

Causes and solutions of girl dropout in education

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Summary

Although the Indian Constitution has given equal rights to everyone, girls in India still do not get the same rights as boys. In particular, a survey conducted in the last few days has found that girls are not given the same education as boys. A government report has mentioned this fact. The enrolment rate of girls in primary schools is 48.5 percent. However, the enrolment rate of boys at this level is around 90 percent. That is, when two boys study in primary schools, only one girl studies. The dropout rate among boys is also high, but it is higher in the case of girls than boys. Therefore, out of 100 boys who enroll in schools, 20 percent of boys reach higher education, but this rate is only 17 percent among girls. An educational survey conducted in 2010-11 has found that the gender imbalance persists even in the pre-higher education level, that is, higher secondary education. 55 percent of boys reach the 10th to 12th level, but the rate of girls reaching there is 45 percent. 65 percent of boys who earn a master's degree pursue a doctorate, but only 38 percent of girls do so.

Educational inequality among girls in India is enormous. Low literacy rates and lack of education are some of the inequalities found in this demographic. Many of these girls are raised without the expectation of completing their education and become mothers for the next generation, making educational inequality a cyclical, intergenerational problem. Many other factors, such as cultural values, child marriage, lack of feminine hygiene products, and child labor, contribute to the lack of education. The continued lack of formal education among young girls leads to poverty, poor child health, health problems, and domestic violence. Many organizations work to prevent child marriage, promote equal education for girls, distribute reusable feminine hygiene products, and reduce the gender gap in Indian education.

Key words - Childlabor, dowry, alien wealth, literacy, self-efficacy

Objectives - 1) To know the educational benefits for women.

2) To know the obstacles in women's education.

3) To know the solutions to the obstacles in women's education.

Reasons for girl child dropout

In India, the reasons for girl child dropout are a significant concern, especially at the secondary education level. According to the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) report for 2018-19, the dropout rate for girls at the secondary school level (grades 9-10) was estimated at 17.3%. This rate is higher in rural areas, where economic pressures, cultural norms and inadequate school infrastructure are more pronounced. The dropout rate for girls can be as high as 20%, reflecting deep-seated socio-economic and cultural challenges. Efforts to address these issues need to consider the multifaceted barriers faced by girls, including poverty, early marriage and lack of a safe and healthy school environment.

1. **Socio-economic factors** - Poverty and economic pressures: Many families in India face economic constraints, which lead them to prioritize work over the education of their children, especially girls. Homework Needs: Girls need help with homework, which can hinder their ability to attend school regularly.
2. **Cultural Norms and Gender Bias** - Early Marriage: Cultural practices and social norms force girls to marry at an early age, which can lead to them dropping out of school. Gender Discrimination: Persistent gender discrimination results in fewer educational opportunities for girls than for boys.
3. **Inadequate School Infrastructure** - Lack of Sanitation Facilities: Many schools lack proper sanitation facilities, such as separate toilets for girls, making it difficult for them to attend school, especially during menstruation. Unsafe School Environment: Concerns about safety in and around schools can discourage parents from sending their daughters to school.
4. **Poverty and Child Labor** - Girls from the poorest and rural families face the greatest disadvantage because parents are less educated and therefore place less value on education. Rural communities have fewer support systems, which often force girls to work or manage their own homes. Many girls start working as young as five – primarily in agriculture or as domestic servants. Child domestic workers have limited or no access to education because employers often prevent them from attending school.
5. **Caring for relatives** - Women and girls share disproportionately the burden and burden of caring for sick family members and relatives. This affects not only whether they can attend school, but also how much time and energy they can devote to schoolwork.
6. **Water and sanitation** - Poor girls spend up to six hours a day collecting water due to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, leaving little time for school. Girls who do go to school drop out of school when they start menstruating because there is no safe place for hygiene at school.
7. **Conflict and emergencies** - Girls living in conflict-affected countries are 90% more likely to drop out of secondary school than girls living in peaceful areas. Schools can be destroyed in conflict situations, while targeted attacks on girls' schools can make parents afraid to send their daughters to school. In humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters, rising poverty and a lack of employment opportunities for families mean that girls are at greater risk of being married off at an early age or being forced into prostitution.
8. **Child marriage** - 15 million girls under the age of 18 become wives every year - an average of 40,000 every day. Marriage interrupts and removes girls' education, preventing them from acquiring the skills that could lift them out of poverty - over 60% of child brides in developing countries have no formal education. Many are unable to return to school after marriage because they cannot afford school fees. Child marriage means that girls become pregnant early and frequently, which increases the rate of girls dropping out of school.
9. **Pregnancy** - About 16 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 give birth each year. Stigma, lack of support and discriminatory laws around pregnancy keep girls out of school,

forcing them to stay at home and care for their children. Childcare and flexible school programs or adult classes are not available to them.

