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A 21st century overview of women education in India

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ABSTRACT :

The fluctuating status of women in India from ancient time to post independence is of prime attention in the era of 21st century for research and normalisation. Women in post independent India getting the voting right started to participate in the domain of economy and development directly. The women education is advocated from the ancient times in India which is necessary for the development of the country for eradication of miss conception from society. Education plays a significant role in women empowerment inequality and vulnerability of women in the society in India. This paper is an effort to capture the emerging picture with respect to women's education in India.

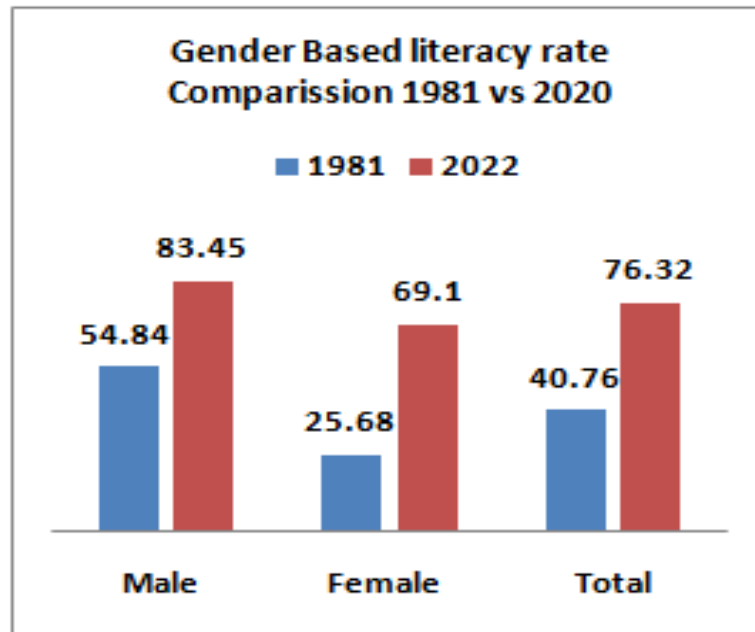
Key Words: Women education, empowerment, opportunities

Introduction:

Women play a very vital role in the progress of a social and economical system of a country. In order to develop a true democratic nation educating women as per the need of the hour is essential. Women should get equal opportunities for very aspects along with education. Educating women is the real source of happiness in the family. Education is one of the milestones for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life-style (Bhat, 2015). The literacy rate of women in India is lower than the men in India. To improve the role of women in the society the government mainly concentrated on their education and increasing employment opportunities. In these circumstances, we require the further improvement in the equality in gender, level of literacy and empowerment of women in every corner in India. As per NEP 2020 education equips women with the knowledge and skills required to enter the workforce, earn income, and achieve financial independence. It expands their employment opportunities, enhances their earning potential, and reduces the gender wage gap. This study is mainly focused on women education in India an analysis.

The challenge of women education :

The era of 21st century NEP 2020 promotes the professional development of female teachers, ensuring that they are well-equipped to provide quality education. Additionally, the policy encourages the recruitment of female teachers in rural and remote areas, where the gender gap in education is often more pronounced. Education in India has been one of the major issues of concern of the Government of India as well as the society at large. It is because of the fact that today the educated women play a very significant role in overall development and progress of the country. Women hold a prominent position in the Indian society as well as all Over the world. However, since the prehistoric times women were denied opportunities and had to suffer for the hegemonic masculine ideology. Thus, this unjustifiable oppression had resulted into a movement that fought to achieve the equal status of women all over the world. Women Education in India is the consequence of such progress and this led to the tremendous improvement of women's condition throughout the world. Nevertheless eradication of female illiteracy is considered as a major concern today. In the recent era, the Indian society has established a number of institutions for the educational development of women and girls. These educational institutions aim for immense help and are concerned with the development of women. Female literacy rate in India is varying in nature though it is increasing year by year but the gap between male and female is noticeable after taking lots of policies in education and additional initiation to the women education. The given figure gives us the picture of women literacy in comparison to male literacy. From 1981 to 2022 it has been observed that 29.16% difference reduced to only 14.35% in last 40 years of constant effort of the government.



Suggestion and conclusion:

For facing the actual challenges of women education is the 'glass ceiling' and motherhood penalty, which prevent women from advancing their careers past a certain point, account for about 60% of this gap. The remaining 40% of the gap is attributable to the 'sticky floor' phenomenon, which keeps women stuck due to outdated gender stereotypes and discrimination.

Suggestion for facing these challenges are

- Train women to break the 'glass ceiling' and sticky floor phenomenon
- Enable women to improve their family health and diet.
- Increase women's productive ability, thus raising their family's standard of living.
- Give women access to appropriate technologies and management of cooperatives
- Improve women's societal and cultural status.
- Enable women discharge their responsibilities more effectively.
- Help women to fight their own fears and feelings of inadequacy or inferiority
- Educate women in all round development that is mentally, socially, physically, psychologically, religiously and economically etc.

It is crucial to note that the attitude of people towards women's education will go a long way in explaining the extent to which the people want their nation to develop. Like the saying goes that to educate a woman is to educate the society as whole. Education is considered as a key instrument for the women empowerment. It changes their lifestyle, improves their chances of employment, facilitates their participation in public life and also increased their status in the society.

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