

**GENDER INEQUALITY IN EDUCATION IN INDIA
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RURAL AREA IN
YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT**

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Abstract

In our country India, females have very vital roles to act upon. This role of female is guided by our society's religious, legal, political, and economical scenario. There are often legal, religious and traditional practices that discriminate women against getting education. To some extent role of female in the society is governed by the education system in the country. Education can change a females outlook and make her more confident so that she can take up more responsibility in higher jobs in banking, politics, healthcare, education as well as in media and this can improve image of the our country in international arena. Possessing higher education also enables them in overcoming the barriers that may arise within the course of performance of diversified roles. One educated female can think logically about the well being of her family (Kids and other members) nation and society at large. Napoleon said, "Give me good mothers and I will give you a good nation". In modern times females are performing various types of roles, we need to ensure that they work effectively towards promoting well-being of their family and community; this can only happen if they are well educated. In other words, society needs to ensure that women's contribution is beneficial to the individuals and society this can only happen if they are well educated. The main areas of concern of this paper are role of education in the life of female, factors which affects female education in rural areas, how to overcome problem of female education .

Keywords:-Female, Education, role, Society, factors, Solution.

Introduction

Every Human is important part of the society no matters whether male, female or transgender. Females are an important part of our Indian society, but education wise females are still behind males. The Indian constitution has granted equal rights and status to all irrespective of caste, creed and gender. Every person has equal fundamental rights (i) right to equality, (ii) right to freedom, (iii) right against exploitation, (iv) right to freedom of religion, (v) cultural and educational rights, and (vi) right to constitutional remedies. But in reality, females have been deprived of their Fundamental rights in different ways. Whatever one may say there is a gender bias in India. Indian females are not being able to get the basic right of education. Few of the names like Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chanda Kochhar, Kalpana Morparia , Naina Lal Kidwai, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Falguni Nayar, Shahnaz Husain, Vandana Luthra, Aditi Gupta, Vani Kola, Radhika Ghai Aggarwal, Sheila Kochouseph Chittilapally, Indra Nooyi, Kumari Shelija, Nirmala Sitharaman **etc**, are famous women in banking, corporate, education, business & politics in India. These are exceptions and count only 9% of the total women population of the country and is even less as compared to the world standards which is 26% of women. [Females equal participation and leadership in political and public life](#) are essential to achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) by 2030. However, data shows that women are under-represented at all levels of decision-making worldwide, and achieving gender parity in political life is a distant dream. India has a shabby picture regarding leadership in various social areas, female education and women representation in top positions in corporate sector is only 7%. Though some steps have been taken to improve the women's representation by reserving their position in totally women universities, where appointment of women vice chancellor is mandatory, 24th January is celebrated as the National Girl Child Day in India every year, the celebrations across the country are led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The *day aims* to focus on the inequalities faced by girls, to promote the education, health & nutrition of the girls. These types of steps required to be taken to promote female education in India so that females can achieve top positions in the societies in politics, medical, social, banking, corporate, teaching, airlines, astronauts, engineers, etc in large number. In this way female can help to build the nation in a better manner.

Objectives of this Paper

1. To Study the Percentage of females educated population in India.
2. To study the level of education among females in rural areas especially in Yamunanagar region of Haryana, India.
3. To Study the reasons of less percentage female population in rural areas with reference to rural areas of Yamuna Nagar region.

Sample and Methodology

The study is based-on Primary and Secondary data. Primary data which was collected from 40 females of rural areas of Yamuna Nagar district i.e Buria, Farakpur, Badhi Majra, Mustafabad, Bakana, Bhago Majra, Bhagwargarh, Bhut Mjra etc. The data collected, is based-on personal interview conducted by the researcher through un-structured questionnaire. Females selected for this survey were in the age group of 20-30 years. Researcher used Convenience sampling technique for collecting the data. As far as secondary data is concerned, it has been collected from *census 2011*, *census 2012*, *National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)* & *National Statistical Office (NSO)*.

