

ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Prof. Dr. Yuvraj Lahoti
Vishwakarma University, Pune
yuvraj.lahoti@vupune.ac.in

ABSTRACT

Nearly half of all people on Earth are women. A lack of female education may impede a country's progress towards economic prosperity. *Role of Women in the development of the Education System in India: Past, Present and Future.* The paper provides an overview of the various government strategic initiatives regarding the improvement of women's education and highlights some of the issues related to the obstacles of women's education and regarding suggestions to overcome these, drawing on existing literature and various statistics concerning women's education. Literacy among women is seen as crucial to a country's progress. A well-educated woman is a valuable asset in many areas of society, including health care, family planning, nutrition, economics, and more. How many Indians could read and write before and after independence. This work has been based on information gathered from secondary sources such as libraries, academic journals, newspapers, government documents, and the internet. Despite the government's many initiatives regarding our constitutional provisions, none of them were carried out with any sense of purpose. This is why there are a few recommendations made.

Keywords: Women, Education, Literacy Rate, development, system, etc.

Introduction

For a nation to flourish, it is crucial that women have an education. It is like a lifesaving drug that restores full health to its recipient. For India to progress economically and socially, it must invest in its women's education. Women's education is a weapon that can change the trajectory of Indian society for the better, both at home and in the workplace. They are responsible for the country's and society's better economic and social conditions. A well-educated lady can successfully juggle her personal and professional responsibilities. Because educated women are more likely to delay marriage than their less-educated counterparts, they can make a significant contribution to India's efforts to reduce its population. Due in large part to its commitment to universal education and gender parity, India is widely regarded as one of the world's greatest democracies and has also eclipsed China as the world's fastest expanding economy in the financial quarter of October-December 2018. The success of India may be attributed in large part to the country's efforts to advance women's education and guarantee female literacy. The numbers show that during the last several decades, both economic development and the number of educated women in India have increased dramatically; as a result, India is making rapid strides toward a

level of social and economic success never previously achieved by the country.

Women's Education:

This high prevalence of female illiteracy may be attributed to a number of factors. The primary cause is a deficiency of necessary resources. Women in India are mostly uneducated because they face significant barriers to accessing formal education. Men are expected to pay for the education of their children, and particularly their daughters, since society views women as having little responsibility outside the home. Who will take care of the home if she returns to school or university? Furthermore, there are instances where girls' children who are sent to school are not allowed to sit in the same classroom as boys.

This is due of the prevalence of old social norms in our modern culture. The Indian government has mandated that all institutions of higher learning make it possible for females to complete middle school. However, due to a lack of resources, this is not being carried out effectively. Women's illiteracy rates are high for several reasons, not the least of which is a lack of resources. The way individuals think is also a contributing factor. In today's culture, women are still expected to stay at home and take care of children and other family members. This way of thinking is gradually

shifting, but it will take some time to entirely shift.

The Indian economy is expanding at a rapid rate. The sheer variety of cultures, faiths, and ethnicities present in the nation contribute to the overwhelming nature of its democracy. In the decades after it gained its freedom from British colonial rule, India has seen a remarkable transformation. The Government's efforts to increase women's access to education and boost their status are also contributing factors.

Gender inequality and sexism are quickly losing their negative societal connotations. The women and men of India contribute equally to the country's rise to superpower status. India's rapid progress toward gender parity in education is reflected in the country's rising literacy rate overall. On the other hand, this will greatly contribute to the development of our nation. In the seven decades following independence, the female literacy rate jumped from 8.6 percent to 64 percent. Despite these positive statistics, India's underbelly is plagued by a variety of social ills.

Some of the most significant causes of gender inequality include child labour, child marriage, dowry systems, and other similar practices. Men were expected to go out and get food while women stayed at home. Thousands of years ago, when gender differences were first recognized, this occurred. It's a new era now. We've established a safe refuge where everyone may flourish. Equal rights for men and women should be a priority. The right to an education is one of the most fundamental rights of women. All of these ridiculous customs and beliefs may be eradicated with the power of education.

