

## Education is Important for the Development of Women in All Spheres of their Life



### Education

**KEYWORDS :** Women, Educational Status, Awareness, Liberation

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### ABSTRACT

*Education is most important for better and regular employment. Education not only linked with the income distribution. It also linked with proper diet, clothing, housing, health, hygiene, disease, knowledge and choice of health care, fertility patterns etc. An illiterate woman is blind and handicapped. She is in darkness and ignorance because she can not take any decision alone. An educated woman can solve any problem of her life without anybody's help. Education helps the women in all spheres of their life. Educated women know the importance of health care and know how to seek it for themselves, their children and family members. Mother's education is more influential than father's education. Education (literacy) is the third eye which not only opens our eyes it also liberates our mind. Women's literacy is essential for economic viability and independence. Woman is the most important part of our society. She is the daughter, sister, wife and mother so, she has more responsibilities on their shoulders to perform. Women can not neglect their responsibilities. They should be educated to perform all these responsibilities but women are illiterate, ignorant, unaware, unhealthy, unfit, half-starved, under weight, weak and sick in our society. The objectives of the study are to examine the educational status of women in Aligarh city. The study is mainly based on primary data generated through the field surveys. Out of 70 wards 10 wards are randomly selected. The various information on 500 sample women households has been gathered from extensive field survey.*

### Introduction:

Education is generally good insurance against unemployment and for staying employed in difficult economic times.

Education, a key factor in behaviour, is closely linked with income distribution. It induces diet, hygiene, disease, knowledge and choice of health care, fertility patterns etc.

"Illiteracy is a sin, a black mark for India and must be eradicated" said Gandhi ji back in 1939. Literacy is the stepping-stone towards the solution of many crucial problems. A man without literacy may be treated as otherwise blind, handicapped and crippled throughout his life. Education (literacy) is the second birth and third eye. Man may not get salvation without education (literacy).

In spite of all the above special constitutional provisions and governmental efforts, in the field of education, the disparities between male and female are still large. The gap between the literacy rates of males and females has been persisting.

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Education is the process that liberates mind. It is liberation from all forms of darkness and ignorance. Women's literacy is essential for economic viability and independence.

An educated woman can take better family planning decisions and reduce the infant mortality rates, maternal mortality rates. Once, a famous Chinese pointed out that "if you want to plan for a year, plant wheat, if you want to plan for 10 year grow trees but if you want to plan for 100 years educate your women"

India is one of the least literate societies in the world. Within this broader picture of social disadvantage, the literacy levels of Muslim men and women are further Skewed towards the bottom. Muslim women in Urban India are much worse off than their rural counterparts, not only in terms of their overall educational status as citizens of India but also in terms of their relatively poor educational status when compared to Hindu or Christian women. This educational disadvantage of women in Muslim communities mandates attention.

Female literacy is considered to be a more sensitive index of social development compared to overall literacy rates. Female lit-

eracy is negatively related with fertility rates, population growth rates, infant and child mortality rates and show a positive association with female age at marriage, life expectancy participation in modern sectors of the economy. Female literacy is most important for the empowerment of women.

Empowerment of women is the key route for the development of any society in all areas including health, education, asset ownership, skills, political participation etc. (Kumari, Y. I. and Sambasiva, 2005) (Mason, K. O. and Smith, H. L. 2003):

Women Empowerment is a global issue. The concept of women empowerment was introduced at the international women conference at Nairobi in 1985. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So that we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment in India is poised to becoming superpower, a developed country by 2020.

### History of Women Empowerment

The empowerment of women in India has been obstructed for centuries owing to various reasons amongst which the initial blow was in the form of depriving women from basic educational facilities. Women discovered their own potential and played an equal part in India's struggle for freedom (Barua, 2003).

Many women came to be accepted as great patriots in their own rights. The freedom struggle of India was the platform where women again proved themselves (Mehta, 2004). Women's participation in the revolutionary movement was significant even when they were deprived of basic human rights in men's world. The list of women in India who contributed to the movement for equality is enormous. To name just a few, Sarojini Naidu, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Vijaylaxmi Pundit, Aruna Asaf Ali, and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur took up the fight on several fronts (Jha and poojary, 1998). After independence women's education made considerable progress in India. The number of girl's schools and colleges increased. Girls going to schools and colleges also increased slowly but steadily. Parents are becoming anxious to educate their daughters along with their sons. Many of them are seeking higher education.

### Importance of Women Education

Education acted as the mediator between the private sphere in which middle-class women live their lives and the public domain. There is a close relationship between the spread of female education and the development status. Women education

in India plays a very important role in the overall development of India. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their children but also can provide better guidance to their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of family size, infant and maternal mortality rate and growth of the population. Economic dependency is the major factor contributing to the low status of women. Education is a requisite and crucial method for helping the women in their lives.