Female literacy rate in India

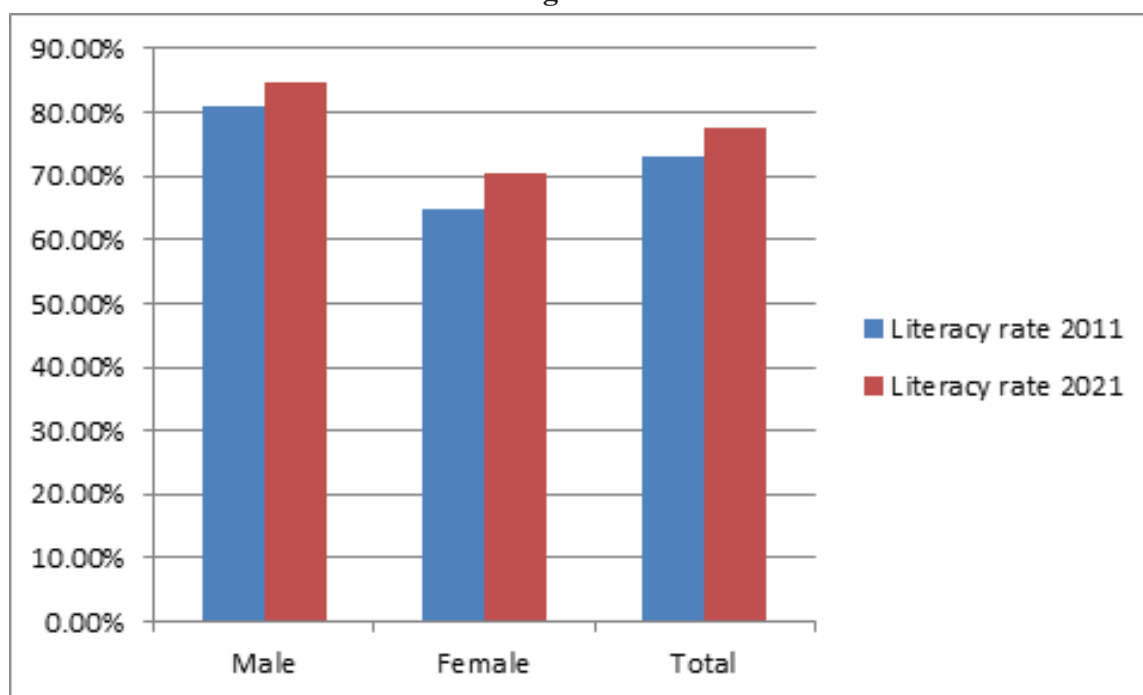
In India 70.30% females are literate in comparison with Males 84.70%. Total literacy rate in India is 77.70% [Source: National Statistical Office (NSO) 2021]. Literacy rate between 15 to 49 year of age group is 71.5% among female and 87.4% among males. [Source: The National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5)]. The data in the below mentioned table clearly shows that female literacy rate has increased by 6% as compared to 2011 census survey. However, it is 14.5% behind male literacy rate in India.

Table 1.1
Representing Gender Literacy Rate in India

Gender	Literacy rate 2011	Literacy rate 2021
Male	80.89%	84.70%
Female	64.64%	70.30%
Total	72.99%	77.70%

Source: *Census 2011*, *National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)* & *National Statistical Office (NSO)* data

Figure:1.1



(Literacy rate is defined as the percentage of literate persons of age 7 years and above. A person who can read and write a simple message in any language with understanding of the message is considered as literate.)

State-wise and Union territories Literacy rate 2021

According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 2019-21 male literacy in India level stands at 84.4% & female literacy stands at 71.5%. Male- Female gap at the all-India level is 12.9 percentage points. The gap between male and female literacy is the smallest in Kerala at just 2.2 percentage points.