That's a huge deal, and it bodes well for India's future. There are a variety of causes for why women still lack equal opportunities in life, including access to resources like education. They are considered a financial and emotional drain on a family. Feticide is still committed against women. This implies that people of this gender are less valued in general. All members of society need to be informed of the equal social rights of men and women. Equally important is women's education about their own rights.

When we dig a little deeper, we see that many crimes against women—trafficking, rape, feticide, murder, dowry, etc.—center on or involve women. The main motive for such acts is prejudice based on gender. These atrocities will continue at the same rate they have for a long time unless and until men and women are given equal rights. The education of women is a priority. This is the first step toward a bright and wonderful future.

Many families still have reservations about their female children attending school or pursuing further education, even in the modern day. Income inequality is a major contributor to such malevolent ideas. There are a lot of households who can't afford to send their kids to school. They prefer having males and cannot afford to send their daughters to school.

The government has made several changes to laws and policies in support of women's education. In rural regions, women are encouraged to further their education by the provision of AIDS aid and the near-universal free provision of primary and secondary education for children. They don't have to limit themselves to a life behind four walls. For our culture to progress, we must all acknowledge that women are equal to men. They can go for their goals and hold their own in any field with males.

Current Status of Women Education in India

When India finally became independent, just 8.6% of Indian women could read and write. Previously active in the freedom struggle, women were forced into the home, laying the groundwork for a new patriarchal order. According to the census taken in 2011, the female literacy rate in India rose from 8.6 percent in 1951 to 64.6 percent in 2011. While it's great to see more women getting an education, there is a downside to this trend that shouldn't be ignored. The current literacy rate for women in India is 65.6%, which is lower than the literacy rate for men in India (81.3%). India's female education rate of 65.6% is much below the global average of 79.7%. The situation is more dire in rural regions, where females are less likely to attend school than boys and have a far higher dropout rate.

Development and Obstacles of Women Education in Independent India

Even before birth, moms may provide their children access to education in the interest of lifelong learning. In this sense, access to quality education is a fundamental human right. "Education is the manifestation of perfection already existing in man," Swami Vivekananda once observed. He thinks everyone should have access to schooling from the moment they're born. The inclusion of this birth right as a fundamental human right in the Indian constitution reflects the fact that we are all human. Women are essential to the development of a nation's culture, society, politics, and economy. For women to achieve economic independence, social progress, and personal well-being, education is essential. It's common knowledge that women face discrimination from birth to death. Usually, women make up around half of a country's total population. There are so many variations in regional and cultural norms that it is hard to generalize about India's 46 million female population (which represents 15% of the world's women population, according to the 2001 census). Gender-based social discrimination and economic marginalization, however, cut across lines of race, class, ethnicity, religion, and nationality. There are several everyday situations that Indian women face that prevent them from fully participating in the country's social, economic, and political life. Women's lives have traditionally been confined to the house, with the limited roles of mother and wife. The gender gap is wide and wide. There is a significant gender gap in terms of access to resources like education, employment, political representation, healthcare, and other areas of development. In addition, individuals face obstacles to growth on physiological, social, and cultural levels. As a result, this holds true throughout all eras. Over the course of Indian history, women's rights have undergone dramatic shifts. The lives of Indian women have been full with drama. Indian culture today nevertheless maintains a deep link to its historical past. Women in India today may learn from their ancestors' experiences.

History of Women's Education in India:

Women have traditionally and actively participated in many walks of life. The higher education system in India is not an exception. There are many examples of intelligent and developed women in Indian mythology. We honour women because the goddess of learning is a woman. The first records of education in ancient India date back to the third century B.C., when knowledge was passed down orally and included numerous women academics. As Buddhism gained popularity in India, several prestigious universities were founded, including Nalanda, Vikramshila, and Takshila. According to the available evidence, many women attended these academic institutions. Between the fifth and thirteenth centuries, these educational institutions thrived. Delhi, Lucknow, and Allahabad all had universities founded by Muslim kings in the 11th century. Theologians, philosophers, artists, and astronomers were all women, and they had contributed to every branch of knowledge. However, research shows that access to education remains uneven across social classes. Not everyone could get their hands on it. The introduction of the English language into Indian schools occurred after the British colonial rule. Many schools can trace their origins to the arrival of European missionaries. These pioneers advocated for girls' education as early as the 19th century. These schools catered mostly to females from low-income backgrounds. By the end of the 19th century, a sizable number of women had earned degrees from America's schools and universities (There were 2,700 female-only educational institutions in 1882, serving a total of 127,000 female students). This increase in female literacy may be primarily attributed to the urban-based social reform movement of the 19th century (which began among the Indian elite and expanded to portions of the middle classes). During this time period, other social movements challenged norms like child marriage, the caste system (Sati Pratha), and the purdah code. The presidencies of Bombay (now called Mumbai), Calcutta (now called Kolkata), and Madras (now called Chennai) each founded their own universities in 1857. Although it was more difficult for middle class girls to pursue

