

A STUDY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN INDIA AND ROLE OF GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE IT

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ABSTRACT:

Indian constitution guarantees equal rights to men and women. Articles 14, 15 and 16 of part III of our constitution guarantee right to equality, but this constitution and articles are only bookies not practical. We found women being neglected in the society from the ancient period to present day. Even today's society, we see that girls are not getting equal opportunities. In the rural area, the parents keep the girls engaged in housework, who do not want to send them to the school. But day to day this picture slowly change, because different policies, committee and recommendations like National Women's Education Council 1959, Hansa Mehta Committee 1961-62, Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam Committee 1963. This policies, Commission-Committee, Schemes and Programmes helps us to find out different ways development and empowerment of women. This paper focus on the development of women education in India in the light of Govt. initiatives.

Keyword:

Women Education, Empowerment, Scheme, Policy, Commission, Literacy Rate, Constitutional Provision.

INTRODUCTION:

In terms of population, India is the second largest country of the world due to the low-level women education. If a woman is uneducated, the future of country would also be uneducated. An educated woman has capability to handle her home and professional life. They can effectively contribute in controlling the population of India as they would like to marry at a later age in comparison to the uneducated woman. Women education has been given a lot of priority in India just like men to bring some positive changes in the social and economic status of

the country. In the past women were not allowed to go out of the door of their houses. They were only limited to the domestic works as their education. Raja Ram Mohan Ray, Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar, Mohatma Gandhi, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Kasturba Gandhi, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kripalini, Aruna Asaf Ali, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, were some famous social reformers, who paid their attention towards the women education. They are like two sides of the coin so need equal opportunity to participate in the country development. One cannot exist without other because women are everything as they give birth to the future generation. If they would be well educated they would give rise educated future generation and thus healthy social and economic condition in India. It is very necessary to highlight on the importance of female education in the country because women are first teacher of their children.

IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EDUCATION

Swami Vivekananda says no expectation of the progress of a family or a country can be achieved where women are not educated and are leading a pitiable life. Women education is very important for the country to fully develop. It is like an effective medicine to cure a patient completely and provide health back. Women education is a big opportunity for India to be developed socially and economically. Let us mention the importance of women's education in India based on the views of the educationists, philosophers and political leaders.

- ❖ **Decreased Mortality Rate** An educated woman is more likely to marry later in life improving the chances of survival of the mother and baby. Educated mothers are more aware of their children's needs and

nutrition, and take well care of them resulting in a low child mortality rate; providing them better health, hygiene and nutrition.

- ❖ Gender equality Women have the same rights to receive education as in the case of men. So, women cannot be discriminated on the basis of sex, as far as education is concerned. Women education is also important in accomplishing the world goal of gender equality. By empowering girls, this goal is achieved as they are better able to compete with their male counterparts in places such as government, learning institutions and even leadership positions.
- ❖ Eliminating Crime against Women Many of the social evils and crimes against women can be easily eliminated by educating women. Incidents of dowry, flesh trade, female infanticide as well as harmful customary practices can be eradicated by educating women of a society. An educated woman plays a very important role in a civilized family and influences the thoughts and beliefs of its members.
- ❖ Small family planning Educated women understand that small families are happy families. They can effectively contribute in controlling the population of India as they would like to marry at a later age in comparison to the uneducated woman.
- ❖ Better Standard of Living Better standard of living for the family is one of the advantages of women/female education. It doesn't take a mathematician to conclude that a family relying on double wages is more content and happy than a family which relies on the income of a single parent.

HEALTH HYGIENE

- ❖ Improved Health and Hygiene Educated girls and women are aware of the importance of health and hygiene. Through health education, they are empowered to lead a healthy life-style. Educated mothers can take better care of both herself and her baby.
- ❖ Dignity and Honour Educated women are now looked upon with dignity and honour.

They become a source of inspiration for millions of young girls who make them their role-models. An uneducated woman may lack the courage to speak for her own dignity while an educated woman will be confident enough to fight for it.

- ❖ Self Reliance Education makes a woman self reliant; that is, she does not depend on anyone for her own survival as well as the survival of her children. She knows that she is educated and could well be employed equally like men and fend for the needs of her family. A woman, who is financially independent, can raise her voice against injustice and exploitation.

In addition to these others importance of women education are highlighted below:

- ❖ An educated woman makes the home happy and healthy.
- ❖ An educated woman are aware to sense of justice.
- ❖ Overall development of society.
- ❖ Reduction in domestic violence.
- ❖ Availability of Quality workforce.
- ❖ Women education provides to women's Self-esteem.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This study is a qualitative study. This paper is basically descriptive and analytical in nature. In this paper an attempt has been made to analyse the development of Women Education in the light of Govt. initiatives and also point out various policy and recommendation for Women Education. It has been done on the basis of the secondary sources of data like books, newspaper, articles, research journal, and different websites. Collected data was analysed qualitatively.

National Committee on Women's Education (1958)

Accordingly, the Government of India appointed the national committee on women's education under the chairmanship of Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh.

The committee made following recommendation:

- ❖ **Universal enrollment:** The attempt for expansion of girls education should aim at universal enrollment of girls in the age

group 6-11 by 1979 and in the age of 11-14 by 1981.

