



## The status of women education in India and effect of Russia & Ukraine conflict

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### Abstract

I am pursuing a project assignment on the topic The Status of women Education in Rural Areas. In the research paper I have tried to give all the important things and information about this project.

A project is an activity that helps us to improve our planning and critical thinking ability.

In this, I have explained about all the problems that villager women are still facing.

In the rural areas of India, the status of the women has been a subject of much discussion, controversy and debate. In the beginning, the girl children are always seen as burdens on their parents rather than blessings and people also got the girl child as the bearers of dowries.

There are some overwhelming cultural and economic reasons why female children are not receiving the attention as their male counterparts. The result is low literacy rate among women in rural areas.

There continues a large gap between the educational levels of men and the women in rural areas. The present study is focused on status, causes and recommendations for rural women education.

### How Did I Choose This Topic

I belong from a village situated in Amroha named Bohra. I also do a job as a Panchayat Sahayak cum data entry operator in my village also. I came here after my marriage.

Then I noticed something weird. The women of my village are illiterate. Children did not go to school here. They were doing house chores.

There is a lot of illiteracy in their talks. Before this, I was thinking that there is no any illiterate men or women in 20<sup>th</sup> century, but I was wrong.

Time passed and then I knew everything well and decide to write a project on this topic.

**Key words:** Rural women education, illiteracy, gender disparity, cultural barriers, educational inequality

### Introduction

In rural areas, girls receive an average of fewer than 4 years of education. Numerous studies show that rural women have high levels of fertility and Mortality and little autonomy within the households. Women's lack of education also has a negative impact on women's health and well-being of their children.

This low level not only has a negative impact on women's lives but also on their families and country's economic development. It has been found out that infant mortality is inversely related to mother's educational levels.

Therefore, there is a need for a minimum threshold of education that must be achieved before bringing about improvements in female autonomy. Of the literate women in India 59 percent only have primary education or less.

The major educational problem faced by girls from rural areas is that although they may be enrolled at the beginning of the year, they do not always remain in school. Girls are often taken out of school to share the family responsibilities such as caring for younger siblings etc. India has the highest rates of child brides in the world.

Generally, families choose to educate a son rather than daughters because of financial restrictions. Many parents view educating sons as an investment because the sons will be responsible for caring for their parents.

Negative parental attitude towards educating daughters is also a barrier to a girl's education. Many parents view educating sons as an investment because the sons will be responsible for caring for their aging parents.

On the other hand, parents see the education of daughters as a waste of money as daughters after marriage live with their husband's families, and the parents do not get benefit directly from their education. In addition, daughters with higher levels of education likely have higher dowry expenses, as they want a comparably educated husband.

Lack of female teachers is another barrier to girls' education. Girls are more likely to attend school and have higher academic achievement if they have female teachers. Currently, women account for only 29 percent of teachers at the primary level.

Rural children lack the advantages of modern amenities and facilities, such as transportation, electricity, media, hygiene, health care, and access to education. Rural girl children spend their time cooking, cleaning, fetching wood and water, caring for children, and working in the fields sowing, transplanting, and weeding. Girl children contribute over 20% of total work at home.

The only advantage a girl child has in rural areas is visibility. The greatest disadvantage is that her mother, who faced neglect herself, discriminates against her. Increasingly, girl children contribute income to their household from Beedi making, gem polishing, embroidering, or paper bag making. Communities need to create a demand for rural girl children's education. Now many Govt. and non-govt. organizations are working in this field.

### Historical Data

Women's education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of half of the human resources.

Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of the population.

### Education in Vedic Times

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 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 of the lower castes in India who took education available to the women of 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 the male literacy rate.

While in 1971 only 22% of Indian women were literate. The growth of female literacy rate is 14.87% as compared to 11.72% of that of male literacy rate.

### Education in post-vedic times

During this time, education of women declined. Women were merely threatened as the property of men. The social situation for women become more circumscribed as religion became increasingly institutionalized. The first law giver of the Hindus assigned dependent status to women and denied freedom and knowledge of the Vedic texts.

Education during times of Buddhism-

In this era, women were assigned equal position. During this period, the women of India attained remarkable success and achieved glory in the sphere of education, culture and spiritual potentialities.

