



Higher Education for Women in India

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ABSTRACT

Women are the Backbone of a family playing multiple roles. By nature, she has dynamic Source of power. By educating women the process of Nation can be accelerated. Education is to be used as an agent of basic change in the status of women. Today Indian women participation in Higher Education is quite high and growing. In this in this paper an attempt is make to present a picture of woman participation in higher education in India. And present what factor influencing woman in completing Higher education and recommended some suggestions for promoting women participation in Higher Education. The study primarily based on secondary data.

Key words : Higher Education, Women participation, Reproduction, Enrolment, Literacy rate

“ If you educate the man, you educate the person but if you educate the woman, you educate the Nation” – Mahatma Gandhi.

Introduction :

Education is the vehicle of knowledge, self preservation and success Education not only gives a platform to succeed but also the knowledge of social conduct, strength, character and self respect. Education is the nourishment of the mind with knowledge and as such it helps in the formation of an integrated personality of an individual. Higher Education refers the education at the degree level and above.

In the modern sense of the term University the Nalanda University was the oldest University system of education in the World. From the year 1883 till, the independence both the number of colleges and the enrollment of students in India were found to be very low. The following table will show the picture of Higher Education in India from pre-independence to post independence.

India occupies an important position in respect of Higher Education. Comparing with other countries in the world, India's position in the field of Higher Education system is third after the United States and China. After independence numbers of both the Higher Educational Institutions and number of students have been increasing.

Place of Women in Higher Education in India: - In India the female education has its roots in the British Regime. In 1854 the East India Company acknowledged women's education and employment. Enjoyed this facility. Thus as it was confined only for a small section of people in society so the literacy rate for women increased from 0.2% in 1882 to 6% only in 1947. It is very unfortunate to say that for centuries higher education for women has been neglected.



Table – I: Educational institutions in India,2013-14

School Education	Type		Number
		Primary	
	Upper Primary		401079
	Secondary		131287
	Senior Secondary		102558
	Total		1425564
Higher Education	Universities	Central University	42
		State Public University	310
		Deemed University	127
		State Private University	143
		Central Open University	1
		State Open University	13
		Institution of National Importance	68
		Institutions under State Legislature Act	5
		Others	3
	Total	712	
	Colleges		36671
	Stand Alone Institution	Diploma Level Technical	3541
		PGDM	392
		Diploma Level Nursing	2674
		Diploma Level Teacher Training	4706
Institute under Ministries		132	
Total	11445		

Source: <http://www.education.nic.in>

In 1958, the government of India appointed a national committee for the education of women. The committee submitted report in favour of women education. The government of India accepted most of the recommendations of the committee. It is a great advancement that the presence of women in colleges and universities are educational institutions women are gaining entry without availing gender quota. This is undoubtedly credit for them. In the academic year 2011-12 women enrolment increased up to 42 per cent. All over the world higher education for women has gained a wider role and responsibility.

Necessity of Higher Education for Women

Almost half of the population in India is occupied by women. They are the half of the human resources. But it is very unfortunate to say that for long years there have been a strong bias against women and thereby there is a tendency to deny equal socio-economic opportunity for them. This neglecting attitude towards women is prominent in many respects particularly in the field of education.



Table – 2 Total Enrolment of students from 1951-2012

Year	Total Enrolment	Women Enrolment	Percentage
1950-51	396793	43126	10.87
1960-61	1049864	170455	16.24
1970-71	3001292	689086	22.96
1980-81	2752437	748525	27.19
1990-91	4425247	1436887	32.47
2000-01	8000935	3012367	37.65
2010-11	16974883	7048688	41.52
2011-12	20327478	8672431	42.00

Source : UGC Annual Report

There are two different views on the question of women participation in higher education traditional and modern. The traditional view supports women's education to equip them to become better wives and mother. This view believes that women's present education is entirely

irrelevant in their lives. It is only waste of time and this does not help them to solve the problems of their daily life. This view believes that modern educated women are neither happy nor contented nor socially useful.

