



## EDUCATION: A PATHWAY FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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### ABSTRACT:

*"Yatra Naryastu pujiyante ramante tatra devataha"* Where women are worshiped there the Gods reside This verse is taken from our ancient scriptures. Women education in India has also been a major preoccupation of both the government and civil society as educated women can play a very important role in the development of the country. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to responds to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. So that we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment India is poised to becoming superpower, a developed country by 2020. The growth of women's education in rural areas is very slow. Education of women in the education of women is the most powerful tool of change of position in society.

**KEYWORDS:** Women Literacy Rate, Women Empowerment, Challenges, Economic Development.

### INTRODUCTION:

Although in the Vedic period women had access to education in India, they had gradually lost this right. However, in the British period there was revival of interest in women's education in India. During this period, various socio religious movements led by eminent persons like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar emphasized on women's education in India. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Periyar and Baba Saheb Ambedkar were leaders in India who took various initiatives to make education available to the women of India. **PT. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU** says "If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered". However women's education got a fillip after the country got independence in 1947 and the government has taken various measures 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. While in 1971 only 22% of Indian women were literate, by the end of 2001 54.16% female were literate. The growth of female literacy rate is 14.87% as compared to 11.72 % of that of male literacy rate. Women education in India has also been a major preoccupation of both the government and civil society as educated women can play a very important role in the development of the country. Women constitute almost half of the population in the world. But the hegemonic masculine ideology made them suffer a lot as they were denied equal opportunities in different parts of the world. Women education in India has also been a major preoccupation of both the government and civil society as educated women can play a very important role in the development of

the country."Women's empowerment is defined as the process in which their spiritual, political, social and economic status is raised"

### OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH WOMEN'S EDUCATION

- To change the approach towards women based on sex discrimination.
- To induce the feeling of self-dependence amongst women.
- To create opportunities for them so that they can prove themselves in society and social institutions.
- To create certain roles for women in economic, political and social arena.
- To make women realize their own potential and to provide guidance to them for developing their potential.

### IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN INDIA

Women education 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 in improving the quality of life at home and outside. 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. An educated woman reduces the chances of her child dying before the age of five. The chances of controlling the population are high as an educated woman is likely to marry at a later age as opposed to uneducated woman. The importance of women education are briefly summarized below:

**Financial advancement and thriving:** Education will engage ladies to approach and contribute towards the improvement and success of the nation.

**Financial strengthening:** So long as ladies stay in reverse and monetarily subject to men, the vulnerable state of them can't be changed. Financial strengthening and freedom will just come through legitimate training and work of ladies

**Respect and respect:** Educated ladies are currently viewed with poise and respect. They become a wellspring of motivation for many little youngsters who make them their good examples

**Improved life:** In our nation, young ladies hang tight for marriage and after marriage they lost their substances. Their privileges are trodden down, some of the time circumstance ends up annoying. In the event that we don't take a wide viewpoint in the field of female instruction, the circumstance will be more terrible..

**Equity:** Educated ladies are increasingly educated regarding their privileges for equity. It would in the long run lead to decrease in cases of brutality and foul play against ladies, for example, endowment, constrained prostitution, youngster marriage, female feticide, and so forth.

**Decision to pick a calling of her decision:** Educated ladies can demonstrate be exceptionally effective in the fields of life. A young lady kid ought to get equivalent open door for training, so that, she can plan to turn into a fruitful specialists, engineers, medical caretakers, air-ladies, cook, or pick a calling of her decision

**Reduce poverty:** Women training is a pre-imperative to lighten neediness. Ladies need to take equivalent weight of the gigantic errand of disposing of destitution. This would request enormous commitment from taught ladies. There can't be a lot of social and monetary changes except if young ladies and ladies are given their privileges for instruction.

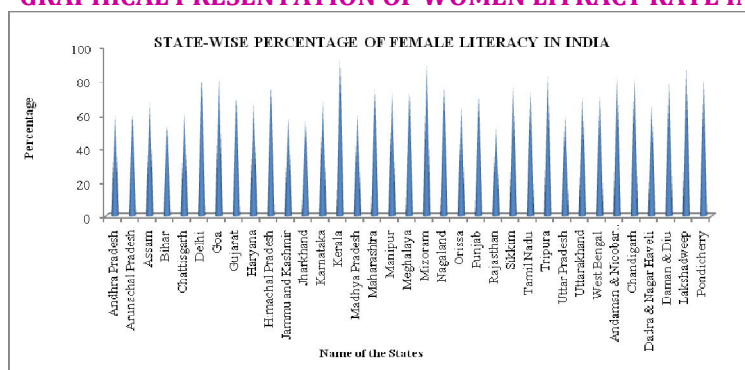
### WELFARE SCHEMES FOR WOMEN

- Mahila Samakhya Programme
- Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme (KGBV)
- National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL)
- Saakshar Bharat Mission for Female Literacy

## OVER VIEW OF WOMEN LITERACY IN INDIA

Education is the most important power that shape the lives of mankind. It empowers with the ability to think, reason, take appropriate decisions and protect oneself from oppression & abuse. However, in most of the developing world around the globe including India, women are often denied of education opportunities. Even though, women constitute 48% of the total population in India – the women literacy rate in urban area is 79.11% as against 88.76% males, and the figures are even lower in the rural scenario where 57.93% women are literate as against 77.15% literate males. In 2014, India GDP growth ranges between 4.6% – 5.3% (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter) and this growth percentage can be drastically improved if women are educated and starts contributing equally economically.

**Graph -1**  
**GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF WOMEN LITRACY RATE IN INDIA**



## WOMEN'S EDUCATION PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

In spite of the forceful intervention by a bastion of female privilege, feminist critics, constitutional guarantees, protecting laws and sincere efforts by the state governments and central government through various schemes and programmes over the last 62 years and above all, the United Nation's enormous pressure with regard to the uplift of the plight of women in terms education is still in the state of an enigma in India for several reasons. Moreover education is also not available to all equally. Gender inequality is reinforced in education which is proved by the fact that the literacy rate for the women is only 54% against 76% of men as per 2001 Census.

## CONCLUSION

Taking an overview of all the above aspects, we come to know that the transformation is very much needed, accepting at the same time that its pace may be less than the desired pace. According to the Country Report of the Government of India, "Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power." Education of women in the education of women is the most powerful tool of change of position in society. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. To encourage the education of women at all levels and for dilution of gender bias in providing knowledge and education, established schools, colleges and universities even exclusively for women in the state. To bring more girls, especially from marginalized families of BPL, in mainstream education, the government is providing a package of concessions in the form of providing free books, uniform, boarding and lodging, clothing for the hostilities midday meals, scholarships, free circles and so on.

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