

Educational Status of Women in Jammu Division of J and K State

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Abstract: Women education is very important for the development of any country. We cannot hope for the developed nation without proper education of the women. Trained and educated mothers may nourish many lives and give rise to the developed nation.

Women constitute 47% of the state population of Jammu and Kashmir. So we cannot ignore their importance in the development of the state. Education is the right of both men and women. The present paper is based on secondary source of data. This study examines the trends of women education, sex ratio and female literacy rate of Jammu division of J and K state since 1981s. And also examine various causes and remedies to improve the status of women education.

Key words:- Women Education, Development, Sex ratio, Female literacy rate

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I. Introduction

“If you educate a man you educate an individual, however if you educate a whole family”--- Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Despite the fact that women constitute almost half of the population in the world. Their status still lacked behind as they don't get equal opportunities in different aspect. There is always a tremendous need everywhere in the world to improve their status. And one of the best tools in the hand of an individual to accomplish this task is access of women to education. Education can play an important role in the overall development of the country. Education helps not only in improving the quality of life of the women but also enable them to provide better guidance, nourishment to their children and also helps in reducing infant mortality rate, growth of population etc.

Even in the Vedic period women had access to education in India. But they lost their status during middle period because of many restrictions against them. However, during the British period many efforts were made by social reformer like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Mahatma Gandhi, JyotibaPhule, Baba Sahib Ambedkar for the education of the women. But after India got independence in 1947, Government of India stated taking various initiatives to provide education to all women. And as a result of all these efforts of Government of India. Women literacy rate had shown some improvement. In 1981, only 29.76% of female were literate and in 2001 only 54.16%. By the end of 2011 female literacy has increased to 65.46%.

But still in some of the areas women are not equally treated at par with men. There are discriminations in access to education. There is rural and urban division in Jammu and Kashmir State in access to education. The state has hilly areas and mostly closes to border areas. Also there is a gap in male and female literacy rate.

A. Gupta et al. said that the education is the essential process through which women are gaining confidence, self-esteem and the skills to equip themselves in the struggle for equal rights. Education has been increasingly regarded as a tool in promoting equality, development and peace, as an agent of social change and an important input for development. Education also bring about reduction inequalities in society

According to Rouf Ahmed Bhat, We can change the position of society only through education of women. It is only education of women that can help in reducing inequalities and improve their status in society and also within the family.

Jitendra K. et al. stated that women empowerment can only be achieved through the provision of adequate and functional education to the women.

V. Narayanappa et al. also looking toward education as an agent of basic change. There has been a strong link between India's focus on girls education resulting to women empowerment. The education system has also played an inter-ventionist role in promoting women's studies and empowering women to become actively involved as decision makers and administrators.

Methodology

The study is based on secondary source of data. Data are collected from the Research articles and books and census reports of J&K state but in 1991 census in the state, due to disturbances, has been not conducted. Then sex ratio and female literacy status of all the districts of Jammu Division are compared with the state and India.

Status of Women education in Jammu

Traditionally also women position were confined to domestic affairs only and even today in some of the areas women have no access to education. Let us discuss the educational status of women with the help of Districts wise sex ratio and female literacy rate in Jammu Division

Table 1. Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 males) in Jammu since 1981

Name of District	1 9 8 1	2 0 0 1	2 0 1 1
J a m m u	9 1 2	9 6 5	8 7 1
D o d a	9 0 4	9 1 3	9 2 2
K a t h u a	9 1 7	8 9 8	8 7 7
R a j o u r i	9 0 6	8 7 8	8 6 3
P o o n c h	8 8 9	9 1 9	8 9 0
U d h a m p u r	9 3 4	8 4 6	8 6 3
K i s h t w a r	N . e s t .	N . e s t .	9 1 7
R a m b a n	N . e s t .	N . e s t .	9 0 1
R e a s i	N . e s t .	N . e s t .	8 9 1
S a m b a	N . e s t .	N . e s t .	8 8 6
J & K	9 8 2	9 0 0	8 8 3
I n d i a	9 3 4	9 3 3	9 4 0

The table above shows district wise sex ratio of female per 1000 males of Jammu Division and also of J&K State and India as a whole.

