

Education Scenario and Laws For Women Empowerment in India

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Abstract:

Education has always been recognized as an influential tool for empowering marginalized sectors of any society. In developing countries like India, where the fruits of economic growth are being harvested, it has also been observed that growth becomes comprehensive and reimbursement is shared by all. The literacy rate of women is considered one of the effective tools that can be used to take advantage of the benefits of the developed society for the female population and, in turn, to empower women in the country. Policies to get better the position of women in relation to men are desirable not only in terms of equity but also in terms of effectiveness. The inheritance of material wealth and the human capital investments of parents are central forms of intergenerational transfers that influence long-term development in a very profound way. Efforts have been made over the past three decades of planned development to enroll more girls in schools heartening them to continue their education as long as achievable, and to provide non-formal educational opportunities for women. This paper shows the condition of women w.r.t. Education and laws.

Keywords: Female, Empowerment, Law's, Education.

Introduction:

The development and growth of any country or area is indicated by the level of education and that too of both genders. Our government powerfully focused on education for all. In education sector our nation has made a remarkable growth and with all the efforts and the literacy rate grew

to 74.04 per cent in 2011 from meager 12 per cent in 1947. But still, India has not achieved what it should have during this period. For securing their social, cultural and economic lives women in our country are being provided with legal security. Our government passes various acts related with interest of life safeguard of women's.

Objectives:

1. To study about the educational status of women in India
2. To study about law related to women's in India
3. To study the Women Empowerment Schemes of Government.

Research Methodology: Present paper is based on expressive mode. In which secondary data has been used. Data has been taken from various sites, journals, magazines and books etc. Observation has been taken as the primary source.

Educational status of women's in India:

Education is considered as an input mechanism for women's empowerment. Education changes their global view, improves their employment chances, public life participation facilitates, and also influence fertility. A number of studies point out that educated women have, normally, smaller number of children and they take superior care of their socialization. Even though extensive advancement has been made in lieu of literacy and education, taken as a whole image still remains hostile to women. In the commencement of the 20th century, the country wholly was mostly illiterate with just 5.3 per cent of the population was literate. Women literacy was 0.60 per cent at that time.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SEX-WISE PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF DIFFERENT REGION OF INDIA: 2015-16

INDIA REGIONS	Boys	Girls
Central region	49.1	50.9
Eastern region	49.6	50.4
Northern region	48.5	51.5
North East region	49	51
Southern region	48.5	51.5

Western region	50	50
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Data Sources: GOI ministry of human resource development department of school education & literacy.

The table shows the Western region has the highest participation of students (Both Boys & Girls) in government schools and the lowest two are Northern regions and Southern region.

LITERACY RATES: 2014

Age	Literacy rate (per cent)		
	Rural & Urban		
	Male	Female	Total
Age 5 & above	83.6	68.1	76
Age 7 & above	83.2	67.1	75.4
Age 15 & above	79.8	60.8	70.5
All age (age 0 & above)	75.7	62	69.1

Data Source: National Sample Survey Office

The table clearly shows that male literacy rate is highest then female in all age groups. The same is true for the Rural & Urban level.

Indian Laws related to women's:

Indian constitution contains laws related to gender, “Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles”. Our Constitution not only provides equality to women, but also directs the nation to take on measures of optimistic favoritism in favor of women.

Constitutional Provisions:

“The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women for neutralizing the cumulative socio economic, education and political disadvantages faced by them. Fundamental Rights, among others, ensure equality before the law and equal protection of law; prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and guarantee equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters relating to employment. Articles 14,

15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 39(c) and 42 of the Constitution are of specific importance in this regard.”¹

- **Legal Provisions:**

“To maintain the Constitutional mandate, the State has enacted different legislative measures intended to ensure equal rights, to counter social discrimination and various forms of violence and atrocities and to provide endorsement services particularly to working women. Some acts which have special provisions to safeguard women and their interests are:

- The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948
- The Plantation Labour Act, 1951
- The Family Courts Act, 1954
- The Special Marriage Act, 1954
- The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
- The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 with amendment in 2005
- The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Amended in 1995)
- Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971
- The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1983
- The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1986
- Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987
- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005”²

Women Empowerment Schemes by Government:

The various schemes related with women empowerment started by government are as follows:

- Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) 1992-1993
- Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) October, 1993.
- Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) 1995.

¹ Ibid law relating to women and children by DR.S.C.Tripathi & Vibha Arora edition 6th 2015 central law publication

² Diwan, P. & Diwan, P. (2001), Family Law : Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Paris, Allahabad Law Agency.

- Dhanalakahmi (2008).
- Scheme for Gender Budgeting (XI Plan).
- Women's Development Corporation Scheme (WDCS).
- Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)(2010)
- National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW)(2011)
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme. (2015)
- One Stop Centre Scheme.
- Women Helpline Scheme. (2015)
- SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances) (2001)
- Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)
- Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK).
- Mahila police Volunteers

Suggestions:

- ❖ **Effective Steps:** Efforts of opening more school for improving literacy rate. Programs focus mainly in the rural areas and especially on girl education. Government motivates students to join schools and study therein.
- ❖ **Awareness:** There should be awareness among women's about necessity and importance of education for the improvement of the literacy rate of the country.
- ❖ **Realisation of social responsibility:** It is very essential that people must understand their social responsibility and put their particular efforts to improve the literacy rate of India.
- ❖ **Social environment:** In social environment various restrictions are imposed on girl's education. Restrictions imposed have bad effect on literacy, so healthy social environment should be provided to improve the literacy rate.

Conclusion:

Women are not secure, even if they are in their houses or whether they are at public places or at the place of work. Crimes against women happen each minute in India. Given the figure of crimes against women, it is relevant that awareness among women is seen regarding the laws

made in favor to protect them. Government of India has implemented different effective laws a propos safety and empowerment of the women. In the Panchayati Raj system around 33 per cent of the seats are held in reserve for women thus women are being additional aware and come forward to battle for their rights. At present, India ranking is 13 in the globe when it come the matter of child marriages. In view of the fact that child marriage has been steeped into the Indian civilization and custom since centuries, it has been hard eliminating it.

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