higher education, more of them did so among Christians and Parsis than Hindus and Muslims. At the turn of the 20th century, there was a renewed focus on women's education, with the dual goals of improving their abilities as homemakers and raising strong citizens through their offspring. In a speech to the Indian Social Conference in Calcutta in 1906, Sarojini Naidu said, "Therefore, I charge you, restore to your women their ancient rights, for, as I have said, it is we, and not you, who are the real nation builders, and without our active cooperation at all points of progress all your congresses and conferences are in vain." Invest in your women's education, and your country will prosper on its own; after all, the proverb "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" holds true now as much as it did a century ago or will till the end of time. Only 2% of Indian women had completed high school, so you can only imagine how few women received 'higher' education at the time. However, education was seen as a way to boost Indian women's social status and equip them to adapt to a shifting external environment. However, progress in female education was stymied by practices like child marriage and Purdah. Furthermore, there were many conservative and traditionalist groups that worked to impede women's access to higher education. Women's education in India is not primarily intended to produce "sound scholars," but rather "better mothers, sisters, and wives," as Sardar Dayal Singh of the Indian Association of Punjab put it. "Girls should be taught suitable subjects and not be made to swallow history and geography indiscriminately," said the Lahore Arya Samaj. During this time, a great number of universities were founded. New centers for women's emancipation emerged at Banaras Hindu University in 1916, Aligarh Muslim University in 1920, and Delhi University in 1922. At this point, many progressive national leaders cared deeply about this issue and worked tirelessly to alter the public's perspective.

Issues Related To Problems Or Obstacles Of Women Education

[1] Lack of Skilled Based Courses: Many women, it is true, have exceptional competence in domestic tasks. Weaving, needlework, cooking, nursing, baking, etc. are some of their

favourite exquisite handwork activities. However, they do not have access to any classes at school that focus on developing their particular set of skills.

[2] Girls' Harassment in School: Despite efforts by the Indian government and school administrators to combat sexual harassment of female students, this problem persists. From elementary school through high school, females in India face emotional and physical harassment at school. College politics continue to be a source of harassment and forced participation in political activities for women in higher education. As a result, they are emotionally disturbed and unable to concentrate on their schoolwork.

[3] Poverty: India's economy relies heavily on agriculture, even in the contemporary day. It has been steeped in poverty ever since it gained independence. Most rural families have barely enough money to get by. They must depend on their little daily earnings. It is assumed that mothers would work outside the home and that fathers will take their girls with them. Therefore, they have no room to consider sending their daughters to different schools considering their current financial situation.

[4] Lack of Female Teachers: Female educators have an inherent advantage in seeing and responding to the unique challenges and aspirations of their female students. During the school day, female students and teachers can have open discussions about anything, not just academics. However, many elementary and middle schools lack enough qualified female teachers to teach students in grades one through three. They are having trouble getting along, and their conflicts are causing them harm. Therefore, this thing is afraid of girls regularly attending school.

[5] Violence against Women: Every day, women are disrupted by the many forms of violence that exist in our society. According to the Central Home Ministry's Crime Record Bureau's report, the number of crimes committed against women is rising steadily. Every 44 minutes, a woman is abducted; every 47 minutes, she is raped; every day, 17 women are killed because of a dowry. They may be subjected to abduction, rape, murder, and other forms of violence, both within and outside of the home, for reasons such as dowry-related

harassment, death, marital rape, wife-beating, sexual abuse, malnutrition, and genital mutilation.

