



Women in Higher Education Management in India

Neena Aneja

A.S. College of Education, Khanna, Samrala Road, Ludhiana, Punjab, INDIA

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Abstract

A nation's cultural, social and economic development is highly dependent on higher education of women. As a result of which, one can say that spending money on educating women will not go a waste. In fact, it will provide for and improve the economy and development of nations. For example, if the nation is aiming at abolishing poverty, they must be at the helm and be involved in policy making and implementation. Because of their basic quality to be economical, they will not only drive the country towards economical self-sufficiency but also development. Further women understand the human need better and this leads to better resolution of conflicts and motivation of employees. Studies have shown that women are much more creative than men, yet at the same time innovative and organized. Women by nature are economical and as a result of which do not cause undue wastage of resources and unnecessary expenses. If women are provided with the right access backed by the right governmental policies, they can also impact the well-being of the environment and public health at national level.

Keywords: Higher education, management of education, challenges.

Introduction

One of the largest and oldest systems of higher education in found in India. Nalanda and Takshila are known as centers of higher education all over the world. Now, India ranks the third in the world with respect to the largest numbers of students. In India there are 44 central universities, 700 universities, besides there are deemed universities, institutions of national importance and more than 40,000 affiliated colleges. All these universities and centers of higher education offer a wide range of degree and diploma programs and some of them provide masters programs and even research options.

India has huge network of very high quality institutions and a large no of low quality mass institutions. A few elate institutions publically funded provide high quality education, a large no of mass institution especially in the private sector offer poor quality education India is facing very serious problem in improving education quality and promoting equity. This has been mainly because our education system is afflicted by ill-governance, and engorged bureaucracy and uninspiring leadership. Besides the system to suffer profoundly due to fund deficit and lack of accountability at different levels. The country has not been able to set a clear vision/policy for higher education and it is debating new directions, changes gradually and often without clear planning¹.

With this remarkable expansion in higher education and gross enrollment ratio. The expansion has been more in market-relevant areas of study especially in the private sector; some major trends have been noted during the recent years. The country has not been able to meaningfully meet the key challenge of catering for the exploding demand for higher

education without compromising on quality. The private higher education has now become an integral part of the overall system and the commoditization of education has become an acceptable phenomenon. The philanthropy and charity based private higher education disappearing and "for profit" higher education growing very fast. Private institutions are engaged in the competitive commercialization of knowledge with little sources for quality assurance, most private institution have good infrastructure but they lack academic recourses for quality assurance. The country has not been able to regulate the growth in private higher education and failing standards and it is left to the mercy of the market.

Why it Matters to Educate Women?-Social and Psychological Facts

The primary benefit of educating a woman helps reduce the gender equality in the family and society. Another benefit is the fact that educating women is the best way of empowering women towards their ability to make decisions and stay in power in the society.

Psychologically speaking, women are innately courageous and daring moreover; they are also far more firm and focused in setting up goals and succeeding in them. Add to it the fact that they have other psychological qualities like patience, tolerance, passion and commitment to the job they undertake, perseverance, clear understanding of issues, sacrifice if there need be or rather team work, good etiquette and a love and caring nature. Further women understand the human need better and this leads to better resolution of conflicts and motivation of employees. Studies have shown that women are much more creative than men, yet at the same time innovative and

organized. Women by nature are economical and as a result of which do not cause undue wastage of resources and unnecessary expenses. If women are provided with the right access backed by the right governmental policies, they can also impact the well-being of the environment and public health at national level.

A nation's cultural, social and economic development is highly dependent on higher education of women. As a result of which, one can say that spending money on educating women will not go a waste. In fact, it will provide for and improve the economy and development of nations. For example, if the nation is aiming at abolishing poverty, they must be at the helm and be involved in policy making and implementation. Because of their basic quality to be economical, they will not only drive the country towards economical self-sufficiency but also development.

The role of women in Ancient India

Even in the Hindu mythology, women were highly regarded and as a sign of "fertility" and "abundance"- a way of sustenance of life, power and energy. Women enjoyed equal status and rights during the early Vedic period. It is mentioned in Rig -Veda that women were not married at an early as it happens even today in many communities and women were married at a mature age and were even allowed to select husbands of their choice. In Vedic literature, she is honored as a great natural philosopher, renowned expounder of the Vedas, and known as Brahma vadini (a person with knowledge of Brahma Vidya) and Maitreyi (Maitreyi was another philosopher from ancient India who lived during the Vedic period and was held in high stream for her knowledge on Vedas and Philosophy). In fact, the Hindu culture, the worships of women, her divine powers were worshipped with a lot of fervor. For example, Durga was worshipped for her strength. Lakshmi was regarded as Goddess of wealth for her strength; Lakshmi was regarded as Goddess of wealth and Saraswati: the divine bestower of knowledge.

