

ADVANCED STUDIES AND WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

After efforts of governments; good progress has been made in the sphere of women's higher education, but this progress is not very heartening, keeping in view the higher number of women in the country. In India the population of men and women is nearly equal but the number of educated men is several times higher than the number of educated women. If we go in the depth, there are so many problems which are confronting the expansion of women education at present.

Key Words :- Efforts, Civilization, Advance Study, Contribution, Social Evils.

Introduction: Women are cradle of civilization. For progress and prosperity of any country their contribution are very important. Mahatma Gandhi said "Educate one man, you educate one person but educate a woman, you educate a whole civilization."

Thus it is clear from the above quotation that the education of women is very essential, for happy and healthy homes, improvement of society, economic prosperity and national solidarity. There is no doubt that women education in India is on the increase but still it is lagging for behind when compared to other countries. Still millions of women are deprived of the basic right and there is a wide gap between the education of men and women in our country. Every effort should be made to remove the gap. Education of woman is more important than that of man. The University education commission report (1948-49) has rightly remarked.

"There can't be an educated people without educated women. If general education had to be limited to men our to women, that opportunity should be given to women, for them it would most surely be passed on to the next generation."

If we go back to our past we see historically that women have participated in all spheres of life with low age and gusto. In ancient India, education of women had made a great progress. We find numerous of learned women in the vedic and Upanished periods who were well versed in various disciplines of study?" Some names were Maitrayi, Gargi, Gosha etc., but gradually the condition of women had been declined in this period and during the medieval period, the situation had been totally changed. The women were sent behind Paradah and the uncertain condition prevailing-for them in the society. During this period, the system of child-

marriage and Paradah also became very much prevalent among some Hindus and Muslims families. Hence, only the few girls acquired some education in their early childhood and women were all together deprived of higher education but there was however, the provisions of education for the women of royal families and rich persons at their houses. Some names are Razia, Gulbadan Begum, Noor Jahan etc. In modern period we find that during the rule of east India company female education was the most neglected subject. There were no separate schools for girls but after some time a number of private schools were opened by the British officials and non-officials on their own.

For the first time in Charles wood's dispatch of 1954 the government took interest in women's education and give support to female education. After that in 1833 Bombay University were opened all university examinations for girls or women. First time in 1882 there were two Indian women Chandramukhi Basu and Krdambini Basu passed the B.A. examination from Calcutta University. By the end of 1901-02 there were 12 colleges, secondary schools and 5628 primary schools were established for girls.

The period from 1917 to 1947 is one of the significant period of development in India. After the First World War was over in 1918, great efforts were made for expansion of women education. Mahatma Gandhi was the leader of this expansion. With him, there were so many top leaders of the country. Women's Indian Association founded in 1917 under the guidance of Dr. Annie Besant and Mrs. Margaret Cousins. In 1925 the National council of women was established. After this there were many schools, colleges, professional and technical institutions opened for the women. Thus, by 1947 the progress of women education was increased.

After independence the need to bring women into main stream of, development had been a national concern, so the constitution of India guarantees to all Indian Women Equality (Article 14), No Discrimination by the state (Article 16), equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the state in favour of women and children (Article 15 (31), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 15(A) (e), and also allows for provisions to be made by the state for securing just and human conditions of work and for maternity relief (Article 42).

Many voluntary organizations also came forward to work for expansion of the same. A number of education commissions and committees appointed in different states of the country expressed their views about women education and put forth suggestions with regards to its promotion. In this field, the first commission was Radhakrishnan on 1948, National Council for Women Education 1959, Durgabai Deshmukh committee 1959, Hansha Mehta Committee Report 1962, Bhaktavatsalam committee report 1963, Kothari commission 1964-1966, National Council for Women 1970, National Policy on Education 1986, National Policy on education 1992 etc.

After efforts of governments; good progress has been made in the sphere of women's higher education, but this progress is not very heartening, keeping in view the higher number of women in the country. In India the population of men and women is nearly equal but the number of educated men is several times higher than the number of educated women. If we go in the depth, there are so many problems which are confronting the expansion of women education at present.

They are-Social Evils:

Our country has many social evils and superstitions. It is because of the lack of education. There are many Indians who think that there is no need of educating the girls because ultimately they are to be married and go with their husbands. It is also contented that educated women became free and characterless. Besides this, in many Hindu and muslim families the social evils such as child marriage and Pradah systems are still prevalent. They are proving to be great obstacles in the expansion of women education.