Table – 3: Women student growth in higher education from 1950-51 to 2005-06

Year	Men (000s)	Women (000s)	Total Enrolment (000s)	Women as Percent of all students
1950-51	157	17	174	10.00
1955-56	252	43	295	14.60
1960-61	468	89	557	16.00
1965-66	849	218	1067	20.40
1970-71	1563	391	1954	20.00
1975-76	2131	595	2426	24.50
1980-81	2003	749	2752	27.20
1985-86	2512	1059	3571	29.60
1990-91	2986	1439	4425	32.50
1995-96	4235	2191	6426	34.10
2000-01	4988	3012	8001	37.60
2005-06	6562	4466	11028	40.50

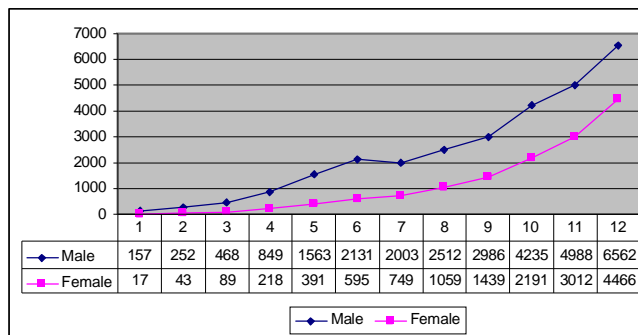
Source: UGC Annual Report, various years.



Theoretically the need of higher education for both males and females is the same. But practically it could be said that female education is more important than that of male. Women education has two aspects individual aspect and social aspect. It is education which increases women's abilities to deal with the problems of her life, her family, her society and nation. Education increases confidence in a women. An educated woman can easily understand the demerits of early marriage and high birth rate. They have the attitude of gender

parity among their children right from health care, nutrition, education and even career. The fruits of education are enjoyed not only by the woman concerned but it passes to her family in later life. In a word, over all development of a society depends on the development of its total members. But if half of its members are legged behind, obviously it will create hindrance to the development. Now a day this facility has been widen and women have equal opportunities in higher education

Figure : Trends in Women student growth in higher education



The UGC report reveals that out of 169.75 lakh students enrolled in higher education in 2010-11, almost 70.49 lakh were women as compared to just about 47.08 lakh women enrolled in 2006-07. Education is the vehicle of knowledge, self preservation and success. Education not only given a platform to succeed but also the knowledge of social conduct, strength, character and self respect.

Main Factors Influencing Women In Completing Higher Education

There are different factors which are responsible for influencing women in completing higher education. Some of these are mentioned bellow.

- Increased number of higher educational institutions helped women to complete their higher studies.
- There are some courses which provide scholarship facilities for women. This also helps many poor female students to complete their higher studies.
- There are many institutions which have the provision of hostel facilities for girls students. This also an important factor for girl students to complete their higher studies.
- Educational institutions meant for girls attracted many conservative families to get



admitted their wards in higher educational institutions.

- e) In some cases women students get inspiration from the teachers workings in higher educational institutions which help them to complete their higher studies.
- f) Women zeal to take equal responsibility of the family pushes them to complete their higher studies.
- g) In most cases women are dependent on male both in economically and in decision making and as such they suffer more. To get relief from this, they go for higher studies.

Suggestions for promoting Women Participation in Higher Education

- a) Introduce attractive scholarship for both financially poor students and meritorious student to encourage women students in higher education.
- b) Provide counseling for both family and person concerned at the secondary stage of education.
- c) Make skill-oriented higher education.
- d) Improve transport facilities for women students.
- e) Establish more female educational institutions
- f) Provide Bank loan facilities for women students.
- g) Increase women teachers in co-educational institutions of higher education.
- h) In many cases early marriage leads to withdrawal of women from higher studies. This must be stopped.
- i) Establish more hostel facilities in educational institutions

Conclusion: It is admitted that all over the world higher education for

women has gained a wider role and responsibility. In India the need for higher education among women is more important. It must be admitted that women are in no way lesser than men. They have all the power and capacity as that of men. In men dominated society they get rare chance to express their voice. We should have to change our thinking, our attitude towards for women. We should have to think that women are not just for reproduction. They have feeling, thinking and all these as the men have. They have all the capacities as that of men and thereby they can do all these as men, it not more. So their power and capacities must be recognized. It is only then women participation in higher education will be enhanced.

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