



Feminization of Higher Education

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Abstract : There has been a phenomenal growth in a number of women enrolled in higher education since independence. Women enrollment was less than 10% of the total enrollment on the eve of independence and it has risen to 41.40%. The role of women in society is equally significant as men she has an infinite potential to reform society and the world. The Educated women earn higher incomes, participate in the decisions that most affect them and build better future for themselves and their families. Girls education strengthens economy and reduces inequalities (UNICEF). The present paper is focused on importance of women education. The total enrollment in higher education has increased to nearly 4.14 crore in 2020-21 from 3.85 crore in 2019-20. Since 2014-15, there has been an increase of around 72 Lakh in the enrolment (21%). The Female enrolment has increased to 2.01 crore from 1.88 crore in 2019-20. There has been an increase of around 44 Lakh (28%) since 2014-15. The percentage of female enrollment to total enrollment has increased from 45% in 2014-15 to around 49% in 2020-21. (AISHE Report)

Key words: Gender, Education, Woman Empowerment, Enrollment **Introduction :** *If you educate the men, you educate the person but if you educate the woman, you educate the nation.-- Mahatma Gandhi*

Women outnumbering men in higher education in many countries including developing & industrialized countries around the world. In Sociology feminization is the shift in gender roles and sex roles in a society, group or organization towards a focus upon the feminine. It can also mean the incorporation of women into a group or a profession that was once dominated by men. Feminization of education refers to majority female teachers, a female majority of students in higher education and a curriculum which is better suited to the learning process of women. The term "higher education" with respect to India denotes the tertiary level education that is imparted after 12 years of schooling (10 years of primary education and 2 years of Secondary education). The stage of education after secondary education upto post graduate of research degree level is considered as higher education. Higher education (in one sense can be called the tertiary level of education) is the top of the education pyramid.

Higher education is the backbone of any society. The quality of higher education decides the quality of human resources in a country. It provides opportunities for lifelong learning, allowing people to upgrade their knowledge and skills from time to time based on societal needs. It imparts skills and knowledge. India's higher education system is the world's third largest in terms of student next to China and the United States. India's higher education sector has witnessed a tremendous increase in the number of universities/ university level institutions and colleges since independence.

The Union Ministry of Education released data from the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-21 which showed a 7.5% increase in student enrollments across the country compared to 2019-20. The highest enrollment was seen at the undergraduate level which accounted for 78.9% of all enrollments. The female enrollment in higher education programmes had increased to 49% of total enrollment in 2020-21 compared to 45% in 2019-20. Gender Parity Index (GPI) the ratio of female GER to male GER, has increased from 1 in 2017-18 to 1.05 in 2020-21. India is the second largest sender of students abroad (360,000) for higher education. Nearly 85% internationally mobile Indian students head for five countries: the USA, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. India receives 45,423 foreign students with majority coming from Nepal, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nigeria and Sudan.

Advantages of Woman Education

There are innumerable advantages of women's education for a country -

1. It promotes ideas of equality and democracy.
2. It makes them financially independent
3. It makes them self-confident
4. It helps to build skills which helps to earn living
5. It contributes to countries' social and economic growth.
6. It improves living standards of countries
7. It reduces infant and maternal mortality

Causes for Feminization of Higher Education

The various factors play an important role in deciding the participation of women in higher education. The possible causes deciding higher education journey of women are -

1. Encouragement by government and society
2. Ability to combine studies and work with family life
3. Decreasing discrimination against girls in families
4. Higher preparation for higher education (Evidenced by the scores in secondary education)
5. Higher aspirations to obtain tertiary degrees
6. Feminization of the teaching profession and a learning environment more conducive to girls' social and cognitive disposition

Objectives :

The objectives of the paper on "Feminization of Higher Education" are -

1. To know the concept of feminization of higher education.

2. To study the importance of woman education
3. To examine the gender wise enrollment in UG Programme over the years
4. To find out the causes for feminization of higher education.

Review of Literature

Gary S et al (2010) the study observed the world wide boom in higher education of women & found that differences in the total costs of college for women & men primarily differences in the distribution of non-cognitive skills - explain the overtaking of men by women in higher education.

Nilutpal et al (2014) The variables such as per capital NSDP, level of poverty, dropout ratio for girls and women's age at marriage have statistically significant correlation with the women enrollment in higher education.

