

## **An Analysis of Girl's Education Impact in India**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Education is an essential part of a living being, whether it's a boy or a girl. Education helps an individual to be smarter, to learn new things and to know about the facts of the world. Education plays one of the most important roles in Women Empowerment. It also helps to put a stop to discrimination based on gender. Education is the first step to give women the power to choose the way of life she wants to lead.

Girl Education in India is largely essential for the growth of the nation because girls can do most of the things better than the boys. Nowadays girl education is necessary and is also compulsory because girls are the future of the country. In India, girl's education is necessary as to develop socially and economically. Educated women yield a positive impact on Indian society through their contribution in professional fields like – medical, defense and services, science and technology. They do good business and are also well-versed in handling their home and office. An improved economy and society are the outcome of girl's education. Educated women can also help in controlling the population of the country by marrying at the right or later age in comparison to the uneducated women. This paper focuses on the concept of Girl's Education in India and analyze the factors which motivate Girl's Education .

**Keywords:** Education-Economic Growth –Literacy

### **INTRODUCTION**

Education is a fundamental right of every human being. It lays the foundation for the development of society. Women are an indispensable part of a society. The future generation's development mainly depends on the education of women. So, education of women is realised to be the most essential part for the society's development. It can help every woman educate her children to be good managers of the family as well as active members of the society. Females

constitute about 50 per cent of India's human resource, but lack of education snatches their chance to be part of the country's progress. Due to this, there is a considerable gap between male and female literacy rates in the country.

The country's future will largely be shaped by today's girls and tomorrow's women. An educated Indian woman will yield a positive impact in the society by contributing positively to the economy of both the country and the society. The low level of literacy not only has a negative impact on women's lives but also on their families' and on the country's economic development. India has consolidated its earlier educational reforms with increased resources and stronger policy commitments for achieving elementary education for all children, particularly girls. Besides, community attitudes can also play a critical role in shaping the parameters of girls' access to education.

## **LITERACY IN INDIA**

The 15<sup>th</sup> official census in India was calculated in the year 2011. In a country like India, literacy is the main foundation for social and economic growth. When the British rule ended in India in the year 1947 the literacy rate was just 12%. Today, the female literacy levels according to the Literacy Rate 2011 census are 65.46% where the male literacy rate is over 80%. The literacy rate in India has always been a matter of concern but many NGO initiatives and government ads, campaigns and programs are being held to spread awareness amongst people about the importance of literacy. Also the government has made strict rules for female equality rights. India literacy rate has shown significant rise in the past 10 years. There are some facts about different states literacy rate, Kerala is the only state in India to have 100% literacy rate. It is followed by Goa, Tripura, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra, Sikkim. The lowest literacy rate in India is seen in the state of Bihar. We also need to think why is the literacy rate is low here in India compared to other developed countries. There are over 1 billion people in India. The number of schools and educational centers especially in rural areas is less. Even today many people are below the poverty line. Also people aren't aware that children should get free education according to the law.

Literacy Rate in India, Census 2011

| Rank | State                     | Literacy Rate (2011 Census) | Male Literacy Rate (2011 Census) | Female Literacy Rate (2011 Census) |
|------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1    | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 86.3 percent                | 90.1 percent                     | 81.8 percent                       |
| 2    | Andhra Pradesh            | 67.4 %                      | 74.8 %                           | 60.0 percent                       |
| 3    | Arunachal Pradesh         | 67.0 percent                | 73.7 percent                     | 59.6 percent                       |
| 4    | Assam                     | 73.2 percent                | 78.8 percent                     | 67.3 percent                       |
| 5    | Bihar                     | 63.8 percent                | 73.5 percent                     | 53.3 percent                       |
| 6    | Chandigarh                | 86.4 percent                | 90.5 percent                     | 81.4 percent                       |
| 7    | Chattisgarh               | 71.0 percent                | 81.5 percent                     | 60.6 percent                       |
| 8    | Dadra & Nagar Haveli      | 77.7 percent                | 86.5 percent                     | 65.9 percent                       |
| 9    | Daman & Diu               | 87.1 percent                | 91.5 percent                     | 79.6 percent                       |
| 10   | Delhi                     | 86.3 percent                | 91.0 percent                     | 80.9 percent                       |
| 11   | Goa                       | 87.4                        | 92.8 percent                     | 81.8 percent                       |
| 12   | Gujarat                   | 79.3 percent                | 87.2 percent                     | 70.7 percent                       |
| 13   | Haryana                   | 76.6 percent                | 85.4 percent                     | 66.8 percent                       |
| 14   | Himachal Pradesh          | 83.8 percent                | 90.8 percent                     | 76.6 percent                       |
| 15   | Jammu and Kashmir         | 68.7 percent                | 78.3 percent                     | 58.0 percent                       |
| 16   | Jharkhand                 | 67.6 percent                | 78.5 percent                     | 56.2 percent                       |
| 17   | Karnataka                 | 75.6 percent                | 82.8 percent                     | 68.1 percent                       |
| 18   | Kerala                    | 93.9 percent                | 96.0 percent                     | 92.0 percent                       |
| 19   | Lakshadweep               | 92.3 percent                | 96.1 percent                     | 88.2 percent                       |
| 20   | Madhya Pradesh            | 70.6 percent                | 80.5 percent                     | 60.0 percent                       |
| 21   | Maharashtra               | 82.9 percent                | 89.8 percent                     | 75.5 percent                       |
| 22   | Manipur                   | 79.8 percent                | 86.5 percent                     | 73.2 percent                       |
| 23   | Meghalaya                 | 75.5 percent                | 77.2 percent                     | 73.8 percent                       |
| 24   | Mizoram                   | 91.6 percent                | 93.7 percent                     | 89.4 percent                       |
| 25   | Nagaland                  | 80.1 percent                | 83.3 percent                     | 76.7 percent                       |
| 26   | Orissa                    | 73.5 percent                | 82.4 percent                     | 64.4 percent                       |
| 27   | Puducherry                | 86.5 percent                | 92.1 percent                     | 81.2 percent                       |
| 28   | Punjab                    | 76.7 percent                | 81.5 percent                     | 71.3 percent                       |