As we have seen that in 1981, District Udhampur has the highest sex ratio of 943 females per 1000 males and Kathua in 2nd position in sex ratio with 917 which is greater than of J&K State but less than of India as a whole. But sex ratio of District Udhampur is equivalent to India. Whereas District Poonch has the lowest sex ratio of 889 females per 1000 males which is less than both of J&K and India.

In 2001, Poonch has the highest sex ratio 919 which is more than sex ratio of J&K but less than of India 933. And district Udhampur has the lowest sex ratio 846.

In 2011, District Doda has highest sex ratio of 922 females per 1000 males is more than sex ratio of J&K 883 and less than of India 940. District Rajouri and Udhampur both have the lowest sex ratios of 863 but less than J&K and India.

Table 2 District wise Female literacy rate of Jammu (in percentage) since 1981

Name of District	1 9 8 1	2 0 0 1	2 0 1 1
J a m m u	3 2 . 2 4	6 8 . 7 5	7 7 . 4 1
D o d a	7 . 3 4	2 8 . 3 6	5 0 . 3 4
K a t h u a	2 1 . 2 5	5 3 . 9 2	6 4 . 5 6
R a j o u r i	1 4 . 3 2	4 4 . 1 4	5 7 . 2 0
P o o n c h	1 1 . 2 4	3 5 . 3 0	5 4 . 8 0
U d h a m p u r	1 3 . 5 5	3 9 . 8 9	5 8 . 2 2
K i s h t w a r	N . e s t .	N . e s t .	4 4 . 1 3
R a m b a n	N . e s t .	N . e s t .	4 0 . 0 4
R e a s i	N . e s t .	N . e s t .	4 7 . 5 5
S a m b a	N . e s t .	N . e s t .	7 4 . 3 9
J & K	5 6 . 5	4 2 . 2 2	5 8 . 0 1
I n d i a	2 9 . 7 6	5 4 . 1 6	6 5 . 4 6

The above table shows the District wise female literacy rate in percentage of Jammu Division with comparison to J&K state and India.

In 1981, District Jammu has the highest female literacy rate with 32.24% which is less than J&K female literacy rate 56.5% but more than India (29.76%). Whereas District Doda has the lowest female literacy rate i.e. 7.34 % very less than both J&K and India.

In 2001, District Jammu once again the highest literacy rate 68.75% greater than both J&K and India. And District Doda with 28.36% has the lowest female literacy rate .

In 2011 also Jammu has the highest literacy rate 77.41%, higher than J&K and that of India. District Ramban has the lowest female literacy rate of 40.04% which is less than J&K 58.01% and India 65.46%.

II. Conclusion And Suggestions

It is concluded on the basis of above analysis that District Jammu has the highest female literacy rate among all the districts of the Jammu Division since 1981. But as far as sex ratio is concerned it decreases from 918 females per 1000 males to 865 (2001) and in 2011 it is 871. Whereas District Doda has shown a positive change both in terms of literacy rate and sex ratio. Its literacy rate drastically increases from 7.34% in 1981 to 50.34% in 2011 and sex ratio increases from 904 (1981) to 922 in 2011 but still less than India. In all other districts we have seen sex ratio somewhere increases and somewhere decreases but female literacy rate has shown improvement in all the districts except Kishtwar, Ramban, Reasi and Rajouri.

The main reasons of low sex ratio, especially in Udhampur District, is easy availability and access to sex determination facilities in rural and urban areas, poverty and literacy among women forces them to go for sex determination and this leads to the abortion of female fetuses. Because of efforts being made by the state Government for education of women, the position has improved in the Jammu Division. But still female literacy remains low as compared to men and gender gap in Jammu is also higher than the nation. Therefore, much more needs to be done in this aspect.

In order to improve the educational status of women:-

Rural women should be encouraged to participate in awareness programmes regarding the benefits of getting education.

Scholarship, free education, health facilities and other economic support should be given to the parents with girl child.

More women teachers should be appointed and special allowances should be given to volunteer women teachers to work in rural areas.

Much more education centers are needed in state to increase literacy rate specially of women.

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