Education in Mughal times (1200-1800)

During the Muslim rule, the percentage of female literacy went down further due to the prevalence of the pardah system. After the Muslim conquest, pardah become quite common among higher and richer classes to provide protection to women against abduction and kidnapping by Muslim rulers.

The decline of female literacy was so remarkable that there was hardly one woman literate in a hundred women by the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In some cases rich Hindu and Muslims women received religious education at home. A number of pathshalas for Hindus and Makhtabs for Muslims.

They could read and write Sanskrit and Urdu. Private tutors were engaged in rich families to train the girls in these arts and accomplishments. But poor families could not appoint private tutors. Hence, education among women in these families declined rapidly.

### Measures to Promote Women's Education in India

Various measures have been suggested by the 'National Committee on Women's Education' for the improvement of girls' education.

- Providing school facilities, opening of new schools, bringing schools within easy reach of the children, starting girls' section in boys' schools, condensed course for adult women etc.
- **Improving the existing schools:** Appointment of more qualified and adequate staff including a large number of women teachers; school mothers in mixed schools

provision of better building and educational equipment and along with it a wide choice of subjects.

- **Making education free:** Granting concession in the form of scholarships to poor and meritorious girl students.
- Providing suitable accommodation for teachers and students, particularly in the rural areas.
- Organizing school improvement conferences, supplying mid-day meals, uniforms, free textbooks and writing materials to needy children.

Besides, the central and the state governments should join hand and seek the co-operation of different voluntary organisations for the expansion of girls' education in every nook and corner of the country. This should be considered on a priority programme of education.

### Research Method

The present study is based on survey. Data is collected from schools, govt. offices, websites, newspapers, and magazines. Collected Data is tabulated and analyzed. 3 tables are prepared out of which table-1 contains data regarding the status of literate rural girl education status. Data related to causes of discontinuation of study and beneficiaries of govt. assistance is depicted in table -2 and table 3 respectively:

### Result & Analysis

**Table 1:** Status of literate rural women education

| Sr No. | Educational level       | Percentage of women% |
|--------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1      | Less than primary level | 28                   |
| 2      | Primary level           | 31                   |
| 3      | Middle level            | 21                   |
| 4      | High school             | 11                   |
| 5      | Higher secondary level  | 9                    |

**Table 2:** Causes of discontinuation of education of rural women

| Sr No. | Cause                      | Percentage of women% |
|--------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1      | Preference to son          | 37                   |
| 2      | Negative parental attitude | 33                   |
| 3      | Family responsibility      | 43                   |
| 4      | Early Marriages            | 39                   |
| 5      | Financial problems         | 62                   |

**Table 3:** Rural Girls beneficiaries getting Govt. Assistance

| Sr No. | Govt. Assistance               | Percentage of women% |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1      | Bicycle                        | 31                   |
| 2      | Mid day meal                   | 64                   |
| 3      | Scholarship                    | 61                   |
| 4      | Uniforms                       | 59                   |
| 5      | Books and stationary materials | 59                   |

**Education system in Russia:** According to the law, the educational system of Russia include 2 types of education; general and professional. The general education system includes primary, basic and secondary general education. after completing secondary education, students can pursue a variety of higher education option, including bachelors degree, specialist's degree, master's degree, Doctorate degree. On the other hand professional education includes the courses in which a student can learn professional skills such as marketing, trading, and other skills.

Before 1990 the course of school training in the soviet Union lasted 10 years but at the end of 1990 an 11 year

course officially came into operation. Education in state owned secondary schools is free. Education is free with reservation, a substantial number of students enroll on full pay. Male and female students have equal shares in all stages of education.

A 2015 estimated by the United States puts the literacy rate in Russia at 99.7% in which 47.7% have completed middle school, 26.5% have completed middle school, 8.1% have completed their elementary education

**Women Education System in Russia:** Women in Russia have a higher education rate than men, there are several notable aspects of women's education in Russia;

- **Education Rates:** Women in Russia have a higher education rate than men, with 37% of women having a higher education compared to 29% of men
- **Literacy rate:** Russia has a good female literacy rate.
- **Gender gap in scores:** Girls in Russia score better than boys in reading and science but there is a small gender gap in math.
- **Conclusion:** Here we know that education system of Russia is quite impressive than Indian education system. it has very good female literacy rate also.

