



Girl Child Education in India

Assistant Professor Dr. Unnati Soni

Faculty of Social Work, Parul Institute of Social Work, Parul University

ABSTRACT

Education is a crucial aspect of a living human, whether it's a boy or a girl. A person can become smarter, learn new things, and become knowledgeable about global issues through education. One of the most significant aspects in the empowerment of women is education. It also aids in ending prejudice against people depending on their gender. The first step in giving women the freedom to live however they choose is education. The contemporary generation gone the times when people used to assume that it was unnecessary to send girls to school. In the modern world, women compete with men in every aspect of life. People today not only recognize the value of a good education, but they also send their daughters to school. It is an established fact that girls' education may significantly alter society. Women are now employed in a variety of professions, including writing, teaching, law, medicine, administration, politics, and science. The girl child is examined in this essay. The numerous facets of education all work together to make education in India more effective, relevant, and a tool for advancement, enhancement, and development.

Key words: Education, Girl Child Education, and Quality of the Girl Child Education

Introduction

One of the most important ways to empower a person or community in general, and women and girls in particular, is via education. The degree of education attained and the rate of literacy are measures of a society's overall growth. Women's empowerment and gender equality are essential for achieving prosperity and sustainable development. Since gaining its independence, India has pursued a wide variety of national, social, economic, and political growth pathways and methods. Women's general circumstances and standing have also improved. In India, education for girls is essential for their social and economic advancement. Due to their contributions in industries like medicine, the military, science, and technology, educated women have a favorable effect on Indian society. They run a successful business and are skilled at running both their home and office. Girls' education results in a better economy and society. By getting married at the appropriate age or later than illiterate women, educated women can also aid in reducing the nation's population.

Women's education was rather well-developed in early Indian society, but it was not in the middle ages due to severe restrictions on women. Again, though, things are becoming better and better as time goes on because Indians are beginning to realize that the country cannot thrive without the advancement of women. It is undeniably true that equal advancement for both sexes will accelerate social and economic development across the nation.

Current Status of Women Education in India.

When India attained independence, the countrywide percentage of women who were literate was a shockingly low 8.6%. A male-dominated patriarchal society was created as a result of the confinement of women, who had previously been permitted to participate in the independence movement. According to the 2011 census, India's female literacy rate has improved from 8.6% in 1951 to 64.63%. Although the rise in female literacy is heartening and promising, there is, sadly, a negative aspect to it as well. India's current female literacy rate is lower than its male literacy rate, which is higher at 81.3% compared to the former's 65.6%. India has a female education rate that is 65.6%, which is much lower than the global average of 79.7%. The situation is particularly dire in rural areas, where fewer girls than boys attend school and the proportion of female dropouts is frightening. Additionally, statistics show that there are still nearly 145 million women in India who are illiterate.

Importance of the Girl Child Education

There was a period when people believed that girls did not need to receive an education. The importance of females' education is now being recognized. The contemporary era is the era of girls' awakening. In every area of life, they are attempting to compete with men. Many people are against girls' education. They assert that a girl should spend her time in the home. They contend that the money spent on the education of girls is a waste. This idea is false because girls' education can bring about a subtle shift in society. The education of girls has several benefits. Girls who are educated and grown up can contribute significantly to the advancement of their nation. They might share the weight of the males in the many professions. Girls who receive a

good education and are not pressured to get married young will be able to make a significant contribution to society as authors, educators, teachers, lawyers, doctors, administrators, legislators, scientists, and much more. They may work in huge corporations, government agencies, hospitals, and banks. They can be crucial in times of conflict.

In this time of economic difficulty, education is a blessing for girls. The era of abundance and prosperity is over. Making ends meet these days is challenging for middle class families. Girls with educations can increase their husbands' income after marriage. If a woman is educated, she will be able to support herself once her spouse passes away. Education for girls is essential to creating happy homes. If he is fortunate enough to have an educated wife and mother, his life will flourish. By raising their children well, educated girls may improve the future of their nation. Women have more mental freedom thanks to education. It broadens her perspective and increases her awareness of her obligations. An adult girl can become economically independent with education. They'll be capable of defending their rights. All girls have the right to an education. Fighting against gender inequality requires the empowerment of women and girls. Rural females' education is equally vital. The rural girls do not have enough educational opportunities. The economy and society would benefit from these girls' education.

Advantages of Girl Child Education

The proper social and economic development of the nation depends on educating women. In every civilization, men and women coexist side by side like two wheels. As a result, both are important factors in the nation's growth and development. As a result, all parties need equal access to educational opportunities. India needs more female educators because women are the primary educators of the children who will make up the country's future. Women who lack education are unable to actively manage their families and provide for their children, which weakens future generations. The benefits of girl education are manifold. The following are a few of the best ones:

1. Women who have more education are better able to shape their future.
2. By working and having a robust economy, educated women may lower poverty.
3. Women with education have lower infant death rates.
4. Women with more education are 50% more likely to vaccinate their child.
5. Women who have received education are less likely to be exploited and to contract HIV/AIDS.
6. Women who have received education are less likely to experience domestic or sexual violence.
7. Women with education lessen corruption and alter the circumstances that give rise to terrorism.
8. Educated women are more capable of contributing to the family's income.
9. Women who have more education tend to be healthier and to have higher levels of confidence in themselves.
10. Women with education assist their community thrive and contribute.
11. Educated women recognize the value of education and the need to encourage others to pursue it.

