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### **REVIEW OF RESEARCH**

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# FACTORS INFLUENCING ACADEMIC BACKWARDNESS OF THE GIRL STUDENTS AT SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL



#### **ABSTRACT: -**

he present study is undertaken with a view to identify the factors associated with the academic backwardness from the home and school environment point of view. For this purpose, the closed end questionnaire containing factors related home and school environment was developed by the investigator. The data is collected from the 200 girl students using stratified random sampling technique. The sample comprised of 100 government and 100 private school students. The study indicates that there is no difference between the factors of academic backwardness of the Govt and private girl students and the major factors are: family health conditions, home environment, economic problems, fee payment difficulties, traditions, gender discrimination, parents conflicts are the major home factors for the backwardness. Language difficulties, gender discrimination even in schools, lack of women teachers to help them in their problems, lack of flexible school timings etc. are the major school environmental factors for the academic backwardness of the girl students.

**KEYWORDS:** Academic Backwardness, Girl Students.

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

Women are the indispensible part of a society. Their education influences the future generation. That's the reason why it said that if a boy is educated one is educated; if a girl is educated the whole family is educated. In any system of education, women education plays an important place. The University Education Commission 1948-49 observed that there cannot be educated people without educated women. Without educated women a nation cannot expect a high growth rate and solution of internal problems. In a country of tremendous mass poverty and great disparities, the poorest of the poor are the women. Equally in any sphere of social or economic activity, those at the bottom rung are also women and among the poor and the illiterate the women are at the lowest level. The weight of tradition in our country is heavily against our women. It is with this background one must discuss different strategies for girls education. However, it should also be remembered that education is the main means for achieving women's empowerment. Only basic social changes brought about by a truly democratic, egalitarian society can emancipate women in the real sense of the word. Mother is the first teacher of the child. An educated mother can very easily retrieve the minds of her children from fears. Home environment and association of the family members play a significant role in developing proper attitudes among them. The role of women outside home is becoming an important aspect of the social and economic life of the country.

#### Govt. of India has taken the following steps for the promotion of girl child education:

• Providing school facilities, opening of new schools, bringing schools within easy reach of the children, starting girls' section in boys' schools.

• Appointment of more qualified and adequate staff including a large number of women teachers.

• 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.

• Establishment of nursery and pre-primary schools (Anganwadis).

• Direct co-operation of the public in the following fields:

a) Establishing private schools;

b) Constructing school buildings;

c) Contributing voluntary labour for construction of school buildings;

d) Popularizing co-education at the primary stage;

e) Creating public opinion in favour of the teaching profession and to give greater respect to teacher in the community;

f) Undertaking necessary propaganda to make the profession of teaching for women popular;

g) Initiating action and participating in educative propaganda to break down traditional prejudices, against girls' education;

h) Organizing school improvement conferences, supplying mid-day meals, uniforms, free textbooks and writing materials to needy children;

• The residential schools are established for the benefit of socially disadvantaged sections.

The major step for strengthening the primary and secondary education by the Govt of India are: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamika Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Bheti Bachavo Bheti Padao and with all the possible facilities provided for the promotion of girl child education, yet the academic achievement of girls hailing from rural secondary schools is lagging behind and there would be many factors contributing for it and to identify such factors associated with the academic backwardness of the girls and to discuss those factors the present study is undertaken. It would of immense useful to the stakeholders for taking necessary action on the basis of the results.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

• To identify the factors related to home environment, which are responsible for the academic backwardness of the girl students of secondary schools.

• To identify the factors related to school environment, which are responsible for the academic backwardness of the girl students of secondary schools.

• To know the association between the reasons of government and private school girl students in relation to their academic backwardness.

#### **HYPOTHESIS**

1. There is no significant association between the reasons of government and private school girl students in relation to the academic backwardness.

#### **RESEARCH METHOD AND SAMPLING**

Survey research method was adopted for the present study as it is used most widely in educational research. The data was collected from 200 girl students' secondary schools of Warangal district using stratified random sampling technique. The sample included the girl students whose academic performance is less than average.

#### Tool

The investigators developed closed end questionnaire with 38 factors related to the academic backwardness of the girl students of secondary schools. The tool possesses the content validity and face validity.

The split half reliability was established by conducting the pilot study on a sample of 40 students. The split half reliability of the tool is 0.54.

#### **ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

S.No	Home Environment Factors	Yes	No
	Reasons	Frequencies	
		Yes (%)	No (%)
1	Are your parents educated	168(84)	32(16)
2	Do your parents show any gender discrimination at your home	60(30)	140(70)
3	Are your parents encouraging	198(99)	2(1)
4	Are your parents helpful in your studies	161(85.5)	39(19.5)
5	Are your economic problems a cause for your backwardness in education	149(74.5)	51(25.5)
6	Do you feel disturbed in studies due to parents conflicts		102(51)
7	Do your parents feel burden to pay your educational fees	120(60)	80(40)
8	Is your family health condition a cause for your backwardness in education		95(47.5)
9	Is your home environment a barrier to your studies	116(58)	84(42)
10	Are your neighbours educated	170(85)	30(15)
11	Do you feel secure at home	150(75)	50(25)
12	Do you play games at home	110(55)	90(45)
13	Are traditional restrictions at home, a cause for your backwardness in education	121(65.5)	79(39.5)

#### Table-1 showing the Frequencies and Percentage Home Environment Factors

Table-1 depicts that the major home environmental factors are: Family health conditions (52.5%), home environment (58%), economic problems (74.5%), fee payment difficulties (60%), traditions (65%), gender discrimination (30%), parent's conflicts (49%) and these factors contribute for the academic backwardness of the girl students.

