



Influence of Contemporary issues on Women Education: Measures for Promoting Women's Education

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Abstract:

This is the conceptual paper and is based on the status and importance women's education. India offers astounding variety in virtually every aspect of social life. Diversities of ethnic, linguistic, regional, economic, religious, class and caste groups crosscut Indian society, which is also permeated with immense urban-rural differences and gender distinctions. In India there are many social issues like gender discrimination, unemployment, corruption, health related issues and corruption, education system, poverty issues, gender gap, casteism, discrimination problem. Sexual harassment, untouchability, linguism, and communalism, beggary, unemployment, labour problems, rural problems, problems of industrialization, urbanization, prostitution, crime, suicide, juvenile delinquency, youth tensions and student unrest and finally the problems of democracy. Social problem is connected to majority of the members of society.

India has patriarchal structure of society for many generations. Inequality and gender bias have prevented women from availing opportunities that have been easily offered to their male counterparts. According to the National Statistical Office, the literacy rate of women in India is 70.3 per cent whereas that of men is 84.7 percent. This gap is representative of the disparity with the regard to education of women in India. There are so many ways in which an entire nation is affected by not offering equal opportunities to the women in the country.

Keywords: *Women Education, social issues, Inequality, Literacy, Problems in Education*

Introduction:

Constitutionally Indian women and men have been granted equal status and rights but on practical grounds women still like behind men in various life activities due to gender discrimination. Educating the women in a country is directly proportional to the economic development of the country. When women are educated,

they can manage their finances as well as household better. There are several reasons why female education in India is important. Education is a fundamental right for every citizen of the country. All girls and women irrespective of caste, social strata, marital status or age, are entitled to an education. Education is a basic human right, not privilege based on

status. In the past, men were meant to go out of the house to work, while the women were supposed to stay at home to look after the house, children and food requirements. After India's independence in 1947, the options for higher education for women were made available with the right to Education. The constitution framed Article 45 in 1949, which makes it compulsory for children up to the age of fourteen to receive an education.

“We educate women because it is smart.

We educate women because it changes the world”- Drew Faust

The major problems of women's education in India are as follows

1. Traditional prejudices:

Indian society is patriarchal in nature. This takes away from women the basic right to have a voice in their families or society. The traditional prejudices still operate in backward and rural areas to a great extent the lower poorer sections of the society fall and easy prey to superstitions and Traditional prejudices against women. India is land of traditionalism, communalism, casteism, linguism, parochialism, religious and linguistic prejudices and so on. These factors have negative effect on country's progress by making people dogmatic in their approach and narrow-minded and selfish in outlook. In India population of female was reported at 48.41% in 2022. Still some traditional prejudices are followed.

2. Untouchability:

The evil practice of untouchability has been an universal phenomenon throughout Indian society. There has been no period in course of her history, which has not experienced this evil. According to Gandhi, untouchables are those suffering from many social as well as legal disabilities and living at the mercy of the people from higher strata. Untouchability is practiced among 52 % of Brahmins, 33% of other backward classes and 24 % of Non –Brahmin forward castes. Untouchability is also practiced by people of minority religions, 23% of Sikhs, 18% of Muslims and 5% of Christians.

3. Absence of separate schools:

Due paucity of funds it is not possible to provide separate Schools for girls especially in rural area many rural folks even in changing Times are not prepared to send their daughters to co educational schools. In the state of Punjab where per capita income is the highest in India people do not mind sending their girls to co educational schools but in other states like Rajasthan Uttar Pradesh Bihar or Haryana parents have objection on co-education especially at the secondary stage. According to the UDISE data for 2021-22, the total number of schools in India is 14,89,115 in which 10,22,386 are government schools and 82,480 are government aided schools. There were 9,506,123 teachers in India during the academic year 2021-22. Still women are facing problem of getting formal education.

4. Lack of women teachers:

There is shortest of qualified women teachers in all states even in places where qualified women teachers are available they are not willing to go to far flung teach this is also reason why separate schools for girls are not possible. In the year 2018-19, 96.87 lakh teaches, 49.15 lakh female teachers were engaged in school education.

5. House hold work :

Girls generally in all parts of the country take care of domestic work partly as a necessity and partly as a training for their future domestic life taking care of anger siblings at home also schooling opportunities for a girl child such conditions turn into the reasoning given by parents for not sending the daughters to schools. As per the Gender Equality Index 2021, about 92% of women with children take part in unpaid domestic work, and women mainly responsible for laundry (58%), cleaning and cooking (51%),

6. Poverty:

Poverty of the parents compelled them to use the labour of their children either at Home or in the fields of human child is still considered an economic burden on the Indian Household and hands education of girl is assume to increase this burden. So due to poverty woman and young girls accepting prostitution profession. Most of the prostitutes come from the underprivileged economic groups. Their parents are unable to provide the proper physical or moral

care for their adolescent girls. Of the total number of people living under extreme poverty in India in 2021, approximately 47 million were females.

