

An Analysis of Several Aspects of Women Education in India

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ABSTRACT: *The study looks at the issue of women's access to education in India. Drawing on current literature and different statistics on women's education, the article provides an overview of the state of women's education and highlights some of the difficulties and roadblocks to women's education. A review of developing issues led to several suggestions and ideas for expanding women's access to education, including grassroots level initiatives, strategic efforts, and an enabling legislative environment. Women's education in India is crucial to the country's overall growth. It not only contributes to the development of half of the human resources, but also to an improvement in personal satisfaction at home and in the community. Educated women are more likely to not just advance their young lady children's education, but also to give better supervision to all of their children. In addition, educated women may help to reduce new-born infant mortality as well as population increase. Because women are the future of any nation, women's empowerment and education are two key elements that must be prioritized in the future to help India achieve a better economic and financial future.*

KEYWORDS: *Development, Education, Literacy, Obstacles, Women empowerment.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Literacy is the cornerstone of education, which is critical to a country's fast development. A person must first be literate before being educated. Higher education helps to societal upliftment and provides society energy. Literacy is essential for ending poverty and mental isolation, as well as cultivating peaceful and friendly international ties. In India, women's education is crucial to the country's overall development. As a consequence of the changing circumstances, women have been encouraged to start their own companies[1].

Education for women helps to the advancement of humanity as well as the education of future generations. As a consequence, knowledge is at the heart of women's empowerment, motivating them to respond to difficulties, question their appearances, and disrupt their lives. Women's education in India has also been a major source of diversion for both the government and the general public, since educated women have the potential to play a big part in the country's growth. Education is an important part of women's empowerment since it allows them to react to difficulties, go against the grain, and make changes in their life. India is on pace to become a powerful and developed country by 2022, with the goal of not underestimating the significance of education and development in terms of women's empowerment. Women's education development is modest in rural regions. This clearly demonstrates that many women in our nation are still uneducated, powerless, and abused. In terms of training and development, women's education is the most effective tool for improving their public standing[2].

If a nation wants to enhance its social status, it must invest in women's education. A well-educated woman may contribute significantly to a society's socioeconomic development. People may restore their social status both inside and beyond their families by using education. This is a crucial component for women's empowerment, prosperity, development, and well-being. Women get greater influence as a result of their education. The process of empowerment, which will be drawn from the educational system, will provide such strength. Education has an impact on Indian women's empowerment, inequality, and vulnerability[3].

1.1 Historical Paradigm Of Women Education In India:

Throughout the Vedic Period, women had access to education, but this privilege was progressively taken away from them. The Rig Veda and Upanishads of India describe many female sages and seers. Women enjoyed the same status and privileges as men in the early Vedic period. Women's position, however, started to decline about 500 B.C. In ancient India, women had a significant role. Throughout the Vedic

era, women's education was widespread in ancient India. Indian women have long been considered to be superior to males. Women were revered in ancient India, and they had a significant position in Indian culture. A well-developed educational system existed throughout the Vedic era[4].

Throughout the Vedic era, women in India enjoyed access to education, but this privilege was progressively lost. There was a rise in interest in women's education in India during the British era. During this period, a number of socio-religious efforts headed by well-known individuals such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar emphasized women's education and connections to the outside world in India. Women's education, on the other hand, has increased dramatically since the country's independence in 1947, and the government has taken many measures and initiatives to guarantee that all Indian women get an education. Women's education guarantees better advancement in human development as well as future teaching abilities. Women's empowerment focuses on education since it encourages them to react to difficulties, question their beauty standards, and disturb their way of life. In India, women's education has been a significant source of distraction for both the government and the general people, since educated women may play a key part in the country's growth. Education is a focal point for women's empowerment since it enables them to react to difficulties, question their conventional roles, and change their life[5].

Women have always been fearless and zealous in all areas of life. In Indian mythology, there are many stories about educated and evolved women. Education in ancient India dates back to the 3rd century B.C., when it was taught orally and many women scholars took part. When Buddhism arrived in India, it established a number of world-renowned educational institutes, including Nalanda, Vikramshila, and Takshila. Many women, according to studies, were enrolled in these educational temples. Several universities flourished between the fifth and thirteenth centuries. At the 11th century, Muslim rulers established universities in Delhi, Lucknow, and Allahabad. Education is still restricted to a small percentage of the population. Some individuals were unable to use it[6].

