

Women Education

“You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation.”
— Brigham Young

Since mothers are the first teachers of a child, they are the first teachers of the future citizens of the country.

However, the literacy rate among Indian women has been shockingly poor, i.e. between 2-6% from the British Raj onwards to the formation of the Indian Republic. Societal malpractices, patriarchy systems, and lack of awareness among the fairer sex were some reasons for the sorry state of affairs in the country. Women were expected to cater to families and maintain their houses, while the husbands were off to work.

Even today as of 2011, the literacy rate among men is 82.14% while that of women is a mere 65.64%. The low literacy rate has a direct impact on the health and standard of living of the nation's citizens.

One of the main reasons that women despite being encouraged to step out of their homes, into workplaces, are not showing the required improvement is because of the high school dropout rate among young girls.

Young girls are expected to learn up till a certain class, and as soon as a suitable matrimonial match is found for them, their names are cut off the school registers and they are married off to run families. If not married then, they are forced to work as house maids so as to provide another hand in the family income.

The government has undertaken various schemes to encourage parents to educate their girl child like, mid day meals, free books and uniforms, exemption of fee for the only girl child up to a certain standard, etc. Also the Central Government has recently launched the Saakshar Bharat Mission for Female Literacy, which aims to reduce female illiteracy and spread education and awareness even in the most remote and rural parts of the country.

But the main change that needs to be brought about is in the mindsets of the parents. They must be made to understand that educating their daughters is not going to impact them negatively in any way, rather the girl becomes capable of taking up various responsibilities and thus, can support them economically too.

Even so, still there is a long road ahead of us that has to be trodden in order to attain our dream.

Because for a nation to succeed, its women must be empowered. And empowerment comes from education.