7. Triple Talaq:

Many muslim majority countries have banned triple talaq. To bring equality and justice for women, the government of India has passed the Triple Talaq bill, henceforth all declaration of talaq including written and electronic form will be null and void. According to a study, 92% of Muslim women in India wanted the triple talaq to be banned. It goes against rights of equality and women empowerment. As per the data between 1985 to August 2019 there were maximum cases of instant triple talaq in Uttarpradesh at 63,400 followed by 38,617 from Bihar and 33,122 from Rajasthan.

8. Gender Gap:

As per the report of economic survey 2017-18, there are 63 million missing women in India. Missing women are women who are not alive due to foeticide or infanticide. As per the world economic forum, India is ranked very low at 87th position in the 'Global Gender Parity Report'. India Government launched the 'BetibachaoBetiPadhao' scheme to address the problem of gender gap

9. Child marriages:

Child marriages still take place in rural areas after marriage at an early age it is not considered proper for a girl to attend school hence and early marriage

prevents a girl Child from going to school. More than 40% of the world's child marriages take place in India. Almost half of all girls here marry before the age of 18 years; 47% of women aged 20 to 24 were married before age 18. 48% girls with no education were married below 18 years of age as compared to only 4% among those who attained higher education.

10. Lack of provision on certain Subjects:

Previously file framing curriculum no attention was paid to the needs of the girls even today. The CO educational institutions do not have better provisions on the subjects preferred by girls students unless proper care is taken to provide co curricular activities and special courses based on interest attitude and needs of girls the schools cannot register better attendance and strength in their classes.

11. Gender Inequality:

Boys are sent to school, whereas girl children are made to stay at home. Moreover schools in rural areas lack adequate sanitation facilities, so girls are forced to stay at home. Though it is gradually rising, the female literacy rate in India is lower than male literacy rate. According to census of India 2011, literacy rate of female is 65.46% compared to males which are 82.14%. compared to boys, far fewer girls are enrolled in the schools and many of them drop out.

12. Violence against women:

Women are facing the various violence almost every day which is disturbing their life. At every moment of the time, women are being victim of violence because of increasing crimes against women. They are facing domestic violence within their family by their husband, relative or other family member for dowry related harrasement ,death, marital rape, wife battering, sexual abuse, deprivation of healthy food etc. The National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) annual report reveals a harrowing surge in crime against women in India. With staggering 4,45,256 cases registered in 2022 alone, equivalent to nearly 51 FIRs every hour. 65% of Indian male believe women should tolerate violence in order to keep the family together, and women sometimes deserve to be beaten.

13. Casteism issues:

The Indian caste system is founded on cultural characteristics such hierarchy, impurity, and cleanliness,. It adheres to the karma and Dharma principles. In 1935 the Indian government added the Scheduled castes category to the Indian constitution. There are currently 16% of Indians who are SCs.Discrimination in society and untouchabilityare the most significant challenges Dalits face.

As per the issues regarding women education, there is need of provision of various measures;

Measures for promoting women's education:**1. Creating proper social attitude on education of girls in rural and backward areas:**

The problems relating to women's education proper research should be taken up by the institutes of education and allied institutions in different states and should be coordinated at National level. Separate schools for girls at the middle and high school stages should be established. School mothers in coeducation at primary schools should be appointed. Public opinion in favour of girl's education should be created. The rural population of India represents 65% of the total population, around 88 crore (880 millions). In the year 2019-20 India had around 42,343 colleges and about 60.56% of these colleges were located in the rural parts of the country.

2. Providing Adequate educational facilities in backward and rural areas:

The target should be to have at least one primary school within a radius of 1 km from every child's home. Hostels for girls at middle and high school stages should be provided. Maintenance, lodging, transportation facilities should be provided to the girls students. Priority should be given to the constructions of suitable building for girls. In the year 2020-21 there were 26,000 girls hostel and such facilities should be provided to the girls from rural area to get formal and all kind of education.

3. Removing economic backwardness:

A large number of children in the rural areas are under nourished they hardly have a square meal a day. This will help parents for some kind of economic relief. Free uniforms and free books to the needy and deserving girl students should be provided. Attendance scholarships which serve as a compensation to the parents should be given, this will also ensure reduction of wastage and stagnation in education. Mid day meals should be made available free of charge. It is observed that, only 64.8% of India's populations live above the poverty line. In other words, 35% of the total population is still below poverty line. So there is need of strengthening this aspect.

4. Provision of suitable curriculum:

Curriculum by and large has not made as per the requirements of women. Some suggestions made by Hansa Mehta committee in 1962 deserve careful consideration. No differentiation should be made in curriculum for boys and girls at the primary and Middle stages of education. Few steps should be taken to improve the teaching of Music and Fine Arts and liberal financial assistance should be made available for girls'.

