



## EXPLORATION OF GENDER INEQUALITY IN WOMEN'S EDUCATION AND EXPLORING THE CAUSES OF INEQUALITY

*Sulbha Ulhas Patil*

Associate Professor, Gokhle Education Society's College of Education, Sangamner, Ahmadnagar.

### **Abstract:**

Gender inequality has adverse effects on all sectors. The attitude towards women is traditional and religious. In India, only 25 percent of girls between the ages of 18 and 23 are pursuing higher education. It should be noted that the GER of girls is 25.4%. If the number of women in higher education increases then the family, society, and the country will develop in a real sense. Half of the population of this country are women. Also, the economic and social status of the society and the country remains very poor. Due to this gender-based reason, domestic violence, abortion, and rape are on the rise. In 2018, there were 1,03,272 cases of domestic violence in India. Therefore, in order to improve this situation, equal and adequate access to educational opportunities for all is essential from the point of view of democracy and humanity.

### **Conclusion according to the present research**

Some concrete measures must be taken consciously. The following can be suggested -

In order to increase the standard of higher education, it is necessary to increase the number of scholarships, travel, increase the number of hostel schemes, implement 'Beti Bachao Abhiyan' and eliminate the shortcomings in them. According to him, reforms at all levels of family, society, and government will help in eliminating gender-based discrimination in Indian society and building a truly healthy, developed, and egalitarian society.

**Keywords:** Gender Inequality, Domestic Violence.

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### **Preface**

It is said that women have been educated in India since ancient times. But it was exceptional. Ordinary women could not get an education. Gender equality did not exist in India at any time. In India, 'Charvaka or Lokayat philosophy' and Buddhism advocated gender equality, but in real life, masculinity seems to have taken root in people's lives under the influence of Manusmriti, Vedas, and religion. Buddhism was the first to demand that women should be treated equally. Today marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence. But this development is not equal and satisfactory and not enough. Despite the existence of laws such as free and compulsory education, the Right to Education Act, traditional thinking, women has a secondary place in Indian society. It is seen as exploitation, humiliation, and discrimination in both home and society. Due to such issues, there is a high incidence of dropouts and dropouts of girls in education, the less number of girls in higher education and furthermore, there is more education related to home subjects and arts. The following are a few examples:



In India today, laws have to be enacted to stop female feticide, and female birth rates are declining compared to males. The educational status of tribal and nomadic women is critical. There is a large number of women working in prostitution, Devadasi and Barbara, of course, lack education. Today the number of maids and similar women laborers, women in the construction sector, women scavengers, women in sugarcane workers, etc. is high as they lack education.

The proportion of women pursuing higher education is relatively low. Considering the age group of 18-23, India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is much lower than that of other developed countries. The GER has increased from 25.2 percent in 2016-17 to 25.8 percent in 2017-18 and is expected to be 30 percent by 2020. In India, only 25 percent of girls between the ages of 18 and 23 are pursuing higher education. It should be noted that the GER of girls is 25.4%. In 2018, 1,03,272 cases of domestic violence were registered in India.

According to a report, despite social, economic, and political progress, the patriarchal mentality is pervasive in the present Indian society. Because of this, women are still considered a responsibility today. Women get fewer opportunities for development due to social and family norms, which does not lead to the full development of their personality. Social differences on issues like Sabarimala and three divorces reflect patriarchal mentality.

In India even today at the practical level (women have equal rights over property as per the order of the Supreme Court at the statutory level) the right of women over family property is not in vogue therefore they are treated differently. At the political level, except for the Panchayati Raj system, there is no reservation for women in higher statutory bodies.

According to the latest official Periodic Labour Force Survey for the year 2017-18, the female labour force and work participation rate in the Indian economy is low. In such circumstances, women's self-reliance on economic parameters remains on men. In almost all the states of the country, there has been a decline in the work participation rate of women in the year 2017-18 as compared to the year 2011-12. In contrast to this decline, the work participation rate of women has improved in only a few states and union territories such as Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Daman-Diu. Women's employment is under-reporting i.e. work done by women on family farms and enterprises and unpaid work done within households are not added to GDP. The position of women is weaker than that of men on parameters such as educational factors. Although the educational enrolment of girls has increased over the last two decades and is achieving gender parity status till secondary education, the enrolment of women in higher education and vocational education is still much lower than that of men.

All the above issues are associated with gender. The outlook for women in our society is still traditional and religious. Women on large scale still choose to study in fields such as Nursing, Teaching as well as Human Sciences, etc.

