



## IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN NATION DEVELOPMENT

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**INTRODUCTION**

Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man as mentioned by Swami Vivekananda. In the modern context of the world women are the major force for the development of any nation. So, women education leads to improving the knowledge, wisdom, moral strength among the women. Of late women education may be possible by

- a) Providing effective Primary education at school level and higher education at college level,
- b) Promoting vocational and technical education,
- c) Enhancing the professional education,
- d) Providing boundless scope for health education and personality development.

"If you educate a man you educate an Individual, if you educate a woman you educate the next generation."

So, women education not only makes them to get light in their life but also leads to reduction of socio, economic, political inequalities and automatically improves their status within the family and society. The Government of India concentrated much and initiated the following for women education through RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT-2005, EDUCATION FOR ALL, SARVA SIKSHA ABHIYAN, SAKSHAR BHARAT, COMPULSORY EDUCATION TO CHILDREN FROM 6-14 years of age as per 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act. All these not only contribute for the women development but also for their future advancement. All these schemes led to growth of literacy rate from 15.3% to 67% within the few decades. The states of Kerala and Mizoram were turned to be idealistic states in the Nation only through proper women education. It is creating an access for effective, efficient, energetic way for the social and economic empowerment of women.

The NATIONAL COMMISSION for WOMEN reported that the women education is laying a path for the progress and Growth in all essential sectors based on the following points

- A) Promotion of values and ethical attitude in the women,
- B) Creating awareness among various sections of women about the social evils and leading a way to eradicate the child marriages, sati, sexual exploitation and women trafficking,
- C) Creating a healthy communication with the public through mass media, electronic media, social media, etc.
- D) Promoting scope for guidance, counselling, education which can empower nation,
- E) It eventually develops their status and fight against the discrimination against the gender, caste, race and creed.
- F) Improves the quality of Decision-Making and financial independence,
- G) Pay a way towards the improvement of nutrition, child nurturing, health care, prevention against diseases and reducing maternal and infant mortality,
- H) It can provide scientific temper, economic growth through their contribution in science and technology, research and development and labour force.
- I) It can provide healthy and happy life because an educated woman would be a better human being,

successful mother and act as a responsible citizen in performing all her duties,

- J) It creates an access to protect their self-respect and also pay the attention to raise their status. Further, an educated woman would be aware her rights and she can fight against social evils such as dowry, discrimination, low wages, domestic violence, etc.

Napoleon Bonaparte once asked, what was the greatest need of France, then the minister answered "Nations progress is impossible without trained and educated women. If the women of any country are not educated about half of the people of my country are not educated".

So, women education is must, to create access for fulfilling the dreams of Sir A.PJ ABDUL KALAM in fulfilling his vision "To turn the Indian nation as a super power by 2020 with social empowerment, political stability, economic reforms, scientific advancement, rich heritage, cultural practices, green environment through improving the status, position of women in India."

**Provisions for the women education in our Indian Constitution**

The former Prime Minister of India noticed that Women Empowerment get possible only by women education in all the sectors. So, it's the time to Educate the Women and Empower the Nation. Accordingly, the central and state governments started working towards effective, efficient women education policies, programmes, schemes, etc. Among them there were many legal acts amended and added to our Indian Constitution. The following lines throw light on the such acts.

**Compulsory Education to Children:**

Providing education is a fundamental right to all the children of the nation. As per the Unnikrishnan judgement of Supreme court of India in 1993 made four proposals

- a) Compulsory education to all the Children from 6-14 years of age,
- b) Increasing the literacy rate especially in scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and backward classes,
- c) Increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in all primary and secondary schools,
- d) Decreasing school dropouts' ratio annually and creating an access for quality education.

**Education for All (2002):**

In the 93<sup>rd</sup> amendment act of Indian Constitution in 2002, Government has decided to provide Education for all in maximum number of ways, so, the parliament has passed four major resolutions to promote 100% Literacy rate among women through education systems.

- a) Introduced Sarva Siksha Abhiyan for education to all the sects of the people in the nation,
- b) Proper implementation of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) of the central Government to reduce the school dropouts to less than 10% and gender gap less than 5%,

- c) Introduced Extension of Education Policy-2002 to encourage girls to the secondary, Higher and post-graduation levels,
- d) Proper budgeting and intensive implementation of functional literacy programmes for educating the women to the level of secondary education.
- ii) Encouraging children belonging to disadvantaged sections to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities,
- iii) Providing nutrition support to children of primary stage in drought affected areas during summer vacation.