- ❖ **Publicity programme:** Publicity programmes should be launched to awaken the people towards the need of women's education. For this purpose, documentaries and films concerning women's education should be prepared and displayed.
- ❖ **Education for adult women:** Central Social Welfare Board should start condensed courses to give suitable education to adult women. □ **Scholarship:** There should be provision for an adequate number of scholarships to encourage the girls to continue their education.
- ❖ **Facilities in isolated and backward areas:** The girls students of backward, hilly and isolated areas should be provided with facility such as free transport and free residential accommodation to encourage them to get education.

Hansa Mehta committee (1961) In 1961 the National

Council for women education appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Sm. Hansa Mehta to solve the problems of a separate curriculum for girls and to suggest measure for the improvement of women's education it made the following **recommendation:**

- ❖ Co-education should be adopted and encourage at the primary stage.
- ❖ Separate primary school or middle school for girls should be started where there is such demand and where there is adequate enrollment.
- ❖ Separate and co-educational institutions can be started at the secondary school and college stages. parents should send their daughters to the institutions they like.
- ❖ Number of women teachers should be increased in primary school.
- ❖ Girls should be encouraged to study science and mathematics at the higher secondary stage.
- ❖ Music, drawing, painting, tailoring and fine arts are the subject of interest for girls. Therefore proper facilities should

be provided in the educational institution.

Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam committee (1963) In 1963 the National Council for rapid expansion of women education in rural areas, the chairmanship

M. Bhakat Batsalam.

- ❖ **Women teacher:** More and more women teacher should be appointed in primary school.
- ❖ **Good working conditions:** Working condition of the teacher should be good and inspiring.
- ❖ **Part-time appointment:** Some women leave the teaching profession after marriage. They should be encouraged to continue teaching and offered part-time appointment.
- ❖ **Education for adult women:** To educate adult women particularly in rural areas.
- ❖ **Relaxation in age limit:** Age limit for the married and unmarried women teacher should be relaxed.
- ❖ **Training facilities:** More training facilities should be given to women candidates to meet the increasing demand for additional teachers. and also recommended
- ❖ **Posting of women teacher near their homes,**
- ❖ **Hostel facilities**
- ❖ **Residence for women teachers**
- ❖ **Sound inspection**
- ❖ **Adult education etc.**

National Council for Women's Education (1964)

National Council for Women's Education was set up in 1959 by the central Ministry of Education. It was constructed in 1964 and considered of the Chairman, the secretary and 27 members.

The main function of the Council are follows:

- ❖ To advise the government on the education of the girl at school level and the education of adult women,
- ❖ To suggest and fixed programmes, target and priorities for the improvement and expansion of girls and women's education.
- ❖ To suggest suitable measures for creating public opinion in favour of girls and women's education.

- ❖ The present proportion of women students and men students 1:4 should be increased to about 1:3 at the University stages in order to meet the requirements of women in different fields.
- ❖ Research units should be set up in one or to universities to deal specially with women's education.

The National Education Policy (1968)

The National Education Policy (1986) The education of girls should receive emphasis, not only on grounds of social justice, but also because it accelerates social transformation. 'Education will be used as an agent of basic change in the status of women. The National Education system will play a positive; interventionist role in the empowerment of women. The Central Government had in 7 May 1990 appointed a committee to review NPE, 1986 under the chairmanship of Acharya Ramamurti. The committee considered Women's Education to be a vital component of the overall strategy for securing equity and social justice in education.

So the committee reviewed the NPE and Programme of Action in the context of women's education and made recommendations with regard to the following dimensions:

- ❖ Access to education and equality of learning.
- ❖ Employment of Women.
- ❖ Training of teachers and other educational personnel.
- ❖ Research and development of women's studies. Representation of women in the educational hierarchy.
- ❖ Content of education and gender bias. Vocational education.
- ❖ Adult Education for Women.
- ❖ Resources
- ❖ Management

CONCLUSION:

Looking at the history of women's education in India, we can see that women education have not seen much progress due to various backwardness. But, due to various policies and recommendations at different times, women's education has expanded rapidly. Today, girls continue to contribute in almost every field.

The girls are working in parallel with the boys in the field of sports, teaching, doctor, pilot, law and politics etc. But despite the rapid expansion of current women's education, the condition of the village society has not improved. Village girls are far behind in urban areas. In doing research, researchers have found that parents' poverty, social prejudice, lack of social mobility, lack of security, crime against women, gender discrimination, patriarchal society, disregard for women's education, etc. However, it cannot be denied, that the people of the village society have become aware. Village girls are being educated in higher education today. It is clear that Government of India has taken so many initiatives for the improvement of girls' education. In spite of that the status of girls' education has not been increased in expectation level because these initiatives only bookies not practical, these initiatives have not been reached to the grass root level. So, Government of India must have to take responsibility to implement these schemes and provisions at grass root level. Finally I can say that in order to make the real development of women's education first, the thinking of the people has to change and the social awareness needs to be increased. The teachers, students and parents have to come forward in this regard. Especially mothers need to be aware because we know that "a good mother is equal to hundred good teachers".

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