10. Disability - Between 93 million and 150 million children worldwide are living with disabilities. The World Health Organization and the World Bank estimate that in some countries "people with disabilities are twice as likely to never attend school". Girls with disabilities face discrimination based on both their gender and disability, making them one of the most marginalized groups of children.

11. Child marriage - Child marriage is a major cause of girls' under-education in India. In 2016, India had the highest number of child brides in the world, with 223 million, of whom 102 million were married before the age of 15. In comparison, only 4% of men in India are married by the age of 18. The Indian government first began regulating child marriage in 1929 when it enacted the Child Marriage Prohibition Act. The law discouraged the marriage of girls under 14 and boys under 18, but as it did not provide for penalties, it failed to significantly reduce the number of child marriages. The law seeks to comply with international guidelines on child marriage by banning the marriage of girls under 18 and boys under 21, and by improving the protection of girls involved in child marriage and taking action against those who marry children. The ban was introduced by incorporating modern methods. As a result of this law, the number of girls married under 18 has decreased from 47% in 2006 to 27% today. However, despite these restrictions, the number of child marriages is still very high. This rate is even higher in rural areas, where such laws are more difficult to regulate and enforce.

Solutions to Girls' Dropout

1. Stop Child Marriage - Given the fact that child marriage is the biggest factor limiting girls' education, one of the best ways to address educational disparities is to prevent child marriage. As mentioned earlier, child marriage often forces girls to drop out of school to focus on their domestic responsibilities. Since child marriage is still widely accepted, many are unaware of the issues surrounding child marriage.

Girls Not Brides has partnered with civil society organizations around the world to end child marriage. Girls Not Brides strives to empower girls to reach their potential and access quality education. Its members bring the issue of child marriage to the attention of people around the world, as well as provide a better understanding of possible solutions and what needs to be done to end child marriage. The most effective way to address these issues is to change laws and policies across India, as well as implement programs that change the attitudes of people in India. Girls Not Brides seeks ways to empower girls in society to understand the impact that education will have on their lives. Apart from preventing child marriage, girls are married, encouraging them to complete their education and empowering them or their families to do whatever they can.

2. Government efforts for women's education

* The 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme was launched in 2015 to address the problem of declining child sex ratio across the country. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. Under it, the objectives are to stop female foeticide, increase the number of girls in

schools, reduce school dropout rates, implement the Right to Education rules, and increase the construction of toilets for girls.

* The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Yojana was launched in the year 2004 to provide primary level education to girls, especially in areas with low literacy rates.

* The Mahila Samakhya Programme was launched in 1989 in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy 1986 to improve and empower women's education.

* UNICEF is working with the Government of India to provide quality education to girls in the country.

* National Scheme for Promotion of Girls for Secondary Education: This scheme provides financial assistance to girls from disadvantaged backgrounds to continue their education beyond primary school.

* Sukanya Samridhi Yojana: A savings scheme designed to meet the expenses of girls' education and marriage, helping to alleviate financial worries.

3. Community Engagement and Awareness

* Local Outreach Programmes: Organizing workshops and campaigns to create awareness in communities about the importance of girls' education.

* Parental Involvement: Encouraging parents to actively participate in their daughters' education and school activities.

4. Enhancing School Facilities and Environment

* Sanitation and Hygiene: Ensuring that schools have separate and clean toilets for girls, as well as facilities for menstrual hygiene management.

* Safe and Secure Learning Environment: Implementing measures to ensure the safety and security of girls in and around schools to encourage regular attendance.

Conclusion

Promoting girls' education and reducing dropout rates is crucial to creating a more just and equitable society. It is important to note that educated girls have the potential to make a significant impact on the economy and at the household level. Educated girls are more likely to be employed and earn higher wages, which leads to increased financial stability and improved living standards for their families. Additionally, educated girls are more likely to prioritize education for their children, creating a cycle of education and empowerment that can impact communities and societies.

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