

# EDUCATION OF THE GIRL CHILD IN INDIA

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## ABSTRACT

*Education is an essential part of a living being, whether it's a boy or a girl. Education helps an individual to be smarter, to learn new things and to know about the facts of the world. Education plays one of the most important roles in Women Empowerment. It also helps to put a stop to discrimination based on gender. Education is the first step to give women the power to choose the way of life she wants to lead. The current generation gone the times when people used to think that it was unnecessary to send girls to school. In the current times, Women are competing with men in all spheres of life. Today, people not only understand the importance of quality education, but also send their daughters to school. It's an undeniable truth that girl's education can bring about a phenomenal change in the society. Girls are now working under different personalities those are writers, educators, teachers, lawyers, doctors, administrators, politicians, scientists etc. This present paper explores that the girl child Education is purposeful and meaningful and very equipment for progress, enhance and develop in India and how it improves the education through the various aspects of the education.*

**Key words:** Education, Girl Child Education, and Quality of the Girl Child Education

## INTRODUCTION

The term 'girl-child' refers to a female between the ages of 6-18 years (Mukhtar et al., 2011). The National Child Welfare Policy (1989) as cited by Ada (2001) defines the girl-child as a female below 14 years of age. Offorma (2009) defines it as a biological female offspring from birth to eighteen (18) years of age. This period is made up of infancy, childhood, early and late adolescence stages of development. Education is an essential part of a living being, whether it's a boy or a girl. Education helps an individual to be smarter, to learn new things and to know about the facts of the world. Education plays one of the most important roles in Women Empowerment. It also helps to put a stop to discrimination based on gender. Education is the first step to give women the power to choose the way of life she wants to lead. Education helps women to be more productive in her work. A knowledgeable woman has the skills, information, talent, and self-confidence that she requires to be a superior mother, employee, and resident. Women constitute almost half the population of our country. Men and Women are like two sides of the coin and need identical opportunity to contribute to the country's development. One cannot survive without the other. Girl Education in India is largely essential for the growth of the nation because girls can do most of the things better than the boys. Nowadays girl education is necessary and is also compulsory because girls are the future of the country. In India, girl's education is necessary as to develop socially and economically. Educated women yield a positive impact on Indian society through their contribution in professional fields like – medical, defense services, science and technology. They do good business and are also well-versed in handling their home and office. An improved economy and society are the outcome of girl's education. Educated women can also help in controlling the population of the country by marrying at the right or later age in comparison to the uneducated women.

Women education in early Indian society was quite good but in the middle age, it was not because of numerous limitations towards women. However, again it is getting improved and better day by day as people in India have understood the fact that without the growth and development of women, the growth of the country is not possible. It is very true that equivalent expansion of both sexes will boost the economic and social growth in every area of the country.

### **IMPORTANCE OF THE GIRL CHILD EDUCATION**

There was a time when people thought that it was not necessary to educate girls. Now we have begun to realize that girls' education is essential. The modern age is the age of awakening of girls. They are trying to compete with men in all spheres of life. There are many people who oppose girls' education. They say that the proper sphere of girls is the home. So, they argue that the money spent on girl's education is wasted. This view is wrong, because girl's education can bring about a silent revolution in the society. There is several advantage of girls' education. Grown up educated girls can play an important role in the development of their country. They can share the burden of men in the different walk of life. When girls are well-educated, not forced to marry during childhood, they will be able serve the society as writers, educators, teachers, lawyers, doctors, administrators, politicians, scientists, and much more. They can work at banks, hospitals, government offices and large businesses. They can play an important role during war.

Education is a boon to girls in this age of economic crisis. Gone are the days of plenty and prosperity. Now-a-days it is difficult for the people of the middle class to make both ends meet. After marriage, educated girls can add to the income of their husbands. If a woman is educated, she can earn a living after the death of her husband. Girls' education is necessary for making the homes a happy place. A man's life blossom he is blessed with well-educated women as wife and mother. Educated girls can brighten the future of their country by the good upbringing of their children. Education gives a woman freedom of thought. It broadens her outlook and makes her aware of her duties and responsibilities. Education empowers a grown up girl to become economically independent. They will be able to stand up for their rights. Girls have all the rights to get educated. Empowerment of girls and women is necessary to fight against the problem of gender-inequality. Education of rural girls is equally important. The rural girls are not getting ample opportunity for education. Education of these girls would have positive impact on both economy and society.

