

## STATUS OF WOMEN'S EDUCATION AND ITS IMPORTANCE

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### ABSTRACT

The right to education or the right to education is illiteracy, respect for human rights of young people and fundamental freedoms and efforts to eradicate discrimination in education, with the United Nations, United Nations organization for educational, scientific and cultural development. It is proceeding with unity and cooperation. The United Nations recognized the year 1970 as the international year of education and established the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural development corporation. The right to education mentioned in the universal declaration of human rights the international covenant one economic, social and cultural rights the international convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against woman the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against woman and the convention on the rights of the child. The universal declaration of human rights state as that everyone should enjoy the right to education. Article26 of the universal declaration of human rights states that everyone has the right to

education. A country or a nation can be advanced politically, socially, culturally and economically by having access to education. Education of women is far more important than men. According to Mahatma Gandhi, men's education is the education of an individual but women's education is the education of the whole family. Unless women have an opportunity to have the right to education, a nation cannot advance and achieve its goal. The female education has been the key to the progress of every nation. While underlying the importance of women's education, Jawaharlal Nehru, said, "Education of boys is education of one person, but the education of a girl is the education of the entire family". Long before the government took up the cause of women's education, the missionaries were already at work. They came to India mainly to spread Christianity. They selected education as a tool to carry on their missionary work. They made much effort for women's education in madras presidency. Gradually, their work in the field of female education was also increased. Till the advent of European missionaries, every village in Tamil Nadu had a pial school, popularly known as tinnai pallikudam. Thus, higher education was extended to all levels of students, irrespective of caste, creed and colour. With the arrival of the protestant danes at tranquebar on the on the south east coast in 1706, began. This paper to know the position of women education, Equality of education, Women's Rights to education.

**Keywords :** Women education, Equality Rights of education.

## **INTROUDACTION**

Everyone has the fundamental right to an education, and when we say everyone, we should not forget to include women in this group. Women make up a big portion of society, and it would be to our great loss if they were all illiterate. No of their socioeconomic status—wealthy, poor, young, old, married, single, widowed—all girls and women have the fundamental right to an education. Education is a fundamental right, not a privilege. Women were freed from the tradition of in-house traditions after the Declaration of Independence. As the constitution set forth the right to education, higher education began to be implemented. The Indian Constitution mentions children's education as required in Article 45. The rights and privileges demanded by women and girls around the world are known as women's rights. They served as the inspiration for both the feminist movements of the 20th and 21st centuries as well as the women's rights movement in the 19th century. These rights are institutionalised

or supported by legislation, local tradition, and conduct in some nations, but are disregarded and suppressed in others. They differ from more general ideas of human rights in that they contend that there is an innate historical and traditional prejudice against women and girls using their rights in favour of males and boys.

## **POSITION OF WOMEN EDUCATION**

### **VEDIC PERIOD**

Women were treated equally in all sectors of life throughout the Vedic Period. India was a highly exalted country that even its own residents used to denigrate because of its greatness. And because reading and studying the Atharvaveda and other sacred texts is regarded as important, people were extremely cautious. They were encouraged to read notable works and put them into practice in order to decipher all knowledge's branches. In the Vedic era, the majority of girls were free to pursue their education without many restrictions. In contrast to later eras, women's education was not disregarded. During this time, there were also female scholars present. Women of this era were split into two classes by their educators: Brahmavadinis and Sadyodvahas. The former had studied philosophy and theology their entire lives. Women poets and thinkers were numerous, including Apala, Ghosha, Visvavara, Sulabha Maitreyi, and Gargi.

### **ANCIENT PERIOD**

Women had important positions in society and were educated in ancient India. Girls' education was not overlooked. The Rigveda lists the names of literate women who acquired the status of Rishis and wrote hymns, including Lopamudra, Sikata, Nivavasi, Vishwavara, Ghosha, and Apala. The role of women had declined during the Epic era. The rights of women and education were restricted as time passed. When Hiuen Tsang travelled to India (about 630 AD), he notes that female education was only available to the upper classes.

