

Education to Women and their Present Scenario

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Abstract

As per the words of *Swami Vivekanandar*, “Any Nation’s progress could be measured and achieved by its treatment towards women. The world as a whole will get improved only when focus to women welfare is being concentrated and achieved”.

The ideal of womanhood can be classified under three heading viz sacramental, sociological and individualist or hedonistic. The above cited three ideals of womanhood can be traced in the history of all nations in the West as well as in the East. Before the advent of Industrial Revolution, the sacramental and sociological ideals were predominant throughout the world. But in the wake of technological progress, coupled with the expansion of education and the creation of possibilities of economic self sufficiency for the women, the individualistic ideal has been gaining increasing importance in the western societies. Right from Vedic period, the Indian women have equality participated in the religious, philosophical and social activity, and their contribution to the Vedic and Brahmanic literature are commendable. The status of women in India faced many changes through various stages. But their position in the society gets deteriorated especially in the Indo-Aryan speaking regions. In spite of all those obstacles, they faced the challenges and gradually had reached and reaching high momentum. For the past few decades we have seen Women Prime Minister, Presidents, Lok Sabha speakers and many senior higher officials. The principle of Gender equality is enshrined in our Indian Constitution. They are given equality in all aspects, in all fields and in all walks of live. Women have become more powerful, broken stereotypes and have conquered the world of business. The question is that do we have gender equality???. Most Indians respect and maintain gender equality. But still, few people who are traditional and orthodox could not accept the change and demands of women. This article deals in connection with the education of women and their present status.

Key Words: Women Education, Government Measures, Skill, Universities, Womanhood

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We come across innumerable poems composed by women poets. Women are not spoken of derisively, but are given equal treatment. Highest tributes are given to the chastity and modesty of women. The women who possess all the wisely virtues and spends according to the income of her husband was considered the true partner in life.

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We could see the changes in women only because of education and the thought changes that occurred in the parents who wish to make and bring their daughters super powerful and self sufficient. The circumstances and struggles of women through stages have made them to take decision to be self sufficient. This essay travels to various factors like the importance given to education and Government Schemes which are supportive for women empowerment.

Sources:

Primary and Secondary sources were utilized for the study

Methodology:

Analytical and descriptive method have been used for the study

Objectives:

- ❖ To bring out the Government schemes and measures towards women education
- ❖ To examine the growth and ratio of female education in par with men
- ❖ To analyse the present status of women

Transformation in Education System:

Education is everyone's constitutional guaranteed right, which is an asset that travels with him wherever he is throughout his life. Collectively, educated people contribute to their society as intellectuals, who contribute to economic development and keepers of moral values of any nation. Education through various modes creates accomplished society with an extensive scope of highly competent society. Hence it creates widespread employability bringing blossoms in individual's life as a whole. At this juncture, here I would like to mention about our traditional education system like from Gurukula system and transforming from 'chalk and talk' to smart learning and from one way teaching method towards practical learning. In this transformation, the initiation of science and technology as a whole has brought so much of inventions and paved way for creative thinking, analytical skill, brought out more originality and finally it has reached to all nook and corners of the world delivering and providing education to all.

As per the quotes of former Chairman Dr.K.Sivan of ISRO, "Science and technology plays an equal role in the progress of any nation and their role in new inventions, which includes the quality, safety and security of the humans. This inculcates in the minds of students the scientific temperament which leads to added values".

Key Reforms in School Education -Various Governments Schemes for Students:

The New Education Policy has been brought out by the Government of India which focus in making vigorous modifications for the fast growing population and to provide them quality education

NISHTHA

This missions aims to develop learning outcomes starting from elementary education to higher level through an holistic initiative for Head of the institutions and the teachers was introduced.

DHRUV

The Program was launched to find out and motivate the outstanding students by improving their skill and knowledge. This programme will help to find out the exemplary students and drive them to reach their goal of targeted areas or area of interest may it be Arts, Science or any vocational training, etc. through Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning

SHAGUN

"Shagun" (URL: <http://shagun.govt.in/>) is a well advanced and one of the world's largest on-line integrated junction enterprise to inculcate and develop school education system by developing a converging place for all online portals and websites relating to multiple activities of the Department of School Education and literacy in the Government of India and all States and Union Territories.

Five-Year vision plan:

In the five year plan from 2019-2024 Ministry of Higher Education of MHRD has released a plan named 'Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme'. This report gave importance on the principles of way in, incorporation, standard enhancement, distinction, and amplify employability in Higher Education. EQUIP is a innovation plan of action aiming at assisting conversion in India's higher education system by executing deliberative arbitration in the field of education (2019 – 2024).

SWAYAM 2.0

This initiative by Indian Government with all advanced attributes and potential provides online degree programmes by top ranking universities.

