

## GIRL CHILD EDUCATION IN INDIA

**Ruchika**

Assistant Professor, I.B.(P.G.) College, Panipat | Email: [ruchikabatra3@gmail.com](mailto:ruchikabatra3@gmail.com)

**Ritika Rani**

Assistant Professor, I.B.(P.G.) College, Panipat | Email: [ritikajatana123@gmail.com](mailto:ritikajatana123@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Education is an essential part for a human being, whether it's a boy or a girl. It's a human right to receive a quality education for all girls and young women. It must be a priority. Both individuals and countries benefit from girls' education. Education helps an individual to be smarter, to learn new things and to know about the facts of the world. Education also plays one of the most important role in Women Empowerment. Better educated women tend to be more informed about nutrition and healthcare, have fewer children, marry at a later age, and their children are usually healthier. Education is the first step to give women the power to choose the way of life she wants to lead. In the current times, women are competing with men in all spheres of life. Girls are now working under different personalities such as writers, educators, teachers, lawyers, doctors, administrators, politicians, scientists etc. This present paper explores that the girl child education must be purposeful and meaningful for development in India. It is rightly said that if we educate a girl, we educate a family – and a whole nation.

**Keywords:-** Education, Girl Child Education and Quality Education

### Introduction:-

The term 'girl-child' refers to a female between the ages of 6-18 years. A girl is not a statistic or a piece of property. She's a child who deserves a future. Education is as important as food, house and shelter for both men and women. Education makes a person mentally, socially and intellectually strong by increasing knowledge. Girls in India are considered as a burden on parents by some people. People think that investing in a boy's education would be beneficial rather than a girl's education. People think that women are sent to Earth just to cook, clean and give birth to children. Because of this thought, girls

suffer and they are ignored. People do not realize that educating a girl is as important as educating a boy. Whenever a girl has the opportunity to prove her abilities, she has always proven herself. Education has a global impact on girls. Educated girls are confident. They can make decisions on their own and become self-reliant. Education leads to freedom of thoughts and broadens a woman's outlook. This also makes her aware of her responsibilities and duties.

Someone rightly said,

"If you educate a man, you educate a person, but if you educate a woman, you educate the whole family and a nation."

Girls' education strengthens economies and reduces inequality. It contributes to more stable, resilient societies that give all individuals – including boys and men – the opportunity to fulfil their potential. I strongly believe that every child has a right to [education](#), and when I say every child, this includes every girl child as well.

### **Historical Background of Girl Child Education in India :-**

300 years ago, there was practically no education for girls in India. Only a few girls of the upper castes and upper classes were given some education at home. Literacy of girls at that time was looked upon as a disgrace. The notion of providing education to girl children never entered into the minds of parents. A superstitious feeling was alleged to exist in the majority of the Hindu families that a girl taught to read and write will soon become a widow after marriage. According to the report of National Committee on Women's Education (1959), "It cannot be denied that the general picture of the education of girls was the most unsatisfactory and girls received practically no formal instruction whatever, except for the little domestic instruction that was available to the daughter of the upper class families 300 years ago, there was practically no education for girls in India. Only a few girls of the upper castes and upper classes were given some education at home. Literacy of girls at that time was looked upon as a disgrace. The notion of providing education to girl children never entered into the minds of parents. A superstitious feeling was alleged to exist in the majority of the Hindu families that a girl taught to read and write will soon become a widow after marriage. According to the report of National Committee on Women's Education (1959), "It cannot be denied that the general picture of the education of girls was the most unsatisfactory and girls received practically no formal instruction whatever,

except for the little domestic instruction that was available to the daughter of the upper class families. In olden times, women were only seen doing household works. They had no right to be educated, to go outside their houses or to do work they want. They were forced to live their whole life under the same four walls. They had no freedom at all. They had struggled so long to get their rights. There were many activists who fought for women education in India. In the Vedic period women had access to education in India, but they had gradually lost this right. However, in the British period there was revival of interest in women's education in India. During this period, various socio-religious movements led by eminent persons like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar emphasized on women's education in India.

As a result women's literacy rate has grown over the three decades and the growth of female literacy has been higher than that of male literacy rate. While in 1971 only 22% of Indian women were literate, by the end of 2001, 54.16% female were literate. The growth of female literacy rate is 14.87% as compared to 11.72 % of that of male literacy rate. But still, around the world, 132 million girls are out of school including 34.3 millions of primary school age, 30 million of lower – secondary school age and 67.4 million of upper-secondary school age. There are number of reasons for this such as poverty, child marriage and gender-based violence. It should be changed. Girls should be educated at any cost. Because girls who receive education are more likely to marry late and live a healthy and productive life.

#### **Objectives of Girl Child Education :-**

The objective of the paper is to ascertain recent status and challenges of girl's education in India; to provide possible suggestions and to overcome the challenges of girls' education in India. We have used different type of articles, reports, research papers, books, official websites, and online materials to conduct this study. The paper has been divided into four parts. The first part of the paper highlights about the historical background and importance of girls' education in India. The second part of the paper discusses about the recent status of girls' education in India. The third part of the paper elaborates about major initiatives taken by the Government of India for improving girls' education and different challenges of girls' education in India. The last part of the paper provides suggestions for overcoming the barriers of girls' education in India. The paper concludes that girls' education has very poor condition in elementary and secondary stage than the higher education. At elementary and secondary level girls' enrollment rate has

been decreased from 2012 to 2015, but girls' gross enrollment ratio has been increased at higher education level from 2012 to 2015. Parental attitude, lack of infrastructure, lack of security, superstitions related to girls, socio-economic condition of parents are the major challenges for promoting girls' education in India. This paper suggests that higher authorities, community members, NGOs and all citizens of India must take responsibility to eradicate different barriers related to girls' education from our society.

