

Challenges of Women Education

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Abstract:

Women education has been playing a crucial role in the development of the Indian society. Education is vital for the all-round development of women. It is acting as an effective tool for the socio-economic change. Because, education foster enlightenment to individual's life and thereby they contributed any spheres of human activity in public domain as well as private domain. Therefore, women education is equally essential as men for their all-round advancement and upliftment. But women have been facing several issues and challenges in pursuing their education. Thus, it became imperative to overcome the barriers and issues which have been preventing women education. The primary objectives of the paper are to identify the issues and challenges of women education in India and to address such issues. At the end of the paper I have pointed out some suggestive measures to overcome the barriers and issues of women education.

Keywords: Women Education, Status, Challenges, Suggestions.

Introduction:

Women play a prominent role in the cultural, social, political and economic life of a country. In fact, women education was encouraged in the ancient Indian society. That is why, they are given due respect and have equal rights to receive education (Ravi, 2018). Education is the process of learning skills, values, habits and acquiring knowledge and is the process of accumulations of information. Education has a very significant role in shaping and developing of an individual mind. It brings changes in human life as education is the basis of all-round development of a person. Therefore, education for women is also vital for them not only for their individual development but also for the sake of the society. Education is working as a tool of transformation and consciousness and empowerment of women. Thus, in this way education has been playing a pivotal role for women development and empowerment. An enlightened educated woman of the society can contribute immensely to her family, nation and the world at larger scale. Hence, it is undeniable that education is vital and fundamental for the advancement and all-round development of women (Kim, et al., 2010).

But women have been facing many challenges in pursuing their education. Female have been facing several problems and barriers in pursuing their education. Poverty, illiteracy of parents, gender inequality, conservatism, early marriage, etc. are acting as major barriers and challenges of female education. Hence, there requires a remedy and overcoming initiatives for the barriers of girl's education at the individual, societal as well as state level. It is vital to address their challenges for their all-round development.

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Meaning of Women Education

The provision of all facilities and opportunities to women for education is called women education. Female education is a catch-all term for a complex set of issues and debates surrounding education (primary education, secondary education, tertiary education, and health education in particular) for girls and women it is frequently called girls' education or women education. Education is the basic right of any human. May it be a girl or a boy child, education has set no boundaries. Education enlightens the soul and makes a human differentiate between wrong and right, justice and injustice. Education is not a requirement, but instead a necessity of life (Maity.& Sk Sanuar 2020). Women are the building blocks of society. They play a vital role in empowering every aspect of a society and the nation. A nation is considered as well established and empowered only when the female population in the country is established, empowered, and safe. Education is that key element that helps every individual conquer the greatest war and also create the most impactful changes in the world. A woman is such an individual who has the knowledge and temperament to create lives with meaning. Promoting women's education is as necessary and useful as oxygen is for breathing. India has been able to generate some of the famous leaders who are female. Yet, in most of the portions of the country, women still lack the benefit of getting an education and are deprived of their basic amenities and rights.

Need and importance of women education

- ❖ In a household system woman engaging every task in our society. However, female education should be encouraged as they can provide a better social setup and educating family system. In this way they contribute the society yet, their educational pursuance is discouraging.
- ❖ Education brings all-round development in a person's life. Because education enlighten one person then broaden his/her approach. Thereby, make him/her capable to do the needful for his or her life. Therefore, education for female is equally important as male for their social, psychological economic as well as political development.
- ❖ Home is known as first school of a child. Female members are the center of home or household. Therefore, there is a grave importance of women education as they are the heart of any family since women maintain the household, taking care of children etc.
- ❖ Besides these education helps females to understand the importance of national integrity, world peace. Besides individual's prosperity, educations enhance the national and international value in female.

Objectives of Women Education:

Major objectives of the researcher:

1. To address the issues and problem of women's education.
2. To point out the challenges of women education in India.
3. To make an awareness of the importance of women education.
4. To ensure the all-round development of women.

Methodology:

- In this research study data were collected from the secondary sources, and
- Descriptive and analytical methods were used.

Challenges of Women Education

- ❖ **Gender stereotypes and societal Norms:** One of the most persistent barriers to women education is the deeply entrenched gender stereotypes and societal norms. these norms often dictate that a women role is

primarily in the household, leading to power investment in their education. Girls are discouraged from perusing education beyond certain levels of fields deemed inappropriate.

