



Women Literacy and Development

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ABSTRACT

Literacy play a vital role in Country's economy. The ignorant section of the society always roots for the education of their sons. Due to several biases and superstitions they ignore the education of their daughters. Historically, a variety of factors have been found to be responsible for poor female literate rate, viz; Gender based inequality, Social discrimination, economic exploitation, occupation of girl child in domestic chores, low enrolment of girls in schools, low retention rate & high dropout rate, lack of proper school facilities, no proper sanitation in most schools, severe caste disparities, females are pulled to help out on agricultural farms at home as they are increasingly replacing the males on such activities which require no formal education and so on. The low female literacy rate has had a dramatically negative impact on family planning & population stabilization efforts in India. The female literacy rate has increased from 8.86% in 1951 to 54.16%. It is noticed that the female literacy rate during the period 1991-2001 increased by 14.87% where as male literacy rate rose by 11.27%. Hence the female literacy rate actually increased by 3.15% more compared to male literacy rate. The female literacy rate grow from 53.67% to 65.46% as per 2011 census data. Mother is the first teacher to their children. If women is educated the newly acquired literacy skills have enhanced their ability to solve family problems & learn new skills to play a role in country economy. There are different types of literacy programs in India. So, thanks to different initiatives by the state Government as well as the central Government. Many women from the backward provinces of India now have primary education. People, who earlier thought that educating women as a waste of time, are now having second thoughts. The policies introduced by the Indian Government have improved the education status of women but still lot of work needs to be done. "Women education reflects country development". Every family take a crucial step to educate & save the girl child.

KEYWORDS : Literacy, Education, Poverty, Population, Illiteracy, Development, Country, Women

INTRODUCTION:

India is the second largest country in the world so far as population is concerned. But so far as education is concerned it is a backward country. In past women did not receive any education at all. They were not allowed to come out of the four walls of their houses. Domestic works were their only education.

During the British rule in India some Nobel social thinkers of the time paid their attention to the education of woman in our country. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Iswara ChandraVidyasagar was famous reformers who gave emphasis on the education of women. They put forth a very strong argument. Man and woman are like the two sides of a coin. Without one, the other cannot exist. They help each other in every sphere. So education should be given to both man and woman. Further, women are the mothers of the future generation. If women are uneducated the future generations will be uneducated. For this reason the Greek warrior Napoleon once said, "Give me a few educated mothers; I shall give you a heroic race".

WOMENS EDUCATION:-

Woman's education is very essential in this world. People are giving importance for women's education now a days. The leaders of our freedom movement realized the importance of girl's education and had put it as a prime agenda for national development. However, when India attained independence some 60 years ago.

By improving educational opportunities for girls & women, World Education helps women develop skills that allow them to make decisions and influence community change in key areas. In turn, these programs have a positive impact on some of the most profound issues of our time: population growth, HIV& AIDS, peace & security & the widening gap between the rich & poor.

WHY IS EDUCATION IMPORTANT?

- It gives knowledge
- It leads to career progression
- It builds character
- It leads to enlightenment
- It helps a nation progress

A direct effect of education is knowledge given. Education gives us knowledge of the world around. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It helps us from opinions and develop a point of view. The information we are constantly bombarded with, cannot be con-

verted into knowledge without the catalyst called education. Education makes us capable of interpreting things rightly and applying the gathered information in real life scenarios. Education is not limited to lessons from textbooks. Real education is obtained from the lessons taught by life. Women in India consistently lag behind the men in terms of access to education, health care, jobs etc.,. A part from the economic & social in equality, women in India are victims of crimes & immortal traffic king.

THE POWER OF GIRLS EDUCATION:

- Today, quality girl's education is widely recognized as one of the most powerful leverage points for breaking the generations-old, perpetuating cycle of poverty & solving other challenging socio economic problems. The World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, The world health organizations have done extensive research on the board social benefits of providing educational opportunity to girls. The following statistics have been compiled by the girls advocate organizations, Girl. Rising & Day of the girl.
- Educated mothers are more than twice as likely to send their own children to school.
- A child born to a literate mother is 50% more likely to survive past the age of five.
- Girls with 7 years of education will marry & ecological pressure.
- A girl who completes basic education is three times less likely to contract HIV.
- A girl with an extra year of education typically earns 20% more as an adult.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR POOR FEMALE LITERACY RATE:-

The negative attitude of parents towards the girl child & her education is one of the major reasons of low female literacy rate in India. In most of the families, boys at home are given priority in terms of education but girls are not treated in the same way. Right from the beginning, parents do not consider girls as their earning members of their family, as after marriage they have to leave their parents home. So education is just considered as wastage of money as well as time. For this reason, parents prefer to tend boys to schools but not girls.

Poverty is the root cause of many problems in India & also of low female literacy rate. More than 1/3 of population in India is living below the poverty line. Though Govt. is putting efforts to make the primary education free but still parents are not ready to send their accessibility to schools. In most of the rural areas lack of easy accessibility to school is another reason for low female literacy rate.

