



Women Education - Temporal Trends and Gender Fact: A Study in India Over the Last Century

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Objectives:

The objectives of the study entitled as “Women Education - Temporal Trends and Gender Fact: a Study in India Over the Last Century” are –

1. To understand the women education process in India.
2. To analyze the trends and patterns of women education over last century.
3. To analyze the gender issue in education.

Key Words: Women Education, Trends, Patterns, Phases of Women Education, Gender issue in education.

Introduction:

Women Education of India is not a new issue, tentatively this issue is continuing from the last three hundred years. Raja Rammohon Roy is the first man of India who first time focused on the spreading of women education. After that Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Rabindranath Tagore and many more personalities have worked with Women Education. Socio Economists are concerned about the importance of women education, as a well educated woman can prevent poverty, population explosion, etc. The most important thing is that, women education can establish the democracy because democracy deserves individual respect.

Women Education was not a priority for British Govt. in the period of colonialism in India. After the independence, Indian Govt. focused on the women education as well as empowerment. In the period of 5th five years plan in 1976 Women’s Welfare and Development Bureau was set up under the Ministry of Social Welfare, the process of transforming education towards women has been enhanced. In my study I am trying to explain the trends and pattern of women education in India.

Methodology of the Study:

This study is descriptive and as well as analytical in nature. I used census data and statistical platform to analyze the actual status, trends and pattern of women education in India.

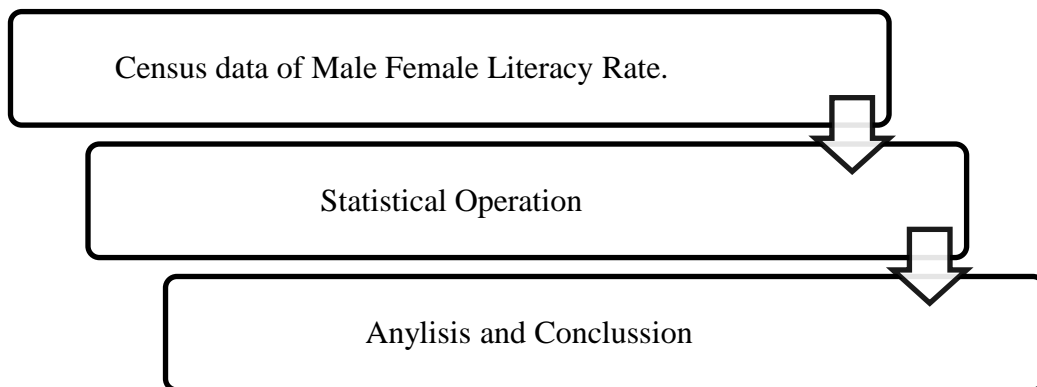


Fig:1 Methodology flow chart

Analysis:**Temporal Change of Women Education over India:**

Year	Female Education Rate (%)
1901	0.7
1911	1.1
1921	1.8
1931	2.9
1941	7.3
1951	7.3
1961	13
1971	18.7
1981	24.8
1991	39.2
2001	54
2011	65.46

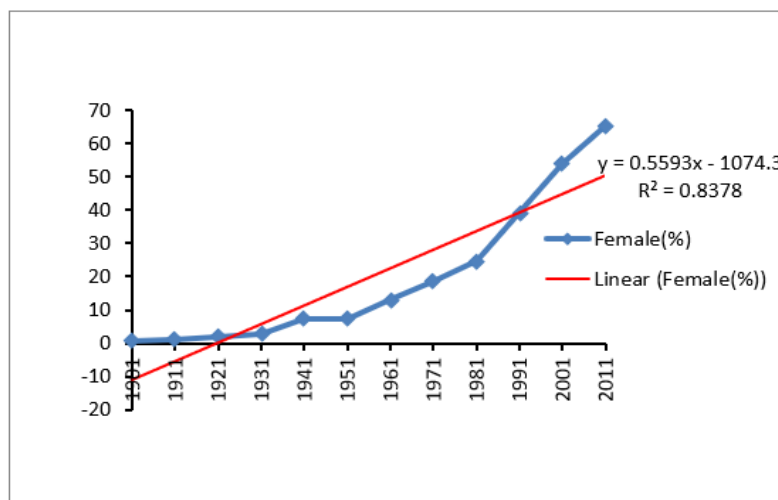


Fig: 2 Temporal Change of Women Education from 1901 to 2011, Data Source – Census

From the above data I have found that women education of India from 1901 to 2011 increases gradually. But it's an important character that the growth rate is not equally distributed in each decile. In that sense we can divide the development phase into three parts.

- **Stages of gradual growth:** The period from 1901 to 1931 is the period of gradual growth. The literacy rate for women has been recorded at 0.8% since the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1941 it reached 7.3%. This figure remains unchanged in 1951. Colonial rules, unstable society, lack of social status of women are the main reasons for low female literacy rate.
- **Threshold Stage:** We can identify the 1941 and 1971 as the confluence phase of women education. The women education rate remains steady in that period. The growth curve is relatively flat on those four deciles. Pre and post Independence period of India was quietly unstable by economically, politically, and also socially. Those are the main cause to pause the women education.
- **Stage of rapid growth:** The period started from 1981. In the year of 1985 The Department of Women and Child Development was established under the Human Resource development department. It may consider as the mile stone of women education. After that period women education and women social reform is being considered as the prime objective of different five years planning.