S.No.	School Environment Factors	Frequencies	
		Yes	No
1	Do you have regular classes	190(95)	10(5)
2	Is the school environment suitable to your studies	186(93)	14(7)
3	Do you feel secure at school	160(80)	40(20)
4	Do you feel the need of mode of transport to school	80(40)	120(60)
5	Do you feel the school timings are lengthy	117(58.5)	83(41.5)
6	Do you feel the curriculum is heavy	101(50.5)	99(49.5)
7	Are the school restrictions a hindrance to your education	116(58)	84(42)
8	Do you have adequate washroom facilities	`131(65.5)	69(34.5)
9	Do you have classes on health and hygiene	97(48.5)	103(51.5)
10	Do you have special classes on adolescent education	76(38)	124(62)
11	Do you have breakfast daily	127(63.5)	73(36.5)
12	Do you watch television serials or play video games daily		103(51.5)
13	Do you play games daily		121(60.5)
14	Are you able to cope up in studies	180(90)	20(10)
15	Do you feel the need of women teachers in your school		92(46)
16	Do you receive stipend scholarship to compensate your family income for the	96(42)	114(57)
10	loss of girl's household labour	86(43)	114(57)
17	Do you need the flexibility of school hours	138(69)	62(31)
18	Do you feel English language as the cause of your backwardness	75(37.5)	125(62.5)
19	Is your health condition a cause your backwardness in education	110(55)	90(45)
20	Do your teachers teach you in an understandable way	192(96)	8(4)
21	Do your teachers clarify your doubts	189(94.5)	19(9.5)
22	Do your teachers show any gender discrimination		75(37.5)
23	Do your teachers allow you to express your views/feelings freely?	175(87.5)	25(12.5)
24	Do your teachers punish you anytime regarding studies	92(46)	108(54)
25	Do your teachers motivate you regarding studies	180(90)	20(10)
26	Do you have good friendship with your class mates	184(92)	16(8)

#### Table-2 showing the School Factors for the Backwardness of the Girl Students

Table-2 shows that the major factors hunting the girl students of secondary schools are: English language difficulties (37.5%), personal health condition (55%), gender discrimination even in schools (62.5%), lack of women teachers to help them in their problems (54%), lack of flexible school timings (69%) punishment (46%), lack of financial assistance (43%), and transport (40%) are the major school environmental factors for the academic backwardness.

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant association between the reasons of government and private school girl students in relation to their academic backwardness.

Groups	Yes	No	Total	Chi square	Remark	
Home Environment	1526	872	2398	0.000169	Not Significant	
School Environment	3174	1712	4886			

#### **Table 3: The Results of Chi Square Test**

From Table-3, it can be seen that there is no significant difference in the opinion of secondary school girl students on educational backwardness due to Home environment and school environment. Chi-square value with degrees of freedom 1 at 0.05 and 0.01 levels are 3.84 and 6.64. The obtained chi-square value is less than the table value at both levels. Hence it is not significant. Therefore the null hypothesis is accepted. This indicates the same home and school environmental factors responsible for the academic backwardness of girls.

#### **FINDINGS**

• Family health conditions, home environment, economic problems, fee payment difficulties, traditions, gender discrimination, parents conflicts are the major home environmental factors that contribute for the academic backwardness of the girl students.

• Major school environmental factors hunting the girl students of secondary schools are : English language difficulties ,personal health condition, gender discrimination even in schools, lack of women teachers to help them in their problems, lack of flexible school timings punishment, lack of financial assistance, transport are the major school environmental factors for the academic backwardness.

• There is no difference between the factors of academic backwardness of the Govt and private girl students.

#### **EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

An attractive environment should be maintained at the school by providing minimum physical facilities for improving the academic performance of girl students. The parent and teacher meetings should help in sorting out the problems and solving them from both sides. The parents should provide favourable environment to their girl children and the parents should avoid gender discrimination. Nutritional food may be served to the children as per the orders of the govt in order to avoid the health problems. The flexibility in school hours and school restrictions may help increasing the school attendance and thus improve the academic performance of girl students. The rapport between the teacher and taught is equally important to come out with all the problems. Hence the higher authorities should pay attention towards these aspects. It appears transport is also one of the major problems pointed by the girl children and it should be addressed. Traditions should not hamper the academic performance of the girls. Almost all the girl students expressed the need for the appointment of women teachers at school and conducting health checks and medical camps are mandatory.

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