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Status of Girl's Education in Madhya Pradesh

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Abstract

The aim of the present study is to demonstrate the situation of girls in Madhya Pradesh by the help of some basic data. In the Madhya Pradesh sex ratio and literacy rate are less than boys. Data collected from different secondary sources like books, magazines, journals, various government organizations website. This is the descriptive and analytical research. The result shows that the girls dropping out school by the biggest reason is engage in domestic activities and marriage.

Keywords: Girl's education, gender inequality, sex ratio

Introduction

“Gender equality in education benefits every child”

“Gender-equitable education systems help keep both girls and boys in school, building prosperity for entire countries.”

UNICEF

“If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family”.

PT. Jawaharlal Nehru

Education is a very important factor for a girl child for the overall development of the country. Education is an essential part of life for both the boy child and the girl child. Educating girls continues to be a problem in most developing countries like India. Every girl needs education as an individual to make their life better, brighter, and smarter. Girls' education is to stabilize their own life. Everyone has the right to develop their individuality.

Women and girls in the developing world are often denied opportunities for education. Lack of education limits prospects, decreases family income, reduces health, puts women and girls at risk of trafficking and exploitation, and limits the economic advancement of entire countries. Education for girls and women is the single most effective way to improve the lives of individual families as well as to bring economic development to poor communities worldwide. Education has a long history of successfully working with local partners to design, manage, and evaluate community-based initiatives to advance the conditions of girls and women. World Education's programs help girls enrol and stay in school and help women gain access to or create new educational, financial, and social resources in their communities. They also help girls and women improve their own lives, the lives of their families and the conditions in their communities. For parents-and especially mothers-this means creating conditions that ensure their daughters have equal access to basic education, are able to make informed decisions about their futures, and are able to protect themselves from trafficking, sexual exploitation, HIV, for example.

Historical background of girls' Education in India

For more than 300 years ago, there was practically no education for girls in India. Only a few girls of the upper castes and upper classes were given some education at home. Literacy of girls at that time was looked upon as a disgrace. The notion of providing education to girl children never entered into the minds of parents. A superstitious feeling was alleged to exist in the majority of the Hindu families that a girl taught to read and write will soon become a window after marriage.

According to the report of National Committee on Women's Education (1959), "It cannot be denied that the general picture of the education of the girls was the most unsatisfactory and girls received practically no formal instruction whatever, except for the little domestic instruction that was available to the daughter of the upper class families."

It was the 'American Mission' which first started a school for girls in Bombay (Now Mumbai) in 1824. By 1829 within five years as many as 400 girls were enrolled in that school. Then the first decade of 19th century with efforts of missionaries as well as Indian voluntary organizations, some girls' primary school particularly in Bombay, Bengal and Madras states, started (Mondal, 2015) ^[11].

The government also took the responsibility to promote primary education in general and that of the girls in particular. However, government efforts could not go a long way due to the Indian War of Independence of 1857. After the war municipal committees and other local bodies were encouraged to open primary schools. In the year 1870, training colleges for women were established for the first time and women were trained to become teachers in girls' schools.

As a result of all these efforts, great progress was made in girl's education in the last quarter of the 19th century (Mondal, 2015) ^[11].

However, in spite of these, there was a great gap between the education of boys and girls. It was estimated that for every 1,000 boys at school, the number of girls was only 46. At the beginning of the 19th century there was hardly any literate woman in the country excepting a few in the aristocratic houses. It astonishes that by the end of the century hundreds of girls and women have made much educational gains in recent years, but still have a long way to go before their historic educational disadvantage is eradicated. The education system of India, like many other social institutions, has long been discriminatory towards the women. In 1916 SNDT Women University in Bombay became the first institution of higher learning to admit female students (Mondal, 2015) ^[11].

The proportion of girls students has increased steadily after independence and mostly in the last decade. The literacy rate of girls has gone up from 8.86 percent in 1951 to 29.75 percent in 1981, 39.29 percent in 1991 to 54.16 percent in 2001, and now in 2011 census report it is 65.5% (Census Report, 1951-2011).