On the Linier Correlation, Regression analysis shows that women education and time period has highly positive relation. The R^2 value is found 0.837.

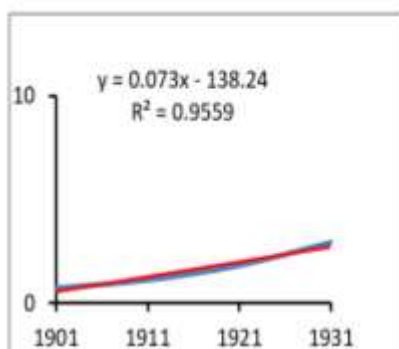
Difference between the Three Stages:

Fig: 3
Women Education Growth between
1901 to 1931

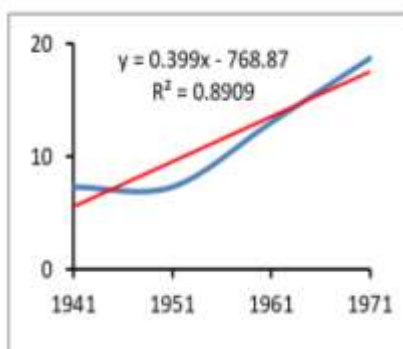


Fig : 4
Women Education Growth Between
1941 to 1971

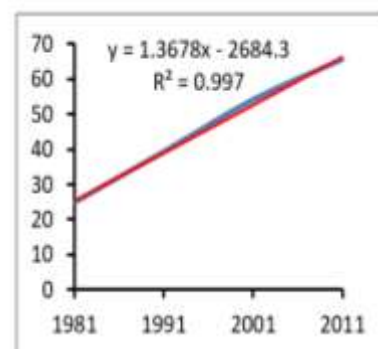


Fig : 5
Women Education Growth
Between 1981 to 2011

It is very much interesting that the women education growth rate is different, in relation to various periods (Stages of gradual growth, Threshold Stage, Stage of rapid growth). But the relationship is carrying the positive relation over the century. Only the growth curve has some fluctuation. But the degree of correlation between women education rate and period is relatively same “Very strong positive relation” in nature. The R^2 value is 0.995, 0.890, and 0.997 correspondingly among the periods.

Male Female Education Controversy:

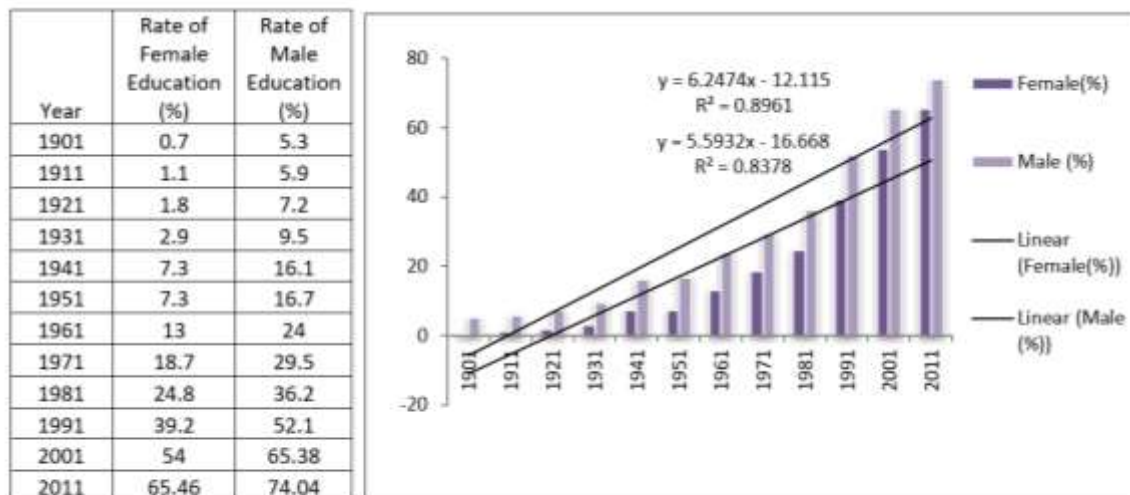


Fig: 5, Male Female Literacy Rate from 1901 to 2011

In the beginning of the century (1901) the women literacy rate was 0.7% and the men literacy was 5.3%. That figure slowly changed into the middle (1951) of the century male and female literacy rate was 7.3 and 16.7 correspondingly. The figure reaches 65.46 and 74.04 on 2011. The mean value of Female Education is 19.69 and S.D 22.03, on the other hand the mean value of Male Education is 28.49 and S.D 23.79. This discrimination mainly formed from family and society.

Conclusion:

There is no debate that there is deficiency between male and female literacy rate. The gender issue is the main cause of the difference. The gender issue was very prominent in the earlier phase of the century. But the cherub of the mist is that, the issue decreases slowly in the last part of the century. I classified the last century on the basis of women education into three phases as, Stages of Gradual Growth, The Threshold Phase and Stage of Rapid Growth. The important character of the three phases is the degree of correlation between women education rate and period is relatively same “Very strong positive relation” in nature.

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