



Womens Literacy in West Bengal : Problem and Their Solution

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WOMENS LITERACY IN WEST BENGAL: PROBLEM AND THEIR SOLUTION Abstract The Education system of a nation is at the root of its development. Education is the only process that helps in the development of different types of nations, (such as social, economic and cultural development). Women in West Bengal are still far behind boys in terms of education.

Abstract

The Education system of a nation is at the root of its development. Education is the only process that helps in the development of different types of nations, (such as social, economic and cultural development). Women in West Bengal are still far behind boys in terms of education. The literacy rate of women in primary education is not very low, but it is far behind in higher education. The reasons for this backwardness are negative attitude towards education, poverty, lack of awareness among parents, child marriage, gender inequality, etc. Only when all come forward to solve these problems will women's education be developed and women's literacy rate increase. But now the literacy rate of women in West Bengal is relatively satisfactory. In West Bengal, the female literacy rate was 59.61% in 2001, that increased to 87.54% in 2011. It is clear that there has been a great improvement in the field of women's education in West Bengal.

It should be kept in mind that West Bengal was once the first place in women's education. Now that place has come down to seventh. Therefore, at this every moment, many measures will have to be taken in this state to brighten the place of women's education.

Key Words

Women, Education, Literacy Rate, West Bengal, Problem, Solution.

Introduction

"If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother Indian Empowered".

Jawaharlal Nehru

The women of any country have an important contribution to make in the development of that country. Only women can raise their children in a way that will lead the country to progress and prosperity in the future. Educated women can improve their family and society culturally. That is why Hindu scriptures speak of worshipping women. This is worship but not traditional worship. Worship here means giving women due respect, arranging education for them and considering their place in society as equal to men. Progress in women's education is essential for the overall development of India. After independence, the leaders of our country paid special attention to the expansion of women's education. Articles 14, 15 and 16 of Part III of the Indian Constitution speak of equal rights for all. Gradually, various schemes and programs were introduced which increased the literacy rate of women all over India and in West Bengal. The Kanyashree, Sabooj Sathi projects of the West Bengal government have played a special role in women's education.

Literacy

The concept of literacy is given by different countries in different ways. That is, the criteria of literacy are determined on the basis of different standards. According to the census, those who have studied in schools for at least two years in India and West Bengal are signed. Literacy is defined as being able to read and write, or to having knowledge about a specific subject.

The UNESCO defines literacy as the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying context.

Importance of women Education

"If you educate a boy you educate a boy and educate an individual but if you educate a girl you educate a family"

There are so many reasons for more important to literate a women than a man. Such as:

- Women's education plays an important role in the progress of any nation.
- Reduce maternal mortality.
- Reduce population explosion.
- Decrease malnutrition.
- Reduce domestic & sexual violence.
- Improve socio-economic growth.
- It will bring equality in the society.
- Improves reproductive Health.

District wise Female Literacy rate in West Bengal: (2001-2011)

Table 1 : The Table below shows the literacy rate of district based women in West Bengal :

S. No.	District	Literacy Rate	
		2001	2011
1	Purba Medinipur	80.16	87.66
2	Kolkata	80.86	87.14
3	North 24 Parganas	78.07	84.95
4	Howrah	77.01	83.85
5	Hooghly	75.11	82.55
6	Darjeeling	71.79	79.92
7	Paschim Medinipur	70.41	79.04
8	South 24 Parganas	69.45	78.57
9	Bardhaman	70.18	77.15

S. No.	District	Literacy Rate	
		2001	2011
10	Nadia	66.14	75.58
11	Cooch Behar	66.30	75.49
12	Dakshin Dinajpur	63.59	73.86
13	Jalpaiguri	62.85	73.79
14	Bankura	63.44	70.95
15	Birbhum	61.48	70.90
16	Murshidabad	54.35	67.53
17	Purulia	55.57	65.38
18	Maldah	50.28	62.71
19	Uttar Dinajpur	47.89	60.13
	West Bengal	68.64	77.08

(Source : Census Report of India 2011)

Major problems of Women's Education:

Although the rate of female education has increased in West Bengal, there are still various challenges to be faced in the field of women's education as discussed below:

