

The Magnitude of Education among Indian Women

Abstract

At the turn of the millennium the International Community promised that by 2005, there would be as many girls as boys in school. Later when leaders from around the world came together to take stock of the millennium Development goals, there will be no escaping the fact that we have collectively failed to keep this promise, despite much progress, a child without an education is still much more likely to be a first step to get up back on track. It acknowledges that we all need to do substantially more to help girls get in to school. It reminds us of the value of education for lifting nations out of instability and providing a more promising future to their people. And regardless of whether they live in wealthy or poor country, nothing has as much impact on a child's future well being as their mothers' level of education. Women Empowerment is a global issues and discussion on women's political right are at the forefront of many formal and informal campaigns worldwide. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So we can't neglect the importance of education in references to women empowerment. India is poised to becoming super power, a developed country by 2020. The year 2020 is fast approaching. This can become a reality only when the women of the nation become empowered.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Higher Education, Gross Enrollment Ratio etc.

Introduction

Women are undoubtedly the foundation of the basic unit of the society-the family. Even in Traditional roles they demonstrate great innovation, skill, intelligence, hardwork and commitment. If we can harness these attributes effectively, India's growth can be more inclusive and equitable. The education of women is therefore important.

At the turn of the millennium the International Community promised that by 2005, there would be as many girls as boys in school. Later when leaders from around the world came together to take stock of the millennium Development goals, there will be no escaping the fact that we have collectively failed to keep this promise, despite much progress, a child without an education is still much more likely to be a first step to get up back on track. It acknowledges that we all need to do substantially more to help girls get in to school. It reminds us of the value of education for lifting nations out of instability and providing a more promising future to their people. And regardless of whether they live in wealthy or poor country, nothing has as much impact on a child's future well being as their mothers' level of education. Women Empowerment is a global issues and discussion on women's political right are at the forefront of many formal and informal campaigns worldwide. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So we can't neglect the importance of education in references to women empowerment. India is poised to becoming super power, a developed country by 2020. The year 2020 is fast approaching. This can become a reality only when the women of the nation become empowered.

With this remarkable expansion in higher education and gross enrollment ratio. The expansion has been more in market-relevant areas of study especially in the private sector, some major trends have been noted during the recent years. The country has not been able to meaningfully meet the key challenge of catering for the exploding demand for higher education without compromising on quality. The private higher education has now become an integral part of the overall system and the commoditization of education has become an acceptable phenomenon. The philanthropy and charity based private higher education disappearing and "for profit" higher education growing very fast. Private institutions are engaged in the competitive commercialization of knowledge with little

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sources for quality assurance, most private institutions have good infrastructure but they lack academic resources for quality assurance. The country has not been able to regulate the growth in private higher education and failing standards and it is left to the mercy of the market.

Why it Matters to Educate Women? Social and Psychological Facts

'To be educated means I will not only be able to help myself, but also my family, my country, my people. The benefit will be Many'

-Meda Wagtole, school girl, Ethiopia

The primary benefit of educating a woman helps reduce the gender equality in the family and society. Another benefit is the fact that educating women is the best way of empowering women towards their ability to make decisions and stay in power in the society.

Psychologically speaking, women are innately courageous and daring. Moreover, they are also far more firm and focused in setting up goals and succeeding in them. Add to it the fact that they have other psychological qualities like patience, tolerance, passion and commitment to the job they undertake, perseverance, clear understanding of issues, sacrifice if there need be or rather team work, good etiquette, and a love and caring nature. Further women understand the human need better and this leads to better resolution of conflicts and motivation of employees. Studies have shown that women are much more creative than men, yet at the same time innovative and organized. Women by nature are economical and as a result of which do not cause undue wastage of resources and unnecessary expenses. If women are provided with the right access backed by the right governmental policies, they can also impact the well-being of the environment and public health at national level.

A nation's cultural, social and economic development is highly dependent on higher education of women. As a result of which, one can say that spending money on educating women will not go a waste. In fact, it will provide for and improve the economy and development of nations. For example, if the nation is aiming at abolishing poverty, they must be at the helm and be involved in policy making and implementation. Because of their basic quality to be economical, they will not only drive the country towards economical self-sufficiency but also development.

Why is it that the Enrolment Ratio of women is Lower?