### **ROLE OF GIRL CHILD EDUCATION**

Women education is essential for the appropriate social and economic development of the country. Both men and women run parallel like two wheels in every society. Hence, both are significant components of growth and development in the country. Thus, both require equal opportunity when it comes to education. Girl education in India is required for the future of the country as women are the primary teachers of their kids who are the future of the nation. Uneducated women cannot dynamically contribute in managing the family and take proper care of the children and thus result in a weak future generation. There are numerous advantages of girl education. Some of the top ones are mentioned as under:

1. Educated women are more able to influence their future.
2. Educated women are able to reduce poverty by working and being economically strong.
3. Educated women have Low risk of child mortality.
4. Educated women are 50% more likely to have their child immunized.
5. Educated women are less likely to be taken advantage of and less likely to contact HIV/AIDS.
6. Educated women are less likely to become victims of domestic or sexual abuse.
7. Educated women reduce corruption and change the conditions that lead to terrorism.
8. Educated women are better operational to contribute to the family earnings.
9. Educated women are healthier and tend to have greater self-esteem and self-confidence.
10. Educated women help contribute and prosper their community.
11. Women who are educated see the potential and need to promote education in others.

Educated women can, without doubt, handle her family more efficiently. She can make each family associate accountable by imparting good qualities in children. She can take part in the social workings and this can be a great contribution towards the socioeconomic healthy nation. By educating a man, only a part of the nation would be educated however by educating a woman, the whole country can be educated. Lack of women education weakens the potent part of the society. So, women should have full rights for the education and should not be treated inferior to men.

**FUTURE EDUCATED GENERATIONS** – An African proverb says, “If we educate a boy, we educate one person. If we educate a girl, we educate a family – and a whole nation.” By sending a girl to school, she is far more likely to ensure that her children also receive an education. As many claim, investing in a girl's education is investing in a nation.

**DECREASE INFANT MORTALITY:** Children of educated women are less likely to die before their first birthday. Girls who receive an education are less likely to contract HIV & AIDS, and thus, less likely to pass it onto their children. Primary education alone helps reduce infant mortality significantly, and secondary education helps even more. The Girls Global Education Fund reports that when a child is born to a woman in Africa who hasn't received an education, he or she has a 1 in 5 chance of dying before 5.

**DECREASE MATERNAL MORTALITY:** Educated women (with greater knowledge of health care and fewer pregnancies) are less likely to die during pregnancy, childbirth, or during the postpartum period. Increased education of girls also leads to more female health care providers to assist with prenatal medical care, labor and delivery, delivery complications and emergencies, and follow-up care.

**DECREASE CHILD MARRIAGE:** Child marriage – in some cases involving girls as young as 6 or 8 – almost always results in the end of a girl's schooling. The result is illiterate or barely literate young mothers without adequate tools to build healthy, educated families. On average, for every year a girl stays in school past fifth grade, her marriage is delayed a year. Educated girls typically marry later, when they are better able to bear and care for their children.

**DECREASE POPULATION EXPLOSION:** Educated women tend to have fewer (and healthier) babies. A 2000 study in Brazil found that literate women had an average of 2.5 children while illiterate women had an average of six children, according to UNESCO.

**INCREASE INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL PROCESS:** Educated women are more likely to participate in political discussions, meetings, and decision-making, which in turn promotes a more representative, effective government.

**DECREASE DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE:** Educated girls and women are less likely to be victims of domestic and sexual violence or to tolerate it in their families.

**DECREASE SUPPORT FOR MILITANCY:** As women become more educated, they are less likely to support militancy and terrorism than similarly educated men.

**IMPROVE SOCIOECONOMIC GROWTH:** Educated women have a greater chance of escaping poverty, leading healthier and more productive lives, and raising the standard of living for their children, families, and communities. Many people say that girls should not go in for degrees. They are wrong, because girls have already proved their worth in all walks of life. There is no reason why girls should not get the same kind of education as men. But they should not neglect their duties at the home. So, girls must have knowledge of domestic science and child psychology.

#### **HOW IT IMPROVES GIRLS' CHILD EDUCATION**

- Parental and community involvement -- Families and communities must be important partners with schools in developing curriculum and managing children's education.
- Low-cost and flexible timetables -- Basic education should be free or cost very little. Where possible, there should be stipends and scholarships to compensate families for the loss of girls' household labour. Also, school hours should be flexible so children can help at home and still attend classes.
- Schools close to home, with women teachers -- Many parents worry about girls travelling long distances on their own. Many parents also prefer to have daughters taught by women.
- Preparation for school -- Girls do best when they receive early childhood care, which enhances their self-esteem and prepares them for school.
- Relevant curricula -- Learning materials should be relevant to the girl's background and be in the local language. They should also avoid reproducing gender stereotypes.

## CONCLUSION

India is now a leading country on the basis of women education. Indian History is not devoid of talented women. It is full of women philosophers like Gargi, Viswabara and Maitreya. Other renowned women include Mirabai, Durgabati, Ahalyabi and Laxmibai. All the legendary and historical women in India are an inspiration and motivation for today's women. We can never overlook their contributions to the society and country. The progress of a country depends on girls' education. So, girls' education should be encouraged. Quality learning is important for the future lives of girls and boys, but it is also an especially important ingredient in the virtuous circle of development that comes from girls' education.

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