Nilani Packianathan et al (July 2016) most Indian women, with the possibility of economic independence, through respectable employment have become an important earning member of the family. An educated woman has the skills, self-confidence and the power to be a better citizen. Women have all the power & capacity as that of men and they are manifesting themselves among different opportunities provided through higher education.

Dr. Kiran Sharma (2018) Education of Women in India improves standard of living improves the quality of life both at home and outside the home encouraging & promoting education, especially female children and reduces the infant mortality rate.

Mo. Wankhade (2019) In The study adopted winters method to analyse gender wise trend of enrollment in higher education under multiplicative and additive models of time series and observed the increasing trend of female enrollment and decreasing trend of male enrollment.

Manzoor Ahmad Parrey, & Sonia Sthapak (2020) The Study opined that higher education opens the door of opportunity and prepares a solid background for ultimate growth in almost all areas. Through woman education nation will be fit for facing the challenges of future.

Sangitha Ghosh & Amit Kundu (2021) The study found that significant share of female teachers, higher per capital state domestic product and availability of colleges and girls hostels are playing important roles in contributing the GER of females and GPI in higher education in India & also observed increased enrollment of girls in higher education. This study examines their participation levels in higher education across major Indian states.

Prashantkumar C.P & Santosh V (2021) In the study it is mentioned that through higher education, women contribute to the empowerment of themselves and other women.

Methodology

The present study is based on the collection of data from both primary and secondary Sources. Primary data is obtained from the records and documents of private aided college of Sankeshwar. Secondary data is collected from the various published and unpublished records, books, magazines, Journals, Government reports, AISHE reports, MHRD Reports. both printed and online.

Analysis & Discussions

SDVS sangh's Shri L K Khot College of Commerce has been providing quality education to the students of rural part of the country. Since its inception male outnumbered female in UG enrollment but it is only after 2012-13 female outnumbering male to all the consecutive years. The possible reasons are improvement in transportation facilities, government scholarships, hostel facilities and change in parents perspective towards woman education.

Table : 1 Gender Wise UG Students Strength from 2012-13 to 2021-22

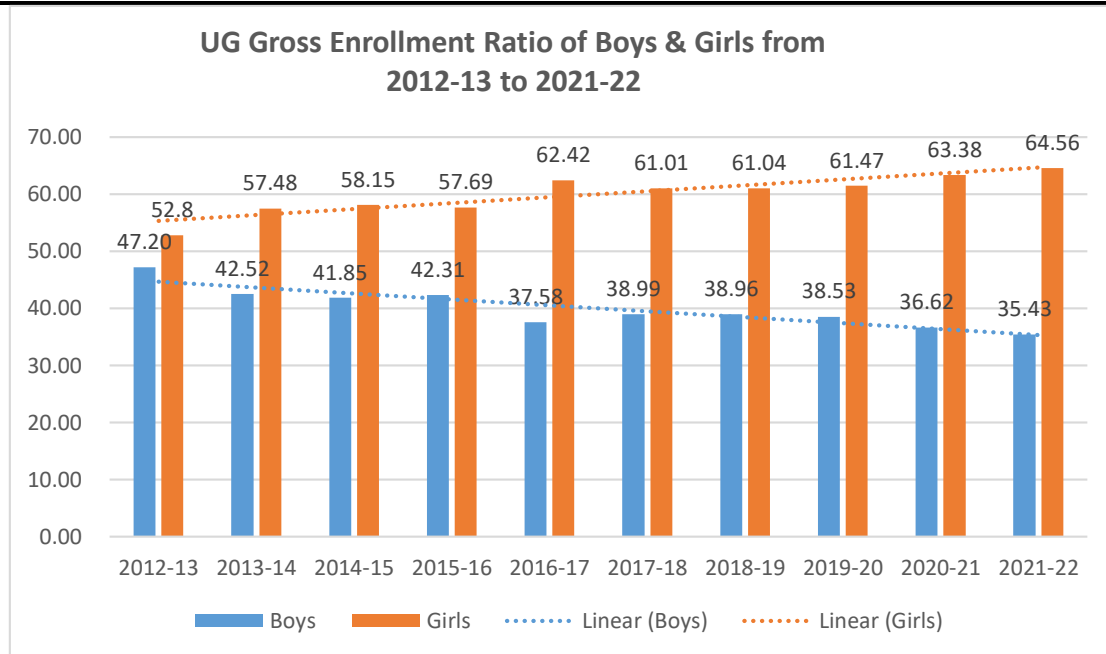
Year	Boys	Girls	Total
2012-13	135	151	286
2013-14	125	169	294
2014-15	136	189	325
2015-16	143	195	338
2016-17	121	201	322
2017-18	124	194	318
2018-19	127	199	326
2019-20	136	217	353
2020-21	130	225	355
2021-22	129	235	364

The above table reveals that the total enrollment of Girls is Higher than the total enrollment of Boys .It is clear indication of Feminization of Higher Education at private aided degree college in Sankeshwar.

