



INDIAN STATUS OF WOMEN'S HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract:

Education is the most important tool for self and national development too. Man and woman both are equal part of society. So, for sustainable development both they needed to be educated rather highly educated. Higher education means education after secondary which is not just information base, it builds and improves too all areas- knowledge, skill, self realization, innovation power, thinking power, decision making power, efficiency, economic sufficiency etc. It will make change in culture, social attitude, socio economic structure, family domain, and attitude toward gender equality also. Through this study an attempt has been taken to analyze woman's higher education, needs, barriers, status of woman's enrolment in higher education. Researcher followed descriptive method in this study.

Keywords: Higher education, woman enrollment.

Introduction:

Education is the basic tool of all round development, only it can develop society in depth. Education has various level – primary, secondary, higher. Primary educations give information and format our behaviors secondary too. Higher education is education after secondary and it's not just information based. It build deep knowledge, improves human attributes- self-realization, innovation power, thinking ability, decision making ability, efficacy and help to socio economic status too. Higher education is like a big tree which is helpful for self and other. **Rabindranath Tagore** report higher education as- **“The highest education is that which does not merely give us information, but makes life in harmony with all existence.”**

Man and women are two wings or wheel of society. For sustainable development both their education rather higher education is important. Women education is a complex and important topic though we take women as human then there will not left any problem. According to Indian history in ancient period women education was strong, but from Islamic period it becomes deprived. From the starting of British Raj to till independence there were only 2-6% literate women. To grow universal literacy rate in 1990 EFA was a great task, Indian Government was also carrier of this. To achieve this goal many steps has been taken by Government. Free and compulsory education for 6-14 ages children, SSA, mid-day meal, free book, and study material distribution, scholarship etc. To ensure the equal right in education, and society National Council of Women in 1958, National Commission of Women Act in 1990, National Policy for The Empowerment of Women in 2001, and National Knowledge Commission for Higher Education in 2007 were established. To improve enrollment of women in higher studies University Grand Commission (UGC) has been taken many scheme like- Women University, hostel facility, Swami Vivekananda Single Girl Child Scholarship for Research in Social Science etc. AICTE has implemented PRAGATI scholarship for girls

pursuing technical education. Although for these initiative women's enrollment in higher education grew up than past decades but it is far behind as compared to other countries at global level.

Objectives:

The study aimed to highlight on enrollment status of women in higher education in India. It also highlighted relevant areas like needs of women's participation in higher education, barriers of women's access to higher education in India.

Method:

Women's enrollment in higher education is a global topic now, especially in developing country. In this study researcher followed descriptive method. Secondary data about women's enrollment in higher education were collected from AISHE reports, UGC reports, and Census reports (1951-2011) through internet.

Needs of woman's higher education:

Education is just not need it is human right also. If food, water, light, cloth give us life then education build abilities and shows the way by which human can get all those in better way and better form. Man and woman both are part of society, both they need education or better we can say that woman need education more than men because woman are former of new. An educated woman can give birth a healthy child and take care in such way that he/she can be the able citizen of the nation. **Jawaharlal Nehru said-"If you educate a man you educate an individual, however if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Woman empowered means mother India empowered."**

By education and higher education woman can realize self, develop herself from inner and outer both, fight for own rights, take decision in right way, improve abilities, get better jobs, facilities and improve socio-economic status of self and family. It's not mean that by higher education women just want life like men rather it will grow gender equality which is important for future generation and all over development.

Barriers of woman's higher education in India:

As India is a developing and poor country so there are wide ranging complication and barriers for women to access higher quality education. Most challenging barriers are –

- **Poverty:** In India where most of the people are living under the bellow poverty line, do not get enough food, clean water, and house for living, education and higher education is like a day-dream for them.
- **Cost:** : Though education for 6-14 ages children is free but the cost of higher education including fees, books, transport, hostel or staying charge, and others are too much to bare for a poor family.
- **Traditional views and gender compairity:** Inspite of poverty and cost problem parents often try hardly to bare for their son's education. In India and other developing poor countries social attitude toward girls or woman is that home work, kitchen and caring of baby are just area of woman. Social and parental negative attitude towards female child is a barrier for women's higher education.
- **Distance to Institutions:** distance from home to institution is a big problem. Higher educational institutions are low in number in India and in most often cases these institutions are in too distance from home. For education sometimes students have to stay in hostel or in other staying places like P.G (paying guest) which is costly and risky for female student. Sometimes for safety parents do not want give permission their daughters to go so far.
- **Violence:** A female student faces various kind of violence on way to institution, and even in institution from teachers, peers and others. Eve teasing, molestation, rape, acid attack etc dangerous kinds of violence are too common in our society. It creates barrier to access higher education.
- **Early marriage and pregnancy:** Whereas act 2006 says marriage of girl before age of 18 is punishable crime but still it is going on especially in rural areas in India and other developing countries also. In India almost 45% girl get married before age of 18 and get pregnant. They face stigmatization problem and it discourage them to continues and access to higher education.
- **Poor infrastructure:** lack of separate toilets, sanitary products, wash rooms, or common rooms for female student can discourage them to attend classes in menstruating time.

- **Inadequate female teachers:** At primary level female teachers are only 29% (MHRD, 1993), and 22% at university level (CSO, 1992). It is another barrier to women's higher education. Female student will get more encourage if the percentage of female teacher will adequate.
- **Attitude towards curriculum:** Attitude toward curriculum of woman's higher education is also a factor. To date where as various academic, professional, technical, vocational courses are open, traditional views restricts woman in formal study. (Ghara, 2016). In most often cases female students are excluded from leaning math, science, technology etc, and it become stigmatized that women are just capable for study literature. So that woman leading higher post in various and especially technical profession is minor even in 21 century.