- Poverty is one of the major causes of educational backwardness of women in West Bengal. Financial deprivation has become an obstacle in the way of women's education.
- Although there was talk of equality between men and women in the field of education, it was not implemented significantly.
- It was not possible to set up separate schools for girls considering the regional distances as required. There is a lack of girls' schools, especially in rural areas. Due to the lack of separate schools, in many cases the girls are forced to drop out despite their wishes.
- Most of the guardians of this country and state place more importance on the education of their son than on the education of their daughter. The general idea about girls' education is that girls are good for housework. Therefore, girls are educated only to make them suitable for marriage without valuing their talents, abilities and desires. As a result, despite their ability and potential, many women are unable to get an education after marriage.
- It goes without saying that there are no dormitories in rural schools. As a result, the education of rural girls is very inconvenient. Many primary schools do not have separate toilets for girls, which is very inconvenient for them.
- There is no college for girls everywhere in need of higher education; there are no opportunities for co-education in many colleges.
- Many feel that well-educated girls do not want to follow worldly discipline.
- Conservatism and prejudice among backward communities and tribes are hampering women's education.
- There are also less teacher-teaching colleges for girls, resulting in a shortage of qualified trained teachers.
- There is no separate curriculum for women's education yet.
- In rural areas, of course, women's education is hampered by the lack of libraries.
- Although there is a law on child marriage, in many cases the law is not obeyed. After marriage, it is not possible for almost all girls to continue their studies.

- Most of the women in the village who are the mothers of future generations are illiterate. As a result, they do not encourage or help their daughters to learn to read. The lack of awareness of the present generation of mothers has become a major obstacle to the education of future generations of girls.
- In a patriarchal society, women have less respect and dignity than men, so women's education is being hampered.
- Lack of social security has made women's education inaccessible.
- Lack of social awareness among women.
- Due to the underdevelopment of communication system and economic reasons, women are lagging behind in terms of education.

The solutions to the problems of women Education in West Bengal

Various steps have been taken to solve the problem of women's education in West Bengal, many schools and universities have been set up for the education of women. Various scholarships have also been arranged to improve women's education.

- Arrange for free education and scholarships for women who are deprived of education due to lack of money.
- To provide separate toilets for girls in the school premises. So that a woman does not have to face any kind of embarrassment.
- To further extend the opportunities of unpaid education from boys to girls.
- Women's education will focus on the needs of femininity. Maternal features such as child care, home economics, upbringing etc. will be an essential part of girls' education.
- Awareness about the importance of education needs to be raised.
- The Central and State Governments will extend a helping hand to the voluntary organizations in various ways for the expansion of women's education in every part of the country and in West Bengal. The government will give priority to women's education and invest generously for the overall development of the country.
- Women need to be provided part-time education. Many women cannot afford full-time education due to social and economic reasons. Part-time education has to be arranged for them.
- Education needs to be made vocational. Education will increase the earning capacity of women. For this, women's education should be made vocational. One of the aims of education after women's primary education will be to build well-housewives, good mothers and good citizens.
- The cooperation of the women's association must be accepted. Making women effective signatures should be one of the goals of all women's organizations. These organizations will play the necessary role in building a positive attitude of the people towards women's education.
- The Village Community will create a Conducive social environment for school-age girls to attend school.

Welfare schemes for women

The Government of India and the Government of west Bengal have launched various projects for the development of women's Education.

1. **Mahila Samakhya Programme:** New Education policy of 1968 led to the launch of Mahila Samakhya Programme in 1988 for the empowerment of rural women belonging to socio-economical weaker section.

2. **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme (KGBV):** Girls are educated to primary level through KGBV. It basically works in rural areas where female literacy is low.
3. **National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL):** Girls who are not incentivized through SSA are covered by NPEGEL.
4. **Saakshar Bharat Mission for Female Literacy:** This mission was launched with an objective to bring down the female illiteracy.
5. Beti Bachao Beti padhao (BBBP) Schemes.
6. Sukanya samiriddhi Yojna.
7. Balika samridhi Yojna.
8. Mukhyamantri Rajshri Yojna.
9. Kanyashree Prakalpa.
10. Sabooj Sathi Prakalpa.
11. Rupashree Prakalpa.

Conclusion

Only an educated mother can educate her child well. To build a conscious family, for which first of all we need mother's education i.e. women's education. The biggest problem in India and West Bengal is illiteracy. The illiteracy rate, however is much lower than before. Women play a prominent role in the economic, cultural, political, social life of our country. It is true that women's education has improved a lot since independence. The West Bengal government has launched various projects to bring girls in the light of education everywhere from cities to villages, notably Kanyashree and Sabooj Sathi.

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