|    |               |               |               |               |
|----|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 29 | Rajasthan     | 67.1 percent  | 80.5 percent  | 52.7 percent  |
| 30 | Sikkim        | 82.2 percent  | 87.3 percent  | 76.4 percent  |
| 31 | Tamil Nadu    | 80.3 percent  | 86.8 percent  | 73.9 percent  |
| 32 | Tripura       | 87.8 percent  | 92.2 percent  | 83.1 percent  |
| 33 | Uttar Pradesh | 69.7 percent  | 79.2 percent  | 59.3 percent  |
| 34 | Uttarakhand   | 79.6 percent  | 88.3 percent  | 70.7 percent  |
| 35 | West Bengal   | 77.1 percent  | 82.7 percent  | 71.2 percent  |
| 36 | Telangana     | 66.46 %       | 74.95 %       | 57.92 percent |
|    | <b>INDIA</b>  | 74.04 percent | 82.14 percent | 65.46 percent |

**Source: Census 2011 and India 2016**

There is a dramatic difference in the female literacy rate based on various regions in India. Female literacy rate in urban areas is higher as compared to rural India. In Rajasthan, most of the rural women are illiterate. Kerala has the highest female literacy rate (92% as per 2011 census) whereas Rajasthan (52.7% as per 2011 census) has the lowest female literacy rate in India. States such as Uttar Pradesh (59.3% as per 2011 census) and Bihar (53.3% as per 2011 census) that are the most populated states in India show low levels of female literacy. This is directly related to the health and infant mortality. Kerala has the lowest infant mortality whereas states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have a high mortality rate.

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

A study in Pakistan reported that majority of the parents have a positive attitude towards daughters education. 56% female respondents were not sending their daughters to school because of distance problem; 21.3% due to financial problem, 17.3% because of shortage of trained teachers, 2.7% due to lack of government policies and family tradition. 52.3% of male respondents were not sending their daughters to school because of distance problem, 20% due to shortage of trained teachers, and 17.3% because of financial problems.

In another study of Pakistan it was found that all the parents were interested in education of girls but they could not do so due to poverty. Majority of the parents were in favour of school/college education. Major reason of girl's dropout was poverty, marriage and religious constraints. Factors hindering female education were found to be poverty, lack of awareness or

incentives, uneducated parents and early marriages. Majority of the parents were in favour of allowing the females to do jobs. Majority of the parents needed their girls in homes for domestic work. Majority of the parents were not in favour of co- education.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The specific objectives of the study are,

1. To study the literacy rate of female population in India.
2. To analyse the factors responsible for low rate of girl education.
3. To discuss the measures to promote girl's education In India

## **METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY**

The study is based on the extensive survey of secondary data which is collected from published research papers, websites, reference books, journals and reports etc.

## **EDUCATED GIRLS Vs UNEDUCATED GIRLS**

If we look at it, we will observe that a knowledgeable girl not only serve for her family but also serve for her nation. She can serve her nation as a teacher, a nurse, a doctor, an administrator, a soldier, a policewoman, a reporter, an athlete, etc. It is a fact that the girls have gained more achievements than the boys in less time.

An educated wife can split the load of her husband's life by doing jobs or by sharing her knowledgeable views about the jobs. An educated housewife can educate her children and can teach her children about the rights and moral values. She can also guide them to differentiate between good and bad things.

