

Rural Women's Education in India

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Abstract:-

In ancient India women were not allowed to even step out of their houses, but times are changing. All along with changing times people's thinking is also changing. Rural people wish to educate their girls and see them succeed in life. However, this is not the case in rural India which makes educate more than 60% of the population. We need to identify the factors responsible for such low rates of girl education to find some solutions. Rural education in India is important because majority of India still lives in villages. The majority of the rural women in India and in other developing countries actively participate in farm related works and fulfilling their responsibilities as homemakers. The level of their participation, on the other hand varies depending on the socio-economic and cultural background of the area. In 1979 according to 'Pearson' that the role of farm women into the following four categories. first women's are Independent producers, who manage the farms largely by themselves, Second women's are Agricultural partners, who share most aspects of work, responsibilities and decision-making with their husbands, Third Agricultural helpers, who only participate in farm work at busy times when extra help is needed; and forth is Farm homemakers, who contribute to the farm production indirectly by preparing meals and attending those working in the fields.

According to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) shows that even though the number of rural students (girls and boys) attending schools is rising, but more than half of the students in fifth grade are unable to read a second grade text book and are not able to solve simple mathematical problems. Not only the level of Mathematic and reading is further declining but also the efforts are being made are not in the right direction. The reason cited for this problem in surveys is the increasing number of single classroom to educate students from more than one grade. In some states attendance of teachers and students is also declining. These are a few reasons why schools have failed to educate rural India.

Introduction:-

India is one of the most populated demographic countries. The rate of girl education is quite low in the country. It is quite troubling to see the figures in a country where women are given the status of goddesses. The figures have significantly improved to an extent but there's still a long way to go. There are various factors that make it impossible for girls to get an education in our country. Firstly, the poverty rate is alarming. Even though education is being made free, it still involves a large cost to send girls to school. In rural areas, there aren't many schools. This creates a distance problem as they are located far from the villages. In some areas, students have to walk for three to four hours to reach their school. This is where the safety of the girls gets compromised so parents don't see it fit to send them off so far. Some rural people still believe girls are meant to stay in their houses and look after the kitchen. They do not like women to do any other tasks expect for household ones. Other than that, social issues like child

marriage and child labour also stop the girl from getting an education. Parents pull daughters out of school to marry them off at an early age and girls treat in child labour, they do not get time to study.

Methodology:-

This research is a small squirrel share to evaluate the “Rural Women’s Education in India”. This study is completely based on Secondary data sources. A data have been collected from Government records, Census data, books, biography, magazines, internet websites etc. The study has been conducted using descriptive method to carry out the research. The study literature reference period is from 1800 to 2020.

Objectives of the study:-

The present study is undertaken with the following objectives:

1. The purpose of study is to analyze the importance of education in rural women’s life in India.
2. To examine the society’s awareness against education of rural women.
3. To analyse the implementation of the government policies and schemes for rural women’s education.
4. Education is a key for rural women to live Clean and Healthy.
5. Make suggestions to for increasing the rural women’s education rate in India.