Andhra Pradesh's literacy rate of 66.4% is the lowest among all states in India, Kerala ranked highest in the list with 96.2%. Delhi stood second with 88.7%. **Below is the list of States & Union Territories with male, female and average literacy rates.**

Table 1.2

States & Union territories with literacy rates

State wise Highest literacy Rate

On the other hand if, we compare state-wise education level in India, Kerala is small state but highest in total literacy and females are only 2% behind males, Delhi which is the capital of India stood third with 82.4% of female literacy and Punjab stood 10th with 78.5% female literacy. Above table proves that Haryana is not sound in female literacy.

State & union territories	Male literacy rate %	Female Literacy Rate %	Average literacy Rate
A&N islands	90.11	81.84	86.27
Andhra Pradesh	73.4	59.5	66.4
Arunachal Pradesh	73.69	59.57	66.95
Assam	90.1	81.2	85.9
Bihar	79.7	60.5	70.9
Chhattisgarh	85.4	68.7	77.3
Chandigarh	90.54	81.38	86.43
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	86.46	65.93	77.65
Daman & Diu	91.48	79.59	87.07
Delhi	93.7	82.4	88.7
Goa	92.81	81.84	87.4
Gujarat	89.5	74.8	82.4
Haryana	88	71.3	80.4
Himachal Pradesh	92.9	80.5	86.6
Jammu & Kashmir	85.7	68	77.3
Jharkhand	83	64.7	74.3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	86.46	65.93	77.65

Proceedings of DGHE, Haryana approved National Seminar on Gender Sensitive Issues and Women Empowerment

Daman & Diu	91.48	79.59	87.07
Delhi	93.7	82.4	88.7
Goa	92.81	81.84	87.4
Gujarat	89.5	74.8	82.4
Haryana	88	71.3	80.4
Himachal Pradesh	92.9	80.5	86.6
Jammu & Kashmir	85.7	68	77.3
Jharkhand	83	64.7	74.3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	86.46	65.93	77.65
Daman & Diu	91.48	79.59	87.07
Delhi	93.7	82.4	88.7
Goa	92.81	81.84	87.4
Gujarat	89.5	74.8	82.4
Haryana	88	71.3	80.4
Himachal Pradesh	92.9	80.5	86.6
Jammu & Kashmir	85.7	68	77.3
Jharkhand	83	64.7	74.3
Karnataka	83.4	70.5	77.2
Kerala	97.4	95.2	96.2
Lakshadweep	96.11	88.25	92.28
Madhya Pradesh	81.2	65.5	73.7
Maharashtra	90.7	78.4	84.8
Goa	92.81	81.84	87.4
Gujarat	89.5	74.8	82.4
Haryana	88	71.3	80.4
Himachal Pradesh	92.9	80.5	86.6
Jammu & Kashmir	85.7	68	77.3

Jharkhand	83	64.7	74.3
Karnataka	83.4	70.5	77.2
Kerala	97.4	95.2	96.2
Lakshadweep	96.11	88.25	92.28
Madhya Pradesh	81.2	65.5	73.7
Maharashtra	90.7	78.4	84.8
Manipur	86.49	73.17	79.85
Meghalaya	77.17	73.78	75.48
Mizoram	93.72	89.4	91.58
Nagaland	83.29	76.69	80.11
Odisha	84	70.3	77.3
Puducherry	92.12	81.22	86.55
Punjab	88.5	78.5	83.7
Rajasthan	80.8	57.6	69.7
Sikkim	87.29	76.43	82.2
Tamil Nadu	87.9	77.9	82.9
Telangana	80.5	65.1	72.8
Tripura	92.18	83.15	87.75
Uttarakhand	94.3	80.7	87.6

Source: Survey by National Statistical Office (NSO). *UTs & NE States based on 2011 Census

