



Girl's Education, Challenges in India with Special Reference & NEP 2020

Dr. Gurmeet Kaur

Principal Droan B.Ed College, Rudrapur

Abstract:- India is making continuous efforts to provide access to quality education to girl's in all parts of the country. It is evident that education plays a vital role in economic development, scientific advancement, cultural preservation and social equality. In a decade, India is going to be the world's most populated country. The steps we take today, in the education sector are going to impact the lives of billions of Indian in the future. Understanding the gravity of the situation, the Indian government came up with the new National Education Policy 2020 which aims to drastically improve the education ecosystem and increase the literacy rates of girls across the country. Girls' education has a significant role in the improvement and augmentation of nation. Education for girls in an influential tool of social renovation and empowerment hence needed to be taken seriously. Girls' education is the most prominent tool of attaining influence in the society as it helps in dropping and functions as a way for civilizing their position within the family and in the society. Through the education girls can get the same status, self confidence, opportunities, social upbringings, and strong economic support as men. This paper demonstrates the ways that how the girls is to lead the way to prosperity through the education. Education is the best way to reduce in equalities and build communities.

Keywords – NEP 2020, Girl's Education, Gender Inclusion, Challenges, Cultural Beliefs, Patriarchal Values, Human envelopment

Introduction:- In order to awaken the people, it is the women who has to be awakened. Once she is on the move, the household moves, the village moves and the country moves; and through the girls, its children are brought into the picture and given the opportunity of a healthier life and better training. Thus, through the girls of today we build the India tomorrow. Traditionally, girls are more backwards in every respect in our society comparatively than boy. Girls' education is an instrument for liberation. During the last three decades, planning of the socially, educationally and economically disadvantaged groups has been accelerated in India. It is only in the last decade beginning with the International Girl's year in 1975 the attention of planners in India has been specially focused on Girls Education. But if we read the position of girls today is not as equal as with position of girls in ancient period it was.

The lack of education is the main cause for which girls are the sufferer, more than men. The lack of education means the lack of self reliance, self confidence for which girl is not able to come out of their problems. Girls have often been considered a weaker section of Indian society. However, in the past few decades much attention is paid towards girls problems all the over the word. The equality of status of girls and boys has become an important and burning issue at the political and social levels. A growing concern was evident during the recent past to study various aspects of life and number of researches has offered significant and valuable knowledge about Indian girls.

Why Education for Girls:-

To educate girls is to lead the way to prosperity. It is the way to reduce inequalities and build communities. When we educate girls we also take a step towards reducing poverty. But around the world girl children face discrimination in various forms. Girls do not receive adequate nutrition; they have less or no access to healthcare and there is a huge gap in the education for girls. Girl's education goes beyond getting girls into school. It is also about ensuring that girls learn and feel safe while in school; have the opportunity to complete in the labour market gain socio-emotional; and life skilled necessary to navigate and adapt to a changing world; make decision about their own lives ;and contribute to their communities and the world. This is only the education which will train to girls to become confident, self-reliant and lead the way forward for nation –building.

A girl is not a statistic or a piece of property. She is a child who deserves a future. A girl's education changes everything. An educated girl is more likely to grow up healthy, safe and empowered to determine the course of her life and future. She'll decide when she's ready for marriage and children. She'll likely send her children to school- and even live a longer life. We understand the importance of education of girl children. We do whatever it takes to ensure every last child has a chance to grow up health, educated and safe-her best chance for a bright future. There are innumerable benefits of investing in girl's education for a country including.

- Educating women positively impacts the economic, social and health standards.
- Higher female literacy rates reduce child mortality.
- Education lowers crime rates.
- Girl's education reduces inequality in society.
- Education empowers marginalised women and helps them build better futures for themselves and their families.
- An educated society is more stable and can recover faster after a conflict.
- Educated girls are less likely to marry at a young age and more likely to raise healthy children.
- Women who complete higher education and acquire skills dramatically increase lifetime earnings.
- Kids of Educated girl are less likely to experience malnutrition or stunting.
- Assist in Buildings more Stable Communities.
- Promote Gender Equality.
- Allow Girls to make their Own Decision.
- Strengthens Economies and Advances the Fight to end Poverty.
- Positive Change for Future Generation.
- Choice to OPT a Profession of her Choice.
- Improved Life and Health.
- The lifetime earnings of girls dramatically increase.
- National growth rates rise.
- Child marriage rates decline.
- Child mortality rates fall.
- Maternal mortality rates fall.
- Child stunting drops.