Parents do not prefer to change girls to schools if they are located at a far distance from their village or home. Even if schools are there then lack of adequate school facilities becomes hurdles. Some of the schools are really pathetic condition and do not even have basic facilities. Even some schools do not have enough rooms to accommodate all the students. Another barrier to female education in India is lack of female teachers. Has India is a gender segregated society, it is a very important factor in the low female literacy rate in India.

One of the important barriers to female education is their siblings. To look after them the only means of the parents is stopping the education of their elder one. And another important reason is when they enter into poverty automatically their education is stopped. Historically, a variety of factors have been found to be responsible for poor female literate rate, viz.

- Gender based inequality
- Social discrimination and economic exploitation
- Occupation of girl child in domestic chores
- Low enrollment of girls in schools
- Low retention rates and high dropout rates
- Lack of proper school facilities
- No proper sanitation in most schools
- The average pupil teacher ratio for all India is 1142, implying teacher shortage
- Severe caste disparities also exist
- Due to strong stereo typing of female and male roles, sons are thought of to be more useful and hence are educated
- Females are pulled to help out on agricultural forms at home as they are increasingly replacing the males on such activity which require no formal education

LITERACY RATE IN INDIA

Literacy in India is a key for socio-economic progress and the Indian literacy rate has grown to 74.04% (2011 figure) from 12% at the end of the British rule in 1947.

There is a wide gender disparity in the literacy rate in India effective literacy rate (age 7 and above) in 2011 were 82.14% for men & 65.46% for women. The low female literacy rate has had a dramatically negative impact on family planning and population stabilization efforts in India.

As per population censuses of India 2011 the literacy rate of India has shown an improvement of almost 9%. It has gone up to 74.04% in 2011 from 68.38% in 2001, thus showing an increase of 9% in the last 10 years. It consists of male literacy rate as 65.46%. Kerala with 93.9% literacy rate is the top state in India. Lakshadweep and Mizoram are at 2nd & 3rd positions 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.

INDIA'S TOP 10 STATES WITH HIGHEST WOMEN LITERACY RATE:-

1. Kerala:- Kerala tops the list with a literacy rate of 93.91%, according to census 2011. Among women, the literacy rate is 92%, and among men 96%.
2. Lashadweep:- The literacy rate of this Lashadweep is 92.28%. Among women, the literacy rate is 88.2% , while among men it is 96.1%.
3. Mizoram:- The literacy rate of the state 91.58%, among women literacy rate is 89.4% and among men it is 93.7%.
4. Tripura:- Tripura became the fourth highest literate state in India after 2011 census recorded 87.75% literacy. Among women, 83.1% are literate while among men 92.2% are literate.
5. Goa :- literacy rate in goa has seen upward trend and is 87.4% as per 2011 population census with 93% of males & 82% female being literate.
6. Damman & Diu:- The literacy rate in the territory is 87.07%. Among women, the literacy rate is 79.6% and among men it is 91.5%.
7. Puducherry:- According to census 2011, Puducherry has an overall literacy rate of 86.55%. Among women, 81.2% are literate while 92.1% men are literate.
8. Chandigarh:- The literacy of this city is 86.4%. 81.4% women are literate while 90.5% men literate.

9. Delhi:- The literacy level in Delhi are raised steadily since the last decade with 91.03% males & 80.93% of women literate.
10. Andaman & Nicobar Islands:- Literacy rate in Andaman & Nicobar Islands has seen upward trends & In 86.27% as per 2011 population census. Among women, 81.8 % are literate, while among men, 90.1% are literate.

The right to education is a fundamental right & UNESCO aims at education for all by 2015. India, along with the Arab states and sub-Saharan Africa, has literacy level below the threshold level of 75%, but efforts are on to achieve that level. The campaign to achieve at least the threshold literacy level represents the largest ever civil and military mobilization in the country. International literacy day is celebrated each year on 8th September with the aim to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, committees and societies.

Government has initiated free education programs to poor people living in villages and towns, setting up of new schools & colleges at district and state levels. Several committees have been formed to ensure proper utilization of funds all over to improve literacy rate.

The Indian government launched various schemes to improve female literacy like national policies on education Sakshar Bharat mission for female literacy, Indian Shikshakarmi project, training of female teachers, national program for education of girls at elementary levels and scholarship scheme.

In day to day life, the real problems are faced first by women and then the same problems are converted to men for solution. If the women are educated they can solve all the problems of their houses.

Very often, the cooking men of some families become handicapped in unfortunate accidents. In that situation the complete burdens of the families rests on the women of the families. To meet this exigency women should be educated they should be employed in different spheres. Women can work as teachers, doctors, lawyers & administrators. Educated women are good mothers.

Education of women can be helpful in eradication many evils such as dowry problem unemployment problem, etc. social peace can easily be established the female literacy rate grow from 53.67% –65.46% as per 2011 census data. The male literacy rate in comparison rose from 75.26% to only 82.14%. So the literacy rate of women is comparing at a better rate than for women, thanks to different initiatives by the state governments as well as the central governments.

Many women from the backward provinces of India now have primary education. People, who earlier thought that educating women as a waste of time, are now having second thoughts. The above mentioned policies introduced by the Indian government have improved the education status of women but still lot of work needs to be done.

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Women literacy play a vital role in the development of a family and a nation. Every citizen should take necessary steps to improve women literacy from local level to Global level.

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