



WOMEN LITERACY AND EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

This paper covers how education revolves around women and how much it is important for the women to be educated. Literacy of women is equally important as of men for every country. Education was unavailable for women since ancient times and it took lot of efforts and struggle on part of female to be educated. There are many advantages of been literate and educated which are covered under this. Realizing the importance of women education government of India has took many efforts to increase literacy among women. The efforts have worked for many women to contribute to the society in participating various fields.

KEYWORD

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Women and education
- ❖ Barriers of Tradition and customs
- ❖ Importance of Women Education
- ❖ Literacy rate of Women
- ❖ Government Schemes
- ❖ Women in different Fields
- ❖ Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

A country's development is measure by the level of education of both the gender. Therefore the government strongly focuses on education for all. India has progressed in the field of literacy to 74.04% in 2011 from 12% in 1947 but still the targets are not achieved what it should have in this modern world. The main reason of lacking behind in literacy is a considerable gap between male and female literacy. According to the census of 2011, the literacy rate for men was 82.14% while it was only 65.46% for women. Although there has been considerable increase in literate women the gap is reducing, it still persists. As per 2011 census 110 million more women had become literate as compared to 107 million men this shows that the number of literate women is increasing. Almost 50% of country's population is female but lack of education takes away their chance to be a part of well-developed India. Even if female do not use education for work totally illiterate person has a huge negative impact on our society.

A. *Women and Education:*

In this modern era education is must for every person. A country's development largely depends upon its literacy. From ancient times Indian society has always been a male dominating society and all it did was favoring males. But only education to male cannot bring development of any region. Education to women is as much equal as to men. Women education includes every form of education that improves knowledge and skills of women and girls. Education not only encompasses literacy it also includes non-literacy education. Educated women can bring socio-economic changes. The Indian constitution includes equal right of education to both men and women. Primary education is a fundamental right of women. Educating girls and women is important for the world as a whole.

B. *Barriers of tradition on women education:*

- a. Traditionally girls were considered as liability so much money was not spending on their education.
- b. They were only supposed to look after the house and children so no schooling was required.
- c. The male ego would always hurt if women were more educated as traditionally the society was always male dominating.
- d. Women played a negligible role and society always revolved around male. In poor families the girl has to look after household chores and siblings. Thus no money was spent on her education.

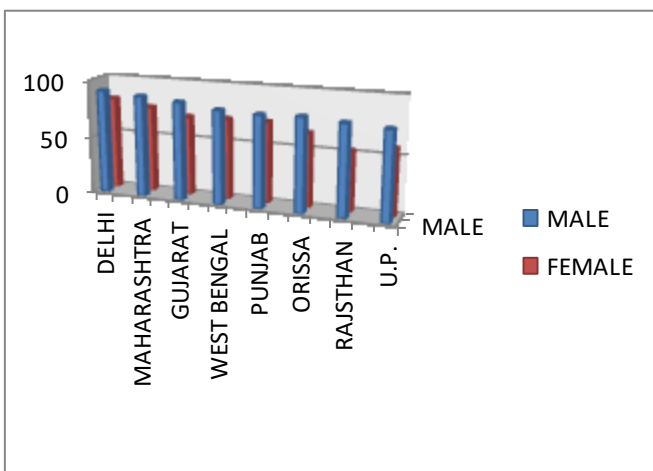
C. *IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING WOMEN:*

Education is important for women as much as it is important for men and as it is said “Educating a man is just educating a man but educating a woman is educating a whole family”. Considering entire human population the percentage of educated women is much lower than men but educating women is also much important for society here are some of the importance.

- ❖ **Prosperity and development of economy:** Education empowers women to contribute to a development and come forward for prosperity of economy.
- ❖ **Economic Empowerment:** If women remain backward and economically depend on men the helpless condition of them is unchangeable. It can be changed and empowered through education and employment of women.
- ❖ **Improved life and health:** education brings a good and better life for them. She can read and learn about her rights and make sure that they are not trodden down. Even she more aware about her health and hygiene which a illiterate woman is less known of. An educated woman can lead a healthy life style.
- ❖ **Social development:** Many social issues can be solved by women education. As suggested by Kothari Commission of 1968 education is a tool for social development.
- ❖ **Down fall infant mortality rate:** An educated woman is more aware of her family’s health. If there are more literate women this rate can be brought down.
- ❖ **Gender equality:** This inequality is always pre-received in child’s mind but this gender gap can be reduced by education. Co-education can help children to respect female.
- ❖ **Chooses a profession well:** Educated women can be highly successful in many fields. She can choose to be a doctor, air-hostesses, nurse, teacher, cook etc.
- ❖ **Alleviate Poverty:** women education is a pre-requisite to alleviate poverty. They need to take an equal burden of massive attack of poverty. There cannot be much social and economic change until girls and women get their right for education.