SWAYAM PRABHA – DTH Educational Channels

In order to reach the students with high quality home education with audio and video, this programme has been started by Central Government to inculcate a better understanding of the education. These high quality educational programs are being telecasted twenty four hours a day through 32 DTH channels. To the secondary education level students a special impetus is being given to help them to join prestigious higher educational institutions like IIM, IIT, Medicine etc. in the country.

Implementation of Quality Improvement Programme

Deeksharambh:

Through this Student Induction Programme which has been launched for first year newly enrolled students, creates opportunity to get awareness on various activities and programmes run by the institution for their enhancement.

Learning Outcomes based curriculum framework(LOCF) revision:

In UGC website it provides guidelines for sixteen subjects based on LOCF to educate and help universities in the revision of curriculum.

ICT Learning platform:

Through this ICT learning tool, students are able to get wide range of exposure while searching the modern tools like internet through SWAYAM platform.

STRIDE:

Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy has been launched to enhance the quality in research by the faculty members and to extend their knowledge.

Paramarsh

This scheme helps to provide guidance to the mentor institutions who plans to go for National Assessment and Accreditation Council accreditation.

Global Synergy in Higher Education:

In India market forces plays a major role with around 39,931 colleges, 78 per cent are from the private sector. With 993 universities in India 39 percent is private managed. With a young workforce that is larger than the non-working population India has greater advantage in demography. It has an younger workforce that has an average age of 29, whereas the world's population is ageing rapidly. For example, average working age of United States is 40, Western Europe is 46 and Japan is 47 years of age. Thus India has a workforce that not only satisfies it own needs but can also contribute to the global workforce.

Higher education should have quality, equality, access, relevance with employability. For this, academic leaders should have a broader planning to let go of old methods and use more effective teaching. For this end should we add more educational institutions, local or international, should be thought of comprehensively? Our aim should be to achieve 30% gross enrollment ratio by 2030, to achieve this we should encourage and admit more students in colleges and universities, both in state-funded and private. We need to focus on this if India wants to achieve five trillion dollar economy by 2024-2025. For this end draft National Education Policy, 2019 has proposed to invite top 200 global universities to establish foreign branch campuses in India to stop Indian students from going abroad and also to encourage more foreign students to come to India for higher studies. India needs these because we have more young working population and the world is ageing quickly. We need to reap this demographic advantage, which, sadly, we are not doing currently.

Institution Building Practices in Higher Education:

In recent times plenty of changes have been witnessed according to recent times. In order to achieve and accomplish center of excellence, colleges and universities are facing provocation in this competent world higher educational institutions are facing challenges to sustain their relevance and to develop themselves as centers' of excellence. Emerging interested candidates, students' demands and expectations, teaching faculty expectations, leaders, deciding authorities, law makers should focus on the positive higher result oriented culture. Now it's the time of important Official leaders, academicians and other law makers to re-consult, analyse, think over and after complete observation they should make a policy which would ultimately result showing the enhancement of individuals in the fast growing world at their academics.

Innovation in Higher Education

Innovation centre's in the institutions or the syllabus framed should cater for bringing out innovation in students. This innovation will encourage the students to work in a group and think beyond their academic subjects. These help students to take pride in their collective work resulting in producing more owners in multiple varieties of products. Science and technological learning will help them to lead in all aspects of life.

Indian Policies on Education:

The National Education Policy 1968, with its 17 principles was a visionary document to reconstruct and promote the development of education. Thrust on learning languages, technical and vocational education, the establishment of universities and support for research in universities among others was the highlight of the 1968 Policy. Parliament adopted National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986 and it was modified in 1992. Restructuring of courses at the undergraduate level, expansion in educational facilities, promotion of post-graduate education and research and cultivation of moral values were among the visions delineated in NPE 1986. Inter-regional mobility of students based on merit was also floated. After a long time, National Education Policy – 2020 (NEP), 2020 had replaced NPE 1986. This policy and its frame work has a far reaching effect for the students getting enrolled in elementary education, higher education and simultaneously vocational training in rural as well as in urban India. According to this policy, we could see the complete transformation in education system by 2030. Finland education system is considered to be the best in the world, with its unique holistic approach and lifelong learning principle.

NEP-2020:

National Education Policy- 2020 of the twenty first century's goal is to achieve global approach starting from elementary schools to higher educational institutions assuring standards from child care to all children from the age group of 3-6 years. It has planned to follow new curricular and pedagogical structure to enhance the students quality, skill and knowledge through this policy.

