

The Importance of Women's Education for Equality and Gender Justice

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Abstract

This study focuses on the importance of women's education in the context of Ranchi district toward equality and gender justice. The literacy rate among women in Ranchi has improved, but challenges such as economic barriers, cultural beliefs, and lack of educational resources still persist in rural and tribal areas. Women's education is crucial for equality as it empowers women with economic independence, better health, and social and political participation. Government schemes like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and 'Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana' along with efforts by non-governmental organizations have been helpful in promoting women's education. However, continuous efforts are necessary for effective implementation of these initiatives and to overcome local cultural barriers. To promote women's education, measures such as financial assistance, improvement of educational infrastructure, training for gender equality, and security arrangements are essential. Community participation and awareness campaigns are also important for developing a positive attitude toward education. Educated women can not only improve their own lives but also play a significant role in the upliftment of society. Ensuring the right to education and opportunities for every woman is a necessary step toward social justice, which can enable the overall development of the community.

Keywords: Women's education, gender equality, social awareness, educational infrastructure, financial assistance.

1. Introduction

Women's education is a crucial tool that can help ensure equality and gender justice in society. Particularly in the context of Ranchi district, where the state of women's education is improving,

many challenges still exist in rural and tribal areas. Barriers such as economic problems, cultural beliefs, and lack of educational resources remain major obstacles to the spread of women's education. Education for women is not only a means of personal development but also enables them to achieve economic independence, better health, and social and political participation. Educated women can make better contributions to both family and society, thereby promoting overall development and progress. The government and non-governmental organizations have made efforts to promote women's education through initiatives like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and 'Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana'. However, continuous efforts are necessary for effective implementation of these initiatives and to overcome cultural barriers at the local level. Measures such as financial assistance, improvement of educational infrastructure, training for gender equality, and security arrangements are important for promoting women's education. Additionally, it is necessary to develop a positive attitude toward education by conducting community participation and awareness campaigns. This study attempts to understand the state of women's education in Ranchi district and related challenges. It also considers potential measures to promote women's education and their effectiveness, so that the goals of equality and gender justice can be achieved.

2. Status of Women's Education

Literacy Rate: The literacy rate is an important indicator in understanding the status of women's education. The literacy rate among women in India has improved over the past few decades, but it is still lower compared to men's literacy rate. The same situation exists in Ranchi district, where gradual growth is being seen in the women's literacy rate. However, despite this improvement, lack of education and difficulties still exist in many rural and tribal areas.

Availability of Educational Institutions

The availability of educational institutions is important for understanding the status of women's education. The number of educational institutions in Ranchi district has increased, such as schools, colleges, and technical institutes. However, there is a lack of educational facilities in rural areas and tribal regions. Many areas face problems such as shortage of schools, inadequate buildings, and lack of teachers. Due to these problems, girls face difficulties in obtaining education.

Gender Discrimination in Education

A major challenge in the status of women's education is gender discrimination in education. In many areas, girls receive fewer educational opportunities compared to men. Cultural and traditional beliefs also do not encourage girls' education. Additionally, prejudices against women and social perceptions also create barriers in the field of education.

Economic Barriers

Economic barriers affect the status of women's education. The financial condition of families, especially poor and low-income families, affects girls' education. Often, families feel that spending more on boys' education is right, leading to neglect of girls' education. Due to this economic inequality, girls are likely to drop out of school or pay less attention to education.

Lack of Educational Resources

The lack of educational resources also affects the status of women's education. Due to the shortage of good quality textbooks, study materials, and teachers, the quality of education declines. Additionally, the lack of modern technology and digital education resources is also a major problem, which is more evident especially in rural and tribal areas.

Government and Non-Government Efforts

Several government and non-government efforts are being made to improve the status of women's education. Government schemes such as 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' and 'Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana' have been implemented to encourage women's education. Additionally, many non-governmental organizations and local communities are also active in the field of education, working to increase educational opportunities for girls and spread awareness about them.

3. Role of Women's Education in Equality and Gender Justice

Economic Independence

Women's education plays an important role in the direction of equality and gender justice. When women are educated, they get job and business opportunities, making them economically independent. Economic independence gives women the power to make their own life decisions and helps them achieve an equal place in society with economic sovereignty.

Economic Empowerment

Educated women can get better jobs and increase their income. This improves their quality of life and enables them to make economically important contributions to family and society. Through women's education, women can start their own businesses or enterprises, which gives them economic independence and respect in society.

Health and Living Standards

Women's education also has a significant impact on health and living standards. Educated women can make better health-related decisions and take care of their own and their family's health. In Ranchi district, women's education has an important contribution to health improvement. Educated women make better use of health-related information and resources, enabling them and their family members to stay healthy. Through education, women acquire important knowledge about nutrition and medicine, which is beneficial for children's health and development. Understanding balanced diet and proper medical care leads to better physical and mental development of children. Thus, women's education is not only helpful in personal health improvement but also raises the health level of the entire family and community.

