

Female Education - Lifeline to Development

Being educated is the fundamental human right of every individual across the globe irrespective of gender. However, many people in our society don't understand the importance of female education and are making such an easy thing extremely complicated. We must be aware of the fact that education is indeed one of the most critical areas leading to women empowerment. Once a wise man said, educating a woman means educating the entire family and the nation. Offering basic education to women enables them to lead a life according to their desires and dreams. Therefore, we must realize the importance of female education as an educated woman has the relevant skills and self-confidence, which will make her a better parent, citizen, and worker.

EDUCATION SCENARIO IN INDIA

The Indian government is actively carrying out the task of 'Education for All' yet the nation has the lowest literacy rate in Asia. It is a matter of fact that yes; India is working towards female education, but not at the pace as it should have. During British rule, only 2 to 6% of women were literate. In 1961, this percentage went up to 15.3% and 28.5% in 1981. In 2001, literacy rate crossed 50%, and by 2011, India stood at 65.46% female literacy rate. Without any doubt, the female literacy rate in India has increased to quite an extent, but the country is still behind the developed nations at a global level. Another important aspect is that in India, the female literacy rate varies from one state to another. For instance, 86% of the women in Karnataka are literate, whereas it is just between 55 to 60% in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Moreover, the rural areas of India have the lowest literacy rate with less than 12%.

Discrimination based on sex is still prevalent in various parts of India. Time and again we do come across parents, especially in the lower strata of the society, who are not willing to send their girl child to school. Additionally, in urban areas, people usually tend to send their male child to better schools with advanced facilities. But the question that arises is why girls get this kind of treatment? Do they deserve all this? The answer is a big no. We, as a nation, must understand the harsh consequences of not educating our women. When a woman is illiterate, it affects both her entire family and the nation as well. According to many reports and surveys conducted, illiterate women have a high fertility rate along with an extremely high mortality rate. Infant mortality rate reduces to half in the case of women who have received primary education. Most importantly, illiteracy leads to a drastic reduction in the overall



earning potential of a family. While the government has designed many schemes for the bright future of a girl child in India like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and CBSE Scholarship Scheme, there is still a lot to be done.

For a healthy, happy, and successful life, women must be educated and treated properly. Educating women will increase the standard of living as the mothers will ensure that their kids study with utmost sincerity and live a better life. In a nutshell, an educated woman will be able to play all her roles with a greater sense of responsibility than an uneducated one!

