

Feminism And Role of Education for Women in India

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ABSTRACT

The provision of education for women is a fundamental necessity in order to facilitate the transformation of their societal standing. Women who have received a formal education possess the ability to significantly contribute to the advancement of society in terms of both social and economic growth. Education serves as a mechanism for addressing and rectifying inequities and disparities, enabling individuals to regain their social standing both within their immediate family unit and in broader society. Gender is a significant determinant for women. The concepts of empowerment, prosperity, development, and welfare are integral to the discourse on societal progress and well-being. Education empowers women to a greater extent. The individual exhibits a notable level of physical power. The concept of empowerment is closely linked to the process of education, since education serves as a catalyst for empowering individuals. Significant role in shaping individuals and societies. It is a process that involves the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes, which contribute to personal development and social progress. Women empowerment, inequality, and vulnerability of women in Indian society play a crucial role. This study aims to document the current state of women's education in India.

INTRODUCTION

Feminism within Indian society represents a dynamic and transformative influence that actively confronts deeply entrenched patriarchal systems. Although significant advancements have been achieved, there remains a substantial amount of work yet to be accomplished. Women persistently encounter a multitude of obstacles, encompassing gender-based violence, inequitable remuneration, and restricted presence in influential roles. The feminist movement in India endeavors to dismantle these societal barriers and foster the development of a more inclusive society. The role of women is of significant importance in the advancement of a family, society, and nation. For the successful implementation of democracy within a nation, it is imperative to ensure that both men and women have access to education. Women who have received a formal education are the primary contributors to the overall well-being and contentment within the family unit. Education plays a vital role in promoting women's empowerment by equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively address difficulties, challenge established gender roles, and transform their way of life.

The literacy rate among females in India is comparatively lower than that among males. In comparison to their male counterparts, a lower proportion of girls are enrolled in educational institutions, and a significant number of them discontinue their education prematurely. In the contemporary era, the economic prosperity of a nation is contingent not just upon the contributions of males, but also upon the active involvement and participation of women. In order to enhance the societal position of women, the government primarily focused on bolstering their educational attainment and expanding their access to economic prospects. In

the present conditions, there is a pressing need for enhanced efforts to promote gender equality, boost literacy rates, and empower women throughout all regions of India. In order to achieve this objective, the Indian Government has implemented several projects and initiatives aimed at facilitating their integration into the mainstream of development. The aforementioned activities have resulted in discernible alterations in the socio-economic circumstances of women. Following India's attainment of independence, the active involvement of female nationalists garnered significant recognition. Upon the formulation of the Indian Constitution, women were allowed equal rights, thereby acknowledging their legal citizenship and establishing their equality with males in terms of freedom and opportunities.

ROLE OF UNIVERSITY GRANT COMMISSION

After independence, the government initiated a significant measure aimed at structuring the education system in accordance with the new era of autonomy. This measure involved the establishment of the University Education Commission (1948-49), which was led by Dr. Radhakrishnan. The commission proposes enhancements and expansions that may be deemed necessary to align with the country's needs. The Commission addressed various issues pertaining to admission procedures, course duration and communication, the interplay between teaching and research, examination protocols, student disciplinary measures, and the working conditions of educators, among others. The commission incorporated a concise section on the topic of women's education. The report issued by the Commission on the matter of women's education has received widespread acclaim. It asserts that the current state of women's education is entirely incongruous with the realities of their lived experiences. Not only is it deemed wasteful, but it frequently constitutes a distinct disadvantage. The current structure of women's education, which is primarily designed to meet the requirements of men, fails to adequately prepare them for effectively addressing the challenges encountered in their everyday lives. Modern educated Indian women often struggle to find happiness, contentment, and social utility. The individual in question exhibits a sense of nonconformity within the context of their existence. She exhibits a significant degree of suppression and requires avenues for self-expression. The provision of this opportunity is imperative in the context of modern education. The commission asserts that the presence of educated women is essential for the cultivation of an educated society. Consequently, it advocates for the provision of educational opportunities to women. However, the commission emphasizes that the fundamental purpose of education is to transmit cultural heritage to succeeding generations. Education should empower individuals to effectively maintain their household, enhance its aesthetic appeal for the benefit of their children, and enable them to cultivate improved personal and interpersonal skills both within and beyond the domestic sphere. It is recommended that individuals be provided with training in various skills such as drawing and painting, as this can facilitate the productive utilization of their leisure time. The commission additionally proposes the implementation of specialized courses tailored for women, such as home economics, nursing, teaching, and fine arts. These courses aim to equip women with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively integrate into their social milieu. The commission also proposed several noteworthy measures to enhance the advancement of women's education. These measures include expanding educational opportunities for women and providing them with comprehensive guidance to help them discern their educational interests effectively. The college programmer should prioritize the preparation of women for their lifelong careers and acknowledge the role of women students in advocating for their rightful positions within society. In the context of coeducational colleges, it is crucial to give careful attention to the specific needs of women.