1.2 Education in India:

In India, women's education is crucial to the country's overall development. It not only helps to develop half of the world's people resources, but it also helps to enhance the quality of life at home and abroad. Formal and non-formal education are two different systems in the Indian education system. Other educational programs have been created to encourage women to seek higher education, such as online education and distance education. The overall educational program's main aim is to educate every female child. This low literacy rate has a negative impact not just on women's lives, but also on their families and the country's economic growth. As a consequence, boosting women's educational attainment is crucial. According to the HRD ministry's 2015 All India Survey on Higher Education report, 33.3 million Indians are enrolled in higher education programs. There were 17.9 million boys and 15.4 million girls on these in 2014-2015. Women's basic rights include equality, religious freedom, educational rights, cultural and educational rights, protection against exploitation, and freedom. Improving girls' educational levels has been proven to improve young women's health and economic prospects, thus improving the community's chances. Following the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, basic education is more than a means to an end; it is the foundation for lifelong learning and human development[7].

1.3 Significance of Women Education in India:

As a consequence, there is a significant disparity in the education of individuals of various sexual orientations. Girls from India were less likely to enroll in school, remain in school, or succeed academically. In any event, the situation is changing, and parents are becoming more conscious of the need of a decent education. The education of Indian women accounts for a significant part of India's development. It not only raises the standard of life, but it also advances half of the human capital. Trained women are more likely to enhance the education of their young female children, as well as offer more advice to all of their children. Women who have received an education may also help to alleviate poverty and unemployment by providing full support for their families.

The female literacy rate in India is lower than the male literacy rate. Girls enroll in school at a lower rate than boys and drop out at a higher rate. "Educate a Girl to Empower a Nation." Women have an important role in the development of the country. The country's economic wealth is not just in the hands of men in this century, but also in the hands of women. Women's education and job opportunities were prioritized by the government in order to enhance women's status in society. We need to see greater development in India in terms of gender equality, literacy, and women's empowerment under these circumstances. In response, the Indian government has launched a host of programs and initiatives aimed at bringing them into the mainstream of development. Women's socioeconomic conditions have improved as a consequence of these efforts.

After India's independence, women's contributions to the country's liberation struggle were widely acknowledged, and the Indian Constitution granted women equal rights, recognizing them as legal citizens with the same freedoms and opportunities as men. Free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 is a fundamental right of the Indian people, according to the 86th Amendment to the Indian Constitution. Despite the fact that the Indian government has taken measures such as the "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan," there is still a lot of work to be done (the main intend of this programme is to give primary education particularly to girl children from poor rural areas). Despite these efforts, there are still a number of obstacles in the way of women's education. As a consequence, the emphasis of this study is on Indian women's education.

1.4 Obstacles in women's education:

Geographical location and socio-cultural factors, health difficulties, economic considerations, religious views, legal issues, and political/administrative and educational problems all contribute to women's educational disadvantages. In India, there is still a lot of work to be done in the field of women's education. As a general rule, the male literacy rate is higher than the female literacy rate. The ladies saw themselves as mere housewives who preferred to remain at home. There are still many barriers standing in the way of females receiving an education. Some of the barriers to women's education are social in nature, resulting from gender stereotypes and inequality, while others are financial in nature. As a consequence of gender profiling and stereotyping, women are more likely to engage in programs that are linked to their domestic role.

Inadequate school facilities may be a hindrance to a girl's participation in formal education. According to a study by the International Programs Centre for the US Department of Commerce, inadequate sanitary facilities, a shortage of female instructors, and gender bias in the curriculum are among the major barriers to women's education in India. A survey of 188 government-run primary schools showed that 59 percent lacked drinking water and 89 percent lacked toilets, according to a BBC news story by Kaushik Basu (2004). According to data from the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, just 3.5 percent of primary schools in Bihar and Chhattisgarh had female bathrooms in 2003/2004, according to a story in the Times of India (2005). Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh had rates of 12-16 percent. Because the sole option is to answer nature's call out in the open, which may be both physically and mentally exhausting, a lack of toilets may be particularly detrimental to female school attendance.

Some of the barriers to women's education are social in nature, resulting from gender stereotypes and segregation, while others are financial in nature. As a consequence of gender profiling and stereotyping, women are more likely to engage in programs that are linked to their domestic role. In higher education institutions, women are more likely to enroll in subjects traditionally considered more suitable to them, such as arts and education, than in courses related to science and technology. Similarly, males have dominated vocational and technical fields, and non-formal education and training providers tend to emphasize women's domestic responsibilities over their productive ones. As a consequence, families are less inclined than boys to educate girls, and they are more likely to take them out of school, either to help out at home or for other socially induced normative concerns.