Girl's 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. But education for girls is about more than access to school. It's also about girls feeling safe in classrooms and supported in the subjects and careers they choose to pursue- including those in which they are often under-represented.

Challenges of Girl's Education- Barriers to girls' education – like poverty, child marriage and gender-based violence – vary among countries and communities. Poor families often favour boys when investing in education. In some places, schools do not meet the safety, hygiene or sanitation needs of girls. It is generally accepted by many that schooling has innumerable benefits for the child. But the irony of the fact is that even after 62 Year of its independence, a vast majority of Indian children; especially girls are deprived of these benefits. Girls are often taken out of school to share the family responsibilities such as caring for younger siblings. There for few but very important primary obstacles in Educating Girls are discussed below.

- **Cultural Beliefs and Patriarchal Values-** many parents wish for a boy rather than a girl since, in their so-called “mentality,” boys will carry on with their generation. In some cultures, girls’ education is still completely forbidden. While boys are sent to school, girls’ opportunities are reduced considerably to the role of giving birth, raising kids, and performing domestic work. These cultural giving birth, raising kids, and performing domestic work, These cultural giving beliefs are stuck within patriarchal traditions. It is not uncommon for families to invest in their son’s education before investing in their daughters’. This is sometimes referred to as the ‘son preference’, and attitude that boys are more valuable than girls and therefore have a greater chance of success meaning they are most likely to be sent to education first or have their education invested in rather than other girls in the family.

Poverty

1. Poverty is one of the most important contributing factors to a girls’ education. When families can not afford the cost of education, girls have a much higher likelihood of dropping out of school than boys.
2. Though education should be free, there are a lot of costs associated with sending children to school. The cost of uniforms, textbooks or bus fare can be too much to bear for a family living in poverty. Too often, parents choose to keep their girls at home and send the boys to school instead.
3. **Negative parental attitude towards** education daughters is one of the important challenges to promote girl’s education in India. If parents can’t afford the costs of school, they’re more likely to send boys than girls. When parents have to make the decision between buying necessities like food over sanitary napkins, girls are forced to stop learning. Parents will allow their girls to enter child marriages and they spent their money on his son’s rather than hers.
4. **Lack of Facility in Schools-** Lack of female teacher facility in schools is one of the major problems in development of girls’ education in India. Lack of facility in schools is one of the major problems in development of girls’ education in India. Facility in Annual Status of Education Report agreed that due to lack of girls’ toilet facility, dropout rate at elementary and secondary levels have been increased than the decades. In many poor communities, sanitary products are not provided at school. So girls will have to miss school which often leads to a permanent drop-out.
5. **Parent’s insecurity for girls attending schools-** Parents often complain about insecurity for girls attending schools. Instances of abduction, rape and molestation of girls dampen the enthusiasm of parents and girl students in pursuing education beyond a certain age; thereafter they remain bound to their homes. Parents are less likely to let their daughters travel to school if they have to travel long unsafe distances. In many parts of the country, the nearest primary school to a particular community might be a 4 or 5 hour long walk away. On top of that, girls may face dangers or violence on the long way to school; so many parents select to keep their daughters at home and out of harm’s way.
6. **Lack of enthusiasm and interest-** Lack of enthusiasm and interest of the officials in charge of education is another problem for promoting girls’ education.
7. **Lack of awareness-** Lack of awareness among implementing agencies and community members to implement different schemes and provisions of girls’ education at grass root level. Parents and girls are

unaware about that government is providing free education to children of poor families for example eq

8. **Sexual abuse and harassment-** All over the globe girls are at a much higher risk of violence and sexual violence in society. Long distances to school are often common for many girls where there is no transport available in the community. Walking these journeys can be extremely dangerous and many young girls experience sexual harassment or even violence. This danger increases even more in times of conflict. Girls are still facing sexual abuse and harassment, according to the most recent government report on crimes in the country, India logged 31,677 cases of rape, while there were approximately 49 incidences of violence against girls reported every single hour for example in Delhi 22-year-old girl was gang raped and murdered in 2012, yes, **I am talking about the “Nirbhaya Case”, Ankita Murder Case in Uttarakhand 2022, Anjali Murder case dragging by Car 31st December 2022, Nikki Yadav Murder Case in Delhi 15th Feb 2023.**

We are immediately drawn to the issue of girl's education in India. Due to conservative traditionalism, girl's standing has always been viewed as being lower in our nation than that of men.

