



Socio-Economic Impact of Women Education in India

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55248/gengpi.2022.3.2.9>

ABSTRACT

Women's education has a significant social impact. Lower fertility rates, infant mortality rates, and maternal mortality rates are only a few of the most evident socio-economic benefits. Bridging the educational gender gap promotes gender equality and it is vital both inside and outside the classroom in ensuring equal rights and opportunities for people of all genders. Increases in the number of women educated in a region are linked to high levels of development such as the development of the economy. Women's education increases their salaries which helps the economy flourish. Women's education leads to women's empowerment. This low literacy rate has a huge impact on women's lives, as well as their families lives and the country's economic progress. According to several studies, illiterate women have a higher risk of fertility and mortality, as well as low nutritional status, limited economic potential, and limited household autonomy.

Keywords: Women education, Fertility, Mortality, Equality and Flourish

Introduction

Women's education refers to any type of education that aims to improve the knowledge and abilities of women and girls. It covers general education in schools and colleges, vocational and technical education, professional education, and health education, among other things, and incorporates all facilities and opportunities for female learners. The socioeconomic impact of women's education has spawned a burgeoning field of investigation in international development. Increases in the number of women educated in a region are linked to high levels of development. Some of the consequences are linked to economic growth. Women's education raises their earnings and contributes to GDP growth. Other side effects are linked to societal progress. Women's education has a host of societal benefits, many of which are tied to women's empowerment. The Indian government has stated a strong commitment to universal education; however, India continues to have one of Asia's lowest female literacy rates. In 2020, the female literacy rate is 70.3 percent, implying that 29.7% of women in India remain illiterate today. This low literacy rate has a severe influence not only on women's lives but also on their families lives and the economic development of their country. Illiterate women, according to various studies, have a high risk of fertility and mortality, poor nutritional status, little economic potential, and little household autonomy. The health and well-being of a woman's children are also negatively affected by her lack of education. In India, for example, infant mortality was found to be inversely associated with the mother's educational level in the present study.

Trends of Study

A substantial link between women's education and international development has been proven by recent human development studies. International development is a field of study that focuses on the social and economic development of underdeveloped areas. Researchers want to know what factors account for disparities in development rates in particular. Women's education is one of the most important explanatory variables for social and economic growth, and it has been demonstrated to have a positive association with both. According to economist Lawrence Summers "Investing in girls' education may easily be the highest-return investment available in the developing world."

Objectives of the Study

In particular, the research focuses on the following objectives:

- To know the effects of Women's Education on Social development in India.
- To know the effects of Women's Education on Economic development in India.
- To know the relationship between Women's Education and Socioeconomic factors in India.

Measurement

The impact of women's education on growth can be measured in a variety of ways, according to academics. Typically, studies focus on the gender disparity in educational attainment between boys and girls, rather than just the level of education attained by women. This makes it easier to discern between the special effects of women's education and the general benefits of education. It's worth noting that some studies, particularly older ones, focus solely on women's overall educational attainment. Examining the percentage of men and women who graduate from each stage of school is one approach to gauge education levels. Examining the average number of years of schooling received by members of each gender is a similar, more precise method. Because literacy is one of the early and major goals of the school, a third approach looks at literacy rates by gender. This shows not only how much education was given, but also how effective it was.

The most popular technique to assess economic progress is to examine changes in GDP growth. Correlations are examined across multiple countries and periods to determine that a link exists. The result is usually a pretty constant average effect, though fluctuation over time can be measured as well. It is also possible to examine the advantages of education for an individual. This is accomplished by first calculating the cost of schooling and the amount of revenue gained during the years spent in school. The net return is the difference between the entire gain in income owing to education and the sum of these two values.

Effects on economic development

Women's education benefits both people and countries alike. Throughout their lives, people who invest in education make a net profit. The profitability of education, according to estimates of the private rate of return, is indisputable, universal, and global, according to Harry Patrinos, the lead education economist at the World Bank.

If female education increases human capital, productivity, and economic growth at the same rate as male education, women's educational disadvantage is economically wasteful. The economic benefits of women's education, measured as the economic rate of return to education, are equivalent to those of men's education, according to research conducted around the world. As a result, the gender gap in education is undesirable in terms of its effects on economic development.

When a country is just moderately impoverished, the effect of the educational gender gap is more obvious. As a country rises out of extreme poverty, the incentive to invest in women increases. Women's education promotes the equitability of income distribution in a society, in addition to overall economic growth. Increased women's education is critical to attaining this goal since it focuses on underprivileged women, who are a particularly vulnerable demographic. There is also evidence that a developing country's lower gender discrepancy in educational attainment correlates with a society's lower total economic disparity.

Effects on social development

Education for women has a tremendous social impact. Reduced fertility rates, lower infant mortality rates, and lower maternal death rates are only a few of the most noticeable socio-economic benefits. Closing the gender gap in education also promotes gender equality, which is vital both in and of itself because it assures that people of all genders have equal rights and opportunities. Women benefit cognitively from schooling. Women's quality of life is enhanced by improved cognitive abilities, which also have additional advantages. Educated women, for example, are better able to make health-related decisions for themselves and their children. Increased political participation among women is also linked to cognitive abilities. Educated women are more likely to participate in civic engagement and attend political meetings, and there are multiple examples of educated women in developing countries securing benefits for themselves through political activities. There is further evidence that countries with well-educated women have a higher chance of democratic administration.

There are other advantages associated with a woman's role at home. Domestic abuse is less common among educated women, regardless of other social status markers such as employment position. Women with a higher level of education are also more involved in family decision-making and report making more decisions over time. These advantages extend to financial decisions in particular. Aside from the intrinsic advantage of boosting a woman's agency, having women take a more active role in the family also benefits family members socially. Children, particularly girls, are more likely to attend school when their mother is educated. Adult literacy initiatives can indirectly aid to teach mothers the value of education and urge them to send their children to school in households where the mother is uneducated. Children benefit from having an educated mother over an uneducated father for a variety of reasons, including higher survival rates and better nutrition.