Without a question, educated women are better able to manage their families. By instilling positive traits in children, she can hold each member of the family accountable. She can participate in social activities, which can greatly contribute to a country with a strong socioeconomic foundation. Only a portion of the country could be educated by educating a man, but the entire nation could be educated by educating a woman. Lack of education for women diminishes the powerful sector of society. Therefore, women should be treated equally with males in terms of their rights to an education.

Future Educated Generations: According to an African proverb, "If we teach a boy, we educate one person. A family, a country, and a whole world are all educated if we educate a girl. She is much more likely to make sure that her children obtain an education if she sends a daughter to school. As many have stated, funding a girl's education is funding a nation.

Reduce Infant Mortality: Babies born to educated mothers have a lower risk of passing away before their first birthday. Education makes girls less likely to contract HIV and AIDS and less likely to pass it on to their offspring. Even without secondary education, primary education greatly lowers infant mortality. A child in Africa born to an uneducated mother has a 1 in 5 probability of dying before turning five, according to the Girls Global Education Fund.

Reduce Maternal Mortality: Educated women are less likely to die during pregnancy, labour, or the postpartum period because they have a better understanding of health care and fewer pregnancies. More female healthcare professionals are available to help with prenatal care, labour and delivery, delivery problems and emergencies, and follow-up care as a result of increased girls' access to education.

Reduce Child Marriage: Child marriage, which can sometimes involve girls as young as 6 or 8, nearly invariably means that a girl's education is over. Young moms who are illiterate or marginally literate as a result lack the necessary resources to raise educated, healthy families. In general, a girl's marriage is postponed by one year for every year she attends school beyond the fifth grade. In general, educated girls marry later in life when they are more equipped to have and raise children.

Reduce population explosion: Women with more education typically have fewer (and healthier) children. According to UNESCO, a research conducted in Brazil in 2000 indicated that literate women gave birth to 2.5 children on average, while illiterate women gave birth to six.

Increased political participation: Women with higher levels of education are more likely to take part in political debates, meetings, and decision-making, which supports more representative and efficient government.

Reduce domestic and sexual violence: Girls and women with higher levels of education are less likely to experience such abuse themselves or tolerating it in their families.

Reduce support for militancy: Women are less likely to support terrorism and militancy than comparably educated men are.

Enhance socioeconomic growth: Women with higher levels of education are more likely to be able to escape poverty, live longer, healthier lives, and be more productive members of their communities. Many individuals believe that girls shouldn't pursue higher education. They are mistaken because girls have already shown their value in a variety of fields. There is no justification for girls not to have the same type of education as men. However, they shouldn't ignore their responsibilities at home. Girls therefore need to be knowledgeable in both home science and child psychology.

The following schemes have been implemented in India to improve women's educational opportunities:

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- Indira Mahila Yojana
- Balika Samridhi Yojana
- Rashtriya Mahila Kosh
- Mahila Samridhi Yojana
- Employment and Income Generating Training-cum-Production Centres
- Programme of Development of Women and Children in rural areas
- Short Stay Home for Women and Girls

The following issues affect girls disproportionately:

- Undernourishment and malnutrition;
- Early sexual harassment and abuse;
- Parents with lower socioeconomic status;
- Childhood illnesses and weak immune systems;
- Numerous social restrictions and taboos;
- Compelled to obey elders in the family, whether at their parents' or in-laws' homes;
- Permitted to receive only limited education.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a government-run initiative in India that aims to provide all children between the ages of 6 and 14 with a quality education for 8 years. The goals of this plan, which was started by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, were to:

- Cover education in all districts by the year 2002.
- Enrollment of every child in school by the year 2003.
- To mandate that all students complete five years of schooling by the year 2007.
- To mandate that all kids complete eight years of excellent primary school by the year 2010.

Conclusion

India is currently a top nation for women's education. There have been some talented ladies in Indian history. There are several female thinkers in it, including Maitreya, Viswabara, and Gargi. Mirabai, Durgabati, Ahalyabi, and Laxmibai are a few other well-known female figures. For modern women, India's legendary and historical ladies serve as an example and source of motivation. We must never undervalue their services to the community and the nation. Girls' education is crucial to a nation's development. Thus, it is important to support girls' education. In addition to being crucial for both girls' and boys' future lives, high-quality education is a crucial component of the positive development that results from girls' education.

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