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**PRESENT SCENARIO, POSSIBILITIES AND
CHALLENGES OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN INDIA**

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Present Scenario, Possibilities and Challenges of Women Education in India

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Abstract – Education is the process that liberates the mind. It's liberation from all styles of darkness and ignorance. Women's literacy is important for economic viability and independence. Acquisition of knowledge is one among the prerequisites of human development. Today all development agencies agree on the importance of teaching women so as to push and maintain family education, health, nutrition and general well-being. The aim of education should be to coach women in such a way that they apply their acquired knowledge to the pursuits of existence and fit them for the position they need to fill. Education for women should be directed towards their holistic development. Education enhances a woman's sense of her own health needs and perspectives and her power to create any health and birth control decisions. This successively, helps to cut back child and maternal mortality and morbidity rates. The rise within the education of women and women contributes to greater empowerment of women, to a postponement of the age of marriage and to a discount within the size of the families. Women's literacy is important for economic viability and independence. Acquisition of information is one in all the prerequisites of human development. Today all development agencies agree on the importance of training women so as to push and maintain family education, health, nutrition and general well-being. The aim of education should be to coach women in such the simplest way that they apply their acquired knowledge to the pursuits of everyday life and fit them for the position they need to fill. Education enhances a woman's sense of her own health needs and perspectives and her power to form any health and birth control decisions. This successively, helps to cut back child and maternal mortality and morbidity rates. The rise within the education of women and women contributes to greater empowerment of women, to a postponement of the age of marriage and to a discount within the size of the families.

Key Words – Education, Enhancement, Opportunities, Decision Making, Maternal Mortality, Morbidity.

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INTRODUCTION

Educated women can make valuable contributions towards development of family and thereby the society. Educated women have fewer and healthier babies and that they are more likely to boost them to become educated and productive citizens like themselves creating a healthier and more stable society. This is often due to the type of education standards they build, learning from their mother. Unfortunately not many children in India have this chance. Further among the kids, education to a women child is given second preference in comparison to a son within the family. Gender discrimination, though not unaccustomed Indian society, has been the rationale for denial of education and thereby career opportunities to women in India. Status of Indian women has been subject to alter since the dawn of history. Women were treated equally with men and that they had access to education and employment during the pre- Vedic period. But during the post-Vedic period, series of foreign invasions reduced her status to 'property' which has to be protected always. Gradually she was denied

freedom to maneuver out from her house, access to education and thereby employment. Religious and cultural obligations ruled her behaviour depriving her of the liberty to form decisions with respect to any trivial matter in her life. All of them gained wide social acceptance during this regard.

EDUCATION AND WOMEN

A popular saying goes 'While educating a person benefits him alone, educating women benefits the entire family and society at large'. It's undeniable fact that children of educated women enjoy high education standards and fare better than children of illiterate mothers. Educated women, manage their homes better as they support their families economically, financially and emotionally. Women comprise approximately half the population within the world. But the hegemonic masculine ideology made them bear plenty as they were denied equivalent opportunities in numerous parts of the globe. Despite best efforts by national and international organizations education remains not accessible to several particularly women from developing countries

like India. Key challenge in achieving gender equality in education is reaching those women who remain out of college even in countries where school campaigns have led to significant gains in enrolment. Indian women enjoyed equal status together with men during the pre-vedic period. Women had access to education and married after they reached adulthood. Further they enjoyed the correct to decide on their partners. Rig Veda Upanishads mention about several women sages and seers, notably Gargi and Maitreyi. Women status started deteriorating since the post vedic period as was clearly observed from the restrictions imposed on women lifestyle in 'Manu smritis' that features restraint on access to education also. Position of women further deteriorated within the medieval period after the appearance of Muslim rulers. Social evils like Sati, Jauhar, veil system and child marriage came into practice. Education was totally denied to women during this era. Women were restricted to kitchen maintenance and treated as child bearing machines. Child marriage and made widowhood were widely prevalent during the half of this era. However during the fashionable period, British liberal education and efforts of social reformists like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar could reduce practice of Sati and compelled widowhood and thereby encourage widow remarriage. These social movements of early 20th century, were ready to formulate some laws for betterment of women's condition within the society. But women weren't encouraged to come back resolute public spaces, rather education was considered to assist them in dispensing their gender roles or domestic roles more efficiently. Currently, education for women is seen as indicator of marital prospects. Since educated women are more preferred, for marriage, women's education is critical to fulfill the marital contingencies.

ADVANTAGES OF WOMAN EDUCATION

- (a) **Social improvement:** Women education helps the women to unravel the problems and problems faced by society. Kothari commission of 1968 recommended education as a tool for social progression. Through woman education, India can attain the target of social development.
- (b) **Gender equality:** Woman could be a part of unprivileged section of society. Coeducation institutes also teach men children to administer relation to female.
- (c) **Economic productivity:** Through women education the country can attain the expansion within the economic level and it also raise the GDP of a nation.
- (d) **Decrease in infant humanity:** The educated women understand her family situation and take suitable and better decisions within the family to avoid the dispute among the members of the family.

- (e) **Improved living standard:** Education will automatically increase the use opportunity for a lady. A well-educated woman has the chance to urge good job and better standard of living.
- (f) **Strengthening of democracy:** Education creates attentiveness among woman which causes enlarged contribution in politics which eventually results in strengthening of democracy. They might protect their rights through mobilization.

IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN INDIA

According to the International Encyclopedia on women, various authors highlight the role of education for the empowerment of women. Since employment plays a significant role in improving women's status during a society education of women is of prime importance in any women empowerment programme. Educating an Indian woman creates a significant opportunity for the social and economic development of India. An informed Indian woman will yield a positive impact within the Indian society by contributing positively to the economy of both the country and therefore the society. An informed woman reduces the possibilities of her child dying before the age of 5. The possibilities of controlling the population are high as an informed woman is probably going to marry at a later age as hostile uneducated woman. A number of the barriers to women's education are sociological, rooted in gender stereotyping and gender segregation, and are driven by economic concerns and constraints. A consequence of gender profiling and stereotyping is that women's tend to participate more in programmes that relate to their domestic role. In institutions of upper learning, women are more inclined to enroll in courses traditionally considered more suitable for them like arts and education, but less in courses associated with science and technology. Likewise enrolment in vocational and technical fields has been male-dominated and providers of non-formal education and training tend to conduct programmes that relate to women's domestic role instead of their productive role. Families are far less likely to coach women's than boys, and much more likely to drag them out of college, either to assist out reception or for other socially induced normative considerations.

PROBLEMS OF WOMEN EDUCATION

Why do the statistics reflecting women's literacy, their enrolment in primary, secondary and better education or their dropout rates read so poorly? What systemic errors have aided during this and what are often done to remedy the situation? The problems of women's illiteracy have also been enhanced due to low enrolment and high dropout rates among women are who enter the formal system of education. While the enrolment o women's within the schools has

shown a study increase, it's still not commensurate with the enrolment rate of boys. The dropout rate among women's, particularly people who board rural areas, continuous to be very high. Within the light of those facts, major reasons for low literacy rate among women are listed below:

- (a) Early marriage and dowry.
- (b) Reluctance to send women's out of the house after puberty.
- (c) High intensity of poverty and parent's inability, in touch educational expenses.
- (d) Lack of access of faculties.
- (e) Shortage of women teachers.
- (f) Lack of infrastructure facilities which result in low enrolment and huge dropouts.
- (g) Need for women to assist within the farms or family occupation or household chores or responsibility of taking care of younger siblings:

Most parents believe that education is nice for women, but many parents, especially among the poor, don't send their daughters to high school. Because, their daughters are needed for agricultural and household production tasks yet as for domestic chores like cooking and searching after younger siblings. Additionally to the opportunity cost of daughter's labour, there are the particular costs of garments, school fees and books. These costs discourage poor parents yet for sons, families are often willing to forgo their labour and even incur together with his own family's after marriage and contribute to household earnings. In contrast, education for a women's only increases the price to her natal family of getting her married, since an appropriate and more educationally qualified groom requires an extended dowry. Any economic have the benefit of her future earnings would accrue to her-family.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN LITERACY

The Government of India had taken various steps to enhance literacy in India and introduced various programmes during this regard. They are:

1. **Mahila Samakhya:** Mahila Samakhya started in 1989, the Mahila Samakhya scheme recognises the centrality of education in empowering women to realize equality. Presently the scheme is being operated in additional than 8,000 villages in 53 districts spread within the states of province, Assam,

Bihar; Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and state.

2. **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan:** Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan aims at mobilising resources – human, financial and institutional - necessary for achieving the goal of Universalisation of pedagogy.
3. **Non-formal Education:** nowadays there are 2.92 lakh non formal education centres covering about 73 lakh children in 25 States/UTs. 1.15 lakh centres exclusively meant for women receive central assistance upto 90 per cent.
4. **National Literacy Mission:** The programme of National Literacy Mission aim at imparting functional literacy to threshold, sustainable level of 75 per cent by the year 2005.
5. **Navodaya Vidyalaya:** The Navodaya Vidyalaya (NV) scheme includes a three-fold objective 'of providing good quality modern education to children in rural areas, ensuing attainment of three language formula by all students and to serve in each district as focal points for improvement within the quality of college education.

CONCLUSION

Social status of women in India indicated that they're living in a male dominated framework, which is culture bound. Discontinuation of studies after primary education, early marriage and SHG women dependence on male bookkeepers for maintenance or their accounts are some clear examples for this scenario. There's less or no women participation in village social development activities as a result they're less developed. Supported the analysis of above case studies, it will be concluded that development of a Nation largely depends upon the active participation of women in development process. Many talented women, particularly in rural areas are empty education and employment opportunities. Early marriage and childbearing hurts their health and talent to think constructively. Promoting women's education, therefore, involves changing attitudes across society in addition as pin money on increasing the amount of faculty places available to women. Donors providing funding for education can help by insisting that their funds are wont to educate women likewise as boys. New means of engaging policy makers-perhaps through a bottom-up approach, where pressure is applied by civil society, or through better use of evidence to indicate the advantages of women' schooling can also reap rewards. Religious leaders also need convincing, as do men normally, who are usually the most decision-makers within households. Changing cultural attitudes toward women may be a slow and

difficult process. In nations that have succeeded, such changes have typically required strong political will further as leadership. It's crucial to notice that the attitude of individuals towards women's education will go a protracted way in explaining the extent to which the people want their nation to develop. Just like the saying goes that to coach a women is to coach the society as whole. Education is taken into account as a key instrument for the women empowerment. It changes their lifestyle, improves their chances of employment, facilitates their participation publically life and also increased their status within the society. While considerable progress has been made with relevancy literacy and education, the general structure still remains unfavourable to women.

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