Even the new national policy does not seem to have deliberately addressed or attempted to establish gender equality. Even today, women are heavily burdened with cultural and social expectations. "As a result of all this, the gender gap in education seems to be widening. On the one hand, in language and mathematics, the learning outcomes for girls are the same as for boys, so they do not have difficulty in learning. Not only that, the average number of years of education seems to have tripled between 1990 and 2018, but the average number of years for



boys has doubled in the same period. But there is a difference in the total number of years of education for girls. Also, the fact that this difference increases with age means that it seems to be linked to the molded male and female image or the social constraints on girls. When the girl attains marriage age, she is mostly not allowed to go out of the house, she probably has to get married. All India School Education Survey in 2016 denotes that the NCERT seems to think in terms of a genuine gender. It examines some of the criteria of the Right to Education Act. One of the criteria is a full-time teacher. However, ten years after the enactment of the RTE Act, recruitment of Para Teachers is still taking place. And the education of teachers from primary to secondary is not up to the standards of law. This is directly related to the quality of government schools. Various studies have shown that the number of girls increases if there are female teachers. However, its policy does not have any repercussions. So, it is a long way from the teachers' moulded approach.” Given all these circumstances, it is very important to find out the exact causes of gender inequality in India and to find out the reasons behind it in order to complete the educational development of women. This economic survey showed a positive ratio between economic growth and gender equality. But that is not always the case. In many states of the country, a busy equation is seen where regions have high economic growth but still have gender-social inequality. Delhi and Haryana are examples of this. States in Northeast India, however, seem to have done well in terms of gender ratio. The survey also shows that these states are far ahead of the southern states in this regard.

#### **Need for Research:**

Even though we are living in the age of computer and science today, the social, economic, physical, and similar development of women is not enough. India ranks 112th out of 153 countries in the world in the gender gap (World Economic Forum, 2020). If we do not act against the growing violence against women and girls and the economic-educational body, we will get even lower.

This situation is interrelated with education. If the number of women in education and higher education also increases then family, society and country will develop in a real sense. Half of the population of this country are women. Also, the economic and social status of the society and the country remains very poor. Therefore, in order to improve this situation, it is necessary from the point of view of democracy and humanity to provide equal and adequate educational opportunities to all. The research presented needs to be studied.

#### **Problem Statement:**

"Exploration of Gender Inequality in Women's Education in Indian Education and Exploring the Causes of Inequality"

#### **Objectives:**

- 1- To find out the gender inequality in women's education.
- 2- To find out the causes of gender inequality in women's education.

#### **Assumptions:**

1. If there is growth and development in the education of women, their overall development will be achieved.
2. If there is growth and development in the education of women, their overall development will be achieved, and hence the overall development of society and country will be achieved.



### Research Hypothesis

The increase and development of women's education will lead to their holistic development.

### Alternative Hypothesis:

If women's education **grows and develops, their overall development will not be achieved.**

### Functional Definition:

A. **Gender inequality** - Gender inequality means discrimination on the basis of gender bias in terms of opportunities and responsibilities in all sectors of society and in families.

B. **Domestic violence:** is physical, honour, verbal, sexual, or financial abuse in the family."

### Scope and limitations of research subject-

The scope of the research is to illustrate the inequality in the field of education in the Indian context based on gender inequality in women's education.

Limitations: Due to lack of time, only data available on the Internet is considered for this research, this is the limitation of this research.

### Research Methodology

The desk research method has been used for conducting this research.

### Procedure

Due to time constraints, it is not possible to collect data by actual survey. This method of desk research has been chosen. Attempts have been made to explain the inequality of gender inequality in women's education in India, the reasons behind it and the overall underdevelopment of women's education in general, and its adverse effects on the development of women, family, society, and country.

### Analysis of Data -

#### Consequences of Gender-Based Inequality

##### 1. Dropping out rate of students is high

On the occasion of Malala Day, the World Bank has presented a report titled Missed Opportunities: The High Cost of Not Educating Girls. In this report, the World Bank says 40% of girls between the ages of 15 and 18 drop their studies (National Commission for Protection of Child Rights) Only two-thirds of girls in poor countries complete only primary education, and one-third of girls complete only secondary education. 132 million girls between the ages of 6 and 17 are out of school. The proportion of African countries is higher. The global economy is hit hard by the lack of education for girls. What are the reasons? Making Money and Living Standards ... Earnings and Standards of Living In many families, girls are kept at home from school to do housework. Due to poverty at home, girls have to drop out of school and work with their parents. As a result, many girls drop out of school.