**Women's Education system in Ukraine:** Higher education was closed to women for a long time. Only in 1860 did women gain the right to study at universities in Ukraine and this was revoked 2 years later. The first higher education institute for women in Ukraine, the Higher Courses for women was established at Kyiv University in 1878.

Women in Ukraine have equal constitutional rights as men in the economic, political culture and social fields as well as in the family. On the other hand, Women's education system in Ukraine has been impacted by the war with Russia, which has disturbed the education system and led to challenges for women girls.

- **Damaged Schools and institutes:** Over 1800 schools and institutes have been damaged or destroyed and some are being used for other purposes.
- **Displacement:** Many girls have fled to neighboring countries, where they face challenges to their education.
- **Online learning:** Many students are studying online but some communities lack the resources for electronic devices
- **Underground Schools:** Some schools have been setup underground to provide a safe space for in-person learning.
- **Mental Health:** The war led to an increase in anxiety, depression, and other psychological issues among girls.
- **Vulnerability:** Girls are vulnerable to sexual harassment and exploitation and are at risk of premature marriage, childbirth, trafficking and mistreatment.

#### **Russia and Ukraine Conflict in the field of Education**

The war in Ukraine has had a significant impact on education, including:

- **Damaged to school:** Since Russia's invasion in February 2022 over 3,790 educational facilities have been damaged or destroyed. The damaged was caused by aerial attacks, artillery shelling, rocket strikers and cluster munitions.
- **Coercion of Teachers:** Russian occupying authorities have pressured teachers to teach the Russian curriculum and have used threats violence and other tactics to force cooperation.

- **Threats to Parents:** Parents have been threatened with fines, loss of custody and detention if they don't enroll their children in Russian schools or if they study the Ukraine curriculum remotely.
- **Limited classes:** Some schools occupied by Russia have had limited classes, hours of instruction, and insufficient staff.
- **Children's education:** The war has severely disrupted access to education for millions of children.
- Russia has imposed its education system wholesale and banned Ukraine education in occupied Ukraine territory, in violation of international law.
- Fear and disruption make it hard for children and teacher to focus on education. This generates an educational gap, depriving children of essential education building social- emotional Skills, and thus reintegrating into society.

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- Youtube
- Old coursework books of 10<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>
- Chrome
- My Observations

#### **Aim of the Project**

The major goal of the overall educational program is to educate every girl child. This low literacy rate has a severe influence not just on women's lives, but also on their families and the country's economic growth.

Girls who receive an education are less likely to marry young and more likely to lead healthy, and productive lives. They earn higher incomes participate in the decisions that most affect them and build better futures for themselves and their families.

- Focus in on knowledge and women education and build up the country.
- Young ladies educations is an entrance to the created country.
- Each young lady has right to learn.

#### **Recommendations**

Our society needs to change view regarding girl's education. We should establish that education is necessary as food, cloth, and house. Educated girl's parents should be honored by society. In the new system of society, girls should take care of their parents after marriage also. Like age, there should be a rule regarding minimum education for marriage. Govt. is promoting girl's education in rural areas.

Scholarship, mid-day meal, bicycle for conveyance, uniform, book, and stationery material is providing to facilitate education. New schools are opened with good infrastructure in distant areas. Rural girls should be preferred in govt. jobs. Transportation development is also necessary to apart distance between villages and city. Communication should be stronger. Mobile phone, the internet has proved very effective tools in this connection. To make girls more powerful, skill development should be focused.

#### **Conclusion**

In rural India, an exclusive emphasis on girl's education is necessary. Education for adolescent girls is constraint due to many factors; the most prominent of them is non-availability of the appropriate infrastructure of schools.

Secondly, the travel time taken in reaching school, fear of crime and unknown eventuality would raise therefore provision of public transport exclusively for the girl child is necessary.

A legal provision would help rescue girls from the early marriages and open doors of development for them. Awareness program is needed which would focus on the dynamics of nutrition in physical and mental growth. However, it is to be reiterated that girls need a lot of compassionate treatment and favor to enable them to lead a respectable and meaningful life, and in ensuring this, the role of family members and society is undoubtedly crucial.

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