### **Importance of Girl Child Education :-**

Children are very innocent and simple that they simply learn what we teach them or what they see their elders are doing. Children just copy the activities of their parents. If they are taught to respect female and equality among everyone, they would never disrespect or insult any gender.

- Educating the girl child will empower them to seek gender equality in the society.
- With the education of Girl Child, they will be able to earn and that would raise their economic condition and their status in the society.
- They will be aware about the advantages of small and planned family and this will be a big step towards achieving stabilized population goals.
- It has been reported that the single most important factor affecting high total fertility rates (TFR) is the low status of women in many societies. Women education will help increase the age of marriage of women and they would tend to have fewer, healthier children who would live longer.
- Educated women would be able to rear their children in a better way, leading to their good health and provide them with better facilities.
- Women education can greatly help to restore their settlement and dignity.
- Education of women would narrow down the social disparities and inequities. This would automatically lead to sustainable development.

### **Advantages:-**

There are several advantages of educating girls. Educated girls grow up to become educated women who can play an important role in the development of society. Let's look

into some other advantages of sending girls to school. The overall literacy rate for women increased from 0.2% in 1882 to 6% in 1947. There are approximately 34 million adolescent girls out of school. Another shocking fact is that two-thirds of the 796 million illiterates are women. According to the 2011 census, the male literacy rate is 82.14% and the female literacy rate is only 65.46% in India. All these statistics certainly reveal the kind of discrimination that women face in today's world.

### **Challenges to Girl Child Education :-**

It is an undeniable fact that India has made considerable progress in terms of sending girls to schools for primary education. Over the last few decades, a lot has been done to uplift the status of women on all fronts. However, the situation is yet to turn around completely.

- Poverty
- Distance from home
- Gender discrimination In India
- Poor Sanitation
- Cultural Beliefs
- Lack of Funding
- Child marriage
- Menstruation
- Household Chores
- Trafficking
- Pregnancy
- Violence at Schools
- Child Labour

### **We Must Know About This Data :-**

- One girl under age 15 is married every seven seconds.
- Girls are 3 times more likely to be out of school,
- Girls are 2 times more likely to die from malnutrition.
- Girls are 2 times more likely to be subjected to sexual violence.

- Girls are 2 times more likely to get coerced into trafficking.

**Recommendations :-**

- Policies should focus on banning the harmful practices like child marriage and tackling gender based violence and child trafficking.
- Communication, campaigns, education and advocacy at all levels of the society are very important to change gender and social norms.
- More Women Teachers should be encouraged.
- Safe transport for young girls is imperative for a safe journey to school.
- Schools need the resources for girls to manage their menstruation and feel empowered to have full control over their body.

Girls and boys both should be valued equally and have the same opportunities as each other. The narrative has changed in many ways, as girls now see themselves as more capable of having an education and have a strong desire to attend. However, we must continue to create awareness surrounding the benefits of educating girls, as well as informing communities about the harms of child marriage and early pregnancy. These conversations are crucial to have within the global community in order to implement sustainable change for gender equality.

**Schemes implemented by Government of India :-**

- Beti Bachao, Beti Padao  
This Scheme was launched on 22 January 2015. The main aim of this scheme is to protect the girl child from social problems.
- CBSE Udaan Scheme
- Balika Saridhhi yojana
- Ladli Scheme and Kanya kosh Scheme
- Sukanya Samridhi Yojana
- Ladli Lakshmi Yojana
- National Scheme of Incentive for the girls of Secondary Education

**Conclusion:-**

Girls' education is a big opportunity for India to be developed socially and economically.

Educated girls' are used as weapons for positive impact on the Indian society through their contribution at home and professional fields. Empowerment of the girl child with the help of education will bring about a big change in the country. NGOs like 'Save the Children' work with the government to provide survival, safety and education to the girl child. The NGO established has special initiatives to empower every Indian girl child. Gender-sensitive education material is provided to over 30,000 children, and families are counseled to send their daughters to school. Many of these girls are today their family's first generation learners, and have earned laurels in the national academic events. The NGO also organises community events which seek to sensitise families and communities about the importance of girl child education. You can also make a big contribution and help the organization in accomplishing the mission of educating girls by donating online to NGO. Your donation will not only empower the girl child, but will also give you a huge satisfaction.

**“Together, we can take small steps to make a big change.”**

**References :-**

- Advancement Project. (2014). Restorative Practices: Fostering Healthy Relationships & Promoting Positive Discipline in Schools. Washington, DC: Author. Available:
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2019. Monitoring Educational Equity. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25389>.
- Bhatnagar, G.S. (1972). Education and Social, Change. Calcutta: The Minerva Associates.
- Coles, Robert. (1970). Erik H. Erikson: The Growth of His Work. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.,
- Chakraborti Mohit. (2000). Modern Issues in Education. New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers.
- Davison, H. E. (1972). Casework: A Psychosocial Therapy. New York: Random House.
- Erikson, E. H. (Ed.). (1963). Youth: Change and Challenge. Basic books. Faulkner Cynthia A and Faulkner Samuel, (2009).