### **MEDIEVAL PERIOD**

Village boys and girls were taught in native schools during the Middle Ages and later until the arrival of the British; there were no public schools. Girls were pulled out of school at a young age and denied a proper education due to the practise of child marriage and the

requirement that they perform household chores. They remained illiterate and "beyond the reach of all education."

## **BRITISH PDERIOD**

The equal right of women to education and culture was widely acknowledged during British administration in Tamil Nadu. Nowadays, women are becoming more educated quickly. Female education has undergone all stages, including complete indifference, scorn, criticism, and acceptance. It can now be said with confidence that anyplace in India, the importance of girls' education is acknowledged as a cardinal need for societal advancement.

## **19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY**

Women's education had advanced somewhat in the early 19th century. However, parents removed their daughters from school in order to arrange for marriage. A reformer named Carpenter urged the establishment of a normal school for girls in Madras in 1850 during a meeting with the city's leaders and the director of public instruction to stop high caste girls from dropping out of school before completing their education. A normal school for girls was established in 1869 as a result of her efforts, but admission was only open to girls from the higher castes and classes.

The Hunter Commission, which was established in 1882, recommended that the government take responsibility for and give prompt attention to female education. The proposals were also carried out by the Madras government. In the same year, Brander, the girl's school inspector, submitted her report regarding the education of girls, the proposed grant-in-aid programmed for girl's schools, and the hiring of teachers to instruct girls at home. Duncan, the Director of Public Instruction in Madras, suggested to the government in 1890 that co-educational schools (mixed schools) would end social prejudice against female education. The inspectresses of schools oversaw the education of girls in these institutions. Zenana education, a programmed that allowed for the instruction of girls and women at home, was introduced by Christian missionaries and private institutions to promote education among women. This programmed was designed to make learning at home easier for married women, elderly people, and purdha ladies. The Madras government accepted the policy of advancing female education by the end of the 19th century and encouraged private

Organisations and Christian missionaries to open girls schools and women's colleges in the Presidency.

## **20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY**

Female education quickly spread over the first 20 years of the 20th century. The British government raised the number of training schools for women and established model elementary schools for girls in significant locations in 1904. Women's practical education was prioritised in order to help them get useful jobs. The 1905–06 grant-in-aid code revision equalised funding for both boys and girls. Girls were encouraged to pursue secondary education by providing generous funds to schools and scholarships for the female students. While praising the advancements made in female education at the All India Women's Conference on education held in Madras in 1928, Lady Irwin also addressed the causes of the women's education gap. She emphasised the significant barriers to female education in the nation, including poverty, ignorance, apathy, negative public opinion, societal norms, and even politics.

The societal taboo against women's education was lifted in the 1930s as people saw the benefits of women's education in a society that was changing quickly. Women have the chance to become teachers and work in elevators thanks to higher education and technical training. Educated women were inspired to join the liberation fight by Mahatma Gandhi's satyagraha and political agitation movements. Women participated in the Quit India campaign (1942) to protest British imperialism. Queen Mary's College students participated in a hartal and led procession, screaming "Quit India" throughout, till police dispersed them. The Second World War (1939–1945) provided educated women with the opportunity to serve their country in a variety of ways, and with India's independence, the outlook for women's status in society drastically changed. Women with education could work in offices and factories, and they started to contribute to society as doctors, engineers, scientists, lawyers, and teachers. They have made a significant contribution to politics. Many are qualified to work as ministers and lawmakers in the federal government and the states.

## **IMPORTANCE OF GIRLS EDUCATION**

The generation will be educated and contribute to the growth of the nation if the women of the nation have an education. Additionally, educating women results in numerous

improvements and improved conceptual comprehension. Some advantages of educating girls are listed below. If women educate themselves, the population of the nation will remain constant, and family planning will take precedence.

- Women who have an education will become self-sufficient, the marriageable age can be raised, and they will be free to choose their own needs and decisions.
- Women take care of themselves and their families and avoid dramatic circumstances.
- Women have a wide range of career options.
- Education for women empowers equality.
- Women's education aids in their ability to communicate their opinions and causes many social enmities to be voiced.

