

Gender Equality and Women Education

Dr. Sasmita Gahan¹, Dr. Dillip Kumar Nayak²

¹Assistant Professor (TE) in History, Shailabala Women's Autonomous college, Cuttack, Odisha

²Lecturer in Education, B.B Auto Mahavidyalaya, Chandikhole, Jajpur, Odisha

Abstract

Gender equality is intrinsically linked to sustainable development and is vital to realization of human rights for all. The overall objective of gender equality is creation of a society which women and men have the same opportunities, rights obligations in all spheres of the life. Equality between men and women exists when sexes are able to share equally in the distribution of Power and influence; have equal opportunities for financial independence through work, enjoy equal access to education and the opportunity to develop personal ambitions, interests and talents.

Keywords: Sustainable, Obligations, opportunity, independence

Introduction

Education is necessary both for men and women, in fact, for women more than men, because women have lagged behind in the area of education. It has however, began to be increasingly realized in free India that the education of women is more important than that of men. Women's education is very important from every point of view. It is only possible through education of women that we can expect happier family life, better hygienic condition and greater reduction in fertility rate, increased production and economic prosperity. In this regard Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru remarked that, "Education of boy is the education of one person, but education of girl is the education of the entire family."

Gender equality denotes women ability having the same opportunities in life as men, including the ability to participate in the public sphere. This expresses a liberal feminist idea that removing discrimination in opportunities for women allows them to achieve equal status to men. In effect, Progress in women's status is measured against a male norm. Equal opportunities, policies and legislation tackle the problem through measures to participation in life.

Definition and Concept of Gender Inequality

Gender is a socio-cultural term referring sociality defined roles and behaviours assigned to 'males' and 'females' in a given society, whereas, the term 'sex' is a biological and physiologic phenomenon which defines man and woman. In its social, historical and cultural aspects, gender is a function of power relationship between men and women where men are considered superior to women. Therefore, gender may be understood as a man-made concept, while 'sex' is natural or biological characteristics of human being.

Definition of gender in equality

Gender inequality, in simple words, may be defined as discrimination against women based on their sex. Women are traditionally considered by the society as weaker sex. She has been accorded a subordinate

position to men. She is exploited, degraded, violated and discriminated both in our homes and in outside world. This peculiar type of discrimination against women is prevalent everywhere in the world and more so in Indian society.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide equal opportunities to girls.
- To empower women by providing the right type of education to them.
- To promote women to social and national development process.
- To increasing women's participation developing in the nation and world peace.
- To develop the capacity to understand their rights and duties.
- To provide education of home management and child care.
- To provide value education to women as they may able to facilitate the same to their kids and family members.

Research Methodology

For the purpose of the present study the data has been collected from Secondary sources . It is collected from books, Journals, magazines including the reports of Ministry of Human Resource Development and various other Publications.

Characteristics of Gender Inequality

Gender inequality, in relation to other forms of inequality such as class, caste, or race, has some distinct characteristics. These special characteristics points out that gender inequality stems from distinctions, whether empirically grounded or socially constructed.

Bina Agarwal has identified three specific characteristics of gender inequality.

1. Gender inequality dwells not only outside the household but also centrally within it.
2. Gender inequality stems not from pre-existing differences in economic endowments (wealth, income, etc.) between women and men, but also from pre-existing gendered social norms and social perceptions, i.e., the inequalities are also ideologically embedded.
3. Gender inequalities not only pre-exist in the noted forms, but they ca also arise from newly defined rules and procedures that structure the functioning of the governance institution itself. For instance, the rules that guide the governance of CPR (Common Pool Resources) institutions can explicitly or imply city exclude particular sections of the community, such as women, from its decision-making bodies, or its benefits.

IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EDUCATION:

The Indian women at present are far behind when compared to their counter parts in USA, Russia, Germany and UK. Much of the responsibility for this state of backwardness rests on the society. The only way to remove this social evil is to encourage women's' education so that they may realize their responsibility and make efforts to regain their proper place in society . Education of women is important not only for social and national development but also for their empowerment and development of their families.

WHAT WOMEN EDUCATION IS?

Swami Dayananda

“If the husband be well-educated and the wife ignorant or vice versa, there will be constant state of warfare in the house. Besides of women were not to study, where will the teachers for girls’ schools come from?”

Family life can’t be managed properly without the education of men and women.

Swami Vivekananda

“All nations have attained greatness by paying proper respect to the women. That country and that nation which does not respect the women have never become great not will ever be in future.”

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

“Truly no argument is required in defense of women’s education For my part, I have always been strongly of the opinion that while it may be possible to neglect men’s education it is not possible to neglect women’s education.” In this light again he remarked “Education of a boy is the education of one person, but education of girl is the education of the entire family.”

Gandhiji

“The question of the education of children can not be solved unless efforts are made simultaneously to solve the women’s education. And I have no hesitation in saying that as long as we do not have real mother teachers, who can successfully impart true education to our children they will remain uneducated ever though they may be going to school.”

Dr.S.Radhakrishnan

“Women are human beings and have as much right to full development as men have. The position of women in any society is a true index of its cultural and spiritual level.”

As the statements given by different eminent persons towards women equality or gender equality that It is only possible through the education equally given to both men and women.

Problems of Women Education

- Poor economic condition of parents.
- Conservation, Illiteracy and Ignorance of parents.
- Lack of qualified women teachers.
- Lack of need based social education.
- Lack of suitable curriculum or faulty Curriculum.
- Defective Government policy.
- Defective administration.
- Lack of home management courses.
- Lack of knowledge and responsibility child care.
- Problem of family management.