Furthermore, it is imperative to ensure that women teachers receive equal compensation to their male counterparts for equivalent work.

UNDERSTANDING FEMINISM

Feminism, a potent catalyst for societal transformation, confronts prevailing norms and promotes the pursuit of gender parity. Feminist theory encompasses a range of perspectives, each contributing distinct perspectives on the ongoing pursuit of gender equality. Liberal feminism places significant emphasis on advocating for equal opportunities for women within the confines of established societal structures. Liberal feminists endeavor to attain gender equality through the active opposition of discriminatory laws and the promotion of legislative reforms. Radical feminism adopts a more extreme perspective by emphasizing the fundamental sources of women's subjugation, namely the patriarchal system. Radical feminists advocate for a comprehensive reorganization of societal structures in order to eliminate the systemic inequities experienced by women. Intersectional feminism acknowledges that gender-based discrimination intersects with other systems of oppression, including but not limited to race, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation. The statement recognizes that women's experiences are influenced by various intersecting identities. Intersectional feminists advocate for the promotion of inclusivity and the recognition of the distinct obstacles encountered by women belonging to marginalized communities. At the core of feminism lies the endeavor to achieve parity between genders. Feminist activists endeavor to eradicate instances of gender-based discrimination and establish a societal framework that enables individuals to exercise their freedom of self-expression, regardless of their gender, they actively question and contest societal norms that contribute to the persistence of unequal treatment and strive to combat instances of violence and harassment based on gender.

The feminist movement in India has experienced significant growth, spanning from the colonial era to the contemporary period, as it addresses the various challenges encountered by women within this multifaceted nation. Gender inequality poses a significant challenge within the intricate framework of Indian society. Discrimination and violence persist surreptitiously, casting a pervasive influence on the experiences of numerous women. In order to comprehend the fundamental nature of feminism in India, it is imperative to undertake a more profound exploration of the cultural and traditional norms that are predominant. In this context, the ideology of feminism becomes intricately entangled with the multifaceted dynamics of caste, class, and religion, resulting in a complex framework of intersectionality. The pursuit of women's rights encompasses more than just gender; it encompasses a complex interweaving of various identities that cannot be easily disentangled. The movement acknowledges the imperative of addressing the interrelated systems of oppression that pervade Indian society in order to achieve equality.

The evolution of feminism in India can be traced from the pioneering efforts of individuals such as Savitribai Phule, who challenged the patriarchal norms of the 19th century, to the ongoing activism of the contemporary generation. The collective voices advocating for justice and equality are harmoniously resonating, liberating themselves from the confines of conventional societal and religious norms. The role of education has become increasingly influential in driving transformative processes. The act of challenging long-standing societal norms and establishing a place within society has been adopted by women as a means of empowerment. Indian women, armed with knowledge, have successfully overcome societal barriers, achieving remarkable success in diverse domains and challenging traditional gender roles. However, the journey remains incomplete. Persistent biases persist, displaying resistance to societal transformation. The prevalence of female feticide, instances of dowry-related violence, and the enduring

presence of regressive customs serve as tangible manifestations of the challenging circumstances that feminism in India encounters. The objective of the movement is to dismantle these oppressive structures; however, advancements are frequently impeded by opposition. The concept of feminism in India is characterized by its lack of homogeneity. The concept encompasses a wide range of perspectives, recognizing and validating the unique experiences and challenges faced by women of various cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. The movement aims to foster inclusivity by promoting the empowerment and amplification of women's voices, regardless of their social caste, economic class, or religious associations. Within the intricate fabric of feminism in India, every individual thread symbolizes a narrative characterized by unwavering determination, bravery, and optimism. The context is characterized by a dynamic amalgamation of challenges and accomplishments, wherein women adeptly navigate the intricate intersections of their multiple identities, actively reclaiming their autonomy and actively contesting the prevailing societal norms. The progression of feminism in India remains a continuous endeavor, driven by a resolute commitment to dismantle the obstacles that impede women from exercising their rights and autonomy. The pursuit of equality and justice is unwavering, driven by the conviction that each woman is entitled to a life of dignity, devoid of discrimination and violence. As the dawn breaks upon a fresh day, the feminist movement in India persists in radiating its luminosity, elucidating the trajectory towards a forthcoming era wherein the realization of women's rights transcends mere aspiration and becomes an actualized existence for all individuals. The concept of intersectionality within the context of Indian feminism is a significant area of study and analysis. It refers to the recognition and examination of the interconnectedness and overlapping nature of various social categories, such as gender the concept of intersectionality, originally introduced by Kimberlee Crenshaw, is of great significance in understanding the context of Indian feminism. This statement highlights the correlation between gender and various other forms of oppression, such as caste, class, and religion. By incorporating the framework of intersectionality, one can gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics of power and privilege that exist within Indian society. This investigation illuminates the varied encounters of marginalized populations, including Dalit women, tribal women, and LGBTQ+ individuals. The comprehension of intersectionality enables Indian feminist movements to actively pursue inclusivity and effectively tackle the unique obstacles encountered by various groups of women.

