



Literacy Rate of Women in Different States

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ABSTRACT

The potential for women's literacy to reshape the developing world remains an untapped developmental resource. This article is in the descriptive mode discussing the literacy and women development and this paper illustrates the positive effects of female literacy. In addition, educated women are less likely to fall into early marriage, early motherhood.

Mothers who are literate are much more able to run their households well and understand health education materials that directly impact the lives of their children. The second half of this paper explores some of the most effective ways of achieving increased education and literacy for women. Financial incentives prove very successful in recruitment and retention of female students. In addition, the most effective development initiatives tend to educate women with the goal of transforming them into agents, mentors, and teachers so that the legacy of literacy will extend to future generations.

KEYWORDS : Literacy, Education, Mentor, Incentives, Innovation, Wealth

INTRODUCTION

On 8th September, every year, we celebrate International Literacy Day. According to recent estimates, there are approximately 862 million illiterate people in the world. More than 100 million children lack access to education. Nearly two-thirds of who are girls. Literacy means the ability to read and write. More schools and better language teachers for more women and children will increase the literacy rate. Literacy depends also on the wealth of a country. A country that is rich can afford more and better schools and pay the teachers well. It is hard to imagine a functioning country without literate people. Technology and science depend on literate people.

CONCEPTUALISATION

Literacy is key to social and economic development of a country. Access to literacy is a basic step towards achieving the general well-being of women. Literacy is key to sustainable development. Hence, literacy is considered as a major tool in building a developed and peaceful society in the 21st Century. Socially, however, there is poverty, displacement and insecurity, and psychological effects which include depression and other disorders.

Literacy Rate in India

To know development in a society, Literacy is another proper indicator of economic development. For purpose of census, a person in age limit of seven and above, who can both write and read with understanding in any of the language is considered as a literate in India.

As per Population Census of India 2011, the Literacy rate of India has shown as improvement of almost 9 percent. It has gone up to 74.04% in 2011 from 65.38% in 2001, thus showing an increase of 9 percent in the last 10 years. It consists of male literacy rate 82.14% and female literacy rate is 65.46%. Kerala with 93.9% literacy rate is the top state in India. Lakshadweep and Mizoram are at second and third position with 92.3% and 91.06% literacy rate respectively. Bihar with 63.08% literacy rate is the last in terms of literacy rate in India. 93.91%. The literacy rates of different Indian states in 2001 and 2011. Kerala is the most literate state in India, with 93.91% literacy, followed by Lakshadweep at 92.28%. Bihar is the least literate state in India, with a literacy of 63.82%.

Government of India has taken several measures to improve the literacy rate in villages and towns of India. State Governments has been directed to ensure and improve literacy rate in districts and villages where people are very poor. There has been a good improvement in literacy rate of India in last 10 years but there is still a long way to go.

List of Steps taken by Government of India to improve Literacy Rate in India:

- Free education programs to poor people living in villages and towns.

- Setting up of new school and colleges at district and state levels.
- Several committees have been formed to ensure proper utilization of funds allotted to improve literacy rate.

OBJECTIVES

Expanding women's education has become an important objective for developing countries. The benefits are undeniable, educated women contribute positively to every aspect of society. Within the community they add to the labour force, increasing GNP, and ultimately increasing a country's level of income. In the home they promote health care, and education, creating a standard for the future. For developing nations to continue to grow it is crucial that they provide education to the entire population.

Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other groups to do more to make literacy accessible to women everywhere, particularly those living in vulnerable or isolated communities. "Every literate woman marks a victory over poverty," he noted, calling for "increasing funding and sustained advocacy for quality literacy programmes that empower women

Irina Bokova, the Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), said in her message that investing in women's literacy carries very high returns. "It improves livelihoods, leads to better child and maternal health, and favours girls' access to education," she stated. "In short, newly literate women have a positive ripple effect on all development indicators."

International conference at UN Headquarters in New York that is opened by former United States First Lady Laura Bush, who is Honorary Ambassador for the UN Literacy Decade .UNESCO is launching a new Knowledge and Innovations Network for Literacy. Created with support from Verizon Foundation and Microsoft, the network is a virtual workplace where literacy researchers and practitioners can link up, share knowledge and debate literacy topics on line.

BENEFITS OF WOMEN EDUCATION

The benefits of women's education extends to all aspects of society. Besides contributing to a nation's economy, educated women are an asset to a nation's private sector. "Women's education is also associated with quantifiable increases in home output - in the form of better health and nutrition, more attention given to each child, and so on - despite the fact that better-educated women are likely to spend less time in the home" Educated women tend to marry later in life and have less children. Also there is an inverse correlation between the level of education and child mortality rates. Women who have had an opportunity to educate themselves are more aware of prenatal health care, hygiene, and nutritional practices" "For every year of mothers' education, child mortality is reduced 7 to 9 per cent"

The greater amount of knowledge a women possesses, the more she

can influence and contribute to her society. Through education women gain "political awareness, participation and organizational skills" which enables them to become effective community leaders. It is also proven that educated women have a profound effect on future generations. A key strategy behind continuing women's education is encouraging females in professional positions, such as teaching. The success of these women will provide young girls with role models of their same sex who will motivate and excite these girls to educate themselves.

