



STATUS OF GIRL'S EDUCATION IN RAJASTHAN



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ABSTRACT

Education is one of the key factors to a healthy, productive, and equal society. It is necessary in order to produce thoughtful and knowledgeable humans who can actively participate and contribute to society. In order for people to grow and develop in ways that will benefit themselves and their communities they need to have schools readily available. Education is the backbone of society. It is the only way to make advancements in areas including technology, business, economics, peace, social justice, and human rights. All of these require humans to be educated. Education is not just learning simple math and reading. Teachers help children learn how to problem solve, how to make decisions, and how to analyze and handle different situations. All of this accumulates to creating citizens who are able to make educated and well informed decisions about their lives and for their families. This is crucial for everything from fostering healthy families to making political decisions, such as who to vote for.

KEY WORDS: *Education, Status, Enrolment, Enrolment Ratio, Equal Society, Global Statistics.*

INTRODUCTION

Education is a basic right and more importantly a catalyst for economic growth and Human development. It is a crucial tool for breaking the barrier of poverty. Specifically, primary education is the critical enabler required to improve the economic and social scenario in many pockets of the nation. We also need to ensure equal status for the girl children as citizens in their own right. For any country to progress, one half of its population cannot be denied the right to education. This denial is also a gross violation of many rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution, primary among them being the right to education and the right to equality. Global statistics reveal that 75% of the 130 million children who are out of school are girls. Illiterate girls grow up to be illiterate women. This results in lopsided development as it denies equal opportunities to equal citizens. Of the 960 million adults

in the world who cannot read, two thirds are women.¹ South Asia has the widest gender gaps compared to other countries of the world. ²There are many disparities between women and men across the world and they remain persistent in the areas of access to resources, opportunities and in matters of human rights. India is a signatory to many international commitments on women's and girls' development and has its own national commitments for development and education of girls. The first reference to equal opportunities for education of both girls and boys is made in India's National Policy on Education, 1968. One of the principles of the development of education in the country listed in the 1968 policy was. Equalisation of Educational Opportunity: "(c) The Education of girls should receive emphasis, not only grounds of social justice, but also because it accelerates social transformation".



The National Policy on Education, 1986 went beyond just specifying the need for emphasis on girls' education and laid down some specific strategies for education to achieve women's equality:

Foster the development of new values through –

- Redesigned curricula, textbooks,
- Training and orientation of teachers, decision-makers and administrators,
- Active involvement of educational institution”.

◆ Removal of women's illiteracy and obstacles inhibiting their access to, and retention in school; elementary education to receive overriding priority through

- Provision of special support services
- Setting of time targets
- Effective monitoring

The policies lack a clear gender perspective and do not touch upon many aspects that hinder education for girls, one of them being the sexual harassment of girls in schools.

OBJECTIVES

The Purpose of the study an examination of the status of girl's education on various aspects likes literacy status, Enrolment, GER, Enrolment Ratio, Achievement of Board examinations in rajasthan.

METHODOLOGY

The Present study basically relies on secondary data sources available from census2011, elementary and secondary education: state report card India, education status report rajasthan.

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Rajasthan is India's largest state in terms of area (3.42 Lakh Sq Km, comparable to Republic of Congo) and 8th largest State in terms of Population (6.86 Crores, comparable to Thailand). The state has one of the largest and oldest indigenous populace, and has made significant progress in imparting modern education.

Rajasthan District Primary Education Programme, the Shiksha Karmi Lok Jumbish had the biggest percentage decadal (1991-2001) increase in literacy of all Indian states, from about 38% to about 61%, a leapfrog that has been termed "spectacular" by some observers. Aggressive state government action, in the form of the initiative and the programme (both adult literacy programs done with the involvement of citizen groups and non-government organizations), are credited with the rapid improvement. The decadal rise from 2001-11 was only 7% (60.4% in 2001 to 67.1% in 2011). When statehood was granted to Rajasthan in 1956, it was the least literate state in India with a literacy rate of 18%.