### NEED FOR AND VALUE OF WOMEN'S EDUCATION

It is significant in India, according to the International Encyclopedia of Women (1999), and numerous authors stress the value of education in empowering women. Women's education is critical in any endeavour to empower women, just as labour is crucial in improving women's status in society (Dominik and Jyoti, 2012). The prospect for India's social and economic development is significant when an Indian girl receives an education. By making contributions to the national and social economy, an educated Indian woman would have a good impact on Indian society.

### EDUCATION FOR WOMEN'S EQUAL RIGHTS ACT

The Indian government's top priority is "education for all," but despite this, our country still has one of the lowest percentages of female literacy in Asia. India is making progress, albeit slowly, as we haven't yet made the necessary progress. The poll estimates that male literacy rates in India are 84.7 percent and 70.3 percent for females. The average literacy rate in India is 77.7 percent, according to NSO. For the nation's overall development, female education is crucial. An educated lady is capable of juggling her personal and professional obligations.

**Several factors make the importance of educating girls so clear:**

- Fundamental Rights: Women must be considered when referring to education as a fundamental right for everybody. Every girl and woman, regardless of social class, income level, age, marital status, or status as a widow, has the fundamental right to an education. Education is not a luxury but a fundamental human right.
- It encourages equality in society: When we talk about bias and inequality as a problem, we frequently think that it starts at a very basic level. For instance, a boy may begin to feel superior to a girl when his sister remains home while he attends school. However, it instructs both sexes in the promotion of democracy and equality.
- Education gives them self-confidence, independence, and empowerment. Education is crucial for everyone since it enables one to acquire the skills necessary to support oneself while helping others. A woman who can work, pay her own way through school, and cover her own costs is independent of others and her family. It empowers kids to understand their own worth and originality, as well as the bravery to form their own opinions.

## ACTIONS TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S EDUCATION

It is obvious that in order to accomplish the following goals, women must first have access to excellent education. As a result, women will acquire the information, abilities, attitudes, and other skills required for full participation in societal progress.

The following objectives are set forth for enhancing women's education:

- Increasing women's production, which will raise their families' level of living.
- It enables women to use current technologies and participate in cooperative management.
- Increasing women's social and cultural position.
- Facilitate the performance of women's jobs.
- Assisting women in overcoming their own fears and emotions of worthlessness or inferiority.
- Teach women about all facets of their development, including their intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth.

## BENEFITS OF WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN INDIA

If the nation's women are educated, the subsequent generation will also be educated, and the nation will advance. Additionally, educating women results in several changes and improved conceptual comprehension.

The following are some benefits of female education:

- **Social progress:** Education for women aids in assisting women in overcoming social issues and challenges. In 1968, the Kothari Commission promoted education as a means of advancing society. India's social development objectives can be met by educating women.
- **Gender Equality:** In society, women are underrepresented. They are able to close the gender gap in society with the aid of education. Teach young males to value and respect women.
- **Economic Productivity:** The country may accomplish economic growth and raise its GDP as a whole by educating women.
- **Lessening of Humanization of Children:** Educated women are aware of their family situation and make better decisions at home to lessen family conflicts. In India, women's education also lowers the infant mortality rate.
- **Higher standard of living:** A woman's employment opportunities inevitably expand with education. Women with higher levels of education are more likely to have respectable careers and higher living standards.
- **Increasing political involvement and bolstering democracy:** Women's attention is drawn to education, which promotes democracy. By organising, they can safeguard their rights.

## CONCLUSION

The education of women is crucial for a nation's progress. Girls and women must have access to the right resources in order to pursue an education. Women's education in India is becoming more and more popular. Plans to encourage females' education are being funded by both the government and private investors. Women are now celebrated in all spheres of life in India, including the family, the workplace, and politics. India may witness a rise in the number of women in leadership roles in the years to come. The cornerstone for a better future is a decent education.



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