Research Paper Education

A Comparative Outlook of The Educational Status of Muslims with Special Reference to The Girls in Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

If we fail to educate the girls/women of the country we cannot imagine a developed nation. See the nice lines of Napoleon" Nation's progress is impossible without trained and educated mothers. It cannot be possible to draw a line of success without exploring education among women because if the women of a country do not get education, surely the half of the people will be ignorant. It is also said that if we educate a man, we educate a man only, but if we educate a woman, we educate the whole family. It means that woman is the most crucial and reverend entity. She must be given all the necessary education. It is irony of the nation that numbers of commissions and committees highlight the need and importance of girl- education but the statistics in India open the truth of gap. If we see within the context of education in broader line, a wide gap lies between the Muslim girls and the girls belonging to other religions and communities. Present paper would go through a comparative outlook of the educational status of Muslims with special reference to the girls in Uttar Pradesh.

KEYWORDS | Muslim community, Educational status, Girl's education.

Introduction

Greek warrior Napoleon once said, "Give me a few educated mothers, I shall give you a heroic race". Undoubtedly the very pillar on which a strong building of human life can be made is none other than education. The opportunity of education should be available to all without any discrimination of gender is the main concern of today's world. If we concern this awareness in Indian scenario we lack something in this regard by seeing the girl's education of Muslims comparing to other community.

Constitutional Provisions for Girls

India enjoys a long history of women education and has always been a champion in this field but some transition stage has also been come between the lines of the past and present. Now within the framework of a democratic polity, we have aimed at women's education in different spheres. The Constitution of India grants equality to girls/women as well as empowers the State to adopt positive measures for neutralizing the socio economic, education and political disadvantages that they are facing. Articles 45, 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 39(c) and 42 of the Constitution are of specific importance in this regard which ensures equal opportunity to all.

Various Committees and Commissions on Girls' Education

There are several committees and commissions i.e. The Secondary Education Commission (1952-1953), Durgabai Deshmukh Committee, The Education Commission (1964-66), The National Perspective Plan for Women (1988-2000) which highlighted the need and importance of girls' education and made a lot of recommendation such as opening of every type of education to girls, appointment of school mother in all school, schemes for awarding prizes to the villages having the largest proportional enrollment and average attainment of girls and providing the necessary educational equipments to them up to middle level. Apart from that education of girls also has assumed special significance in the country's five year plans.

Area of the study

This study is totally based on secondary data aimed to look comparatively at education of girls belonging to Muslim and other communities and religions in all districts of Uttar Pradesh.

A Demographic Profile, U.P.

As per census report 2011 of India, Uttar Pradesh bags the highest population in our country. The report also states that the breakup of rural and urban population in Uttar Pradesh is 77.72 per cent and 22.28 per cent respectively. Uttar Pradesh comprises of 18.6 and 11.8 percent of the country's total rural and urban population respectively. Proportion of its rural and urban population at the national level is 68.84 and 31.16 percent. The 2011 census shows that the population in the state is made up of 52.40 percent males and 47.59 percent of females.

Religious demography of U.P.

During the 2001 census, the proportion of Muslims in the total population of Uttar Pradesh was noted 18.4 per cent out of which 64 percent population was marked as rural, while other 36 percent as urban. Composition of male and female population amongst Muslim community was 52 and 48 per cent respectively. Religious distribution of population in India and Uttar Pradesh was Hindus (80.46, 80.61) Muslims (13.43, 18.50) Christians, (2.34, 0.13) Sikhs (1.87, 0.41), Buddhists (0.77, 0.18), Jains (0.41, 0.12) and others (0.65, 0.01) respectively as per the census report 2001. Since the community wise detailed data of the census report of 2011 is not released publicly, the researchers had to depend on the census report 2001 in the present study.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study are:

- To compare the status of Muslim Girl's Education at national and state level
- To know the district wise status of Muslim Girl's Education in Uttar Pradesh
- To compare the community wise status of Muslim Girl's Education in Uttar Pradesh

Analysis and Discussion

Objective 1: Status of Muslim Girls' Education in India and U.P.

Tabel-1 Showing the Status of Muslim Girls' Literacy in India and U.P.