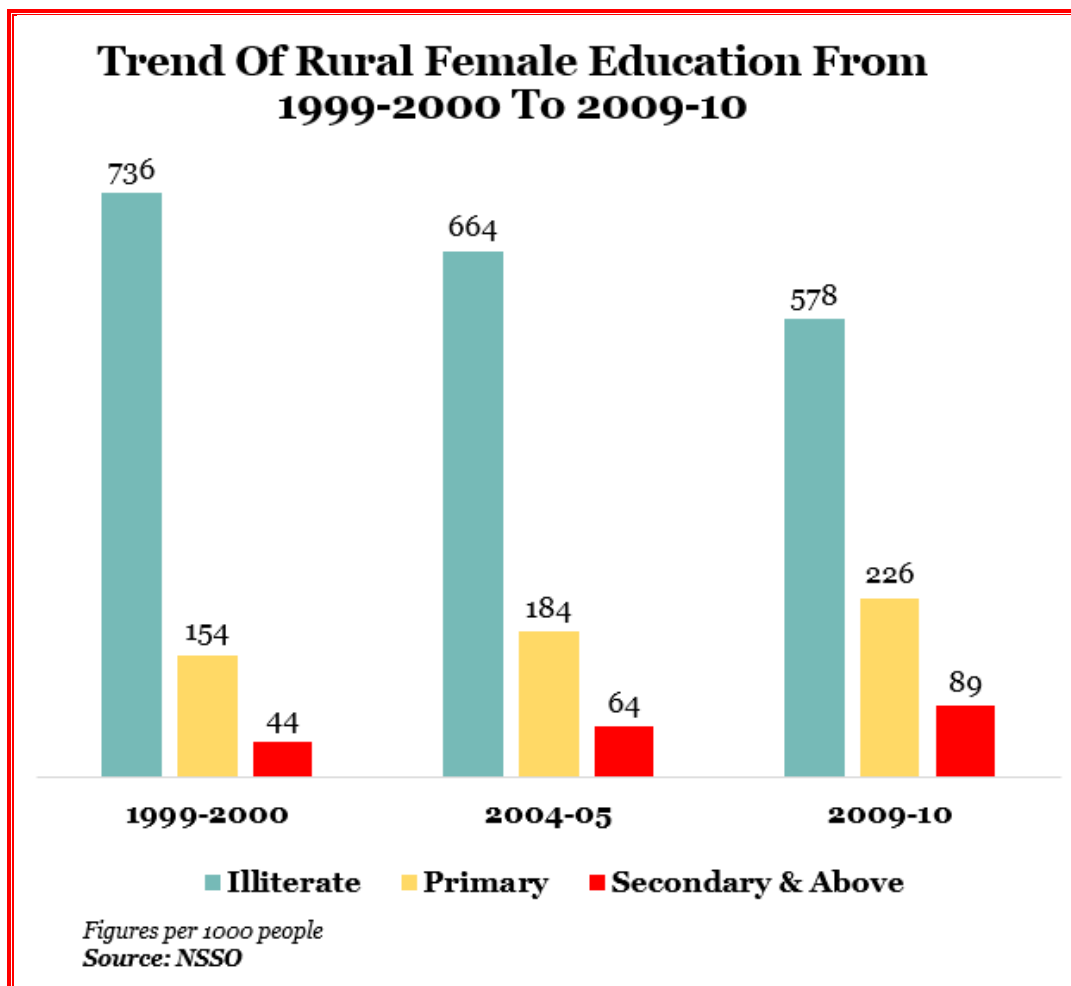
Hypothesis:-

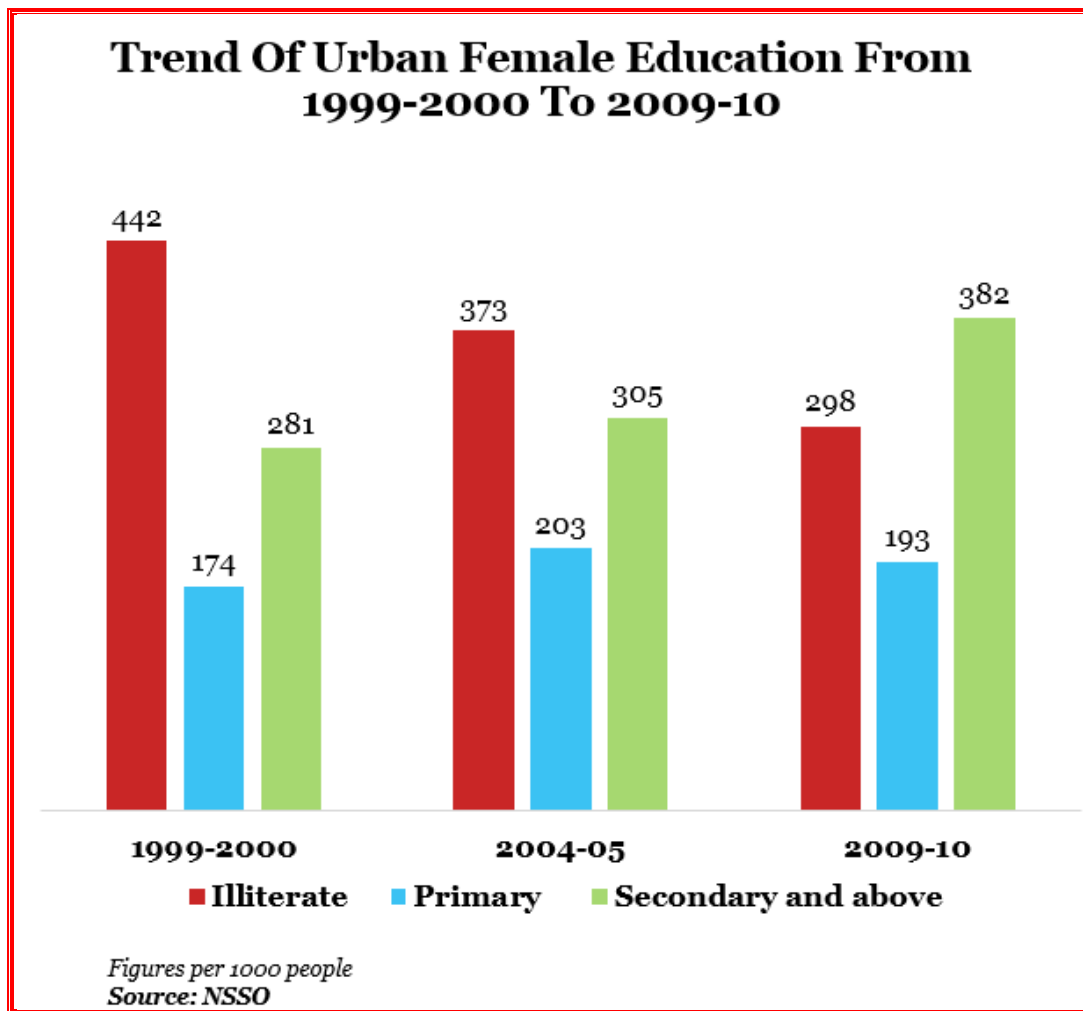
The present study is based on the following hypothesis.

1. Some rural people still believe girls are meant to stay in their houses and look after the kitchen.
2. The majority of the rural women in India are actively participated in farm-related work operations.
3. There is a need of increasing rate of rural women’s education in India.
4. Every village is not provided with school and the rural children have to go to another village to get education which is unsafe for girl child.
5. Government schools exist but when we compared to private schools then quality is a major issue.

Rural Women’s Education in India:-

The major concern in rural schools is quality and access to education as there are fewer committed teachers, lack of proper text books and learning material in the schools. Government schools exist but when we compared to private schools then quality is a major issue. Majority of people living in villages have understood the importance of education and know that it is the only way to get free of poverty. But due to lack of money rural people are not able to send their children to private schools and hence depend upon government schools for education. Above that, in some of the government schools there is only one teacher for the entire school and if they don’t show up at work, then it is a holiday. If the quality along with number of teachers and, those too committed teachers can be improved in these schools, then aspiring rural children and India can fulfill their dreams of doing something great. Every village is not provided with school which means that students have to go to another village to get