[6] Gender Discrimination: Women are seen as less capable than males and hence given less respect. Young girls are increasingly falling prey to prejudice. The patriarchal structure of Indian households contributes to gender inequality in positions of authority and economic opportunity. Nutrition, education, health, care, the fall of the female population, employment, public life, etc. are all impacted by gender discrimination against women.

Literature Review

Narayan, Hegde & v. T, Shailashri (2021)

An examination of India's higher education system reveals its history of change and its future potential. Our goal in writing this paper was to make a sincere effort to learn about the system, the constitution, the change, the possibilities, and the difficulties, and to provide the appropriate recommendations. This research is a qualitative idea analysis based on secondary sources. Sites, papers, journals, articles, surveys, and government reports are mined for secondary data. Professionals in the area of higher education were interviewed for this research. In-depth research of the Indian Constitution, the NEP 2020 for a bright future in Indian higher education, a SWOT analysis, and a look at the opportunities and threats facing the sector informed this report. Revisiting budgets, availability, and fairness is essential. A systematic approach to resolving the many obstacles facing India's higher education system is essential if it is to be strengthened. Using the Indian Higher Education system's constitutions, SWOT analysis, and problems as points of reference, this article analyzes and explains the system's transition. New recommendations have been made based on the detailed analysis.

Suthar, Falguni (2021) Education is become just as competitive as universities. Institutions can only thrive if they provide increasingly high-quality products and services. The Right to Education Act has been a game-changer for India's educational landscape. While India's higher education system faces numerous obstacles, there are also numerous openings through which these problems can be solved

and the system improved. More openness and responsibility are required. In this research, we analyze the current state of Indian education and pinpoint new problems and difficulties.

Khan, Azra & Majeed, Shayista & Sayeed, Rayeesa (2020) Women's contributions to the economy of any country have long been acknowledged. It's important to note, however, that their activities have historically been restricted to the home. They did most of the housework and childrearing and were given less respect than men. The patriarchal society in which they were raised had a significant impact on their lives, frequently depriving them of rights such as the right to an education that were guaranteed to men. However, a major shift in the socio-cultural framework occurred with the introduction of various laws, social reforms, and women's movement worldwide, and women's entitlement to education started to be recognized as crucial for the economic development of nations. On the other hand, research into the past has shown that female education was particularly poor on the Indian subcontinent. Because of the pervasive social and cultural setting, in which women are seen as subordinate to men, they were denied access to education. Women's education in India saw dramatic transformation in the wake of social reform movements, women's movements, Christian missionaries, and the new economic reforms of 1991 known as the LPG idea (Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization). In addition, studies have shown that educating women is highly correlated with a country's economic growth.

Japee, Gurudutta (2019) As enrolment in secondary schools has risen over the past few years, so too has women's opportunity to pursue higher education. However, there is still room for improvement, especially regarding their involvement in STEM fields. In comparison, there are still nowhere near enough women involved in decision-making to make a difference. In addition, a number of cultural hurdles remain, which significantly impedes their professional growth. Human Development Report, an annual publication of the United Nations Development Programme, shows that although much has been accomplished, more needs to be done: Women make up the majority of the world's illiterate

population (66%), enroll in college at a rate that is 33% lower than that of males in Sub-Saharan Africa (with even lower numbers in STEM fields), and work at a rate that is 50% lower than that of men in developing nations (50%). Women still face pay disparity compared to men in numerous instances of professional life (on average 25% less); in politics, they represent only 10% of the world's parliamentarians. If women's unpaid work was an official factor in production, national GNPs could rise significantly. This paper's focus is on the situation of women at Indian universities and the key problems they face. It will highlight approaches that might aid policymakers and others involved in higher education in their quest to increase women's participation in this field.

