



Educate Women: Build Nation

Soniya Yadav

Research Scholar N.K.B.M.G. (P.G.) College Chandusi

Abstract:

*Women education is a big opportunity for India to be developed socially and economically. Educated women are the weapon who yield positive impact on the Indian society through their contribution at home and professional fields. They are the reason of improved economy in the country as well as society. An educated woman has capability to handle her home and professional life. They can effectively contribute in controlling the population of India as they would like to marry at a later age in comparison to the uneducated woman. Women should be given equal opportunity in education like men and they should not be isolated from any development activities. Women covers almost half population of the country means if women are uneducated the half country is uneducated which bring poor socio-economic condition. Through the women education the social and economic development will be faster in India. To spread the importance and improve the level of women education all over the country, countrywide national propaganda and awareness programmes are very necessary. An educated woman can educate her whole family and thus whole country. **Bringham Young also said about women education - " You educate a men ; you educate a men. You educate a women; you educate a generation. "***

Women's Education in India :

Women education is very important for the proper social and economic growth of the country. Both men and women are like two sides of the coin and run equally like two wheels of the society. So both are important element of the growth and development in the country thus require equal opportunity in the education. If anyone of both goes downside, social progress is not possible. For more than 2,000 years, from about BC 300, there was practically no education for women in India. Only a few women of the upper castes and upper classes were given some education at home. But, even here, there was tremendous social resistance. Literacy of women at that time was looked upon as a disgrace. The notion of providing education to female children never entered into the minds of parents. A superstitious feeling was alleged to exist in the majority of the Hindu families that a girl taught to read and write will soon become a widow after marriage. According to the report of the National Papers presented in NCRET-2K16 Conference can be accessed from

<http://edupediapublications.org/journals/index.php/IJR/issue/view/NSGPWAIS>

Committee on Women's Education (1959), 'It cannot be denied that the general picture of the education of women was the most unsatisfactory and women received practically no formal instruction whatever, except for the little domestic instruction that was available to the daughter of the upper class families.' It was the American mission which first started a school for girls in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1824. According to the figures available, by 1829 within five years as many as 400 girls were enrolled in this school. Then, in the first decade of the 19th century, with the efforts of the missionaries as well as the Indian voluntary organizations, some girls' primary schools, particularly in Bombay, Bengal and Madras states, started. The government also took the responsibility to promote primary education in general and that of the girls in particular. However, government efforts could not go a long way due to the Indian War of Independence of 1857. After the war municipal committees and



other local bodies were encouraged to open primary schools. In the year 1870, training colleges for women were established for the first time and women were trained to become teachers in girls' schools. As a result of all these efforts, great progress was made in girl's education in the last quarter of the 19th century. However, in spite of these, there was a great gap between the education of men and women. It was estimated that for every 1,000 boys at schools, the number of girls was only 46. At the beginning of the 19th century there was hardly any literate woman in the country excepting a few in the aristocratic houses. It astonishes that by the end of the century hundreds of thousands of girls were enrolled in the newly opened institutions all over the country. Though girls and women have made much educational gains in recent years, but still have a long way to go before their historic educational disadvantage is eradicated. The education system of India, like many other social institutions, has long been discriminatory towards the women. In 1916 SNDT Women University in Bombay became the first institution of higher learning to admit female students. It had a number of high schools and colleges affiliated to it. In the beginning, it was (and is still) believed that women should aspire to become good wives and mothers, not intellectuals, doctors, lawyers etc. Women used to wash men's clothing, cared for their rooms and served them meals. They were forbidden to speak in public (these practices are more or less still continuing). The proportion of women students has increased steadily after independence and mostly in the last decade. The literacy rate of women has gone up from 8.86 per cent in 1951 to 29.75 per cent in 1981, 39.29 per cent in 1991 to 54.16 per cent in 2001. Enrolment of women in higher education has also grown since 1995. But these figures are not satisfactory when compared with the enrolment figures of boys. The main hindrance in the women education in India is rural residence, low caste,

low economic standing combined with the traditional attitude towards women education as a whole. These factors tend to deny opportunities of education to a girl. While broadly speaking (and as shown above) education of female students has made strides and it is not surprising that today in many faculties and departments of universities and colleges, more girls than boys are seen. Educated women are capable of bringing socio-economic changes. The constitution of almost all democratic countries, including India, grants equal rights to both men and women. Primary education is now a fundamental right. When a woman (or a girl) is ensured of her rights, the society at large is ensured of its sustainability. Realizing the importance of women education, the government and many non-government organizations took a lot of projects to spread women education. Literacy programs are being taken in favor of women. "Education is the best friend. An educated person is respected everywhere. Education beats the beauty and youth" - Chankya.

The women education in ancient India was quite good but in the middle age it was deteriorated because of many restrictions against women. However, again it is getting better and better day by day as modern people in India understand that without the growth and development of women, the development of country is not possible. It is very true that equal growth of both sex will increase the economic and social development in every areas of the country.