State wise Highest literacy Rate

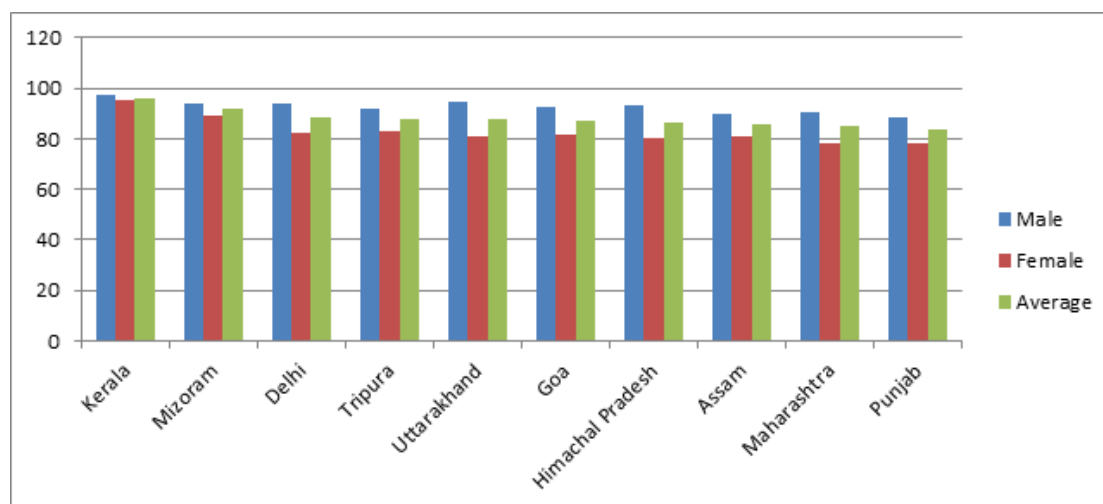
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Table 1.3
State wise highest literacy rate

State	Male	Female	Average
Kerala	97.4	95.2	96.2
Mizoram	93.72	89.4	91.58
Delhi	93.7	82.4	88.7
Tripura	92.18	83.15	87.75
Uttarakhand	94.3	80.7	87.6
Goa	92.81	81.84	87.4
Himachal Pradesh	92.9	80.5	86.6
Assam	90.1	81.2	85.9
Maharashtra	90.7	78.4	84.8
Punjab	88.5	78.5	83.7

Source: survey by National Statistical Office (NSO). *UTs & NE States based on 2011 Census

Figure 1.3



States with Lowest Literacy Rate

As per the National Statistical Office (NSO) data for 2017-18 on state-wise literacy rate
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the country, Andhra Pradesh ranked Lowest in the list with 66.2% followed by Rajasthan & Bihar.

Table 1.4
States with Lowest Literacy Rate

State	Male	Female	Average
Andhra Pradesh	73.4	59.5	66.4
Rajasthan	80.8	57.6	69.7
Bihar	79.7	60.5	70.9
Telangana	80.5	65.1	72.8
Uttar Pradesh	81.8	63.4	73.0
Madhya Pradesh	81.2	65.5	73.7
Jharkhand	83	64.7	74.3
Karnataka	83.4	70.5	77.2
Chhattisgarh	85.4	68.7	77.3
Jammu & Kashmir	85.7	68	77.3

Source: survey by National Statistical Office (NSO). *UTs & NE States based on 2011 Census

