

General Studies-2; Topic: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

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.