

## **Women's Educational Development and Human Values**

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### **Abstract**

The status of women is key indicator to the progress of a society as well as of the country. But, they shares distinct and equal footsteps along with the men folk of the society. Value based education refers to a wide gamut of learning and activities ranging from training in physical health, mental hygiene, etiquette and manners, appropriate social behavior, civic rights and duties to aesthetic and even religious training. This small paper is a humble attempt to study about the importance of value based education as a means for empowering women which is a great need of the hour. If women are not empowered and discriminated as before, development of the society will be very difficult.

Keywords: Education; Empowerment; Gender; Society; Women

### **Introduction**

Women constitute about 48% of the population in India but their participation in economic activity is only 34% .The universally held view is that men's purpose in the life is to serve god, the state and society, while women's purpose is to serve men. In the construction of the nation, women are looked upon as the biological and cultural reproducers of the nation and are expected to conform to certain nations of honour and propriety. Society neither has nor recognised the contribution of women.

MahatmaGandhi's statement that educating a woman is educating her whole family is often used when justifying higher education for women. She is contributing not only to the

family but also the society at large. she will then find a status in society, be recognized for her self-worth and work together with men to build a more harmonious and equitable society.

## **The present scenario**

The role of women in the science- based professions today is in a state of flux. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) of the United States has assessed that women have made important advances in education over the last few decades.

### **Indicators in India**

3% female adult literacy

38% female secondary school enrolment

4% female youth illiteracy

36% of Tertiary students are female.

30 % of Tertiary students in sciences are female 19% female teaching staff at tertiary

23% of India's internet users are women

A majority of the Indian women pursue their studies in the humanities and business rather than IT – related fields. Women make 88% of the students in the arts, science & commerce, while education & law account for 4% of women students and engineering accounts only for 1%.

## **Women literacy and political empowerment in India**

More women in parliament means better, stronger and more representative democracies that work for all the people,” said Inter-Parliamentary Union President and Mexican MP Gabriela Cuevas Barron. There are 66 women MPs in Lok Sabha (Parliament's lower house), occupying 12.6% of its 524 seats, while the world average was 24.3% as on January 1). In more than six decades till 2014, as women's share in India's population remained at 48.5%, the share of women MPs increased eight percentage points to 12.6% between the first (1952) and the 16th Lok Sabha (2014). There was one woman MP for about

eight million Indian women in 1952. By 2014 this was one for more than 9 million women – equivalent to the population of Austria.

Over five years to 2017, female representation in state assemblies was the highest in Bihar, Haryana and Rajasthan (14%), according to the 2017 [data](#) released by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation. Mizoram, Nagaland and Puducherry had no elected women representatives in their assemblies. In literacy, Kerala is a classic case that defies general explanation. Kerala women have the highest sex ratio, 10 per cent more higher education rate, literacy rate without any major difference for rural areas, highest physical quality life index and higher work participation rate. Women here are said to have more influence over their own lives. Political awareness among women is also said to be fairly high. But women here do not enter public life more notable than in other.

## **Discrimination in Education**

One area of discrimination against women that seriously impacts all of society is education. It is not just poverty but violence and the threat of violence that prevents women from getting an education. Two-thirds of Indian's illiterates are women and while the general illiteracy rate is falling, the female illiteracy rate is rising. While this is slowly changing- the growing awareness of the need for universal education is becoming more ingrained- women are being taught to read at a much slower rate than men. In many countries where the economic crisis has caused price increases for school fees and books, parents must choose which children can go to school.

## **Right for education**

The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory at least in the elementary stages. She gave an education, which will promote her general culture and enable her based on equal opportunity to develop her abilities, her individual judgement and her sense of moral and social responsibilities and to become a useful member of society. Every child should provide chances for various vocational education and higher education and financial assistance should be given to the needy. The education for child means to

develop individual personality talents, physical and psychological chances should be created for scientific and technical education and modern technology of teaching.

India, female literacy is considering the most sensitive index of social development. Despite the fact that in Indian culture, education is symbolized by goddess Saraswati, girl's education does not get much attention of bias against girls going to school.

This is due to the following factors.

- equal access and supportive infrastructural facilities should not give in education
- She assumes the domestic responsibilities in order to release the mother for productive activity.
- The society generally biased against girl's education.
- Early marriages put an end to education.
- Distance of school and lack of adequate basic essential facilities.

Legally, the girl child has an equal right for education. The law of compulsory primary education applied to girls as well as boys. In practice, however, fewer girls than boys are enrolled in primary schools. The enforcement of compulsory education should be more vigorous in respect of girls. This is especially necessary in respect of girls born in poor families in which they have a double disadvantage of being very poor and female.

On the issue of education, parents living in rural areas were not very much in favour of education for girls. They wanted them only to read, write, and then assume the responsibility of household work. Sufficient schools and colleges for girls do not exist everywhere particularly in rural and urban slum areas and if any exist, adequate facilities like teachers, good library, hostel, classroom and infrastructure facilities are rarely available. 'After marriage, a girl leaves her husband's house. The social system is one of the major reasons for girls being not educated because the parents think that the money invested in the girl's education has no returns for them. Parents decide to invest in education of the male child rather than the female child. It is therefore not surprising that female literacy rates are very low in India 39.2 percentage. The drop out rate for girls in schools are estimated as 55.

% in the primary state and 71.7% at the middle school stage and many of them relapse into illiteracy.

## Conclusion

It is time for us to realise that this world is impregnated with science and technology from the womb to tomb. it is imperative that, for the whole family to benefit, both men and women must work together as equal partners with equal responsibility. it is only then that the women will feel that she is contributing not only to the family but also the society at large. she will then find a status in society, be recognized for her self-worth and work together with men to build a more harmonious and equable society.

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