Figure 1.4

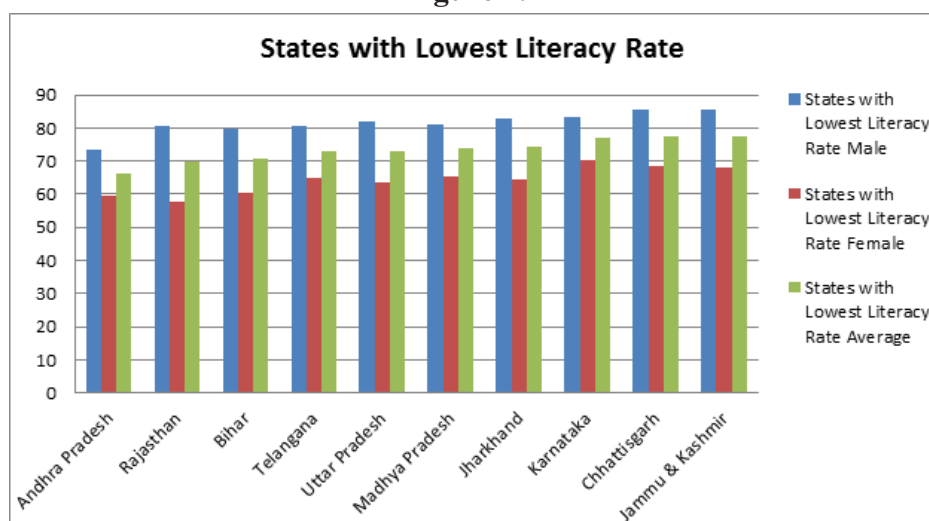


Table 1.5
Level of Education in Females in Rural area in Yamuna Nagar District

Education Level	Number of female Respondents	Percentage of female respondents
Primary Education	15	37.5
Secondary education	8	20
Senior secondary education	9	22.5
Graduation	7	17.5
Post Graduation	1	2.5
Total	40	100

(Source: Data based on Personal Interview Based on self structured open-ended questionnaire)

Figure-1.5

Above diagram depicts that 37% females in Yamuna Nagar nearby rural areas had only attained Primary education. They have only knowledge of Numbers and basic language which guide them to read and write basic information on paper. Likewise only 20%percent of rural females have education up to Secondary level. 22% had education till senior secondary level. Undersized 2% visited in post graduate colleges and institutions on the other hand 17% females were graduated.

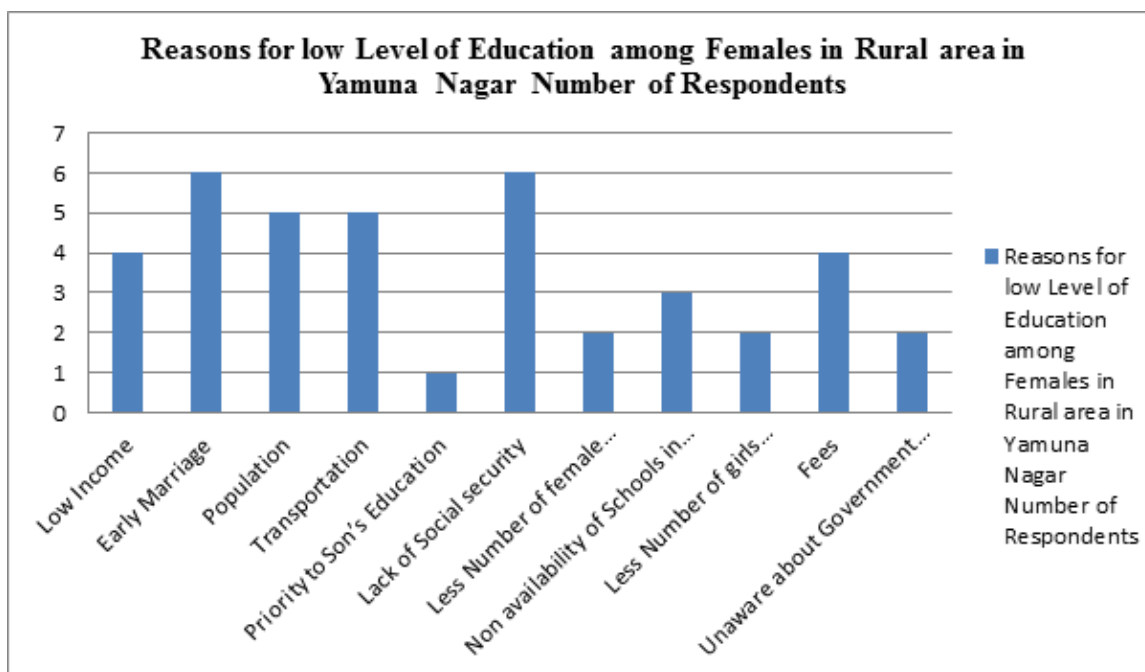
Reasons for low Level of Education among Females in Rural area in Yamuna Nagar District