Sarojadevi, R & Subramanian, Sp Mathiraj (2016) When it comes to educating and empowering women, India is currently a global leader. Educating women in India has been a priority for the government and civil society alike due to the crucial role that educated women may play in the progress of the nation. The goal of empowering women is to educate them so that they may better adapt to adversity, confront their conventional position, and create the lives they want for themselves. Education is crucial to women's empowerment, especially in India, which is set to become a global powerhouse and developed nation by the year 2020. Slow progress is being made to increase rural women's access to higher education. This indicates that many women in our society are still uneducated, powerless, and subjected to abuse. Women's education is the most potent instrument for social transformation. Education helps level the playing field inside families and raises everyone's social standing. After the 86th Constitutional Amendment guaranteed all Indian children a right to an education through age 14, the government of India implemented the EFA program in 2002. However, girls' educational attainment is not progressing as expected by established measures of female empowerment. Our goal in doing this research was to get an understanding of the state of female education today. The research found that the percentage of college-educated women is rising, but not in an optimal way.

Sahoo, Sanjukta (2016) Investing in girls' education may help India's economy and society flourish. Girls' education is a weapon that can change India for the better, both at home and in the workplace. They're responsible for the country's and society's better economic and social conditions. The goals of this article are to (1) state the current state of girl's education in India and (2) provide solutions to the problems that have been identified. The researcher has employed a wide variety of sources, including print and digital media, to compile the data for this study. There are four sections to this study. In this study, the first section focuses on the evolution and significance of girls' education in India. The current situation of girls' education in India is discussed in the paper's second section. The third section of the article discusses the many obstacles and the key steps implemented by the Government of India to improve girls' education. In the last section, the article offers solutions to the problems hindering the education of Indian females. The research indicates that the state of females' education is far worse at the primary and secondary levels than it is at the university level. From 2012 to 2015, the percentage of female students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade fell, while the percentage of female students enrolled in higher education rose. Promoting girls' education in India faces many obstacles, including negative parental attitudes, a dearth of necessary infrastructure, insufficient security measures, gender stereotypes, and the socioeconomic status of parents. This article argues that everyone in India, not only government officials, citizens, and NGOs, must do their part to remove obstacles to girls' education.

Das, Ajay & Sharma, Umesh (2015) Since India's independence in 1947, the government has taken many steps to ensure that school-aged children with disabilities have access to a quality education. Most disabled kids are still not enrolled in school. In this paper, we explore the obstacles that the government still faces in its efforts to educate this population, as well as some potential solutions.

Ghewari, Anute, (2021) Women are leading the e-learning organizations. Youtube is observed as the most useful source of

information about e learning organizations. Customers are highly satisfied from the information about elearning organization available on facebook, Instagram and youtube but satisfaction level is moderate about linkedin and twitter. From the analysis we identified that Byjus ranks first e learning organization on social media closely followed by white hat junior, unacademy, vedantu and khan academy respectively. Facebook is the most popular source of social media for e learning organizations closely followed by Instagram and youtube. LinkedIn and Twitter are comparatively less useful.

K, Sridhar (2015) Management training as it is now is a complete disaster. Industries in India received a significant boost from the liberalization process that began in 1991. Because of this, top-tier management graduates are in high demand for positions in the world's most important businesses. As a result, the number of business schools in India grew. Business schools (or "B-Schools") may now be found throughout the whole country of India. There is not a scarcity of business schools; rather, the issue is with the quality of these institutions. The management at this company is terrible. As a result, interest in the available managerial positions has been low. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to draw attention to some of the historical and contemporary problems plaguing management education and to offer some suggestions for enhancing the quality of this field in the hopes of attracting a larger student body.

Petare, Purushottam (2013) The study provides an analysis of the recent growth in India's higher education sector. This paper discusses the evolution of education in India, the current state of higher education, opportunities for advancement in this field, private investment and privatization of education involving foreign participants, and what steps the Indian government needs to take to improve the education system. This document provides an overview of the Indian education system, including its history, present state, and projected trends.