Many developing nations have recognized these benefits of women's education and adopted mass literacy programs. Literacy campaigns, however, are beginning to have an impact on many communities. Where these programs have the full support of national and local leaders they have been effective in reducing illiteracy.

THE INDIA TOP 10 STATES WITH HIGHEST WOMEN LITERACY RATE

Kerala: Kerala tops the list with a literacy rate of 93.91, according to census 2011. Among women, the literacy rate is 92 pc, and among men 96 pc. According to the first Economic Census, conducted in 1977, 99.7% of the villages in Kerala had a primary school within 2 km, 98.6% had a middle school within 2 km and 96.7% had a high school or higher secondary school within 5 km.

Lakshadweep: The literacy rate of this archipelago is 92.28 per cent. Among women, the literacy rate is 88.2 pc, while among men it is 96.1 pc. After the States Reorganization Act in 1956, Lakshadweep has come up in a big way with a string of schools for elementary education. The rise in number of educational institutions in the year 1997 led to Lakshadweep being a favourite educational destination.

3. Mizoram: The literacy rate of the state is 91.58 percent. Among women, literacy rate is 89.4 pc and among men it is 93.7 pc. Serchhip and Aizawl districts are the two most literate districts in India. Mizoram established 360 continuing education centres to handle continued education beyond the initial literacy teaching and to provide an educational safety net for school drop-outs.

4. Tripura: Tripura became the fourth highest literate state in India after 2011 census recorded 87.75 percent literacy. Among women, 83.1 pc are literate, while among men 92.2 pc are literate. In 2001 Tripura's place was 13th in the country. Nodal agency state literacy mission and other connected organisations started getting success in state's remote and hill areas after security forces contained armed extremist problem

5. Goa: Literacy rate in Goa has seen upward trend and is 87.4 per cent as per 2011 population census with 93% of males and 82% of females being literate

6. Daman and Diu: The literacy rate in the territory is 87.07 per cent. Among women the literacy rate is 79.6 pc, and among men it is 91.5 pc. There are a lot of government and private run schools and colleges.

7. Pondicherry: According to Census 2011, Pondicherry has an overall literacy rate of 86.55 pc. Among women, 81.2 pc are literate, while 92.1 pc men are literate. It has a population of 12.48 Lakhs, an increase from figure of 9.74 Lakh in 2001 census. Total population of Pondicherry as per 2011 census is 1,247,953 of which males and females are 612,511 and 635,442 respectively

8. Chandigarh: The literacy rate of the city is 86.4 per cent. 81.4 pc women are literate, while among men, the literacy rate is 90.5 per cent.

9. Delhi: The literacy level in Delhi has risen steadily since the last decade, with 91.03 per cent males and 80.93 per cent of women literate — an overall improvement of 5 per cent since the 2001 Census. The overall literacy level has also increased from 81.67 per cent in 2001 to 86.34 per cent in 2011. The gap between male-female literacy level in Delhi has dropped from 12.63 per cent to 10.10 per cent.

10. Andaman and Nicobar islands: Literacy rate in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has seen upward trend and is 86.27 percent as per 2011 population census. Among women, 81.8 pc are literate, while among men, 90.1 pc are literate. Andaman and Nicobar Islands has a very strong network of schools and centres of higher education.

The United Nations declared 1990 to be International Literacy Year with female illiteracy its focal point. At that time, estimates showed that one third of all women could not read nor write. UNESCO, one of literacy's leading sponsors, declared the "lack of advancement in the education of women and girls is 'the heart of the problem of illiteracy'". The problem is particularly bad in developing countries. According to one United Nations report "females have higher rates of illiteracy than males in all of the developing regions..For the least developed group as a whole, female illiteracy is 73 per cent and male, 53 per cent

Historically education has been used by the dominant group in a society as a tool to maintain their superior position. "The experience of over two decades of development efforts around the world has shown that countries which place the emphasis upon the private economic sector achieve the best development results. This means that, especially for the least developed countries, the women's path to development is the best path. With increased literacy, women will be able to influence the economic, social, and human aspects of their community. Statistics show "that in most parts of the world where the standard of living is high, literacy is equally high among men and women.

CONCLUSION

Women present are much liberated than the past. The status of woman has undergone a great change today. They are thanking sincere efforts to rise in all spheres of life. Women have provided to more responsible and won the great dedication. More schools and better language teachers for more women and children will increase the literacy rate. Women thus have a central contribution to make to national development. Educating women allows a country to tap into a previously unused resource, thus heightening the level of production the country can achieve. Education "can enhance a society's ability to overcome poverty, increase incomes, improve health and nutrition, and reduce family size" "Education endows a person with self-confidence, the ability to make educated choices, understand directions, and develop new concepts.

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