Gender Revolution in Education

1) Introduction
   - “If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered”. PT. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.
   - Women education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country.
   - The Constitution of India empowers the state to adopt affirmative measures for prompting ways and means to empower women.

2) Present Status
   - The female literacy rate is considerably low in India compared to world average.
   - Female enrolment in colleges is up from 47.6% in 2017-18 to 48.6% in 2018-19, the All India Survey on Higher Education found.
   - In Uttar Pradesh, there are 90,000 more women than men in higher education.
   - The biggest transformation has taken place in rural India where in 2016, 70% of 18-year-olds were already in college.
   - The enrolment gap between males and females in the formal education system increases with age.
   - There is a wide gender disparity in India’s performance on literacy with a difference of around 20 percentage points between male and female literacy rates.
   - There is a drastic drop in the percentage of women from the doctoral level to the scientist/faculty position.

3) Advantages of Developing Female Education in India
   - Educating the girl child must be a necessity for the overall development of the country as women play an essential part in the all around process of the country.
   - Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life.
   - Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family and develops the concept of participation.
   - Promote gender equality.
   - Improves India’s literacy rate
   - Alter the regressive nature of the society.
   - Educated women are a force for change.
   - They are likely to marry later and have fewer kids.
   - Educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of the population.
   - Female education has a significant impact on the development of future generations as they have a direct role to play in their child’s education.
   - If more women did paid work, India’s national income would rise dramatically.
   - The education develops the idea of participation in government, panchayats, public matters etc for elimination of gender discrimination.

4) Reasons behind Gender Revolution in Education
   - Targeted government interventions including scholarships, subsidies, and quotas for women.
• Aspiration and easier access to technology and information in the post-liberalisation era
• Role models and support from within colleges and schools are enabling women to take the next leap.
• Mothers who’ve had an education are clearing the path for their daughters.
• NGO's like CARE India's Girl’s Education Programme (GEP) focuses on improving the condition by which girls, especially in rural areas can access quality education.

5) **Contribution of Women to bring the issue of Indian Women's Education to Forefront**

• **Savitribai Phule**
  a. Savitribai Phule along with her husband Jyotirao Phule are known for their important role in improving the status of women in Indian society.
  b. She is often touted as the first female school teacher in India.

• **Kadambini Ganguly and Chandramukhi Basu**
  a. Kadambini Ganguly and Chandramukhi Basu are the first two female graduates of India.
  b. They participated in the cultural revolution which happened during the British colonial period in India.

6) **Concerns / Challenges**

• The lack of education among women prevents their participation in the workforce, thus hindering the country’s development.
• More girls are studying, but they are not necessarily landing more jobs.
• This is due to importance of education for improving marital prospects as well as higher prestige attached to households which keep women out of labour force
• Female labour force participation has plunged to 23.3% according to the 2018 Economic Survey.
• Science, technology, engineering, and medicine – together known as ‘STEM’ fields – suffer from lack of women, especially in India.

7) **Way Forward**

• India will have the world’s youngest population by 2022 and the women of the country will play a definitive role in devising the country’s future.
• Women need the 3C’s Confidence, Capabilities, access to Capital. Men need to understand that women are their equals.
• Government policies should focus on behavioural changes that make female employment more acceptable in the society
• Government schemes must target the fundamental cultural and social forces that shape patriarchy.
• Communication programmes on gender equality in secondary education to help students imbibe equitable gender norms.
• Government agencies, universities, and society must work together to ensure that women achieve their full potential.