SUGGESTED MEASURES TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS

1. QUALITY SOLUTIONS ON THE BASIS OF POOR ECONOMIC CONDITION

The following economic incentives should be given

Free education: All states should provide free education to girls from primary to university education.

Free uniforms and books: Free uniforms and free books should be provided to the needy and deserving female students.

Attendance scholarships: Attendance scholarships should be given.

Free and quality Mid-Day- Meals: Mid-day-meals should be nutritious and supplied free of cost

2. QUALITY SOLUTIONS ON THE BASIS OF CONSERVATIVENESS, IGNORANCE AND ILLITERACY OF PARENTS:

Proper social attitude: proper social attitude should be developed for girls' education by educating the orthodox and custom ridden people about the need of girls' education.

Separate schools: separate schools for girls at the middle and high school stages should be established where needed.

School mothers: school mothers in co-education primary schools should be appointed.

Arrangement of nursery classes: nursery classes wherever possible should be opened.

Public opinion: public opinion should be created in favour of girls' education particularly in rural areas.

Awareness Programmes: Government and Non-government agencies should take initiatives and arrange different type of awareness programmes towards girl education.

3. QUALITY SOLUTIONS ON THE BASIS OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES:

Adequate educational facilities: Adequate educational facilities should be provided in the rural and backward areas.

Hostel facilities – Hostel for girls at the middle and high/ higher secondary school stage should be provided where necessary.

Transport facilities: subsidized transport facilities should be provided wherever necessary and possible.

Priority for school buildings : Priority should be given to the construction of suitable buildings for girls schools.

Meeting shortage of women teachers: The following measures are suggested for meeting shortage of women teachers.

Training Institution: A large number of training institutions should be opened to train women teachers, especially in the backward states. These institutions should generally be located in rural areas and they should generally recruit their trainees from that area.

Quarters: A large number of quarters for women teachers should be provided particularly in rural areas.

Rural allowance : All women teachers employed in rural areas should be given adequate rural allowance.

Special stipends: Special stipends should be given to girls in high and higher /senior secondary school with aptitude for teaching.

Posting: Wherever possible husband and wives should be posted in the same place even if they work in different departments of the Government.

Free training: Free training should be imparted with stipends to all women candidates of training institutions.

In service training: In service training should be given to untrained women teachers who have put in at least two years of service. The period of in service training should be treated as on duty.

4. QUALITY SOLUTIONS ON THE BASIS OF SOCIAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The problems of girls education is related to the education of adult women. This problem can tackled in the following ways.

Literacy classes : In the field of adult education vigorous efforts should be made to increase the number of literacy classes for women in rural and tribal areas and carry out intensive campaigns for the spread of literacy amongst women.

Skills: Simple skills like sewing, knitting and handicrafts should be taught, and knowledge of basic principles of health and food habits should be given.

New attitudes: New attitudes towards community living, superstitions, and family planning should be developed.

Value based education: women's must here about the values related to family life.

5. QUALITY SOLUTIONS ON THE BASIS OF NEED-BASED CURRICULUM:

Need based curriculum should be developed at the middle, high and senior secondary school stages. No differentiation should be made in the curricula for boys and girls at the primary stage of education. Child care is one of the important part of women's life. Unfortunately nobody is serious about it. If the child is not get proper care what will be the next generation and the human society?. Each girl should aware and well trained about child care and home management. It should be the important part of women education.

6. QUALITY SOLUTIONS ON THE BASIS OF PROPER ADMINISTRATION

Efficient women should be appointed on administrative posts in the field of education . The number of women inspecting officers should be increased particularly in the backward states, at different levels including at state level and directorate level. There should be adequate women office staff and equipment. Adequate funds should be provided for the expansion and improvement of women education.

7. QUALITY SOLUTIONS ON THE BASIS OF GOVERNMENT POLICY:

Government policy towards woman education and women empowerment is full of puzzle. Both party Government and women wants to be the same with men. But unfortunately the role of men and women are different from very beginning. The government should think about it carefully. What should be the rights and duties of women and what should be the men? If the government will think that both men and women are equal for each and every work, then it is very soon a disturbing society comes forward. It is the duty of the government to make the policy that both men and women must be educated in different ways.

8. QUALITY SOLUTIONS ON THE BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE AND RESPONSIBILITIES: ABOUT CHILD CARE AND HOME MANAGEMENT:

Today the whole society is facing a life without values, life with full of puzzles and crimes, etc. It is only due to the lack of proper care of the child by the mother. The role of mother cannot be compared with men .The policy should be changed as both men and women can get same facilities but in different

ways. The first and foremost duty of a woman is caring her baby and safe the society with proper education. Child and home are the important aspects of the society. Women can make the society healthy, flourishing, enrich and excellent one. The education of women should be such that save her child and society first then job related to the same.

Conclusion

All type of incentives i.e. mental, social and economical support should be given to the women for gaining knowledge through education like the counter part-men. All facility should be given to them as they may able to compete with men in each and every aspects of life. The social attitude should be developed for girls' education. Government and Non- government agencies should take initiatives' and arrange different type of awareness programmes towards girl education, Society based and value based education should be given to them as they may able to transfer their knowledge to next generation. The reality of education is important for both men and women but the way of education should not be same. The rights and duties of men and women are different from births. Both must be equally educated for different ways. The mother can save the child and society and the education of women should be such as making the society healthy, wealthy and flourishing one.

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