When it comes to history, Women in India have had a great profile owing to their courage, power and astuteness. The brave Rani Lakshmbai to the sagacious Ahilya Bai, the Holkar queen of Maratha Who ruled Malwa kingdom, were not only great warriors but also good in governance and Politics. In more recent times of Indian, history, they were many bold and prominent women such as Rani Lakshmbai, Annie Besant, Kasturba Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu (the Nightingale of India) Vijay Lakshmi Pandit were Known for their intellect and Political involvement. All this is testimony to the fact that women were active participants in the social life and political debates in their surroundings in the past itself.

Why is it that the Enrolment Ratio of women is Lower?

Between 18-23 years of age, the overall Gross enrolment ratio (GER) has been found to be 19.4% of course there are difference between districts, and between scheduled caste and

tribe and gender. There is a difference between males and females. What has been seen is that the GER for males is much higher than the females. For example, the GER for males is 20.8% females 17.9% for scheduled castes 13.5% and for scheduled tribes only 11% Women constitute only 44% of the 27.5 million students in Indian higher education, and the only state that has a small increase in GER is Kerala, which is 57%. This is very low for a country that has the third largest current student population in the world. Add to it the fact that the graduate and higher education population is supposed to virtually explode by 2020 (!).

A host of reasons are responsible for this conditions .One of the main reason for this is that the political commitment, which has a lot of clout to formulate policies behind many education campaigns and implement them, has remained unfulfilled. The second important reason is that there are lot of discrimination in education based on various social factors like region, area, caste, sex, class, disabilities etc. and this a great hurdle in the enrolment of women. In the current scenario, lack of educational opportunities for girls and the way families look at girls' education in many communities and thus sending them to be educated is contrary to the constitution of India. States governments should undertake all appropriate steps towards the elimination of any stereotyped concept for girls' education. These facts indicate that the government has failed to deal with the problem of right of education more specifically girls' education. This shows that government has to make more serious efforts regarding education of women. Only then it will be possible to develop the infrastructure in terms of developing more colleges and universities, development of the right curriculum that addresses the recent issues and will be of use in future employment and participation in various situations². Given below is a tabular picture of lecturers in colleges, women colleges and total enrolment.

There are many other reasons why women enrolment in India is quite low. Here are some of them: i. Gender Disparity: gender disparity is a huge problem and leads to impediment of women empowerment not only in education but also in the society and employment. These are mainly socio-economic and socio-cultural in nature. ii. Often in many rural areas and even in urban communities, there is lack of education at the family level to understand to implications of need for higher education. iii. Many of the governmental institution do not offer higher education facilities and hence the willing families need to approach private institutions and there are financial constraints within the family to fund higher education. iv. Family willingness to send the ward to continue higher education. v. Low mobility because many of the rural women and girls cannot access to travelling Facilities over long distances to higher institutions. vi. Low ability to take risk since in many rural and even urban areas, women are subjected to sexual and social abuse. vii. The drive for achievement is less because there is also less encouragement in the family. viii. Social-status -there is a huge wide between rural and urban and

even between urban families leading to financial issues. As a result of this, while some of them get world class education, other does not. ix. The united Nations declares, in article 13, that "higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by the progressive introduction, there has been made no impetus to implement the declaration in a rightly and timely manner by the Indian political group³.

Challenges in Attaining Empowerment through Higher Education

The case of Enrolment: Now lets us take a look at enrollment. While we are well aware of the fact that since independence, the education of women until secondary education has improved beyond expectations.

How many are attending the Schools: Between 18-23 years of age, the overall Gross enrolment ratio (GER) has been found to be 19.4% of course there are difference between districts, and be scheduled caste and tribe and gender. There is a difference between males and females. What has been seen is that the GER for males is much higher than that the females. For example, the GER for males is 20.8% females 17.9% for scheduled castes 13.5% and for scheduled tribes only 11% Women constitute only 44% of the 27.5 million students in Indian higher education, and the only state that has a small increase in GER is Kerala, which is 57%. This is very low for a country that has the third largest current student population in the world. Add to it the fact that the graduate and higher education population is supposed to virtually explode by 2020⁴.

Added to the difference seen between districts and that between scheduled caste and scheduled tribes, there is also a wide difference between rural and urban areas in GER and gross attendance Ratio (GAR). The total enrolment of students across the country shows that the figures are around 241.8 lakh, which has 15.8 million boys which amount to 55.7% and 12.69 Million

girls which is 44.2% of total enrolment. So, there is stark difference between the enrolment of men and women.

Conclusion

From above discussion it can be concluded that a nation's cultural, social and economic development is highly dependent on higher education of women. As a result of which, one can say that spending money on educating women will not go a waste. In fact, it will provide for and improve the economy and development of nations. For example, if the nation is aiming at abolishing poverty, they must be at the helm and be involved in policy making and implementation. Because of their basic quality to be economical, they will not only drive the country towards economical self- sufficiency but also development.

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