FEMINISM AND SOCIAL CHANGE

The impact and influence in a societal landscape previously dominated by patriarchal norms, the emergence of feminism has been a significant catalyst for transformation. Feminism, akin to a resilient wildflower breaking through the constraints of concrete, has emerged as a potent force driving societal change. The utterance possesses a determined and unwavering tone, reverberating across the chronicles of the past, advocating for fairness, impartiality, and emancipation. Feminism has exhibited resolute determination in its efforts to challenge societal norms, deconstruct systemic obstacles, and cultivate an environment of inclusiveness. The statement highlights the significant influence that feminism has exerted on the advancement of gender equality, the recognition of intersectionality, and the transformation of cultural norms. By examining feminism through its lens, we are able to observe the achievements, challenges, and unwavering determination that have propelled its advancement.

During the Vedic Period, women were granted access to education; yet, over time, they experienced a progressive erosion of this privilege. The ancient scriptures of India, namely the Rig Veda and Upanishads, make reference to numerous female sages and seers. During the early Vedic era, women held a comparable

social status and were granted similar rights as their male counterparts. Nevertheless, following the year 500 B.C., the status of women experienced a gradual deterioration. The current placement of the role of women in ancient India was of utmost importance. During the Vedic period, the education of women in ancient India was widespread, in ancient times, it was stated that women had a position of superiority over men. During the Vedic period, the educational system had a high level of development. Throughout history, women have actively participated in various domains of society, demonstrating bravery and enthusiasm. Indian mythology is characterized by its extensive and diverse narratives and beliefs. Education in the 3rd century B.C. was mostly conveyed through oral means, with a notable inclusion of women scholars in the educational sphere. When Buddhism was disseminated throughout India, it led to the establishment of renowned educational institutions like Nalanda, Vikramshila, Takshila and others was established. According to scholarly research, a considerable number of women were admitted to various educational institutions. During the period spanning from the 5th century to the 13th century, these universities experienced a significant period of growth and prosperity. During the 11th century, the rulers of the Muslim empire there are several well-established universities located in Delhi, Lucknow, and Allahabad. Education has been observed to be limited to a certain extent certain social levels within the society. The role of women's education in India is of significant importance in fostering the holistic development of the nation. the impact of this phenomenon extends beyond the mere development of human resources, as it also contributes to enhancing the overall quality of life both within and outside of the family. The Indian education system comprises two significant frameworks, namely formal and non-formal education. In addition to online education and distant education, there are various other educational programmes that have been developed to encourage women's participation in education. The primary goal of the comprehensive educational programme is to ensure the education of every female child. The observed deficiency in literacy skills not only exhibits adverse consequences for the lives of women, but also extends its repercussions to their families and the overall economic progress of the nation. Therefore, it is imperative to enhance the level of education among women. According to the All India Survey on Higher Education report for 2015 conducted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the number of Indian individuals enrolled in higher education courses in India is expected to be 33.3 million.

In the 2014

2015 period, the total number of individuals in question amounts to 33.3 million, with 17.9 million being male and 15.4 million being female. The fundamental rights of women encompass principles such as equality, freedom of religion, access to education, cultural and educational rights, protection against exploitation, and freedom of expression. The enhancement of girls' educational attainment has been empirically shown to have significant effects on the health and economic prospects of young women, hence positively influencing the overall well-being of their community as a whole. Following the establishment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, basic education has emerged as a fundamental component that extends beyond its intrinsic value. It serves as the bedrock for continuous learning and the advancement of human development.

Steps to improve various variables, including geographical, socio-cultural, health, economic, religious, legal, political/administrative, and educational aspects, contribute to the educational disadvantage experienced by females. Governments, non-governmental organizations, and other organizations have implemented measures to address this issue. Gender discrimination continues to persist in India, necessitating more efforts to address the issue of women's education in the country. The disparity in

literacy rates between males and females is a straightforward measure, with the male literacy rate surpassing that of females. The women were contemplating the role of a housewife and the preference for residing within the household. Numerous obstacles persist in the realm of girls' education. Several obstacles to women's education can be attributed to social factors, specifically stemming from gender stereotypes and gender inequality. Additionally, economic considerations and limitations also contribute to these hurdles. One outcome of gender profiling and stereotyping is that women tend to exhibit higher levels of engagement in programmers that are associated with their home responsibilities.

CONCLUSION

It is imperative to acknowledge that the societal perception of women's education plays a significant role in elucidating the degree to which a nation aspires for its development. As the adage suggests, the education of women has a profound impact on society at large. Education is widely recognized as a crucial tool in promoting the empowerment of women. It enhances their prospects of securing employment, fosters the adoption of a healthier lifestyle, enables their active engagement in societal affairs, and promotes their integration into the public sphere.

Furthermore, their societal standing saw a notable elevation. Despite significant advancements that have been achieved in relation to despite advancements in literacy and education, the general structure continues to be adverse towards women.

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