

## **Status of Women in India with Particular Reference to Gap in Male Female Literacy Rate in India**

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### **Abstract**

Womanly education ensures not only better development of civilization, but to teach after that generation too. Education is landmark of women empowerment since it facilitates them to responds to the challenges, to confront their customary appearance and revolutionize their living. Gender disparity in education sector is a dilemma for a nation like India, where women constituting more than 50% of the country's human capital, still faces literacy – gender- gaps as 16.68%. The present study is an attempt to evaluate the correlation of female education with Human Development Index (HDI), based on the statistics procured from secondary sources. This manuscript also explains the significance of women education in the social and economic development of India.

In this paper we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment India is hover to becoming superpower, a developed country by 2020. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family.

**Keywords:** Education, Female literacy rate, Women empowerment, Enrolment rate.

### **1. Introduction**

Women in India constitute nearly 50% of its population. According to 1991 census, there were 40.6 crores of women as against 43.7 crores of men. Women were respected in epics and puranas, for their service to their men. Puranas reveal the names of Seeta, Savitri and Anusuya and respect them for their dedicate services to their husbands.

After Independence, the Constitution of India gave equal civil liberties to men and women in all subject of life. But still these days one cannot say that all women in India have the benefit of equal rights with men in all concern in their life.

There are countless reasons for this

- (1) The ethnicity and traditions rampant for centuries in India
- (2) The high proportion of illiteracy among women in India
- (3) Ignorance of their privileges and facility given to women
- (4) Patriarchal Society where father is given supplementary weight
- (5) Economic system in the nation
- (6) Unchecked male supremacy in all walks of existence of women

In spite of all these troubles mentioned above, one might observe that the circumstance of India women has lifted a lot. There are now adequate educational conveniences for girls and women in every part of nation. Unusual incentives and reservations are there to encourage them to study and make their career. Even in employment, there are special reservations for women.

## **2. History of Women Education in India**

Although in the Vedic period, women had admittance to education in India, they had gradually lost this right. In the British period, there was increase of interest in women's education in India. During this period, various socio religious operations led by eminent persons like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar emphasized on women's education and interaction with outer world in India. However women's education got a rapid increment after the country got independence in 1947 and the government has taken various measures and actions to provide education to all Indian women. As a result women's literacy rate has grown over the three decades and the growth of female literacy has in fact been higher than that of male literacy rate for few years. While in 1971 only 22% of Indian women were literate, by the end of 2001 54.16% female were literate.

## **3. Importance of Women Education in India**

Gender inequality in education is extreme. In India girls were less likely to access school, to remain in school or to achieve in education. But now the scenario is changing and families are realizing the importance of education. Women education in India plays a very important role in the overall growth of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human capital, but in improving the standard of living. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl children, but also can provide better guidance to all their children and their future. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of poverty and unemployment by supporting their families' thoroughly.

#### **4. Impact of Gap in Male Female Literacy Rate in Economic Development of India**

There is a considerable rate of gap between male and female literacy rates in India. It has been estimated that at the current rate of progress, India will be able to attain universal literacy only until 2060. As per the census of 2011, an effective literacy rate for men was 82.14% whereas for women it was 65.46%. Though there has been seen a substantial increase in the number of literate women and this gap is narrowing, it still persists. Among such figures, there exists a ray of hope as well. According to the 2011 census, since year 2011, 110 million additional women had become literate as compared to 107 men that means that the number of literate women is increasing. But this current difference in literacy rate has a serious impact on economic development. The points to support this line are as follow:

**Increase in income of male:** The gap in literacy rate has a direct impact on the increase income of male as organizations prefer to select employees who are competent enough to work. The male literacy rate is very high as comparative to female. This lead to gap in income of male and female

**Region-based and state-based disparity:** 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. This is leading towards region- based and state-based disparity.

**Gap in availing credit facilities:** The big factor which affects the financial development of the country is gap in availing credit facility from banks. As female are illiterate they will not be able to understand banking terminology and ultimately will not avail any credit facility. In the long term this will increase the gap of male female entrepreneurial skill and enterprises.

**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 and other measures. But if females are illiterate, then this has a direct and negative impact on these initiatives.

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

**Male dominancy in productive skills:** Better education facilities for male is leading our country towards male dominancy in productive skill and ultimately organization also pay more to people who are skilled i.e. males

**Women will be low in building of self-esteem:** Illiteracy leads female to feel low in their self esteem level.

**Male will receive increased status in the family:** The Indian society tend be a male dominant society where male have been given a different status and this trend of literacy gap will amplify its effect and male will receive increased status in society.

## 5. Conclusion

In conclusion we can say that over the years, female have been able to oppose any move which would violate their power and there have been positives in the literacy growth story of India. Schemes such as Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and National Literacy Mission have a help in a lot of development across the government schools in India. The mid-day meal scheme, originally started in Tamil Nadu, has been a support to drive the school enrollments up. Thus the states which have to address the problem of school education have to address the challenges of educating the girl students. This in-turn requires for the appropriate measures being taken to improve the state of government schools, which will then automatically increase the number of girl students attending these schools. Until these measures are effectively taken, the problem of the sluggish growth rate of literacy level will persist and the gap will remain same and will hinder the economy and status of women in Indian Society.

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