#### **Beti Bacho-beti Padao**

The programme Beti Bachao-Beti Padao focused on the following

- a) Abolition of selective sex abortions in all regions of the nation,
- b) Ensuring the survival and protection of girl child,
- c) Promoting free, fair and quality education to the girl child.

#### **Specified Articles for Women Education in India**

- a) ARTICLE 14: Providing equal Opportunities to the women in all aspects,
- b) ARTICLE 15: Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex and birth
- c) ARTICLE 17: Abolition of untouchability in all public and educational societies
- d) ARTICLE: 21A: Compulsory education to the all children of the nation
- e) ARTICLE: 24: Prohibition of employment of children in factories below the age of 14 years
- f) ARTICLE 39: The children are given opportunities & facilitates to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom & dignity
- g) ARTICLE 41: Right to education, work and public assistance

#### **Major Schemes for Girl Education in India:**

1. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan,
2. Operation Black Board,
3. Mid-Day Meal Programme,
4. Lok Jumbish
5. Mahila Samkya,
6. Rashtriya Madhyamika Siksha Abhiyan,
7. Teacher Education,
8. Education Guarantee Scheme & Alternative and Innovative Education,
9. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya,
10. National Literacy Mission,
11. Sakshar Bharat Mission for Female Literacy,
12. National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level,
13. Quality Improvement in Schools,
14. ICT in Schools and
15. Integrated Education for Disabled Children.

#### **Sarva Siksha Abhiyan:**

1. it is a framework for universal elementary education,
2. Promoting basic education to all the children in the country,
3. Promoting the concept of social justice through proper school education,
4. An opportunity to the state to develop their own vision of elementary education,
5. Creating an access for developing their potentials spiritually and materially,
6. Creating a way for value-based learning through moral education.

#### **Operation Black Board:**

The key objective of the mission is to provide the institutional equipment and material to facilitate their education. There is a provision to provide salary for an additional teacher to those primary schools that have an enrolment of more than 100 students. In this aspect at least 50% of the teachers would be women, which in turn will affect the girl enrolment in school.

#### **Mid Day Meal Programme:**

- I) Improving the nutrition status of children in classes I-V in Government, Local Body, and Government aided schools, and EGS and AIE centers,

#### **Mahila Samkhyas:**

- I) Enhancing the self-esteem, self-confidence and building a positive image by recognizing their contribution to the society, politics and the economy
- II) Developing the ability to think critically to foster decision making and actions through collective processes,
- III) Enabling women to make informed choices in areas like education, employment and health,
- IV) Providing information, knowledge, and skill for economic independence,
- V) Enhancing access to legal literacy and information relating to their rights and enhance their equal participation in all areas.

#### **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya:**

It is a major initiative taken by the Government to ensure that quality education is feasible and accessible to the girls of disadvantaged groups of society by setting up residential schools with boarding facilities at elementary level to eliminate gender disparities.

#### **Sakshar Bharat Mission for Female Literacy:**

- i) Provide basic literacy and numeracy to non-literate and non-numerate adults,
- ii) Provide qualification equivalent to formal educational system and establish learning for neo-literates beyond basic literacy,
- iii) Provide Vocational education, imparting learners with relevant skill development programmes is crucial to improving their working and living conditions,
- iv) promote a learning society by providing opportunities to neo-literate adults for continuing education

#### **National Programme For Education of Girls at Elementary Level:**

- I) To Develop and promote the facilities to provide access and facilitate the retention of girls and ensure greater participation of women in the field of girl education,
- ii) To improve the quality of education through various interventions and to stress upon the relevance and quality of girl education for their empowerment,
- iii) To provide coordinated efforts, to ensure necessary support services to enhance participation of girls and performance in elementary education,
- iv) To build community support for girl education and provide a conducive environment for girls education in the school community and at home.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Today from the side of Government there are many facilities such as providing scholarships, free Books, uniform, lodging, sanitation, nutrition, health, clothing, mid-day meal, etc. Beyond all these today equal opportunities, choices, preferences, status are much essential and all these can be earned through education. But it is the time for a parent to understand the importance of girl education to make her play all her roles with greater responsibility than uneducated women. Society must think that both men and women are equal just like the wheels of a chariot. Women education will definitely create access for the development of their status, position, knowledge, life. It would eliminate the socio, economic and political Inequalities in the Society.

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