education. Due to this parents usually do not send their daughters to school, leading to a failure in achieving rural education in India. Below Graph showing “Trend of Rural Female Education From 1999-2000 and 2009-2010 and Trend of Urban Female Education From 1999-2000 and 2009-2010”





According to the graph the all-India trend shows that female literacy increase in both rural and urban areas from 1999-2000 to 2009-2010. Although the numbers are much lower than their male counterparts, the highest increase was seen in the secondary school level and above for females in rural areas. Here, the numbers almost doubled from 1999-2000 to 2009-2010.

Benefits of Girl Education:-

We need to educate our rural girl child for progress and develop India. They are indeed the future of our nation. When they become educated, they will not have to be dependent on others for their livelihood. One of the most important benefits of rural girl education is that the country's future will be brighter and better. Equally, our economy can grow faster if more and more women become financially strong thereby reducing poverty. Rural women who are educated can take proper care of their children. This will strengthen the future as lesser kids will die due to a lack of vaccination or a similar reason. Even for rural women, they will be less likely to become a patient of HIV/AIDS as they will be aware of the consequences. Most importantly, educated women can result in a decrease in social issues like corruption, child marriage, domestic abuse and more. They will become more confident and handle their families better in all spheres. Thus we see how one educated woman can bring so much change in her life along with the others as well.