Table 1.6

Reasons low education	Number of Respondents	Percentage Of respondents
Low Income	4	10
Early Marriage	6	15
Population	5	12.5
Transportation	5	12.5
	1	2.5
Lack of Social security	6	15
Less Number of female Teachers	2	5
Non availability of Schools in Rural Area	3	7.5
Less Number of girls educational Institutions	2	5
Fees	4	10
Unaware about Government Schemes(Scholarships)	2	5
Total	40	100

(Source: Data based on Personal Interview Based on self structured open-ended questionnaire)

Figure 1.6



Above Figure reveals that more population, early marriage, transportation, lack of security, low income, fees, less number of girls schools are main reasons of low education level in rural area. It means not only one factor affects female education in rural area but factors collectively affect the female education system. Most of the parents afraid of sending their wards to school, colleges because of less security, low income, less number of female institutions. Most of the parents of girls have negative attitude towards girl's education than boys. Educational institutions like schools and colleges are situated at far of places; buses are less in numbers, which create major problem in getting education. In this way morale and motivation and morale goes down among females regarding education

Main Challenges in Female Education in Rural Areas

From above mentioned data analysis researcher found following reasons of low education among Females in rural area of Yamuna Nagar district.

Low income- In rural area Parents depend on agriculture and agriculture depends on nature results less income. Due to Financial issues poor parents unable to save extra funds

for children's education. If funds are available, their first priority is educating males child and save some funds in bank for females child's marriage.

Large Size Families-This is one of the major reasons of low literacy in females in India. Head of the family feels that more people in the family work outside even as bounded labour or in fields and earn money for their family livelihoods. They avoid spending money on education of females as they think that she should be more proficient in household work as this is what she is to do after marriage.

Large Population-This is one of the reasons of low education level in rural area among females.

Early Marriage-In rural areas girls are admitting in schools and colleges but due to social, cultural and security reason parents fix their marriages in early age. Therefore, early marriage is one of the causes of larger dropouts in school and college by girls.

Less Female Faculty in Schools- In, rural area parents do not want to send their daughters in those schools, which have male staff than female staff because of the security of the girls. Female faculty can create friendly atmosphere that can give more comfort to young girls. Female teachers do not want to work in rural area and Lack of female faculty is the main probable hurdle to girls' education. Girls are more likely to attend school and have higher education academic achievement if they have female faculty.

Distance and transportation- Distance from home to school/Colleges creates problems in girl's life. Parents and Guardian do not want their girls should walk through market places or communicate through autos or buses because of the problem of eve teasing, kidnapping, and sexual harassment during the transit.

Lesser Number of female educational institutions-Girls always feels comfortable in gender segregated educational institutions. In girl's schools, less chances of sexual harassment, trafficking and other exploitation related problems. In gender-segregated institutions/schools/colleges female feels more secure as they can use toilets and washrooms during menstrual cycle without any hesitation. However, in India, female segregated schools/colleges are less in numbers; girls have no options to enroll themselves in co-education. Due to above, mention reasons they leave their education without completing it.

Conclusion

My Submission after analysis of secondary and primary data is that numerous factors affects low education in rural area among females. But in this study majorly poverty, early marriage, preference of family to educate male child, Negative attitude of parents towards female education, location of schools and colleges far away from the villages, lack of transportation facilities, safety issue, less number of only girls educational institutions, less number of female staff in educational institution, inability to pay fee and lack of awareness about government schemes related with scholarships affects more female education in rural India. These challenges look simple but seriously impact girl's education. Government should introduce certain schemes like certain scholarships for only girl child and should make people aware of such schemes in rural areas. Some private institutions also must work on free schooling till secondary education. Country must decide one brand ambassador (eminent personality) for promoting education among girls. Central government should allocate some extra money in union budget for free female education in rural area. Non Governmental organisation should also take some responsibility in educating female child in rural area. Educated female will keep her family healthy, will run her family more efficiently and will be in a position to educate her children. Clean and hygienic washrooms should be made available in schools/colleges/institutions especially for females. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said: "If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered".

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