National Education Policy 2020

Education is one of the most important stages of every child's life, allowing the opportunity for children to grow socially as well as academically. Not only is education important for the economic development of a country, but it also has a huge impact on the economic empowerment of an individual. However, most importantly, education is one of the most fundamental human rights (Article-26). It is clear that Government of India has taken so many initiatives for the improvement of girls' education. For example: **Pragati-** Scholarships for Girl Child for Technical education. It aims at providing encouragement and support to girl child to pursue technical education (MHRD Annual Report, 2014-15). **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao:** This is newly announced Scheme of the Govt. of India for enhancing girls' education in India. (MHRD Annual Report, 2014-15). **Mid-Day Meal Scheme:** The gender gap in school participation tends to narrow, as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme helps erode the barriers that prevent girls from going to school. Mid-Day Meal scheme also provides a useful source of employment for women and helps liberate working girl from the burden of cooking at home during the day. In these and other ways, girl children have a special stake in Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MHRD Annual Report, 2014-15). From the above discussion, it is clear that Government of India has taken so many initiatives for the improvement of girls' education. In spite of that the status of girls' education has not been increased in expectation level because these initiatives have not been reached to the grass root level. So, Government of India must have to take responsibility to implement these schemes and provision at grass root level. The Union Cabinet of India approved the National Education Policy 2020 on 29 July 2020 and it will be replacing previous education policy. With the goal of creating an education system which is rooted in Indian ethos and that transforms the nation, the National Education Policy will modify the current 10+2 structure with a new pedagogical 5+3+3+4 structure. The Education Policy will also focus on students from historically marginalised and disadvantaged groups. Education is the only tool that can empower the marginalised sections of the society and provide them with more opportunities to achieve financial independence and lead a more enriched life. The NEP 2020 will ensure that **young girls from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups get an equal opportunity** to benefit from the Indian education system.

Education plays a key role in achieving social justice and creating an inclusive society that is free from inequality. Every Indian child must have the opportunity to get a quality **education irrespective of their financial status, caste, creed and background.** The National Education Policy aims to bridge the gap in educational outcomes and access to education due to any circumstance. In the present day, India is struggling with large disparities in gross enrolment rate for Grades 9-10 and 11-12 particularly for socio-economically disadvantaged groups.

National Education Policy NEP-2020 has introduced “**Gender Inclusion Fund**” for targeting the development of girl child. The GOI will constitute a “**Gender Inclusion Fund**” to provide quality and equitable education for all girls. The fund will focus on ensuring 100% enrolment of girls in schooling and a record participation rate in higher

education, decrease gender gaps at all levels, practice gender equity and inclusion in society, and improve the leadership capacity of girls through positive civil dialogues. Funds will also enable State to support and scale effective community-based interventions that address local context-specific barriers to girls and transgender students. NEP 2020 will focus on the **safety and security** of school-going girls both inside and outside of the campus. The schools have to ensure harassment, discrimination, and domineer free campus before enlisting for yearly accreditation. This will increase the attendance number of girl children in the class. The policy will identify social mores and gender stereotypes that prevent girls from accessing education and causing regular dropouts. Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education (MoE) is implementing Samagra Shiksha – an Integrated Scheme for School Education (ISSE) under which various interventions have been targeted for Girls' Education. Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objective of the Samagra Shiksha. In order to ensure greater participation of girls in education, various interventions under Samagra Shiksha have been targeted. These interventions. Include:

- Provision of free text-books to girls up to Class VIII,
- Opening of schools in the neighbourhood as defined by the State,
- Teacher, sensitization programmes to promote girls' participation,
- Uniforms to all girls, SC, ST, children and Below Poverty Line (BPL) children up to class VIII,
- Provision of gender segregated toilets in all schools,
- Construction of residential quarters for teacher in remote/hilly areas/in areas with difficult terrain.
- Residential Schools, Hostels,
- Stipend to CWSN girls from class I to Class XII,
- Provision for Self-Defence training for the girls from classes VI to XII,

So we can say that education is the best investment; any society can make for the health and well-being of its children, as well as its economic and social progress. It is the principal means available to foster a deeper and more harmonious form of human development and thereby to reduce poverty, exclusion, ignorance, oppression and war. While education is an ongoing process of improving knowledge and skills, it also is an exceptional means of bringing about personal development and building relationship among individual, groups and nations.

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