	India	U.P
Muslim Literacy Rate	59.1	47.8
Muslim Male Literacy Rate	67.6	57.3
Muslim Females Literacy Rate	50.1	37.4
Rural Muslim Literacy Rate	52.7	43.7
Urban Muslim Literacy Rate	70.1	54.6
Rural Muslim Female Literacy Rate	42.7	31.6
Urban Muslim Female Literacy Rate	63.2	43.3

The table-1 shows that there is 17.5 percent gap between the literacy of Muslim Males-Females at national level and 19.9 percent at the state level. Likewise the discrepancy between the literacy of Muslim females at national and state level is around 13 percent. The difference also can be observed area wise at both levels. Thus, it can be depicted from the above table that the literacy rate of Muslim Girls is lagging behind the male literacy rate at both levels.

Objective 2: District wise Status of Muslim Girl's Education in Uttar Pradesh

Table-2 showing the district wise status of Muslim Girls' Education in Uttar Pradesh

Districts having the higher Muslim girls' literacy rate than national and state levels		Districts having the lower Muslim girls' literacy rate than national and state levels	
Mau	62.71		
Azamgarh	60.36		
Kanpur Nagar	57.49		
Ghazipur	57.23		
Ballia	56.77	Shrawasti	15.21
Lucknow	56.24	Balrampur	22.05
Ambedkar Nagar	56.19	Bahraich	23.13
Mirzapur	55.87	Rampur	24.78
Lalitpur	54.37	Gonad	25.70

Looking at the above table, it can be observed that the literacy level of Muslim Girls in U.P. differs from one district to another. As per the report Mau, Azamgarh, Kanpur Nagar, Ghazipur, Ballia, Lucknow, Ambedkar Nagar, Mirzapur and Lalitpur have the higher literacy rate of females belonging to Muslim Community than other districts. Their literacy rate is 62.71, 60.36, 57.49, 57.23, 56.77, 56.24, 56.19, 55.87 and 54.23 respectively which is higher than Muslim female literacy rate at both national as well as state level. The low level Muslim Girls' literacy rate is observed in the districts of Shrawasti, Balrampur, Bahraich, Rampur, Gonda reported 15.21, 22.05, 23.13, 24.78, and 25.70 percent respectively which is lower than national and state level literacy rate of females of Muslim Community. Literacy rate of the rest districts ranges between 25.70 to 54.37 percent. The gap between the districts having the highest (Mau-62.71) and the lowest (Shrawasti-15.21) Muslim female literacy rate is 47.05 percent. It can, therefore, be concluded from the above analysis that there are still wide range inter and intra regional differences among Muslim female literacy rate in Uttar Pradesh.

Objective 3: Community wise Status of Muslim Girls' Education in Uttar Pradesh

Table-3 Showing the Community wise Status of Girls' Literacy In Uttar Pradesh

	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Budhists	Jains	Others
Urban	67.91	47.03	82.52	86.28	58.72	92.52	84.66
Rural	37.73	31.58	44.87	52.61	37.24	77.88	59.22
Total	43.07	37.38	67.36	63.76	40.28	90.28	52.03

The community wise status of girls' literacy in U.P. as shown in Table-3 states that the Jain Community have 90.28 percent literacy rate in total and 92.52, 77.88 percent area (urban-rural) wise respectively which is the highest literacy as compared to other communities residing in the state, while the literacy status of Muslim Girls is the lowest (37.38 percent) in total as well as in area wise (urban-47.03, rural-31.58). The difference between the highest and the lowest literacy rate (90.28 and 37.38) in total, possessed by the girls belonging to the Jain and Muslim Communities is 52.09 percent which is obviously very high. The difference can also be observed area wise as evident from the above table. Thus, it can be inferred from the above table that the status of Muslim Girls' education in Uttar Pradesh is poorer.

Remedial Measures

The following measures should be taken to improve the education of girls in general and Muslim girls in particular at both national and state level:

- A 'Strategic Plan of Actions' should be implemented to ensure the advancement of Muslim girls' education at each level.
- Madrasas should be affiliated to/ recognized by regular education boards.
- There should be open separate residential schools for girls in every Muslim dominated area.
- Seminars, conferences, and workshops etc. should be organized at national, state and local level to make parents aware of the importance of girl's education.
- The Sachhar committee report completely should be implemented.

Conclusion

By this time no one can be said unaware to the fact that lack of education limits prospects and puts women at risk of trafficking and exploitation which somewhat limits the total advancement of the country also. Present discussion reveals that the educational status of Muslim girls is pitiable in comparison to the other religious communities which beckon a threat.

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