike with the assistance of education. A person's strength is derived from their education. Education helps them learn how to

distinguish between good and bad.[10] We instil ideals in our students and readers via education. The two wheels of a chariot are analogous to men and women. As important as any one is, the two should complement one another in the course of daily life. Both are neither better or worse than the other. Despite the fact that women are generally well-treated in rural India today, they are nevertheless unable to participate in mainstream social activities because of the prevailing orthodoxy. They weren't given the respect and recognition they deserved by the people in their community. They are forced to live and work in the homes they occupy. As a result, they are fully reliant on human beings for their every need.[11]

Nearly half of the world's population is female. Because of this, women had to endure a lot of hardship as they were refused equal chances in various regions of the globe because of the dominant male mindset. Since the advent of feminist ideals, however, women's conditions have greatly improved over the globe. One of the most essential demands of these campaigns for women's rights is the access to an education. Additionally, India's government and the civil society have focused on women's education since educated women may play a crucial role in the country's growth. By 2020, India is expected to be one of the more developed countries in the world, with a better educated, informed, and prosperous population.[12] Yes, women will play an important part in the country's growth. Powerful women are essential to every country's economic development. Despite improvements, this has not yet met the criteria in India. While progress has been made, much more has to be done in the field of women's empowerment. Despite India's potential to be one of the world's greatest economies, the absence of female involvement is impeding its progress.[13]

EDUCATION FOR WOMEN IS CRITICAL

During a conversation, Napoleon was asked what France's greatest need was. His response was, "The nation's growth is impossible without educated and trained moms." About half of my country's population will be illiterate if the women are not educated. A woman must perform three roles throughout her lifetime: mother, wife, and daughter. Each of these responsibilities requires her to do a certain set of tasks. She will only be able to do these tasks to a high standard if she receives the proper training.[14] As a woman, your first obligation is to be a good child to your mother. In addition to being a good mother, a mother must also be a decent wife. A lady learns who she is supposed to be via education. It also educates her how to be a good child, a good wife, and a good mother, all of which she will need in the future. Clubs and groups are popular places for men to spend their evenings. If your wife is well-educated, you don't need a social club or organisation. He

can open up to her about what he's thinking. He can rely on her guidance when things go wrong. He may enjoy her company while he has some time on his hands.[15] Having a well-educated wife makes a better companion, a better nurse, and a better advisor to her spouse. As a result, she is a valuable member of the household. She is able to win the love and respect of her spouse. He can always rely on an educated woman to listen and sympathise with him at his worst moments. "The hand that soothes the cradle commands the world" is an English expression. The implication is that a mother has a huge impact on her children's life. The opinions and character of others may be shaped by her influence. If she's well-educated, she'll leave a lasting influence on her offspring, paving the way for them to become great men themselves. Shivaji's mother, Jeeja Bai, wanted him to become a great man. Shivaji was the one to overthrow the Mughal Empire and fulfil his mother's dream of becoming a king. Indeed, education will allow women to make her parents, spouses, and children really happy. As a result, educating women is critical. A well-educated female has a leg up over a well-educated guy.[16]

In India, women's education has a significant impact on the country's overall growth. As a result, half of the human capital are developed, as well as the quality of life in home and in the community at large. Educated women are not only more likely to encourage their daughter's education, but they are also better able to guide their whole family.[17] Furthermore, educated women may contribute to a decrease in newborn mortality as well as population growth. In India, there is still a lot of work to be done in the subject of women's education, and gender inequality is still prevalent. Male-female literacy rates are simply an indicator of the disparity between the two sexes. Male literacy was above 75% in the 2001 census, while female literacy was at 54.16 percent; by 2011, male literacy had risen to 82.14 percent and female literacy had fallen to 65.46 percent.[18]

OBSTACLES TO THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN

Is there a reason why the statistics on women's literacy and educational attainment are so dismal, as well as their dropout rates? In terms of women's access to education, what can they teach us? What have been the contributing factors, and what could be done to fix them? When possible, this section draws on existing research to identify some of the impediments to women's education.[19]