Social Empowerment

Women's education is an important step toward social empowerment. When women are educated, they can raise their voice in society and contribute toward social justice. In Ranchi district, women's education has an important contribution to decision-making capacity. Educated women can make better decisions in their families and society, enabling them to play an active role in social and political matters. This empowerment not only makes them self-reliant in personal life but also enables them to play an important role in the direction of social change. Additionally,

women's education promotes gender equality and challenges those traditional beliefs that hinder the protection of women's rights. This can ensure women's rights and equality in society.

Challenging Cultural and Traditional Beliefs

Women's education challenges cultural and traditional beliefs that do not provide equal opportunities to women. When women receive education, they become capable of challenging these beliefs and bringing positive change in society. In Ranchi district, women's education brings important changes in mindset. Education provides women with the ability to challenge traditional notions and gender discrimination, which develops a positive attitude toward women in society. This change not only improves women's status but also contributes broadly to gender equality in society. Additionally, education makes women aware of their rights and opportunities, enabling them to improve their social and economic status. Thus, women's education is an important step toward equality and gender justice.

Availability of Equal Opportunities

Women's education ensures the availability of equal opportunities. When women are educated, they get equal opportunities in various fields, enabling them to make equal contributions to society. In Ranchi district, women's education brings important changes in the direction of educational and professional opportunities. Educated women can pursue higher education and demonstrate their capabilities in various professional fields, thereby achieving economic independence and social recognition. Additionally, education provides women with opportunities for social and political participation, enabling them to play an active role in society's development. This not only ensures their personal advancement but also promotes gender equality and justice in society. Thus, women's education plays an important role in the direction of inclusivity and progress in society.

4. Government and Non-Government Initiatives for Women's Education in Ranchi District

Government Initiatives

Government initiatives run various schemes and programs to promote and make women's education accessible. The purpose of these initiatives is to improve the level of women's literacy

and education. The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme specifically encourages girls' education and health in rural and backward areas. This scheme emphasizes the importance of girls' birth and education and runs financial assistance and awareness programs, thereby improving their education. The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana provides a special savings account for girls' future, in which the government pays interest, providing financial assistance for education and health. The Mid-Day Meal scheme provides free food in schools, encouraging girls from poor and weaker sections to participate in school. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Mission (RMSA) runs special programs for students to promote secondary education and develop facilities in schools, thereby improving the quality and reach of education.

Non-Government Initiatives

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and communities are also making several important efforts to promote women's education. These initiatives are designed according to local needs and problems and can be broadly effective. Non-governmental organizations are running various educational programs and awareness campaigns to promote women's education in Ranchi district. These include women's literacy programs, adolescent education projects, and special education programs that encourage girls toward education. Along with this, these organizations also provide financial assistance and scholarships, which help girls from economically weaker families to pursue higher education. Additionally, training and skill development programs such as sewing, handicrafts, and computer education are also organized, which are helpful in making women self-reliant and providing employment opportunities. Social and cultural programs work to promote women's rights and the importance of education in society, while health and nutrition programs encourage better participation in education by ensuring the health of women and girls.

5. Challenges and Solutions

Challenges

Several types of challenges arise in the field of women's education, which affect the spread and quality of education. Understanding these challenges and finding solutions to them is necessary. Women's education in Ranchi district is facing several economic and social barriers. Due to financial constraints, many families cannot afford to spend on their daughters' education, causing

poverty and financial problems to create obstacles in girls' education. Cultural and traditional beliefs are also a major barrier in the direction of education, as in some societies, women's education is not given priority and educational opportunities for them become limited. The lack of educational infrastructure, such as shortage of schools and unavailability of necessary resources, also affects the quality of education. Gender discrimination and security concerns also increase problems; girls face discrimination in school and due to security issues, many families hesitate to send their daughters to school. Despite all these barriers, efforts to promote women's education are necessary.

Solutions

Various measures and strategies can be adopted to solve these challenges, which can be helpful in the spread and improvement of women's education. Necessary improvements for women's education in Ranchi district include financial assistance and incentives. Providing scholarships and subsidies to weaker families for education will reduce economic pressure on families and they will be able to focus on their daughters' education. Along with this, awareness campaigns and education programs should be conducted to increase social awareness and change cultural beliefs. Improvement in educational infrastructure is also important; the number and quality of schools should be improved along with ensuring necessary facilities such as teachers and textbooks. Training for gender equality and measures to ensure girls' safety are also necessary. By encouraging local community participation, a positive attitude toward education can be developed.

6. Conclusion

The women's literacy rate in Ranchi district is improving, but challenges such as economic barriers, cultural beliefs, and lack of educational resources still persist in rural and tribal areas. Women's education is important in the direction of equality and gender justice because it enables women to achieve economic independence, better health, and social and political participation. Government and non-governmental initiatives, such as 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and 'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana', are contributing to promoting women's education. However, continuous efforts are necessary for effective implementation of these schemes and to overcome local cultural barriers. Measures such as financial assistance, improvement of educational infrastructure, training

for gender equality, and security arrangements are necessary to promote women's education. Community participation and awareness campaigns are also important. Educated women can not only improve their own lives but also play an important role in the upliftment of society. Ensuring every woman's right to education and opportunities is a necessary step toward social justice.

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