5. Proper incentives to parents and girls:

The number of attendance scholarships should increased. The allowance of the school mothers should be enhanced so that qualified women may be attracted to take up the work. The rate of

maintenance stipend should be adequately increased in view of the inflationary trades in the economy. The number of sanitary blocks in co-educational primary schools should be adequately increased. Larger allocation of funds should be made in the budget for construction of hostels for girls. In India there are various types of scholarship schemes and these should be introduced to the girls students to get their higher education, Government of India and Private organization offer scholarships, like means based scholarships, Merit-based scholarships, Need-based scholarships, School Scholarships, College Scholarships, International scholarships, Talent based scholarships, ONGC scholarship, Indian oil scholarship, Ratan Tata Trust Awards scholarship, Dhirubhai Amabani Scholarship fund, Aditya Birla group scholarship, Fulbright Nehru Masters' fellowship, British council IELTS scholarship, Rhodes scholarship etc. should be introduced to the girls students.

6. Provision for Providing Adequate number of women teachers:

Large number of training institutions has to be provided for women especially in the backward States these institutions should generally be located in rural areas and they should generally recruit their trainees from that area. Condensed course centre should be started in these backward areas to open up avenues to the adult qualified women for employment as teachers wherever possible such centres should be attached to the

training institutions. A large number of quarters for women teachers in primary schools should be provided particularly in rural areas. All women teachers employed in rural areas should be given adequate rural allowance. Special stipend should be given to girls in High Schools and in higher secondary schools with aptitude for teaching. Whenever possible husbands and wife, i.e. couple should be posted in the same place even if they work in different government departments. Free training should be imparted with stipends to all candidates of training institutions.

7. Proper supervision and Guidance:

For providing proper guidance and supervision, there is need of increasing the number of women inspecting officers particularly in the backward States at different levels including state level and directorate level. Provision of adequate transport for all district women, inspecting officer should be laid Adequate office staff and equipment should be provided to them for proper supervision and guidance.

8. Facilities for education of adult women. :

Girls' education and education of adult women suffers on account of lack of social education. This problem can be tackled by opening adult literacy classes in large number by teaching simple skills like swing, knitting, Handicrafts and teaching basic principles of healthy living by invoking better attitude towards community, family planning fighting

against superstitions and other social evils, so education to all will be very fruitful.

9. Eradicating social evils:

Eradicating social evils that stand in the way of girls education such as early marriage bounded labour, dowry, domestic violence, prostitutions, caste barriers will be exiled if there is effective promotion of women's education. Social activities, self help groups, and other voluntary organizations can play a crucial rule in motivating people to educate their daughters.

10. Wide systematic publicity:

For educating the parents and to make them more interested in education through social media , motivation is needed, Face book is the second most popular platform in India where 71.2% of internet users have profiles on the social network. 90% of users follow at least one brand on social media. Such should be used for spreading women education in India. 49% of National school boards Association schools participate in online collaboration with other schools. 59% of schools say their students use social networking for educational purpose. Social media should be used in spreading of education of women, in India, there are 200 million users use Facebook, 75 million users use Instagram, 699 million users use internet, 25 million users use YouTube, 200 million use WhatsApp. Means of social media will be boon for the education of women in the society.

11. Betipadhao and BetiBachao:

On January 22, 2015 the Betibachao, BetiPadhao social movements, known for women empowerment were started. This programme's goal is to eliminate female foeticide and provide women with an adequate education. People of society always follow the science not the superstitions.

12.Hostel for working woman:

Working women hostels were founded to provide a working environment that incorporates accommodation amenities in order for women to have greater employment options.

13. Mahila E-Haat

The ministry of women's and Child development introduced the Mahila programme in 2016. It provides a forum for female entrepreneurship and small business owners to showcase or sell their product and service. Enough earning source keep the family sound and helps a family to get the status in the society.

14. SABLA:

The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for employment of Adolescent Girls, often known as SABLA was launched by the Government of India on April 1, 2011. It intends to provide means and nutritional components. It is the duty of each member of the society to spread the awareness among the women for betterment of their lives by following schemes of the Government.

15. Kasturba Gandhi Balikavidyalayas:

This scheme was launched in July 2004, to provide education to girls at primary level. It is primarily for the underprivileged and rural areas where literacy level for girls is very low. The school that were set up have 100% reservation: 75% for backward class and 25% for BPL girls. Teachers and well educated people have to take the responsibility of developing lives of women and girls.

15.Scheme for a One Stop Shop:

The ministry of Womens' and child development developed the One-stop Central initiative on April 1, 2015, using the 'Nirbhaya' budget. The system provides psychological services, legal requirements, police assistance, housing and food to victims of violence in both public and private settings. Teachers, counselors of the schools and colleges have to come together to spread such information among various stakeholders of the society.

Conclusion:

Women education is an integral part of the society and everyone from the

society has to support for women education. Both man and woman are two sides of one coin and are imperfect without each other's support for getting perfection.

“A strong woman knows she has strength

Enough for the journey

*But a woman of strength knows it is in
the journey*

Where she will become strong.”

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