Enrolment of girls in higher education has also grown since 1995. The main hindrance in the girls education in India is rural residence, low caste, low economic standing combined with the traditional attitude towards girls' education as a whole. These factors tend to deny opportunities of education to a girl. While broadly speaking education of girl student has made strides and it is not surprising that today in many faculties and departments of universities and colleges, more girls than boys are seen.

Status of Girl Childbirth in India

In many parts of India, the birth of a girl child is not welcomed and they try to kill every girl child because spending money for their education, protecting her from she born to getting marriage stage, dowry asked from the inside after getting marriage, child abuse may be held when they are in young. Right from her arrival, she faces

- Discrimination
 - Humiliation
 - Oppression
- At every stage of life.

Gender Inequality

Gender inequality is a very serious issue in India it's also in the Asian nation because nearly ten million female babies have been aborted over the past twenty years. Most parents are giving importance to the son's education rather than daughters because anyhow daughters will get married and live with their husbands, so they believe a girl's education is not going to be helpful anymore to her family. Like this worst thought come over the parents' mind. If a parent tries to destroy gender inequality, am sure they only can do it.

The Problem of Inequality

Inequality is the main cause she daily faces, everyone misjudges their ability by their gender value, and no one tries to know their ability or worthy value. The inequality and disadvantages that girls face:

- Child Marriage,
- Pregnancy at Child,
- Child labor

All of which are exacerbated by poverty and have insidious consequences on the outcomes of these girls' lives.

Importance of Girl Education in India

Girls' education is one of the most effective ways for ending poverty in developing nations. The benefits of their education are seen by individuals, their families, and throughout society. These benefits include: Reducing the number of babies women have; lowering infant and child mortality rates; lower maternal mortality rates; (Kumar, J. & Sangeeta-2013) ^[12], protecting against HIV/AIDS infection (Latha, P.S.-2014) ^[13]; Increased number of women with job and higher earning. Girl's education helps to eliminate illiteracy; develop self-esteem and self-confidence (Nanda, P; Das, P; Singh, A. & Negi, R. – 2013) ^[14].

Education for girls can have the benefit of delaying marriage and pregnancy for young girls. Instead of a girl getting married before age 20 and often suffering abuse by her husband, girls who attend primary and secondary school are more likely to have a say in who they marry. Girls who attend school also are able to use more effective methods of family planning and therefore have fewer and healthier babies. An educated girl and woman will have learned about HIV/AIDS and know many different ways to protect herself from getting the disease. Every year of schooling helps a woman make better decisions for her and her family (King, E. & Winthrop, and R.-2015) ^[15]. Women who attended school often have healthier families. These women are more likely to seek medical help from clinics or doctors. Because they can read, literate girls can understand a doctor's detailed instructions and follow up for help if needed. These women also can read nutritional labels and provide their family healthy meals that promote growth and lower cholesterol. Education also teaches young ones the importance of keeping herself and her house clean and safe (World Bank Report, 2008) ^[16].

- 1) Girl education is very important for the empowerment of women.
- 2) It reduces the infant mortality rate since a learned mother will always take good care of her child.
- 3) Half of the population is of women and educating them will help to attain a socio-economic development of a country.
- 4) Girl education also helps to eradicate the social evil of child marriage.
- 5) Educating a girl child can also help her to contribute to the country's economic development.

- 6) An educated girl will be more concerned about hygiene and health.
- 7) Education gives the authority to a girl child to choose her career and support her family.
- 8) An educated girl will involve in the political process to be a part of decision making and raise her voice for women rights.
- 9) An educated woman will never fall prey to domestic violence and can raise her voice against it.
- 10) Girl education is very important for the uniform development of a country.

Review of Literature

Narayana, (2015) ^[17] investigating on “Girl Education: A lifeline to rural transformation in India” Education is very important for every child whether boy or girl. It is sad that some communities still discrimination against the education of the girl child. Education is the key factor for girls’ empowerment, prosperity, development and welfare. Discrimination of girl from womb to tomb is well known. There is continued inequality and vulnerability of girls in all sector- Economic, Education, Social, Political, Health care, Nutrition, Right and legal etc. Girls oppressed in all spheres of life, they need to be empowered in all walk of life. In order to fight against the socially constructed gender biases, girls & women have to swim against the system that requires more strength. Such strength comes from the process of empowerment and empowerment will come from the education. And rural transformation will come girls’ education. This paper emphasis on girl’s education because it enables them to responds to the challenges, to comfort their traditional role and change their life. So that we cannot neglect the importance of education in reference to girls empowerment.