Ensuring Safe Space for Learners:

Apart from the institutional teaching and learning process, students' safety and security are the prime factors at this present scenario. Once their safety and security have been ensured then the focus could be on enhancing their skill and knowledge. For that, they should be geared by creating more opportunities for critical and analytical thinking, to gather and analyse information on any important national matters, discussions and debates should be allowed. Opportunities should be created to see to the media and its influence on the society, co-students attitude and behavior, and above all education must be value based system which should teach them the values of life and family. To accomplish this, physical and mental health needs to be given attention which will enable them to achieve in academics which are inter related. Students' education should create a sense of responsibility towards the nation regardless of gender, caste, creed, religion and beyond any culture and society.

Percentage of Women in Higher Education:

As per the words of Swami Vivekanandar, "Any Nation's progress could be measured and achieved by its treatment towards women. The world as a whole will get improved only when focus to women welfare is being concentrated and achieved".

Education of women and their empowerment are closely associated with each other. Their holistic approach and dissemination of knowledge speaks about their step a head. Their empowerment includes

the quality of life, enrollment in technical and non-technical education. Vocational education ultimately leads to skill development and emerging entrepreneurs.

Since 2000, from 18 to 24 years olds, enrollment of female ratio is comparatively higher than males at college level. When we see to the enrollment of students for the academic year 2019, it was 44% female and 37% male. Among all the special quota, the enrollment and participation of Muslim women are appreciable. They have broken all the stereotypes and have achieved 40% more enrolment in higher education in 2019-2020 comparatively to 2015-2016. Likewise, the enrolment ratio of SC-ST women, for who even schools could not be there at a reachable destination for many decades, have also shown increase in enrollment. The enrollment of ST women has increased by 38% and OBC women by 30%. The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) in 2019-2020 had expressed that more girl students get enrolled in M.Phil, Post Graduate and Certificate levels. Above all, they get enrolled in Medical Sciences, Arts and Science courses. Compared to the period before 2015-2016, the enrolment of girl students is lowered in professional and technical courses in due course of time. In the past few decades that is from the years 2015-16 to 2019-2020, we could see 11.4% in student enrollment. We could see 18.2% female enrolment in higher education. In 2018-2019, Gender Parity Index is 1.00. But it had increased to 1.01 in 2019-2020. Happy to see that enrollment of girl children in higher education has increased twice compared to boys for the past four decades.

Government Schemes to maintain Gender Parity in Schools:

Improved infrastructure, mid-day meals and awareness among uneducated guardians were a few reasons that helped in improving the Gross Enrolment Ratio 2021-2022(GER). The latest edition by Ministry of Education's (UDISE+), it showed heartening increase in the number of girl students in schools. According to the 2022 GPI, all values at varying levels of education are at par. At Secondary and higher secondary levels, it is 1 and 1.02 respectively. In 2021-2022, the enrollment of girl students was approximately 12.3 crores, more than eight lakh girl students joined the formal education system in comparison to 2020-2021. "Girls from less privileged sections want education and jobs to become independent. The illiterate parents are realizing the benefits of Government schemes and the importance of education. "Schools must make girls feel safe and be fearless. Often, girl students from economically weaker sections do not share their problems with their families fearing their education will be stopped. Teachers should help them to complete their education.

Values, Ethics and Skills:

Does the education teach them the values, ethics and skills? Without the right values life won't be successful. Values and skills are like the bird, without which flying (as also living) becomes difficult. Now –a-days education has become more job oriented and materialistic. In spite of the learning, the question arises whether the system of education is imparting ethics and values simultaneously to the students. In 90s, students had a class especially for moral education, sports, and so on. But now-a-days all those are missing.

Findings and Solutions:

For the past few decades we have seen Women Prime Minister, Presidents, Lok Sabha speakers and many senior higher officials. The principle of Gender equality is enshrined in our Indian Constitution. They are given equality in all aspects, in all fields and in all walks of live. Women have become more powerful, broken stereotypes and have conquered the world of business. Most Indians respect and maintain gender equality. Women have advanced into even defense and joined as Officers in the army and as fighter pilots in Indian Air Force. Women's participation in the Indian work force is now at 25%. But nearly 5% of Chief Educational Officers and 8% of board seats were held by women in 2021 whereas it was 3.2% in 2014. But still, few people who are traditional and orthodox could not accept the change and demands of women. In spite of all this, still as a whole all over the world, in some form or the other they are being denied their right to education, health care, financial security, and participation in political field. This uncertainty will knowingly lead to financial instability, economic inequality and women rights violation and hindrance in getting education deny the empowerment of women. Students could be taught simultaneously the Art of Living along with their subjects. Students and Women should be aware of the

consequences while going out from their homes when they face challenges and threat to their safety and security and they could try to avoid being there in such circumstances.

Respect and empower women to empower this country. Remove gender inequality by empowering women. The existence of women is the base of beautiful life.

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