Limitation of impact

Women's education has a lesser impact on development in particular situations. In locations where there is a lot of poverty, the economic benefits of investing in women are substantially smaller. In some circumstances, women's education is of poorer quality than men's, reducing its efficacy. This tendency is sometimes accompanied by what is known as a "hidden curriculum" in schools, which reinforces particular ideals. Because of the emphasis on males' superiority, educated women may forego economic prospects in favor of lower-paying traditionally female employment, resulting in bad economic and social outcomes. Curricula can also be differentiated based on gender in some circumstances. It promotes traditional gender roles by employing educational environments and materials to reinforce gendered views about women's primary responsibilities to their families, which include

their job and education. Female students study needlework, household science, and child welfare in primary school, whilst male students study wood and metal crafts. Male students have access to technical and vocational training in secondary school that female students do not.

There are other instances where women's education aids macro-development but is ineffective for a family. In India, the majority of working women are employed in traditionally female-dominated fields such as teaching, medicine, nursing, and social work. As a result, the country faces a significant problem: a high proportion of unemployment among educated women. Investing in sons is more valuable to parents in civilizations where women are married off and leave the family while men stay at home and care for their parents. Furthermore, while investing in women's education has a better total return when looking at all levels of education, investing in men has a higher rate of return through primary school. This provides an incentive for families who only intend to send their children to primary school to prioritize their sons' education over their daughters'. Social gender norms may suffocate women's education's potential to improve gender equality for women. This is especially true when women's education is viewed solely as a means of making women more desirable brides.

Some scholars do not claim that women's education has no impact on development; rather, they challenge the methodology used in studies that indicate it does. The difficulty of comparing educational levels is a problem acknowledged by scholars. The educational curriculum of two countries with the same number of years of schooling may be vastly different. Similarly, what is referred to as a "primary school" in other countries can range significantly. Furthermore, while developed countries have considerable data on education, only a limited number of poor countries have statistics. This raises the question of whether the findings can be applied to all developing countries. Furthermore, while the economic benefits are rather uncontroversial, there is significant disagreement about how to assess the social benefits, with some variation between researchers.

Relationship between Women education and Socio-economic factors in India

Communities all around India might serve as useful case studies for demonstrating the complicated interaction between education and socioeconomic systems. Traditional conservative thinking, early marriage, child labor, and structural and institutional reasons are just a few of the societal factors that have kept women from getting an education in India. Men are 80.9 percent literate, while women are 64.6 percent literate, indicating a gender discrepancy in literacy across the country. While India as a whole appears to support the thesis that a lack of female education is a barrier to economic development, a closer examination of the relationship between education and socioeconomics between states reveals a more complicated picture. The complexity of education, which is both a cause and an effect of social and economic issues, can be illustrated by comparing states.

Kerala, in the southern state of India, has the highest female literacy rate, at 91.98 percent. In Kerala, 26.9% of female students are expected to seek higher education, whereas 19.3% of male students are. The state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is ranked 11th out of all Indian states. The unusually high female literacy rate, especially when compared to the national rate of 65.46 percent, can be linked to a historical, societal emphasis placed on women in comparison to other Indian states. This can be seen in women's relative autonomy and participation in academia and the arts, as well as their participation in politics, administration, festivals, and social reform. Kerala has one of the lowest rates of early marriage in India since women have the power to inherit the land and choose their partners. The lowest fertility rate in Kerala, which achieved "below replacement level fertility two decades ahead of the all-India target year of 2011," is the strongest link between educational impacts on social systems. Educated women are thought to have more opportunities that need more time than a woman can handle with more children, and educated women have more knowledge, access, and choice in family planning devices such as contraceptives. As women feel more confident and capable in their kid's care and are more informed of health practices, the state has the lowest infant and child mortality rates in India—a universal measure of educational influence.

Rajasthan, with a female literacy rate of 52.66 percent, is the state with the lowest female literacy. Male students in Rajasthan pursue higher education at a rate of 20.8 percent, while female students enrolled at a rate of 14.9 percent. The greater rating of Rajasthan in terms of GDP (ranked 9th out of all Indian states), compared to Kerala's ranking of 11th, demonstrates the complexity of the comparison. Rajasthan's GDP is larger than Kerala's, even though Kerala's female literacy rates and higher education applicants are significantly higher. This demonstrates geographical inconsistencies in the assumption that increased female education can drive growth, as well as the complexities of the debate. Rajasthan's sex ratio of 800-900 females per 1000 males may indicate lower importance placed on females, whereas Kerala's sex ratio is over 1000 females per 1000 males. In Rajasthan, female child labor has resulted in a high rate of student dropouts, particularly in the cotton sector, and child marriage is still an issue that makes girls less likely to attend school. Another economic factor contributing to low literacy in Rajasthan is the large number of children who do not have access to education and communities that do not value education due to insufficient facilities. Surprisingly, while child labor is the leading cause of children not attending school in Rajasthan, improving access to and the state of educational facilities may be able to assist break the poverty cycle that is linked to child labor. Female societal worth, the abolition of child labor, and the expansion of educational opportunities are all important factors in Rajasthan's increase in female and male literacy and poverty rates.

Conclusion

The study concludes that women's education has a huge social influence. Only a few of the most visible socioeconomic benefits include lower fertility rates, infant mortality rates, and maternal mortality rates. Closing the gender gap in education promotes gender equality, which is important both within and outside education since it ensures that people of all genders have equal rights and opportunities.

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