D. Literacy rate of women:

A well-known fact for the society development is educational opportunities to both the genders.



There has been considerable progress in literacy and education but overall picture still remains unfavorable for women. With just 5.3% of literacy rate in beginning of 20th century only 0.60% women were literate. According to 2001 census overall women literacy was 65.38% of which 75.86% were male and 54.16% were female. It is also seen that most illiterate women are located in rural and tribal areas even if women were literate the education was not be on primary level. The education level decreases as we move to higher level of education. Currently according to 2011 census female literacy was 65.46% where as it was 80% among male.

- ❖ Literacy rate of male and female according to census 2011 in different states of India.

This data shows that even after many efforts education and literacy among women as compared to male has always been low.

E. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES:

1. **Mahila Samakhya:** This scheme started in 1989, uses education as a tool for empowerment. It is mainly implemented in 8,000 villages and 53 districts in the states of, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

2. **Sarva Shiksha Abiyan:** This is promotion to entire primary education, as part of international programme of education for ALL (EFA). It is inspired by UNESCO's regional programme called AAPEAL- Asia Pacific Program of Education for All.
3. **Sakshar Bharat mission for female literacy:** It was launched in for promoting adult education among women. Lok shiksha kendras were set for this.
4. **Kasturbha Balika Vidhyalay:** It was established for residential schools of upper primary for girls.
5. **Dhanlakshmi Schemes:** It is conditional money transfer scheme for girls. These conditions were
 - a. Registration of birth and at birth
 - b. Enrollment and Retention in school.
 - c. Completion of waxing
6. **Rashtriya Madhayamik Shiksha Abiyaan:** It aims that infrastructure for girl's hostel for secondary education.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SCHEMES:

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme	Women Helpline Scheme	Ujjawala
STEP	Working Women Hostel	Nari Shakti Purnasakar
	Mahila Ploce Volunteers	

F. WOMEN IN DIFFERENT FIELDS:

As Gandhiji has said "Intellectually, mentally and spiritually, women is equivalent to a male and she can participate in every activity". Be it a Sita in Ramayana or Jhansi's Rani Lakshmibai are not only famous women but has also added to social change and awareness had been immense. India is the original home of the mother Goddesses. Women in India have always been honored and respected.

India is very honored to have had many great women, like Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit-the first UN General assembly's Indian women president, Sarojini Naidu, Indira Gandhi to Kalpana Chawla to Pratibha Patil,

first women president of India and many more whose contribution have proved to be more than a match. Their impact to society in whole and to women in certain is irreplaceable. A woman is an essence of love, sacrifice, care and ability to nature life.

List of some 1st Indian Woman, noting the first time an Indian Woman achieved something.

- ❖ Indira Gandhi - The 1st Female Prime Minister (1966)
- ❖ Mrs. Pratiba Patil - The 1st Female President (2007)
- ❖ Durgabai Kamvat - The 1st Female Actress (1913)
- ❖ Reita Faria Powell - The 1st Female Miss World (1966)
- ❖ Shushmita Sen - The 1st Miss Universe (1994)
- ❖ Homai Vyrawalla - The 1st Photojournalist (1930)
- ❖ Kiran Bedi - The 1st IPS Officer (1972)
- ❖ Bachendri Pal - The 1st Female Mountaineer to climb Everest (1984)
- ❖ Kalpana Chawla - The 1st Indian Astronaut in Space (2003)

CONCLUSION

Role of women in development of country is being increasingly recognized all over the world. Many independent nation when drawing their development programme, make provision for women's educational and other needs. Women is as much a human being as man she is equally entitled to develop her abilities, to choose the sought of life she wishes to lead and carry on all the activities and assume all the responsibilities that go to make up human dignity. Education of women has being considered to be of direct value which leads to social development.