Disregard for the importance of Education:

Indian people still do not understand the social and cultural importance of women education, many people are of the view that it is proper to educate the boy, useless to educate the girls.

Poverty:

The financial condition of the majority of Indian people is very 'poor and the rural areas are under developed condition that it is difficult for the- people living there, to make arrangements for even the necessities of life, so they can't think of the education of the women because education on

the other hand, has become a costly affair for them.

Lack of Girls Colleges and women Teachers:

There is a great lack of girls colleges and women teachers at all the stages of education, urban areas are well served but in rural areas, there are many villages where no colleges for girls and if where are colleges, no women teachers are there.

Problems of Co-Education:

In the present progressive age it is desirable that men and women held the same status in society. In co-education boys and girls were together in the same institutions but some parents don't want to send their daughter in co-education institutions because they think that daughters will be not safe there.

Defective Curriculum:

The courses of study the curriculum prevalent in women education is 'not in accordance with the specific needs of womenfolk. As a result the parents do not feel enthusiastic to send their girls to colleges. Keeping this thing in mind to increase women education there should be painting, music, home science, economics included in the curriculum of **Higher Education.**

Defective Educational Administration:

The administration of women education is also defective because expecting a few places, in all places the administration of women education is looked after by men. They are not much aware with the problems of women. **Early Marriage:**

Another social problem is the marriage of the girls in early age. Most of the qualified grooms search for educated girls of teen age. Some of the parents about the problem of daughter, in their mind that girls are the social burden for future so they decide to give marriage of their daughter as early as possible.

House Hold Responsibilities:

The main cause of the backwardness of women education are the parents generally, when they go to some other places in search of money, they compel their daughters to stay at home to look after the household activities like cooking, weaving etc. Most of the economically backward families send their daughters as maid servants to other reputed family of urban areas for economic benefits. **Problem of Accommodation and Communication:**

Most of the people live in villages and they need residential facilities in college campus for their girls. If there are no accommodation or the seats, they don't allow to educate the girls. On the other hand in some areas, where road or railway communication from one place to another-place is not satisfactory till now, their parents don't want to send their girls in this colleges.

Crime Against Women:

Police records show high incidence of crimes against women in India. Many cases were not registered with the police due

to the social stigma attached to rape and molestation cases. Official statistics show that there had been dramatic increase in the number of crimes against women.

Wastage and Stagnation:

As compared to the boys the rate of wastage is more in the field of women education. Because of the uneducated guardians, social evils and outdated conventions, lack of money and facility etc. Many girls students leave their studies in the middle. Many parents treats the education of their daughters only after giving them education up to class VII or X, this wrong attitude is causing great wastage and stagnation in the field of women education. Suggestions:

There are some suggestions to improve the higher education of women. These are:-

1. Ironically much of the essential work of promoting education rests in women's hand and re-education policy could be effective without the active support of women for women.
2. Rural, Urban and gender disparities must be kept in mind by policy makers in planning and implementing the higher education system.
3. Poverty is a main hindrance in the way of education, so this is the responsibility of the government to implement his policies direct and sector wise for removing the poverty.
4. The employment of women teachers should be encouraged at all the stages and in all sectors of education. Opportunities for part time employment should be provided for them on a large scale.
5. Residential accommodation should be made for women especially in colleges of rural areas.
6. For the upliftment of women education the women teachers who are working in rural areas should be given special allowances.
7. Those women who are illiterate, literacy programmes should be intensified.
8. Vocational and professional courses should be introduced for women. After completing these courses they should be sent direct in the job.
9. Law and order situation should be improved from which the parents as well as their daughters feel secure.
10. The rights which are given in the constitution should be implemented strictly.

Conclusion

Lastly we may conclude that women education in recent years has received great couragement both in private and public sectors due to their parental support and high job aspirations. Indian women of today are keen to study so much as their sources permit. Their educational opportunities in rural areas should be given priority as they are practically neglected so far because it is through women education the progress, development and prosperity of the nation is possible. Sarojini Naidu rightly said in her speech- "There I change, restore to your women their ancient rights, for, as a I have said, it is we, and not you, who are the real nation will take care of itself, for it is as true today as it was yesterday and will be to the end of human life that the hand that rochs the cradle rules the world."

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