

A Study on The Growth of Female Education In Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

The development of any nation depends on women participation. The role of women in house and the society is numerous and endless. Women constitute almost half the population. Prior to independence, Indian women faced persecution and discrimination on the basis of their gender. In all aspects of life, gender prejudice prevails. This is mainly due to unequal treatment of both men and women which is started from home itself (Providing education, property, food to boys are more preferable than girls, even birth is neglected to them). But after independence Government takes number of steps to rectify this gender discrimination. Considering education to be a critical component of their development, both the national and state governments have undertaken several programmes and initiatives. Due to the continued effort taken by these governments, the trend has been changed. So there was a tremendous improvement of women's condition in recent year because of the availability of education opportunities to them especially in higher education. Keeping this point in view an attempt is made to study the growth of female education in Tamil Nadu.

Key Words: Education, Literacy Rate, Higher Education, Role of Women, Scheme.

INTRODUCTION

Education is critical for women's advancement in society. The assumption that women are more inferior than males has been ingrained in our culture, and while some say women are equally as intelligent and powerful as men, this figure is just not sufficient. Numerous women have strived to be as equal to men as possible, and the primary factor that has enabled them to gradually alter their core worldview is education. Women's education is critical not just for country building, but also for everyday practical needs. This is because females have a greater burden of responsibility for parenting, caring for, and educating their children. Today's youngsters, it is claimed, are the backbones of tomorrow's nation. The more educated women are, the more educated their children will be. Despite the obvious and broader benefits of women's education, girls in our culture lack the necessary facilities, choices, and motivation to attend school. This is because many traditional parents believe that domestic labour is a woman's domain and that they do not require any competence or higher education to perform such responsibilities. Now, more than

ever, such conventional attitudes must be addressed, and greater focus must be placed on girls' education in order to empower them, therefore achieving the national and practical advantages of education.

Our economy grows and is sustained because of our intellectual resources due to policy and programmes of the both government since independence. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (2000) helps to assess to close the gap in access to primary and upper primary schools and to provide the required number of schools; to ensure that children enrolled in schools remain enrolled; to improve children's reading, writing, and listening skills; to cover out-of-school children, including migrant labourers' children, street children, and school drop-outs; and to place a special emphasis on the education of girls at the elementary level. In recent years, higher education in India has enabled women to do job on an equal footing with males. Women who are educated can also contribute to the lowering of newborn mortality and maternal mortality rates, so ensuring the country's people resources are healthy. Tamil Nadu has continually been at the forefront of educational

programme implementation among states throughout the years.

Tamil Nadu ranks third among the main states in terms of overall female literacy, after Kerala and Maharashtra. Numerous efforts have been launched in Tamil Nadu to assist students in basic, upper primary, high, and higher secondary schools in completing their education. From 1988 to 1986, students in grades I to VIII who were enrolled in the noon meal plan received one set of free uniform. From the academic year 2005-06 forward, all students studying in Government schools/Government aided schools receive free text books. Students studying from I to X standard are provided with free notebooks. From 2012-13, kids are issued with educational kits that include school bags, a geometry box, coloured pencils, crayons, and an atlas. Students studying in Government/Government aided schools from I to XII grade are issued with the same year school bags. A pair of footwear is supplied free of charge to all pupils studying from I to X level in Government/Government aided schools at the start of the academic year. Free bus passes, Noon meal scheme free bicycle, laptops, special cash incentives are given to all.

The government also concerted efforts towards bringing girls' children to the school and ensuring that they complete eight years of schooling are undertaken in the state. In this regard, as a special intervention, vocational skills training for Girls children at the upper primary level is being taken up. Under the national flagship programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Girls Education component have been introduced in order to reduce the gender gap. The schemes like National Program for Education of Girl's at Elementary level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, (KGBV). These schemes have attracted, especially the girl's children towards schools and they complete the upper primary stage without dropping from the system.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Panil K.K. (2008) in his study on "Literacy status of women in India" stated that female literacy rate has increased more than in last few decades. But the gap between the male literacy rate and Female literacy rate is still continuing and he suggested that the universalization of elementary education and non-formal education.

Deep senkar (2010) in his study on "Enrolment of girls at elementary level" explained that enrollment of females in elementary schools has been most remarkable one and he concluded that the progress of education sector in India is weakening. But the remedies should be implemented to increase the quality of education.

Malyadhi.P (2010) in her study on "women development through Education" stated that The advancement of Indian women will be the most significant source of richness for the growth of our country and the suggestion of the study is to empower women through community programmes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the trend of Sex ratio in Tamil Nadu
2. To study the literacy rate of female in Tamil Nadu.
3. To study the enrolment rate of female in school education and higher education in Tamil Nadu.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on secondary data which have been collected from magazines, journals and web portals.