The preamble to the Constitution of India promises full equality to all citizens in all respect. Several programmes were sponsored for women's development in the Indian constitution, laws were enacted to eradicate the social evil of inequality, five-year plans and voluntary actions by women, state sponsored programmes like rural Mahila Mandals and local self government, participation in social and women's welfare programmes through voluntary action and finally the demand for reservation in political institutions (Pandey, 2002).

Decision making is the main constituent of empowerment especially in the case of household level (Blumberg, R. L., 1991). Female literacy is very low in India. This ultimately contributes to the subordination of women and greater dowry demand in the marriage market. Among the literate women only a handful of women obtain their education in order to acquire economic independence; for the majority, literate women receive an education only to become more eligible in for marriage (Johnson P. S. and Johnson J. A., 2001).

The link between female literacy rates and development is obvious and has received much attention. For example, Rajasthan, which has a very low female literacy rate, is still burdened with widespread practices like 'sati', female foeticide and child-marriage. On the other hand, Kerala, which has a high female literacy rate, is almost devoid of all these practices except the practice of dowry. Although the Government has undertaken many programmes for the development of women and in spite of the equality of status guaranteed under the Indian Constitution, double standards prevail in every sector of society and in the crucial sectors of health, education and social development. Moreover, the social isolation of women contributes to the deterioration of their condition. In spite of the Indian Government's effort to secure justice for women through laws against crimes, the result is far from satisfactory. Without proper education, legal literacy and social awareness it is impossible to elevate the status of women.

The study shows that Indian women are far behind in achieving the literacy status because of their economic conditions, no availability of schools, more drop-outs, less likely to survive educationally, lack of resources in the available schools and lack of interest in education, lack of honest leadership in the community. Taking into consideration the above discussion on education, it can be concluded that Muslim women at the prevailing circumstances should demand for special facilities for them to get education.

Even though, after independence, considerable developments have taken place in the lives of women, there remains a bleak picture. A majority of women are still underprivileged in a tradition bound society like ours, where there is a distinction between lawful legitimacy and general practice. "In spite of women's contribution towards family income, their position in the family hierarchy mostly remains subordinate" (Nandal, 2005).

The societal attitude is still discriminatory against women. In India more than 6000 women are killed every year because their in-laws consider their dowries inadequate (UNICEF, 2000).

Some problems to be given topmost priority are female foeticide (Census India, 2001), female infanticide, malnutrition, illiteracy, child marriage, dowry harassments and dowry deaths, domestic violence, sexual harassment in society as well as in the workplace, bonded labourers, poverty, and police neglect and harassment.

President Abdul Kalam address to the nation on August 14th 2004 was devoted to emphasising the importance of the education system 'in creating an enlightened, dynamic and prosperous society' and transforming 'a human being into a wholesome whole, a noble soul and an asset to the universe.' In line with very widespread assumptions, President Abdul Kalam sees illiteracy as one of the root causes of poverty.

### Education is Essential in all spheres of life of Women

Education helps women in all spheres of life such as, social, economic, political and environmental etc.

### Education Influences the Health Conditions

- Good health
- Proper Diet
- Caloric Intake
- Personal Hygiene and Sanitation
- Reduce Fertility
- Decline in Infant and Maternal Mortality Rate
- Access and Use of Better Health Services
- Better and Best Decision making
- Better Relationship with Family and Friends

### Education Influences Social Conditions

- Better Living conditions (Housing)
- Rules of Marriage, Right to Divorce
- Domestic Violence
- Proper Child care
- Children Education

### Education Influences Economic Conditions

- Employment Security
- Removes Poverty
- Improves Standard

### Education Influences Environmental Conditions

- Aware about Environmental Pollution (Air, Water and Soil Pollution)
- Aware about the Wastage of Food, Water and Electricity

### Education Influences the Empowerment of Women

- Decision making in personal matters
- Decision making in social matters of family
- Decision making in children matters
- Decision making in economic (money expenditure) matters
- Decision making in society matters etc.

**Table: 1**  
**Literacy Rate in India**

Year	Persons	Males	Females
1901	5.3	9.8	0.7
1911	5.9	10.6	1.1
1921	7.2	12.2	1.8
1931	9.5	15.6	2.9
1941	16.1	24.9	7.3
1951	16.7	24.9	7.3
1961	24.0	34.4	13.0
1971	29.5	39.5	18.7
1981	36.2	46.9	24.8
1991	52.1	63.9	39.2
2001	65.38	76.0	54.0
2011	74.04	82.14	65.46

Source: Census of India 2011.

The accompanied table 1 represents that in the pre-Independence period literacy rate of women is very poor in comparison to literacy rate of men. This is witnessed from the fact that literacy rate of women has risen from 0.7 % to 7.3 % where as the literacy rate of men has risen from 9.8 % to 24.9 % during these four decades. During the post-independence period literacy rates have shown a substantial increase in general. However the literacy rate of male has almost tripled over the period e.g. 25% in 1951 and 76 % in 2001. Surprisingly the female literacy rate has increased at a faster speed than the male literacy during the decade 1981-2001. The growth is almost 6 times e.g. 7.9 % in 1951 and 54 % in 2001. From this data one can infer that still the female literacy rate (only half of the female population are literates) is lagging behind male literacy rate (three fourth of the male population are literates). The lack of education is the root cause for women's exploitation, backwardness and negligence.

