Title of paper

Change & adaptation in Women’s Education at School level in India : Opportunities and Challenges

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Education is a light to which everybody has the equal right. God has created both man and woman equally and has not drawn any distinct distinction between them. So there should be no difference of opinion regarding imparting education to women. Man and woman are like the two sides of a coin.

As we all know, Sustainable Development Goal 4 is the education goal. It aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” So it’s our responsibility to give opportunities to women’s education.

Education plays an important role in the life and evolution of humanity. It creates knowledge, awareness and attitudes among the human beings for the betterment of society. The 21st century education directs an individual to ingenuity. In our country there are many obstacles for women’s to complete the secondary education. The sex ratio of male and female is 1000:940 in our country. Even after the formation of the many committees and commission the enrolment rates of girls are still declining day by day. Those who are enrolled in the schools they are not prepared adequately due to the lack of adequate facilities. The paper is an attempt to discuss how the change & adaptation in women’s education with respect to opportunities and challenges.

Keywords : women’s education , inclusive, equitable, 21st century, ingenuity.

**Introduction :**

Women education at school level in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country.  It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources, but also in improving the quality of life at home and outside. If it is said that education is the key to all problems, then it won't be improper. In Sustainable Development Goal 2030 No. 4 is ‘The Education goal’. It aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” So it’s our responsibility to ensure opportunities for women’s education.

Education is a light to which everybody has the equal right. Almighty God has created both man and woman equally and has not drawn any distinct distinction between them. So there should be no difference of opinion regarding imparting education to women. Man and woman are like the two sides of a coin. Without one, the other cannot exist. Education women can not only give an educated family but Education of women can also be helpful in eradicating many social evils such as dowry problem, unemployment problem, etc. Social peace can easily be established. An women plays an very important role in the family and also in the society to improve the life style and to make the family in the right way for that women education is very necessary. When women becomes educated then she makes the whole family educated. She is the First teacher of children so also it is very important that women should be educated.

In our world of today, nothing works or succeeds without education. "Today, all over the world education is the key success, to any meaningful endeavor". (Mallum1982). So women need to be educated if they are to successfully contribute their quota in national development.

# Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the educational status of women in India.
2. To study the change & adaptation in women’s education .
3. To study the opportunities and challenges in women’s education .
4. To suggest the suitable Educational measures for women empowerment.
5. To make useful suggestions in the light of the findings.

# Research Methodology:

The study is descriptive and analytical in nature. The data used in this has been taken from purely secondary sources as per the requirement of this study. Secondary data which is collected from various reports of national and international agencies, various authentic websites, magazines and e-content related to Women Education.

**Present scenario of women education:**

The literacy rate of women is much lower compared to men. In the Indian society which is patriarchal, girls have fewer privileges and lower status than boy. Literacy rate of India in 2021 is 74.04%. The Male literacy rate is 82.14% and Female literacy rate is 65.46% according to Census 2021.

At all-India level, the male literacy rate is higher at 84.7 % compared to 70.3 % among women. The survey showed that the male literacy rate is higher than female literacy rate among all states. Kerala has the highest female literacy, whereas Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have the lowest.

**Low women literacy rate and its impact :**

Low women literacy rate means an overall indolent growth of India, as it impacts every area of the development. Women plays important role that is daughter, wife & mother so is dependent on father, husband & children. So she should be self-dependent. Lack of awareness of family planning programmes, illiterate women have high risk levels of fertility, where India is struggling a lot of population control. If we talk about the world rate of female illiteracy, there are 538 million illiterate women and a total of 640 million illiterate women in the world. UNESCO in a study announces that women without formal education give more birth than the educated women. So adult education is necessary which in turn create an increase in the female literacy rate.

**The challenges facing for women education** :

The main challenges are,

Gender Discrimination in India : Women’s in India face discrimination both inside their homes and outside in their communities.

Poverty:- Poverty and gender-based preference.

These are two of the main challenges which impact girl child education.

* Suitable Curriculum for the education of girls
* Lack of social consciousness among women
* Lack of proper physical facilities
* Unwillingness of lady teachers to serve in rural areas
* Financial difficulties
* Problem of transport
* Problem of wastage and stagnation
* Problem of co-education
* Lack of enthusiasm and interest of the officials in charge of education
* Lack of Adequate Number of Female Teachers
* Priority to Son’s Education Compared to Daughter’s Education

**Main objectives for women's education :**

 1. To enable women to improve their family's health and diet.

2. To increase women's productive ability, thus raising their families' standard of living.

# Measures to Promote Women’s Education in India :

The ‘National Committee on Women’s Education’, have been suggested various measures for the improvement of women’s education. They are as follows:

* Providing school facilities, opening of new schools, bringing schools within easy reach of the children, starting girls’ .
* Improving the existing schools : Appointment of more qualified and adequate staff including a large number of women teachers, provision of better building and educational equipment and along with it a wide choice of subjects.
* Making education free: Granting concession in the form of scholarships to poor and deserving reward girl students.
* Educating public opinion: Teacher-parent co­operation, Education of adult women.
* 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.
* Shift system: Where co-education is not acceptable, an alternative is to start separate shifts for boys and girls in the same school building, so as to avoid duplication of buildings and equipment’s.
* Appointment of school mothers in mixed schools.
* Establishment of nursery and pre-primary schools.
* Public co-education
* Policy level changes

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

**Opportunities for women education :**

* The government of India has recently launched the Saakshar Bharat Mission for Female Literacy, which aims to reduce female illiteracy.
* The Constitution of India Guarantees free primary school education for both boys and girls up to age 14.
* Education in India plays a vital role in the overall development of the country.
* This proves that educated women promote education in their family.

**Suggestions for women education :-**

* Awareness of girls education is essential whether girls from rural or urban, as paraphrased “Educated mothers, educated family.”
* Education plays important role to enhance the quality of women’s and women’s increase the quantity of knowledge that use in various fields where she survives.
* Motivate all girls and a woman belongs to rural areas and gives training to polishing their creativity.
* To make the women aware she should be encourage in every field.
* Arrange different kinds of training, workshop and courses for grooming of girls and women for enhancing self esteem and self confidence.
* Change the system towards women based sex discrimination.
* Removal of gender inequality.
* Awareness needs to know the women are effectively good contributor of the socio- economic development of the nation.
* Increase the confidence for developing ability to think critically. It is to ensure that women respect is important in all fields and necessary for women’s family and workspaces.
* Change the mentality of the peoples who still neglect the women.

**Conclusion :**

Education plays an important role in the life and evolution of humanity. It creates knowledge, awareness and attitudes among the human beings for the betterment of society. The 21st century education directs an individual to ingenuity. In our country there are many obstacles for women’s to complete the secondary education. Educating a boy is educating a person, educating a girl is educating a nation. Educating women is the single most profitable investment in terms of well-being of children health, community welfare & building long term success of developing contries.

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