ANALYSIS

The following table gives the sex ratio of population in Tamil Nadu. Sex ratio means number of females per 1000 males.

Table No.1 Sex Ratio

Year	Sex ratio
1951	1007
1961	992
1971	978
1981	977
1991	974

2001	987
2011	996

Source: Secondary data.

The table no.1 shows the sex ratio in Tamil Nadu. It is evident from the table that in the year 1951, the sex ratio of Tamil Nadu is 1007 where as it was gradually shows a decreasing trend up to 1991. After wards it has shown an increasing trend from 987 and 996

in the year 2001 and 2011 respectively. This shows that the importance of women is realized and recognized in the present era. The following table explains the decadal growth rate of literacy rate in Tamil Nadu

Table No.2 Literacy Rate

Year	Persons	Male	Female
1961	36.4	51.6	21.1
1971	45.4	59.5	30.9
1981	54.4	68.1	40.4
1991	62.7	73.1	51.3
2001	73.5	82.3	64.4
2011	80.1	86.8	73.4

Source: Secondary data.

The table no.2 shows the The literacy rate of females in Tamil Nadu has quadrupled during the last five decades. Female literacy rates improved from 21.1% in 1961 to 73.4

percent in 2011 but not increased as much as compared to literacy rate of male. Still gender literacy gap is there.

GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO OF GIRLS IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

Table No.3 Girls Enrolment Ratio in School Education

Year	Primary Education	Upper Primary Education	Secondary Education	Higher Secondary
2013-14	102.72	99.46	93.25	84.46
2014-15	103.45	95.9	93.72	85.73
2015-16	104.43	95.65	96.18	82.03

Source: Secondary data.

The table no.3 shows the gross enrolment rate of girls in school education (Primary, Upper primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary education) in Tamil Nadu. It revealed that an increasing trend at a slower rate of enrollment of female students at primary

level and secondary level education from 2013-14 to 2015-16. Where as there has been a decreasing trend of the girls 'enrolment in upper primary level and higher secondary education in the same period.

Table No.4 Growth Rate of Female Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education

Year	Female
2012-13	3.4
2013-14	2.9
2014-15	5.7
2015-16	-1.9
2016-17	5.9
2017-18	4
2018-19	4.4
2019-20	3.9

Source: Secondary data.

The table No.4 shows the growth rate of gross enrolment ratio of female belonging to the age group of 18-23 from 2012-2020. Growth of enrolment rate of female shows a fluctuating trend over the years.

Table No.5 Enrolment of Females in Higher Education in 2019-2020

Course	Males	Females	Total
Ph. D	15828	14832	30660
M. Phil	2470	7309	9779
Post-graduate	184265	295673	479938
Under-graduate	1260037	1330973	2591010
PG-Diploma	9095	6817	15912
Diploma	284382	63535	347917
Certificate	6819	6803	13622
Integrated course	8882	7457	16339

Source: Secondary data.

The table No.5 reveals that nearly half of the enrolment in higher education is females in Tamil Nadu in the year 2019-20. Females enrolled more number in M.Phil., PG,UG , Diploma and certificate courses as compared to males in the same year.

FINDINGS

- The increase in the sex ratio shows the importance of women is realized and recognized in the present era.
- Female literacy improved from 21.1 percent in 1961 to 73.4 percent in 2011 but not increased as much as compared to literacy rate of male.
- There has been an increasing trend of enrolment of the girls at the primary level and secondary level education from 2013-14 to 2015-16 but a decreasing trend of the in upper primary level and higher secondary education.
- Growth of enrolment rate of female in higher education shows a fluctuating trend over the years.
- The participation of female in the various composition of higher education like M.Phil., PG and UG is more than the male. This shows that the growth of educational level among the female.

SUGGESTIONS

- Steps should be taken to fill the literacy gap between male and female.
- Free education should be given to the girls up to higher secondary level education.
- The stakeholder like the parents should send their girl children to schools to achieve cent Percent female literacy.
- Government should take severe steps to

protect the girl children from child abuse and neglect.

CONCLUSION

Education is no doubt an important tool of human development. Human development plays very important role in improving standard of living of the people. By Due to the state government of Tamil Nadu's strong interest in women's education, enrolment of females in schools has grown significantly. As a result, the literacy rate of women enrolled in higher education has grown, yet there is still a disparity between male and female literacy rates. So steps must be taken severely to rectify the problems behind for low literacy rate of females which could ensure 100 percent female literacy rate in upcoming years which helps for the sustainable growth of the economy.

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