In terms of population, India is the second largest country of the world due to the low level women education. If a woman is uneducated, the future of country would also be uneducated. Women education was the matter of concern in India in the middle age however, it has been now solved



to a great extent. Women education has been given a lot of priority in India just like men to bring some positive changes in the social and economic status of the country. In the past women were not allowed to go out of the door of their houses. They were only limited to the domestic works as their education.

Raja Ram Mohan Ray and Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar were some famous social reformers during the British rule in India who paid their attention towards the women education. Both man and woman covers the half population of the country. They are like two sides of the coin so need equal opportunity to participate in the country development. One cannot exist without other because women are everything as they give birth to the future generation. If they would be well educated they would give rise educated future generation and thus healthy social and economic condition in India.

Importance of Women education

The importance of women education are briefly summarized below:

Economic development and prosperity: Education will empower women to come forward and contribute towards the development and prosperity of the country.

Economic empowerment: So long as women remain backward and economically dependent on men, the helpless condition of them cannot be changed. Economic empowerment and independence will only come through proper education and employment of women.

Improved life: In our country, girls wait for marriage and after marriage they lost their

entities. Their rights are trodden down, sometimes situation becomes insulting. If we do not take a broad outlook in the field of female education, the situation will be worse.

Dignity and honor: Educated women are now looked upon with dignity and honor. They become a source of inspiration for millions of young girls who make them their role-models.

Justice: Educated women are more informed of their rights for justice. It would eventually lead to decline in instances of violence and injustice against women such as dowry, forced-prostitution, child-marriage, female feticide, etc.

Choice to choose a profession of her choice: Educated women can prove be highly successful in the fields of life. A girl-child should get equal opportunity for education, so that, she can plan to become a successful doctors, engineers, nurses, air-hostesses, cook, or choose a profession of her choice.

Alleviate poverty: Women education is a pre-requisite to alleviate poverty. Women need to take equal burden of the massive task of eliminating poverty. This would demand massive contribution from educated women. There cannot be much social and economic changes unless girls and women are given their rights for education.

So we can say that the female education in India is highly necessary for the future of the country as women are the first teachers of their children means future of the nation. If education of the women is getting ignored, it would be the ignorant of bright future of the nation. An uneducated women cannot actively participate in handling the family, proper care of the children and thus weak future generation. We cannot



count all the advantages of the women education. An educated women may easily handle her family, make each family member responsible, infuse good qualities in children, participate in the social woeducated. Lack of women education weakens the powerful part of the society. So, women should have full rights for the education and should not be treated as inferior to men. Mummad Ali Jinnah declare women the third power - " There are two power in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a third power stronger the both, that of the women."

Conclusion:

India is now a leading country in the field of women education. History of India is never blank of brave women however it is full of women philosophers like Gargi, Viswabara, Maritreya (of Vedic age) and other famous women are like Mirabai, Durgabati, Ahalyabi, Laxmibai, etc. All the famous historical women in India are inspiration for the women of this age. We never forget their contributions to the society and country. Women education have been improved in all the urban and rural areas of the country however in the rural areas extra programmes of development of women have been included. In order to improve socio-economic status of women in the rural areas, awareness programmes are run to develop income generating activities. Until the middle of nineteenth century, girls and women were educated only for traditional household works. Now, the society is witnessing changes in the role-status of women. There is greater emphasis on education girls and women in the same way as we educate boys and men. The modern day parents want to fulfill the

aspiration of their children without gender parity. The educated women should insist on exercising their civil, social, political and economic rights. This will help improve the overall condition of women in the society. We can hope for better days while all women of our country will be enlightened and educated.

Female education in India has been an urgent need of the new era. We cannot hope for the developed nation without proper education of the women of the country. Educated women play a very important role in the progress of a family, society, and country. In order to make democracy successful in the country women education is necessary together with the men. It is very truly said that educating a woman educate whole family and thus whole nation a day. It is very necessary to highlight on the importance of female education in the country because women are first teacher of their children. Future of the child depends on the love and care of the mother means a woman. Every child get his/her very first lesson through the mother thus it is very important for a mother to be educated as only a well educated mother can shape and mould the career of her child. Trained and educated mothers may nourish many lives in their life term and give rise to the developed nation.

A woman performs the role of many characters throughout her life such as a daughter, sister, wife, and mother. Before being involved in any relationship, first she is a free citizen of the independent country and has all rights like man. They have rights to get proper education to perform better in all areas of life. Women education help them to be more independent and empowered in their life. Education help them to



grow their mind and status and not be a burden to their parents like past times. Education help them to be well aware of their duties and rights as well as realize their responsibilities to contribute towards development of the country as same as men do. Since ancient time to the time after independence, there have been lots of progress in the field of women education. However not satisfying as much has yet to be achieved. The reason of backwardness in the Indian society is because of the lack of proper women education. Lack of proper women education is because of the various social restrictions against women in India which need to be over on urgent basis. In order to remove such type of social evils from the society and improve status of women education, women should be encouraged for their rights of proper education so that they may make their positive efforts towards society and country. "Education is not preparation for life; Education is life itself." said by Dewey.

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