In many cases, women are held responsible for their lack of educational participation, based on preconceived notions that they will be unable to cope with the pressures of balancing work and home, or

that job mobility will cause domestic conflict, or to confirm socially constructed feminist stereotypes. According to studies conducted by the National Committee on the Status of Women in India (1974), which covered a sample of 200 private and public sector undertakings, women were restricted to a few limited types of occupation due to prevailing social attitudes about their aptitude, employer resistance, denial of training opportunities in higher skills, and their ignorance.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Nisha Nair spoke on women's problems in India. She spoke on different elements of women's education in India. She spoke on the literacy percentage of women in various Indian states. She spoke about the challenges that women face when it comes to schooling. Parents' reluctance to educate their girls, she claims, is a significant impediment to their education. In Indian culture, there are a variety of factors that affect parents' choices to reject or limit their daughters' education. The way a society views its female members determines the obligations it assigns to them, as well as the choices that may be made for them or on their behalf. Education is often regarded as a frivolous and unnecessary expenditure when women are seen primarily as birthing and raising moms. Economically disadvantaged sections of society are less likely to be able to send their children to school as a consequence of the aforementioned reasons. The middle class often overlooks women's education as a means of preparing women to be self-sufficient. Discriminatory attitudes continue and are widespread in society, especially among the upper middle class, when women's education is not limited by financial constraints[8].

Kalpna Saxena conducted research on women's education in India. She spoke on how women's education is essential if a country wants to improve its social standing. Educated women may play an important role in a community's socioeconomic development. Education lowers inequalities and disadvantages by allowing people to regain their place both within and outside of their families. Women's empowerment, prosperity, development, and well-being are all dependent on it. As a consequence of their education, women get more strength. Empowerment is the source of such strength, and education is the source of empowerment. In India, education has a significant impact on women's empowerment, inequality, and social vulnerability. She spoke on how women's efforts help the family, community, and country as a whole. Women's education, like men's, is critical to the success of the country's democracy. The importance of an educated woman in a family's well-being cannot be overstated. Education aids a woman's capacity to adapt to challenges, face her traditional status, and change her lifestyle[9].

Dr. Deepak Kumar Mandal spoke on many elements of education in India, with an emphasis on women's education. He spoke on how a country's development is difficult to achieve without well-trained and educated moms. In order to encourage literacy, he explained how the status of women in India has changed dramatically over the past several millennia. Women's rights in India have had a dynamic history, ranging from equal status with men in ancient times through the lowest points of the medieval age to the development of legal rights by different reformers. In modern India, women have occupied important posts such as President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and Leader of the Opposition. The Indian constitution guarantees women the same rights as males[10].

DISCUSSION

Work has a significant impact on advancing women's status in society. The education of Indian women is critical to the country's social and economic development. Educated Indian women will have a positive impact on Indian society by contributing to the country's economy and community as a whole. If she is educated, her child's chances of dying before reaching the age of five are reduced. Educated women are more likely to marry later in life than uneducated ones. Using current literature and statistics on women's education, this article examines the state of women's education and highlights some of the difficulties and roadblocks to women's education. It explains how education is an important part of women's empowerment since it allows them to react to difficulties, go against the grain, and change their life. India is on pace to become a powerful and developed country by 2022, with the goal of not underestimating the significance of education and development in terms of women's empowerment.

CONCLUSION

Female literacy is regarded as a more sensitive indication of socioeconomic progress when compared to overall literacy rates. Female literacy has a negative connection with fertility rates, population growth rates, new-born and child mortality rates, but a positive relationship with female age at marriage, life expectancy, participation in modern economic sectors, and, most significantly, female enrollment rates. The barriers to women's educational access are not constant between stages, professions, or geographical regions. Here's a brief overview of the educational landscape for female students. At all levels, women's educational access problems are not consistent. Despite the fact that enrolling females in elementary schools seems to be the most difficult job, girls who are enrolled are more likely to complete their basic education. Girls drop out of secondary school at a greater rate than boys, making it harder to keep female students in school. The focus of this article is on encouraging females to enroll in elementary schools and ensuring that they complete secondary school. Because women are the future of any nation, women's empowerment and education are two key elements that must be prioritized in the future to help India achieve a better economic and financial future.

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