Sharmila, N & Dhas, Albert (2010) Nearly half of all people on Earth are women. The health, nutrition, and economic standing of a home, a microunit of a nation's economy, may

be greatly improved by a woman's education. A lack of female education may impede a country's progress towards economic prosperity. Women in India have a far lower rate of schooling completion than males do. According to data compiled for the 2001 Census, female literacy is at 54.16% and male literacy is at 65.38. Government and non-profit groups have made genuine efforts to raise women's educational levels. The actions of the Government of India towards women's education are reflected in the modifications to legislation and the infrastructure supporting elementary, secondary, and higher education. This article analyzed recent developments in women's access to education in India, as well as the country's spending on and support for educational infrastructure. Female literacy levels and their evolution over time provided strong evidence that women's educational attainment had improved significantly. The disparities between rural and urban women's rates of education are decreasing, too. It was found that low income in rural areas actually encouraged women to pursue higher education. The positive effect of urbanization on female education in India was suggested by the strong correlation between the two. Dropout rates were also detrimental to girls' and women's education. It showed that progress in educating women required lowering the dropout rate for females. Government efforts, including spending and building new facilities, to improve India's educational system were analyzed.

Ramachandran, Ramakrishnan (2010) One of the most fundamental rights of every nation's resident is access to quality education. It's a conversation among the three time periods. It's a crucial investment in people, the growth engine of every economy. The Elementary Education system is the bedrock upon which the whole educational superstructure rests. The failure to attain universal literacy 63 years after gaining independence has far-reaching social and economic consequences. Almost half of our women are illiterate, which is indicative of pervasive discrimination on the basis of gender. The advancement of a nation as a whole benefit greatly from the education of its women. It contributes to the betterment of

domestic and social life, as well as the development of half the human resources. There is a lot of evidence that women gain more agency when they are given opportunities to further their education. Women's information processing and application skills seem to increase with education, albeit certain topics benefit more quickly than others. Women are more likely to prioritize their own health and that of their families as a result. There's a chance this might encourage women to challenge traditional gender roles at home and in the workplace. It might also encourage women to challenge male authority at home and in the community, which could lead to a more active role for women in decision-making. Female victims of domestic abuse are less likely to be college educated. Although school enrolment has increased significantly in recent years, retention rates remain low, and only a small percentage of students enrolling in kindergarten graduate from elementary school.

Objectives Of The Study

- To study the women Literacy in Pre and Post -Independence in India.
- To identify the issues related to problems or obstacles of women education.

Methodology

Statistical analysis in the form of tables, charts, index marks, and interpretation form the backbone of the study's methodology. This study makes an effort to examine the evolution of women's education in India after independence and to highlight the many problems and obstacles that the field now faces. This work has been based on information gathered from secondary resources such libraries, journals, government agencies, and the internet.

Data Analysis

Literacy In Pre-Independence In India

This time period is often known as India's colonial era. It was the most formative era for American education. There was a resurgence of support for girls' education in India under the British Raj. During this time period, notable Indians like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar spearheaded social and religious initiatives that promoted women's

education. Leaders of India's lower castes, such as Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Periyar, worked to expand educational opportunities for women in India. In India, like in many other developing nations, school is not the sole way to learn. Only 0.6% of women in 1901 were literate due to social and economic barriers. In 1931, it rose to 2.93 percent, but by 1941, only 7.30 percent of females were literate. Table 1 displays the levels of female literacy in the years leading up to independence.

Table 1 Literacy in Pre-Independence in India

Census year	Persons (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
1901	5.35	9.83	0.60
1911	5.92	10.56	1.05
1921	7.16	12.21	1.81
1931	9.50	15.59	2.93
1941	16.10	24.60	7.30

Source: Different census issues of India

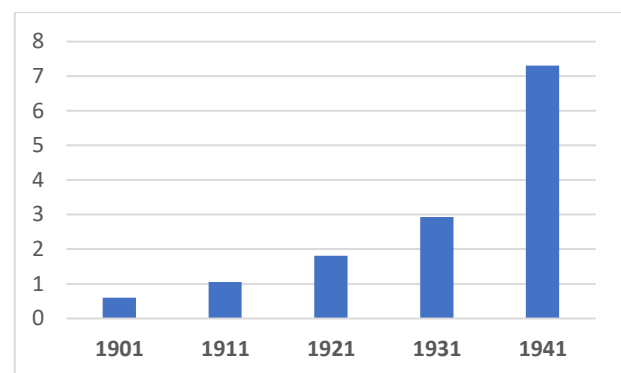


Figure 1: Female Education Rate in Pre-Independence Period

Figure1 demonstrates that only a select few were able to benefit from schooling. Prior to independence, most people in rural areas did not have the opportunity to pursue formal education. After India won its independence from the British in 1947, not much changed.