**Table: 2**  
**State-Wise Percentage of Female Literacy in India (Census 2011)**

Serial No.	Name of the State	Female Literacy
1	Andhra Pradesh	59.7%
2	Arunachal Pradesh	59.6%
3	Assam	67.3%
4	Bihar	53.3%
5	Chattisgarh	60.6%
6	Delhi	80.9%
7	Goa	81.8%
8	Gujarat	70.7%
9	Haryana	66.8%
10	Himachal Pradesh	76.6%
11	Jammu and Kashmir	58.0%
12	Jharkhand	56.2%
13	Karnataka	68.1%
14	Kerala	92.0%
15	Madhya Pradesh	60.0%
16	Maharashtra	75.5%
17	Manipur	73.2%
18	Meghalaya	73.8%
19	Mizoram	89.4%
20	Nagaland	76.7%
21	Orissa	64.4%
22	Punjab	71.3%
23	Rajasthan	52.7%
24	Sikkim	76.4%
25	Tamil Nadu	73.9%
26	Tripura	83.1%
27	Uttar Pradesh	59.3%
28	Uttarakhand	70.7%
29	West Bengal	71.2%
Union Territories		
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	81.8%
2	Chandigarh	81.4%
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	65.9%
4	Daman & Diu	79.6%
5	Lakshadweep	88.2%
6	Pondicherry	81.2%
All India		65.46%

Source: Census of India 2011.

The given table 2 illustrates that the state wise female literacy rate had an average of 65.46% in all India basis in 2011 census. The highest literacy rate is 92.0% in Kerala and least literacy rate is 52.7% in Rajasthan in 2011 census. Literacy rate of female is increased from 54.16% in 2001 to 65.46% in 2011 census. The data shows 11% increase in female literacy in the last 10 years. Government of India has been taken various steps and plans especially for women in the last 10 years.

**Study Area:**

Aligarh city is located in between 27° 29' latitude and 78° 36' east longitude and lies at a distance of 130 km to the south east of Delhi on Delhi-Kolkata railway line and Grand Trunk Road. According to census 2001, the total area of Aligarh city 33.98 sq km. with a total population of 6, 69,087 persons of which 3, 56,725 (53%) were males and 31, 12,362 (47%) females. Of the total population 54% were literates of the total literates 59% were males and 41% were females. Total working population of the city was 169,711 of which 90% are male and 10% are females. The city is divided into 70 wards. Which spread over two distinct parts-the old city and the civil lines. The morphology, occupational distribution, social and living conditions of both parts is distinct. The civil lines area is developed in terms of infra structure facilities than the old city. Which is congested, characterised with over population, open drains, kachcha roads, traffics jams, poor water and electricity supply.

**Objectives:**

1. To examine the educational status of women labour.
2. To examine the economic conditions and empowerment of women.
3. To analyse the awareness of women about food, hygiene and health.
4. To investigate the ability of decision making of educated women in all spheres of life.

**Data base and Methodology:**

The study is mainly based on primary data collected through the field surveys. Out of 70 wards of the city 10 wards are randomly selected. From each wards 50 households are selected for conducting surveys. Various information on 500 sample women households has been gathered through the questionnaire based interviews with the residents of different wards of Aligarh city. The field work was done during July, August 2014.

**Educational Status of Women in Aligarh City:**

The given table clearly depicts the educational status of women in Aligarh city. The data shows that 45 percent women are literate in which 21 percent women received primary education, 19 percent women received junior secondary education, 20 percent women received secondary education, 17 percent women received senior secondary education, 14 percent women are graduated, 7 percent women are post graduated and only 2 percent women received higher education. The study shows that educational status of women in Aligarh city is not satisfied. While, education is very important weapon in the life of women which protects women from all evils, sins and injustice of life. Education gives direction in all spheres of life.

**Table: 3 Educational Status of Women in Aligarh City**

Education Status	Percentage of Women
Literate Women	45%
Primary Education	21%
Junior Secondary Education	19%
Secondary Education	20%
Senior Secondary Education	17%
Graduation	14%
Post Graduation	7%
Higher Education	2%

### Conclusion and Suggestion

**The study clearly proves that** education is most important not only for better and regular employment. It is also important for proper diet, clothing, housing, health, hygiene, disease, knowledge and choice of health care, fertility patterns etc. An educated woman can take better decisions of their own and family life. She can manage her family in better way. Educated women **perform all these responsibilities of the family and society.** Education helps the women in all spheres of their life (social, economic political etc.).

1. We should provide education to our daughters to make them strong in every field of life.
2. Government should provide free and compulsory primary education to the poor girl children.
3. Government should provide package of concession (for girls) in the form of free books, stationary, uniform, transport and scholarship for secondary and above education.

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