Table: 2 Gender wise Students Percentage 2012-13 to 2021-22

Year	Boys	Girls
2012-13	47.20	52.8
2013-14	42.52	57.48
2014-15	41.85	58.15
2015-16	42.31	57.69
2016-17	37.58	62.42
2017-18	38.99	61.01
2018-19	38.96	61.04
2019-20	38.53	61.47
2020-21	36.62	63.38
2021-22	35.43	64.56

The table reveals that the percentage of women enrollment is more than the parentage of men in all consecutive years . The percentage enrollment of Boys has been declining except 2015-16. From the table it is clear that more and more women are graduating.



The above diagram reveals that the enrollment of women has been increasing continuously where the enrollment of boys has been declining. In the last decade female enrollment has an increasing trend while male enrollment has a decreasing trend.

Gender Wise PG Students Strength from 2018-19 to 2021-22

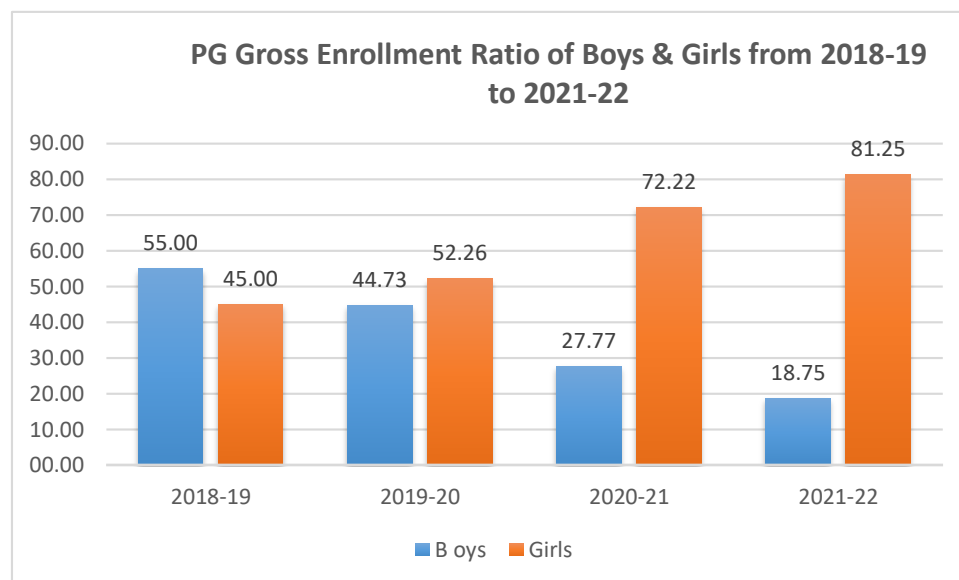
Year	B oys	Girls
2018-19	11	09
2019-20	17	21
2020-21	10	26
2021-22	06	26

According to the above table female enrollment has been increasing and enrollment of boys has been declining.

Gender wise Students Percentage 2018-19 to 2021-22

Year	B oys	Girls
2018-19	55.00	45.00
2019-20	44.73	52.26
2020-21	27.77	72.22
2021-22	18.75	81.25

The table reveals that the percentage of women enrollment has been increasing and it is remarkable in the year 2020-2021 i.e. 81.25.



The above diagram reveals the increasing trend of women enrollment in PG programme of the institution.

Conclusion : The importance of women's education is growing day by day. Educated woman can act as role model in the society. Education plays an important role in the development of individual. It helps to curb social evils and contributes to the development of the society and nation. Higher education develops specialized knowledge and skills. The social stigma of gender bias and inequality is changing rapidly. The perspective of parents has been changing towards women's education. The governments scholarships, transport facilities, hostel facilities are contributing factors in the feminization of higher education. Hence woman are outnumbering men in UG and PG enrollments.

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