Literacy Of Women In Post Independent In India

When India gained its freedom, the literacy rate among its female population was dismal. Different kinds of societal transformation have occurred in India after independence. The literacy rates of American women have increased thanks to a variety of federal and state initiatives. Literacy among today's women ensures that they have the same educational opportunities as males.

Table 2 Literacy in Post-Independent in India

Census year	Persons	Male	Female
1951	18.33	27.16	8.86
1961	28.30	40.40	15.35
1971	34.45	45.96	21.79
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76
1991	52.21	64.13	39.29
2001	64.84	75.26	53.67
2021	73.00	80.89	64.64

Source: Different Census Issues Of India.

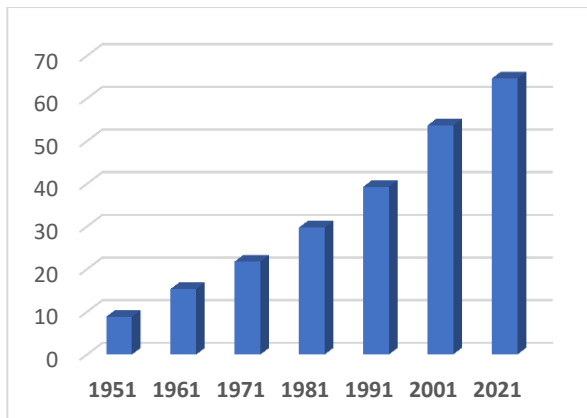


Figure 2: Female Education in Post Independence Period

As can be seen in Table 2, the percentage of literate women has increased from 8.86% in 1951 to 39.29% in 1991. The literacy rate of women rose from 53.67 percent in 2001 to 64.64 percent in 2021.

Investment On Education And Infrastructural Supports

It is common practice to interpret a country's overall allocation to education as a proportion of its gross national product or gross domestic product. Another school of thought holds that "normally, expenditure on education should grow at double the rate of economic growth in the early stages of educational development." This is why the First Education Commission proposed that, during the present phase of India's educational growth, the government should aim to boost spending on education to 6% of national revenue over a twenty-year time period. Considerations such as economic development, population increase, enrollment growth, spending per student, etc. informed this decision. Spending on education in India doubled between 1966 and 1986, according to the data supplied, rising from 1.8% of GDP in

1965–1966 to 3.7% of GDP in 1985–1986). 4.4% in 2000-01 was the highest it might go in subsequent years (see Table 3).

Table 3 Expenditure on Education as a Percent of GNP in India: 1951-2003

Year	Expenditure as a Percentage of GNP
1950-51	1.2
1960-61	2.5
1965-66	1.8
1970-71	3.1
1980-81	2.9
1985-86	3.7
1990-91	3.7
1999-2000	4.3
2000-01	4.4
2001-02	3.9
2002-03	3.8

Source: Varghese (2006) and Tilak (2006).

Conclusion

This article analysed recent developments in women's access to education in India, as well as the country's spending on and support for educational infrastructure. Female literacy levels and their evolution over time provided strong evidence that women's educational attainment had improved significantly. The disparities between rural and urban women's rates of education are decreasing, too. Female literacy levels and their evolution through time were used as a proxy for the success of women's education in the research. The disparities between rural and urban women's rates of education are decreasing, too. In conclusion, it is clear that the education of Indian women is crucial to the progress of the nation as a whole. Improving the quality of life at home and in the community are only two of the many ways that this aids in human resource development. Overall, the study showed that there have been efforts to get more girls into school, which will hopefully increase literacy rates in the long run. The research also found that there are several institutional roadblocks to girls' and women's access to higher education in India. In order to lower female dropout rates and raise female literacy rates in India, the report recommends allocating more resources into female-centric educational infrastructure.

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