In some rural areas like small villages, girls are not allowed to go to school. They are confined at home to take care of the house. Because the people there still consider that women are only made to take care of the house by staying back at home. Also, gender discrimination and male superiority are still common. Furthermore one of the main reasons for the reduced women

literacy rate is the population of women in the entire country. In a recent survey, for 1000 men there were only 936 women. This represents the scarcity of female gender in our society. However, there are many steps that the government is taking to promote rural and urban women's education. Women's literacy rate is increasing day by day but still due to some reasons the growth is hampering. The main reason for this is a crime against women. Various crimes against women take place every day. Because of which women are not able to roam freely on the roads. Crimes like Rape, women trafficking, murders, abortion of a girl child are a shame for the country. Furthermore, these crimes are prevalent, though being us in the 21st Century. This is a huge setback for the growth of our country.

We can say that women's education is a major step toward success. Moreover, from the day of the independence of women's literacy rate is increasing. From 8.6% it is now at 64%. The success rate of the country in women's literacy is quite high.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan or Education for All Movement or SSA is an Indian Government program aimed at the universalisation of primary education "in a time bound manner", the 86th Amendment to the Constitution of India making free and compulsory education to children between the ages of 6 to 14 (estimated to be 205 million children in 2001) a fundamental right (Article- 21A). The program was pioneered by former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It aims to educate all children between the ages 6 to 14 by 2010. However, the time limit has been pushed forward indefinitely.

Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat is a nationwide sub-program of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Children who fail to read in early education lag behind in other subjects. The program is designed to improve comprehensive early reading, writing and early mathematics program for children in Classes I and II. The program will not only provide print rich environment, timely distribution of books but will also include new teacher mentoring and appraisal system.

The Right to Education Act (RTE) came into force on 1 April 2010. Some educationists and policy makers believe that, with the passing of this act, SSA has acquired the necessary legal force for its implementation.

The National Adult Education Programme in India aims at extending educational options to those adults, who have lost the opportunity and have crossed the age of formal education, but now feel a need for learning of any type, including literacy, basic education, skill development (Vocational Education) and equivalency. With the objective of promoting adult education, a series of programmes have been introduced since the First Five Year Plan, the most prominent being the National Literacy Mission (NLM), that was launched in 1988 to impart functional literacy to non-literates in the age group of 15-35 years in a time bound manner. Literacy rate in rural areas stands at 67.77% with rural male literacy rate 77.15% and **rural female literacy rate 57.93%**. Whereas literacy rate in urban areas stands at 84.11% with urban male literacy rate at 88.76% and urban female literacy at 79.11%.

Conclusion:-

India is still a developing country. It has too much poverty and regressive thinking. It is one of the main reasons why people don't encourage girls to get an education. Moreover various campaigns like "**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**" took place to promote women's empowerment. This further changed the mindset of the people.

When we educate girls, we educate a whole nation. Women can teach everyone around her. The education of girls will result in a better economy and a brighter future along with enhanced

confidence of the girl. If a country's rural education sector is working well, it reflects on the entire economic state of a country. Here is how we can upgrade the rural education scenario in India. Ideally, education should help a rural woman figure out what is right for her while employment would give her the financial strength to make the right choice.

Recommendations: -

Strategies for increasing rural women's education in India:-

1. The promotion of women's education should begin from the rural areas. Awareness to educate a girl child in different villages should take place.
2. The rural people's mindset was diverting towards the need of women's education. Moreover, various schools should get constructed in villages and the female child may feel safe and have to travel for shorter distances. Proper security for the women should be there so that the women may not hesitate in coming out of their houses.
3. Also, strict actions and punishment should be there for any crime against woman, So that the criminals may think of committing any crime.
4. Fulfill the basic needs of rural women through welfare programs like Literacy program, Family planning program and health education.
5. Nutrition program for mothers and children, Potable water and appropriate fuel for cooking and heating the house.
6. Access to household technology and home economic program.
7. Social and political mainstream are important components of empowerment of rural women at high level.
8. Establishing organizations or self-help groups for their own networking and empowerment through group-building of rural women.
9. Providing distance education and correspondence courses to rural women.
10. Encouraging socio-cultural changes by exploring gender issues.

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