Between 18-23 years of age, the overall Gross enrolment ratio (GER) has been found to be 19.4% of course there are difference between districts, and between scheduled caste and tribe and gender. There is a difference between males and females. What has been seen is that the GER for males is much higher than the females. For example, the GER for males is 20.8% females 17.9% for scheduled castes 13.5% and for scheduled tribes only 11% Women constitute only 44% of the 27.5 million students in Indian higher education, and the only state that has a small increase in GER is Kerala, which is 57%. This is very low for a country that has the third largest current student population in the world. Add to

it the fact that the graduate and higher education population is supposed to virtually explode by 2020.

A host of reasons are responsible for this conditions. One of the main reason for this is that the political commitment, which has a lot of clout to formulate policies behind many education campaigns and implement them, has remained unfulfilled. The second is the fact that there are lot of disparities in education between various social groups defined by region, area, caste, sex, class, disabilities etc. and this cause a lot of impediments in the enrolment of women. The current lack of educational opportunities for girls all responsible factors.

There are many other reasons why women enrolment in India is quite low. Here are some of them

1. Gender Disparity: gender disparity is a huge problem and leads to impediment of women empowerment not only in education but also in the society and employment. These are mainly socio-economic and socio-cultural in nature.
2. Often in many rural areas and even in urban communities, there is lack of education at the family level to understand to implications of need for higher education.
3. Many of the governmental institutions do not offer higher education facilities and hence the willing families need to approach private institutions and there are financial constraints within the family to fund higher education.'
4. Family willingness to send the ward to continue higher education.
5. Low mobility because many of the rural women and girls cannot access to travelling facilities over long distances to higher institutions.
6. Low ability to take risk since in many rural and even urban areas, women are subjected to sexual and social abuse.
7. The drive for achievement is less because there is also less encouragement in the family.
8. Social-status –there is a huge wide between rural and urban and even between urban families leading to financial issues. As a result of this, while some of them get world class education, other does not.

The United Nations international covenant on Economic, social and cultural Rights of 1966 declares, in article 13, that "higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by the progressive introduction, there has been made no impetus to implement the declaration in a rightly and timely manner by the Indian political group.

Challenges in Attaining Empowerment through Higher Education Enrolment

Now let's us take a look at enrollment. While we are well aware of the fact that since independence, the education of women until secondary education has improved beyond expectations.

How many are attending the Schools?

There is a difference between males and females. What has been seen is that the GER for males is much higher than that the females. This is not a good sign for a country that has the third largest

current student population in the world. Add to it the fact that the graduate and higher education population is supposed to virtually explode by 2020.

Educating an Indian woman creates a vital opportunity for the social and economic development of India. An educated Indian woman will yield a positive impact in the Indian society by contributing positively to the economy of both the country and the society. Women education in India plays a key role in the social and economic development of the country. Educating a women uplifts her life as well as the quality of her life and her entire family. It is fact that any educated women will definitely support the education of her children especially a girl child and provide a better guidance to her children. Aneducated women will easily imbibe an independent and progressive outlook in her children. More importantly, an educated woman in society like India will assist in reducing the infant mortality rate and control the blossoming of the population. Education for women plays an important role in women empowerment.

Provisions of formal and functional education are needed for the women folk because

1. It would empower them to know and ask for their rights to education, health, shelter, food clothing etc. It would empower them to fight against every form of discrimination against their folk, assert themselves about their right to equal treatment with their men counterpart as bonafide citizens of the nation.
2. It would enable the women take decisions and accept responsibilities for taking such decisions concerning themselves.
3. It would give economic power to the women and there by enable them to contribute their quota to the economic growth of the nation.
4. It would empower the women scientifically through exposure to science and technological education for the challenges of the present technological age and information computer technology breakthrough unfolding worldwide.
5. It would help women to reduce maternal and infant mortality through improved nutrition, improved child rearing practices, health care and prevention against killer diseases.

6. It would avail women with the opportunity of participating keenly in the world of sophisticated politics and governance as enlightened citizens.

Conclusion

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“The future is ours

Filled with joy

Take the light of the women of history

And the few brave women of today

To light the lamp

A millions lamps

For tomorrow’s women who are free.”

-Mallika Sarabhai, “For Anahita”

(qtd. in Menon 134-135)

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