Sahoo, (2016) ^[4] investigating on “Girls Education in India: Status and Challenges” Girls education is a big opportunity for India to be developed socially and economically. Educated girls’ are the weapons who yield positive impact on the Indian society through their contribution at home and professional fields. They are the reason of improved economy in the country as well as society. The objectives of the paper are: to assertion recent status and challenges of girl’s education in India; to provide possible suggestions to overcome the challenges of girls’ education in India. The investigator has used different type articles, reports, research papers, books, official websites, and online materials to conduct this study. The paper has been divided into four parts. The first part of the paper highlight about the historical background and importance of girls’ education in India. The second part of the paper discusses about the recent status of girls’ education in India. The third part of the paper elaborates about major initiatives have been taken by the Government of India for improving girls’ education and different challenges of girls’ education in India. The last part of the paper provides suggestions for overcoming the barriers of girls’ education in India. The paper conclude that girls’ education is very poor condition in elementary secondary stage than the higher education.

Objectives of the Paper: The study aims to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) To know the population and sex ratio of Madhya Pradesh.
- 2) To know the literacy rate of Madhya Pradesh.
- 3) To know the enrolment of student by gender of primary, upper primary, secondary and upper secondary.
- 4) To know the girls dropout rate by level of education.

- 5) To know the major reasons for dropping out.
- 6) To suggest some points for the improvement in girl’s education.
- 7) To discuss the barriers in the way of girl’s education.
- 8) To highlight the various policies and programmes by government.

Methodology: The present study is a qualitative study. The researchers here collected data from different secondary sources like books, magazines, journals, various government organizations website. This is descriptive and analytical research.

Result and discussion

Table 1: Population and sex ratio of Madhya Pradesh.

Sr. No.	Madhya Pradesh	
	2011	
1.	Population	72,622,809
2.	Sex ratio	931/1000

Source: 2011 census of India.

The most populous state is Uttar Pradesh (199,812,314) and least populous state is Sikkim (610,577), and Madhya Pradesh fifth largest by population with 72,626,809 and the sex ratio of Madhya Pradesh is (females per 1000 males) 931.

Table 2: Literacy rate of Madhya Pradesh.

Sr. No.		Madhya Pradesh		
		2011		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	Literacy rate	78.73%	59.24%	69.3%

Source: 2011 Census of India.

The table shows that the literacy rate of Madhya Pradesh is respectively 78.73% male and 59.24% females. Difference between male and female literacy rate is 19.49% in the 2011. Female literacy rate is risen from last decades but still less than male literacy rate.

Table 3: Enrolment of students by gender of primary, upper primary, secondary and upper higher secondary of education.

Sr. no.	Class	Madhya Pradesh		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Primary	3883132	3574207	7457339
2.	Upper primary	2228271	2046802	4275073
3.	Secondary	1202941	1053461	2256402
4.	Upper higher secondary	762249	705182	1467431

Source: UDISE+ 2020-21 (Unified District Information System for Education).

The above table shows that the status of girls in school. Overall in the Madhya Pradesh enrollment of students in primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary enrollment of girls less than boys enrollment. It shows that the condition of girl’s education are not good in comparison to boys.

Table 4: Girls Dropout rate by level of Education.

Sr. no.	Class	Girls dropout rate
1.	Higher secondary	5.49%
2.	Secondary	31.74%
3.	Upper primary	12.06%
4.	Primary	6.63%

Source: DISC (Disc Information System Education) 2020-21.