- ❖ **Economic Constraints:** Economic barriers remain a substantial challenge for many women and girls. Poverty and the associated costs of education, including tuition, transportation, and supplies, can be insurmountable. In many cases families prioritize the education of male children over females due to these financial constraints.
- ❖ **Lack of access and infrastructure:** Inadequate access to schools and educational infrastructure is another major obstacle. Rural areas, in particular, often lack proper educational facilities, leaving many girls without a nearby school to attend. Furthermore, the lack of sanitation facilities in schools can be a deterrent for girls, affecting their attendance.
- ❖ **Early Marriage and Childbearing:** Child marriage and early motherhood are significant impediments to a girl's education. In many cultures, girls are married off at a young age, resulting in early pregnancy and childbirth, which disrupts their educational pursuits.
- ❖ **Poverty:** Female students suffer a lot due to the poor economic status of their family. Consequently, parents of poor household unable to bear expenses for their daughter's education. Such economic inability leads parents to the early marriage of their daughters. In this way, parents with the low economic status unable to further their daughter educational pursuance.
- ❖ **Lack of women safety:** Women safety and security are the foremost important things in any educational institutions. Very often, guardians worry for the safety and security of their daughters in any educational institutions. Gender based disparities, cultural norms, sexual harassment and sexual assault threaten safety and equality of girls which act as a barrier for their education.
- ❖ **Child marriage:** Child marriage is acting as the curse of girls' life. It is not only the denial to their educational rights but also denial of their well-being and life itself. Due to the early marriage girl children unable to continue their education. Consequently, they get pregnancy at a lower age, which further breeds often pregnancy death and diseases.
- ❖ **Lack of communication in remote areas:** Female students who belongs to the hills, peripheral villages and remote areas have often faced the problems of communication. Girls has been facing difficulties to reach the schools which are located in these areas. Thus, transportation and communication issue are the key barrier in the advancement of women education.
- ❖ **Illiteracy:** Illiteracy is a major curse of human society. Illiteracy makes one ignorant and unconscious. Thus, guardians' ignorance and illiteracy act as a major barrier for their daughter's education. Illiterate guardians have lack of vision which obstructed their daughter educational proceedings and pursuits.
- ❖ **Conservatism:** Conservative attitude and unscientific temper of society and peoples are always contrary to the social mobilization and development. Such kind of conservative mentality has been demotivating the female education. Hindrances in the expansion of women education.
- ❖ **Insufficient women teacher:** In most of the schools we found that there are no sufficient women teachers, which discourages the parents to sent their daughter in schools. So, this is another key issue of female education which has obstructed the girls educational process.
- ❖ **Lack of educational institutions:** In hills and remote villages there have no significant educational institutions placed. Therefore, many girls' students and learners remain out of the jurisdiction of education. Thus, lack of educational institution is another vital issue of women education.
- ❖ **Incompatible Curriculum:** Incompatible curriculum is another factor which creates pressure on the girl's learners in the educational institutions. Considering various kinds of girl students' needs and

compulsion curriculum should be framed as incompatible curriculum and syllabi obstructed the female education.

- ❖ **Problem of wastage:** In most of the cases, many households has been keeping their daughter away from educational institution. Guardian compels their daughter to engage in the task of domestic jobs. In such a way many female learners never ever have admitted in schools.
- ❖ **Lack of incentives:** There is a lack of initiation and incentives for girl's education and mobilization. This is another issue, acting as the obstacle of women education.

Recommendations of Women Education:

Radhakrishnan Commission (1948-1949)

In independent India first commission on education was Radhakrishnan commission on chairman of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. Recommendations of this commission on women education are:

Amenities of life: The ordinary amenities of life should be provided for women in colleges originally planned for man but to which women are being admitted in increasing numbers.

Educational opportunities: There should be no curtailment in educational opportunities for women but rather a substantial increase in them.

Educational guidance: There should be an intelligent educational guidance by qualified men and women to help women to get a clear view of their real educational interests and to provide good education according to their needs and capacities.

Normal place in society: Women should be helped to find their normal place in society, both as citizens and as women.

Cultural and social responsibility: Men should be encouraged to extend right courtesy and social responsibility in mixed colleges.

Equal in co-educational institutions: In co-education institution, due weightage should be given to women.

Equal salaries: Women teachers should be paid the same salaries as male teachers for equal work.

(Source: Ravi,2018, pp-611-612)

Measures to promote women education in India:

- Opening of more schools – a primary school for 300 pupils, a middle school for 1500 pupils within the radius of 3 miles and a secondary school within a range of 5 miles.
- Appointment of more women teachers.
- Special incentives for teachers in rural areas.
- Provision of quarters for women teachers.
- Free education to girls.
- Gaining community support for girls' education.
- Flexibility of curricula and school hours.
- Enforcement of Compulsory Education Act.
- Separate schools for girls.
- Educating the parents through adult education programmes.

- Inspectresses for schools even at the elementary level.
- Part-time employment to girls.

Conclusion:

Education is the equivalent with the progress and development. Without education and scientific knowledge no society, no civilization enriches hitherto. Education remains and become the main tools of upliftment and development of any civilization ever. As the education enlighten the minds of the people, thereby they bring changes in the social, cultural, psychological, political and economic spare of life. Irrespective of male and female education has being paying a formidable role in shaping and flourishing the women life. Therefore, it is needless to say that education is needed for women for their all-round development. However there has many challenges which obstructed female education in our society. So, it becomes imperatives to identify such barriers and issues and then find out the solution as early as possible. As female constituted half of hour population of the society, their back footage hinders our any pursuit. Therefore, female should be given equal space for the holistic well-being of our society.

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