Girls are gaining their rights and respect in the society and our society is working hard for this. Girls have the potential to lead their country in every field.

Once Napoleon said – “Nation's progress is impossible without trained and educated mothers and if the women of my country are not educated, about half of the people will be ignorant.” Thus we should create an atmosphere in which not a single woman remains uneducated.

## **IMPORTANCE OF GIRL'S EDUCATION**

There are a lot of advantages involved in the education of girls. A well-educated and grown up girl can play an important role in the development of the country. An educated girl can share the load and burden of the men in different fields. A well-educated girl if not forced to

marry in her early age, can serve as writer, teacher, advocate, doctor, and scientist. She can perform very well in other important fields too.

Education is a boon for girls in this age of economic crises. In today’s time, it is really difficult to meet both the ends in a middle-class family. After the marriage, an educated girl can work and help her husband in bearing the expenses of the family. She can also earn if in case her husband expires and there is no helping hand in the family.

Education also broadens the thought of the women, thus it helps in the good upbringing of her children. It also gives her the freedom of thought to decide what best is there for her and the family. Education helps a girl become economically independent while she knows her rights and women empowerment which helps her to fight against the problem of gender inequality.

**LITERACY RATE OF FEMALE POPULATION IN INDIA SINCE 1901 TO 2011**

The women education is still in very pitiable condition as the population of literate women is still hovering around 65% of the total population of the country. Percentage of literate women in the country was just 9% in 1951.

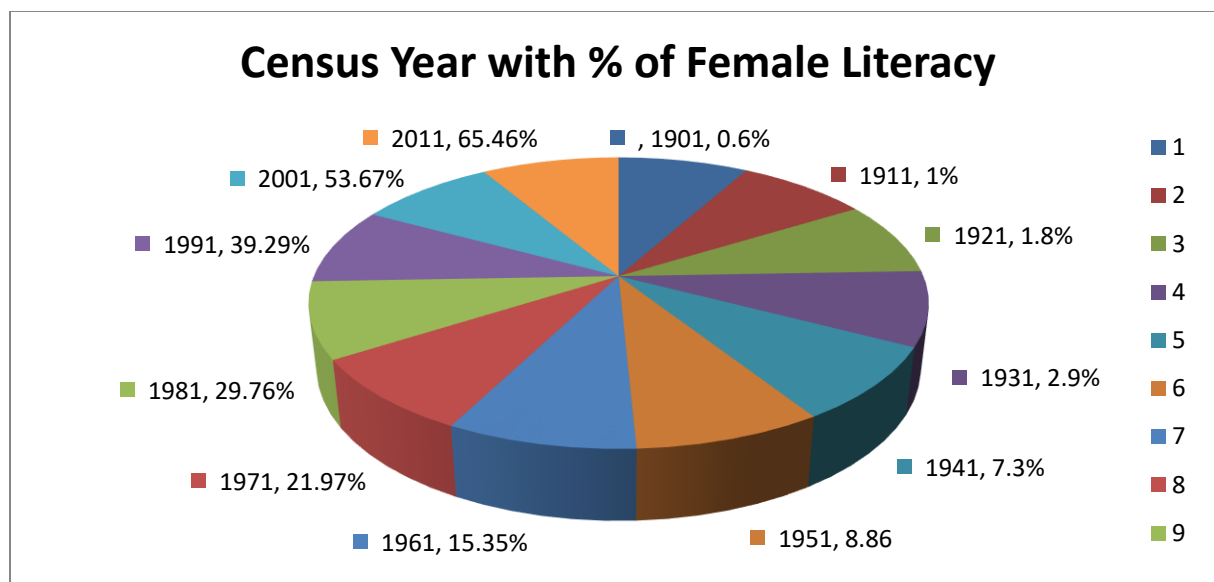
**Table .1**

| <b>S.N.</b> | <b>Census Year</b> | <b>% of Female Literacy</b> |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.          | 1901               | 0.6                         |
| 2.          | 1911               | 1.0                         |
| 3.          | 1921               | 1.8                         |
| 4.          | 1931               | 2.9                         |
| 5.          | 1941               | 7.3                         |
| 6.          | 1951               | 8.86                        |
| 7.          | 1961               | 15.35                       |
| 8.          | 1971               | 21.97                       |
| 9.          | 1981               | 29.76                       |
| 10.         | 1991               | 39.29                       |
| 11.         | 2001               | 53.67                       |
| 12.         | 2011               | 65.46                       |

Source: census 2011, India 2016

**Chart -1**

**Percentage of Female Literacy Rate in India from 1901 to 2011**



**LOW FEMALE LITERACY RATE AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR SOCIETY**

Low female literacy rate means an overall sluggish growth of India, as it impacts every arena of the development. India is struggling hard to stabilize its growing population through family planning programs. But if females are illiterate, then this has a direct and negative impact on these initiatives.