Literacy Status:-

According to the 2011 Census, Rajasthan has the 33rd worst literacy rate across India. Across all categories Rajasthan stands below the national averages. Overall the literacy rate for India is 74.04 per cent but for Rajasthan it is 66 per cent. The male literacy rate for Rajasthan is not far behind the national average, which is very good. However, the literacy rate for women in Rajasthan is much lower than the national average of 65.46 per cent at low 52.66 percent

Literacy Rate Rajasthan2011

Category	Rajasthan	India
Male	80.51%	82.14%
Female	52.66%	65.46%
overall	67.06	74.04%

Source: census 2011

Enrolment Status:-

The enrolment figures for girls are comparatively lower than those for boy.

Enrolment in elementary and secondary cccclsses2013-14

Classes:	1st	to	8th	Classes:	9th	to	10th
Boys	Girl's		Total	Boys	Girl's		Total
66,40231	56,50021		1,22,90252	13,73257	9,90574		23,63831

Source: Elementary Education state report card 2013-14

This table shows that the enrolment of girls is less than of boys both in elementary and secondary.

Ratio of girl's enrolment to boys' enrolment

Classes	Ratio
1 st to 8th	.85
9 th to 10th	.72

Source; education status report Rajasthan2013



Girls' enrollment in Rajasthan is not a positive situation. According to Educate Girls, "Rajasthan has 9 of the 26 most backward districts in India. The gender gap in these districts is so immense that girls and women are lagging behind their male counterparts in all spheres of life" (Educate Girls) This includes girls lagging behind boys in school enrollment rates. From the 2009-2010 school year to 2010-2011 the number of girls greatly decreased. For every 1000 boys 857 girls were enrolled in 2009-2010. However, in the following school year only 538 girls were enrolled for every 1000 boys. This is a huge decrease and does not bode well for the future.

However, girls' dropout rates in secondary standards are quite high. There are two main causes for this. The first, as previously mentioned is child labor. As girls get older parents are more likely to want them to work and make money rather than send them to school. The second main reason for girls to drop out is child marriage. Once girls reach the age of twelve, most families believe they are eligible for marriage so they take their daughters out of school and marry them off. Families consider girls to be a burden since they have to care for them and the girls are not allowed to work so they are just a hindrance on the families' tight budget. Thus, families do not want to waste money on educating their daughters because they just leave when they get married anyway.

Achievement of 10th board examination 2013-14

Student Appeared		%Student passed	
Boys	Girl's	Boys	Girls
66,47895	4,46345	70.55	69.23

Source: BSER Rajasthan 2013-14

Despite various efforts made in Rajasthan in the direction of improving the educational status of girls and female literacy rates, a major gap still exists between boys and girls in the area of enrolment, retention and academic achievement levels. There is a high gender gap of 27.85% in literacy, which is indicative of the status of girls and women in Rajasthan. Though the female literacy has shown an upward growth in the last decade, 48% of the females in Madhya Pradesh are still illiterate. The low literacy status of women and the low participation of girls in school create a need for reinforcement of the strategies to promote girls' education. At the same time it also calls for more specific and focused strategies to be implemented so as to increase girls' participation in education. In this context, the National Program for Education of Girls at Elementary Level along with SSA has been introduced to facilitate girls' education by providing more opportunities for girls to participate in schools.

Problems related to education of girls:

- Cost of education
- Access to education
- Lack of adequate number of schools at stages of education within proximity
- Lack of institutions for girls
- Lack of transport facilities
- Inadequate hostel facilities
- School environment (infrastructure)
- Paucity of women teachers
- Curricula
- Insecurity
- Lack of child-care centers or balwadis

CONCLUSION

Girls as a group need special attention as far as enrolment and retention issues are concerned. Girls are disadvantaged as they still do not enjoy parity with boys in society. This has a bearing on their overall development, education not being an exception to this. Rural girls are specially disadvantaged as many of them are engaged in household chores as well as paid and unpaid work, e.g. in work related to fuel, fodder, water, sibling care. It is impossible to achieve Universal Elementary Education unless concerted efforts are made to reach out to the girl child. It is felt that in order to enhance their participation and performance, necessary support services need to be extended to this group. Besides, factors rooted in the family or the socio-cultural milieu of girl children, distance to schools and the associated threat to security are the major reasons for their exclusion from the education system.

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