As per DISC 2020-21 annual school dropout rate is very high in Madhya Pradesh. It appears from the data that dropout rate increase with the increase of grade. In Madhya Pradesh, girl's dropout rate in primary it is 6.63% while at upper primary level girl's dropout rate is 12.06%. It shows that the upper primary level girl's dropout rate is higher. It appears from the data that there is sharp increase in the dropout rate at secondary level as 31.74% of girls have dropped out in the academic year 2020-21. And in the higher secondary level girl's dropout rate is 5.49%. It shows that the highest dropout rate in secondary education.

Table 5: Major reasons for dropping out.

Sr. No	Reasons for dropping out	Male (%)	Female (%)
1.	School is far off	0.5	3.4
2.	Unable to cope with studies	4.6	5.4
3.	Complete desired level/grade	5.7	6.5
4.	Marriage	--	13.9
5.	Engage in domestic activities	4.8	29.7
6.	Other reasons	5.1	6.2

Note: Other reasons include: (i) timing of educational institutional not suitable, (ii) language/medium of instruction used unfamiliar, (iii) inadequate number of teachers, (iv) quality of teachers are not satisfactory, (v) unfriendly atmosphere at school. For girl students, other reasons also include: (i) non-availability of female teachers, (ii) non-availability of girl's toilet.

Sources- Educational Statistics at Glance 2021, MHRD.

This table shows the reasons for dropping out of school. In this table all the reasons are the most effective reasons for dropping out the school but one of the biggest reasons for girls is marriage with the 13.9%.

Strategies for improving the Girl's Education at school level

Girls are the equal partner with the boys in the society's development and the education of the girls is very important in a country like India where huge literacy gaps exist, but there are some hurdles in the way of girl's education which should be removed through some strategies which can be discussed as under these points.

- It is a moral duty of every parent/guardian to send their children to the school.
- Child centered classrooms with adequate teaching and learning facilities should be established.
- Women teachers can understand the girl's problems easily so recruitment of more women teachers should be made who can serve as role models for girls and parents.
- Appointment of qualified female teachers and extra incentives should be given to them particularly in rural and remote areas.
- Sports activities should be organized for the girls so that they can be promoted to be leaders and improve their confidence and motivation.
- Opening of girl's schools in each area having facilities of fresh drinking water, proper classrooms, and adequate number of female teachers, proper hygienic and sanitation facility.
- Provide residential facilities, free and concessional bus pass facility to the school students.

These are the some of the strategies by which we can improve the girl's education in the country. With, this there is a greater need that women themselves should take the first step to improve the girl's education in the country.

Six Barriers to Girl's Education

- 1) **Poverty:** Even if education is free, the cost of uniforms and supplies can make education inaccessible.
- 2) **Lack of safe, private girls-only toilets:** Stigma and other factors mean 1 in 10 girls in India miss school during their periods.
- 3) **Gender inequality:** Girls are often kept home from school to help with family care & housework.
- 4) **Child Marriage & Early Pregnancy:** Child brides are almost always forced to drop out of school.
- 5) **Violence:** Girls may face various forms of violence at the hands of teachers, peers and other people in the school environment. If parents find out school is not safe for their daughters, they may remove them from school.
- 6) **Long Distance to school:** Girls are at an increased risk of experiencing violence or harassment.

Schemes of Madhya Pradesh Government for Women

- Beti Apki Dhan-laxmi aur Vijay-Laxmi
- Ladili Laxmi Yojana
- Lado campaign
- Shaurya Dal
- Mangal Diwas Yojana
- Swagatam Lakshmi Yojana
- Usha Kiran Yojana
- Gaon Ki Beti Yojana
- Balika Shiksha Protsahan Yojana

Conclusion

Education is one composite single variables, which has the capacity to transform many odds turning in favor of girls more specially so in the rural India. Therefore, an exclusive emphasis on girl's education is necessary. Depending on results achieved in the study, majority of the girls dropping out school by the biggest reason is engage in domestic activities and second reason is the marriage. And situation of girls according to the enrollment of girls in school is poor comparison to boys. Literacy rate of Madhya Pradesh is 69.3% of which male and female were 78.73 and 59.24% respectively, according to census 2011. It shows that the condition of girls are not good. Girls need to break with the old tradition "In childhood a female must be subject to her father, in youth to her husband, when her lord is dead to her sons; a women must never be independent.

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