When a girl or a woman is not educated, it is not only she who suffers but the entire family has to bear the consequences of her illiteracy. It has been found out that illiterate women face more hardships in life than literate ones. They have high levels of fertility as well as mortality; they suffer from malnutrition and all other related health problems. In one of the surveys, it has been found out that infant mortality is inversely related to mother’s educational level. In such a scenario not only women but their kids also go through the same conditions. She, who does not know the importance of education in life, does not emphasize the same for her kids. This hampers the family as well as the nation’s progress as a whole.

Lack of education means lack of awareness. Illiterate women are not aware of their rights. They know nothing about initiatives taken by the government for their welfare. Illiterate women keep on struggling hard and bear harshness of life, family and even their husbands.

**FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOW RATE OF GIRL EDUCATION**

There are some factors which are responsible in our Indian society which restrict the girls to attend school. These are:

**Poverty** – Though education is free still there is a lot of cost involved in sending children to school. It includes the cost of uniform, stationery, books, and conveyance which is too much for a family living below poverty line. They can't even afford a day's meal, educational expenses are too far to incur. That is the reason why parents prefer to keep their girl child at home.

**Distance** – In many parts of India, a primary school is situated too far away from the villages. There is 4-5 hours long walk to reach the school. Keeping in mind the safety and other security factors parents restrict the girl child to go to school.

**Insecurity** – Girls sometimes have to face various forms of violence at the school. Including violence on the way to school, by the school teacher, students and other people involved in the school environment. So girls' parents think that she might not be safe at that place hence forbid them from going to school.

**Negative Attitude** – People generally think that a girl should learn how to cook, how to maintain the house and to do household tasks as these should be the primary focus of girl's life. Their contribution to the household work is valued more than their education.

**Child Marriage** – In Indian society, still there are cases of child marriage. A girl is forced to marry at an early age and is often pulled out of the school at a very early age. Due to early marriage, they get pregnant at an early age and thus all their time is devoted towards the child and no time is left for studying.

**Child Labour** – This is also a major cause to forbid girls from studying. Working and earning at an early age is the main factor to be held responsible for not studying. Parents due to poverty force girls to work at an early age hence the girls are forbidden from studying.

**Religious factor** – India is a vast country and consists of various religions. Some religious practitioners also forbid the girl child to be educated. According to them, it is against the religion.

## MEASURES TO PROMOTE GIRL'S EDUCATION IN INDIA

Various measures have been suggested by the 'National Committee on Women's Education' for the improvement of girls' education.

(i) Providing school facilities, opening of new schools, bringing schools within easy reach of the children, starting girls' section in boys' schools, etc.

- (ii) Improving the existing schools, appointment of more qualified and adequate staff including a large number of women teachers;
- (iii) Making education free: Granting concession in the form of scholarships to poor and meritorious girl students,
- (iv) Effective enforcement of compulsory education and creation of social climate among the village community to enroll all girls of school going age,
- (vi) Providing other convenience and inducement. Such as adjustment of school timings and vacation to suit local needs and conditions, free mid-day meals, free medical and health facilities for the school children, establishment of crèches etc.,
- (vii) Female inspecting officer: bringing education under the charge of women as far as possible both in regard to teaching as well as inspection and administration.
- (viii) Shift system: Where co-education is not acceptable, an alternative is to start separate shifts for boys and girls in the same school building,
- (ix) Guidance service, in order to make the education of girls more purposive and practical effective guidance services should be provided in all schools as possible.
- (x) Providing suitable accommodation for teachers and students, particularly in the rural areas.
- (xi) Popularizing co-education at the primary stage.
- (xii) Undertaking necessary propaganda to make the profession of teaching for women popular.
- (xiii) Encouraging married women to take up at least part time teaching in village schools and to work as school mother and provision of special incentive to teachers.
- (xiv) Initiating action and participating in educative propaganda to break down traditional prejudices, against girls' education.
- (xv) Organizing school improvement conferences, supplying mid-day meals, uniforms, free textbooks and writing materials to needy children.,
- (xvi) Seeking the help of women's association.

Besides, the central and the state governments should join hand and seek the co-operation of different voluntary organisations for the expansion of girls' education in every nook and corner of the country. This should be considered on a priority programme of education.

## **CONCLUSION**

There is an immense need of educating the parents about the merits and benefits of girl child education. It's not only the duty of the government but it's our responsibility also to educate people around us. The best thing is that our P.M. has taken a very good initiative towards the girl child education through 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign in villages. As per him, if we want to see our country developed then we have to make all girls educated.

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