##### 2. The rate of child marriage is high

Many girls are married before the age of 18. After early marriage, she had a baby before the age of 18. As a result, this girl is leaving school. This also raises the question of the girl's health. The government is trying to increase the birth rate of girls. However, it has been observed that the female birth rate is declining as compared to males. Therefore, the enrolment rate of girls is also low. (Report missed opportunities: The high



cost of not educating girls) The dropout rate of girls in India is very high. 62% of children go to secondary school. Out of this, up to 9th standard, 30% of girls get dropped out. Of these, 57% of girls were educated till the 11th standard. Assam: 35.2% Tripura: 27.3% Bihar: 33.7% Madhya Pradesh: 24.2% Orissa: 27.8% (Lok Sabha figures) According to the report of Cry, 30 lakh 7 thousand girls in the age group of 15 to 19 were found married. 30 lakh 4 thousand girls were found to be mothers. Such a horrible situation has come to the fore in this report. As long as it does not prevent child marriage, until then, girls' education will not increase. **Child marriage and Maharashtra**, Maharashtra is known as an advanced state in the country. However, statistics show that child marriage is on the rise in Maharashtra too.

### 3. Serious health problems arise

Child marriage stops a girl's education. At the same time, the baby falls in the position of a girl in childhood. This greatly affects her health. The rate of child marriage in Maharashtra is 26.4%. 1 out of every 4 marriages is child marriage. The rate of child marriage is higher in the age group of 12 to 17 years. This means that the dropout rate of girls from class 6th to 12th is higher. Of the 70 districts with the highest number of child marriages in the country, 17 are in Maharashtra alone. Getting married at a young age has a big impact on girls' health. Even a baby girl is not strong. Parbhani (48%), Beed (43.7%), Hingoli (37%), Jalna (35%) data from National Family Health Survey. Considering the above statistics, one thing becomes clear. In districts where girls' education is low, the number of child marriages is also higher in the same district. Therefore, if child marriage ceases, the education of girls will also increase. Poverty and lack of education have affected the overall life of a woman.

### 4. Lack of relocation adversely affects higher education.

Today, 15 out of 903 universities are 'Women's Universities' (Rajasthan 4, Tamil Nadu 2 and Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal). Each of these states has 1 university). Although the numbers are less, girls only have the opportunity to study at a girls' university. Like women's universities, 11.4 percent of colleges are 'women's colleges. One of the issues related to women's higher education is the availability of colleges for the majority of women living in rural areas! Out of 357, 203 (40 percent) universities and out of 39,050 colleges, 60 percent colleges are in urban areas. Parents still do not consider sending their daughters to distant places for safety reasons. According to the report, there are 23,121 hostels for girls in all educational institutions in India and their intake capacity is 32 lakh 81 thousand. But only 19 lakh 42 thousand students are seen taking advantage of these hostels.

### 5. Increase in social problems

40% of the total 20 lakh prostitutes are child prostitutes. At such a young age, women have to go into prostitution for a living. After getting into prostitution, their stomach problems do not go away. At the same time, they are afflicted with many diseases. Many women who engage in prostitution have a high prevalence of AIDS. Therefore, if we want to empower women, we need to increase women's education.

### 6. Due to pre-existing religious reasons

A woman is considered secondary in society because she is a woman.



## 7. Attacks on women's rights and entitlements

As girls get older, their rights and entitlements come under attack. Alternatively, the development of family, society, and country also decreases.

### Measures to Eliminate Gender Inequality

Some concrete measures must be taken consciously. The following can be suggested -

1. In order to increase the standard of higher education, it is necessary to increase the number of scholarships, travel, increase the number of hostel schemes, implement 'Beti Bachao Abhiyan' and eliminate the shortcomings in them.
2. Inclusion of more and more subjects and lessons based on gender equality in the curriculum. Universities must create new curricula to counter the new era, the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Girls should be made aware of their importance. Because the family has a skeptical attitude towards new courses. Emphasis should be placed on opportunities for hands-on experience in all courses.
3. Women should come forward for higher education, a family should pay attention to this, not only focus on getting degree/post-graduate degree but also use that knowledge for the development of oneself, family and alternatively society for prosperity, it will be a pleasant dream in today's age.
4. Incorporating more and more schemes at the panchayat level and increasing the participation of women in them. Reforms at all levels of family, society, and government will help eliminate gender discrimination in Indian society and build a truly healthy, developed, and egalitarian society.

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Maharashtra Times Updated: 2 Sep 2018, 4:00 am I am writing this article to keep track of some facts that I have realized by reading the AISHE 2017-18 Annual Report. Jayashree Shinde

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