Gender stereotyping & gender segregation are some of the sociocultural impediments to women's education; others stem from financial restraints. As a result of gender stereotypes and profiling, women are more likely to take part in activities related to their household responsibilities.[20] Female students in colleges and universities are more likely to enrol in

programs traditionally regarded more appropriate for them, including such arts and education, than in scientific and technology-related programmes. Males dominate vocational and technical industries, too, and nonformal training and education providers often provide courses that focus on the household responsibilities of women rather than their ability to contribute to society. The likelihood of educating females at home is far lower than that of educating boys, and as a result, girls are more likely to be pulled out of school for domestic reasons or other socially imposed norms.[21]

Girls' education is hindered by their parents' unwillingness to teach them. Several variables influence Indian parents' decisions on whether or not to send their daughters to school. Societal attitudes about women influence the positions they are given and their ability to make their own decisions. Women's education might be perceived as an unneeded extravagance when their primary role is essentially that of childbearing and rearing.[22] Education for girls is seen as a waste of time and money because it's seen as a waste of time and money because it's seen as wasteful because it's seen as wasteful because it's seen as wasteful because it's seen as wasteful. People from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are more likely than those from more affluent backgrounds to spend more in their boys than their daughters because of the above-mentioned reasons. Women's education is frequently overlooked by the middle class as a way to help women become self-sufficient, self-aware adults. Discriminatory views, such as the idea that women's education has a lesser economic value or is at most a secondary source of income, do exist and are widely accepted in society, even among the upper middle class.[23]

In many situations, women hold themselves back from pursuing higher education because of preconceived conceptions that they won't be able to handle the demands of juggling job and family life, or because they want to reinforce socially ingrained stereotypes of what it means to be a woman.[24] Surveys done in 1974 by India's National Commission on the Status of Women covering 200 private and public sector organisations reveal, among other things: that females are limited in their career options due to prevailing social attitudes about their aptitude, employers' resistance to women entering higher-paying positions, and their lack of awareness about the options available to them.[25]

Due to societal standards and sometimes violent worries, women and girls are significantly less likely than males to get an education. In her work on Gender Inequalities & Demographic Behaviour, Sonalde Desai says that "another deterrent for

sending girls to school is a worry for the safeguarding of their virginity," citing the inhibitions parents experience, particularly in the impoverished or backward portions of society. Parental reluctance to expose daughters to the risk of their virginity is common when schools are far away, instructors are male, and females are expected to study alongside boys in the classrooms.[26]

CONCLUSION

When it comes to establishing character, economic restoration, and social changes, women's role is becoming more clear. Indian women's consciousness has risen dramatically in the last several years. There is a strong desire for equal rights throughout the nation. In addition to being a daughter, wife, and mother, a woman must actively contribute to the growth of her nation. One day can't solve all of the issues that women confront.[27] As long as society is on board with the government's policies, they are effective. We, the people of India, must all engage completely and honestly in programmes aimed at reducing the hurdles that women face in obtaining an education. Our nation's entire growth depends on a shift in our mindset. However, there is still a far way to go in terms of changing residents' attitudes about improving women's education.[28]

Women's education is increasingly a major focus in India. Throughout Indian history, there are several examples of courageous women, including philosophers like Gargi (of the Vedic era), Viswabara (of the mediaeval era), Maritreyi (of the mediaeval era), and many others like Mirabai, Durgabati, Ahalyabi, and Laxmibai. For today's females, India's historical ladies are a source of inspiration. We will never forget what they have done for our nation and our culture.[29] If you're looking for riches, health, and self-esteem, an educated lady is your wand. It's just a matter of time until we let her full potential shine through. Despite our progress in women's education after our independence, we still have a long way to go. Women's education in India is hampered by a number of social factors, which must be identified and addressed if the country is to reach its socioeconomic development targets.[30]

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