However woman face various problems to access higher education like negative psycho-social attitude, child marriage, poor economic condition, superstitions, violence, lack of woman universities, hostels, poor infrastructure, woman educators etc.

Status of women enrollment in higher education in India:

Through various data and sources we can see the real status of women enrollment in higher education, and how increase it day to day in our India. Here researcher collected some data through internet about women enrollment in higher education in India.

table-1: total enrolment of women in higher education in India in respect of all students from 1950-51 to 2018-19.

YEAR	MEN (000S)	WOMEN (000S)	TOTAL ENROLMENT (000S)	Percentage of WOMEN in Respect of ALL STUDENTS
1950-1951	157	17	174	10
1955-1956	252	43	295	14.6
1960-1961	468	89	557	16
1965-1966	849	218	1067	20.4
1970-1971	1563	391	1954	20
1975-1976	2131	595	2426	24.5
1980-1981	2003	749	2752	27.2
1985-1986	2512	1059	3571	29.6
1990-1991	2986	1439	4425	32.5
1995-1996	4235	2191	6426	34.10
2000-2001	4988	3012	8001	37.6
2005-2006	6562	4466	11028	40.5
2010-2011	16173	13010	29184	45
2015-2016	18594	15990	34584	46
2016-2017	18995	16710	35705	46.8
2017-2018	19200	17442	36642	47.6
2018-2019	19200	18200	37400	48.6

[source: based on AISHE and UGC annual report]

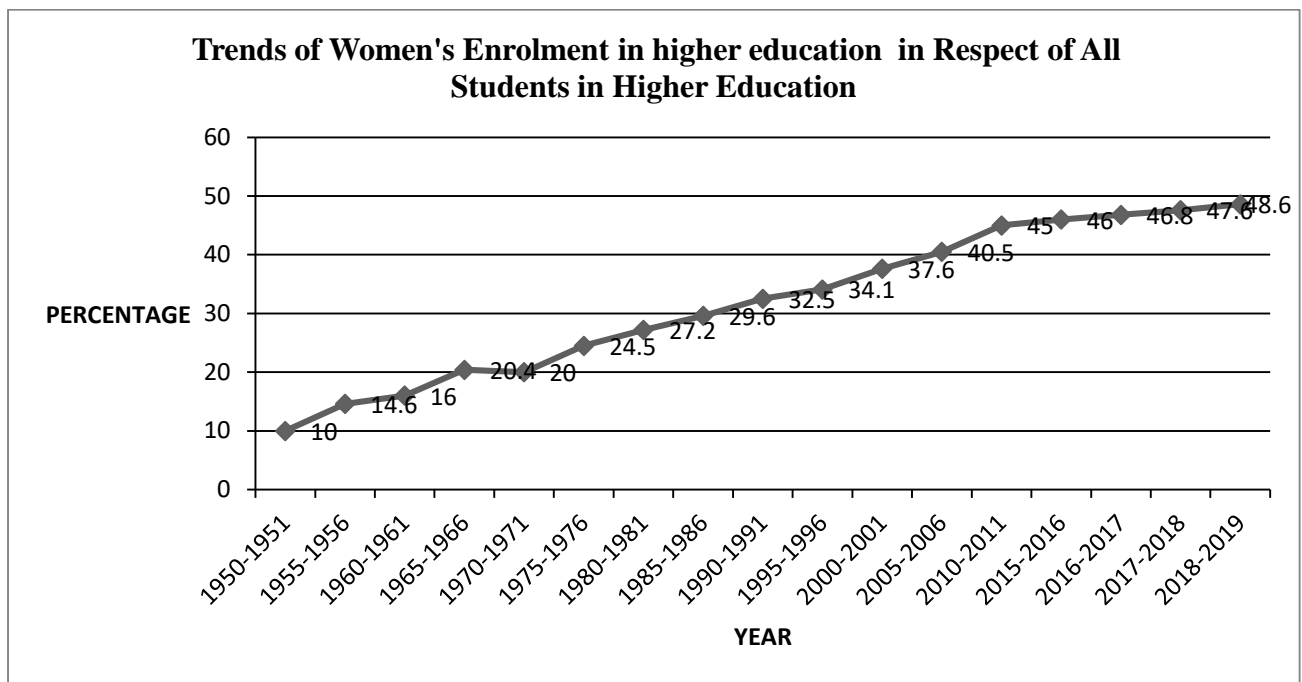


Figure-1: Percentage of women's enrolment on the basis of all student's enrollment in Higher Education in India from 1950-51 to 2018-19.

[Source: based on AISHE and UGC annual report]

Data of table 1 and figure 1 showing that in 1950-1951 enrollment of women in higher education in India was 17000 (10% of total enrollment) and in 2018-2019 it was 18200000 (48.6% of total enrollment) that's mean women's enrollment in higher education is increased but still it is low on the basis of total enrollment.

table 2: literacy rate gap between men and women in india from 1950-2011:

Census-Year	Literacy rate of man	Literacy rate of Women	Gap
1951	27.16	8.86	18.3
1961	40.4	15.35	25.05
1971	45.96	21.97	23.99
1981	56.38	29.76	26.62
1991	64.13	39.29	24.84
2001	75.85	54.16	21.69
2011	82.14	65.46	16.68

[Source: census.govt.in]

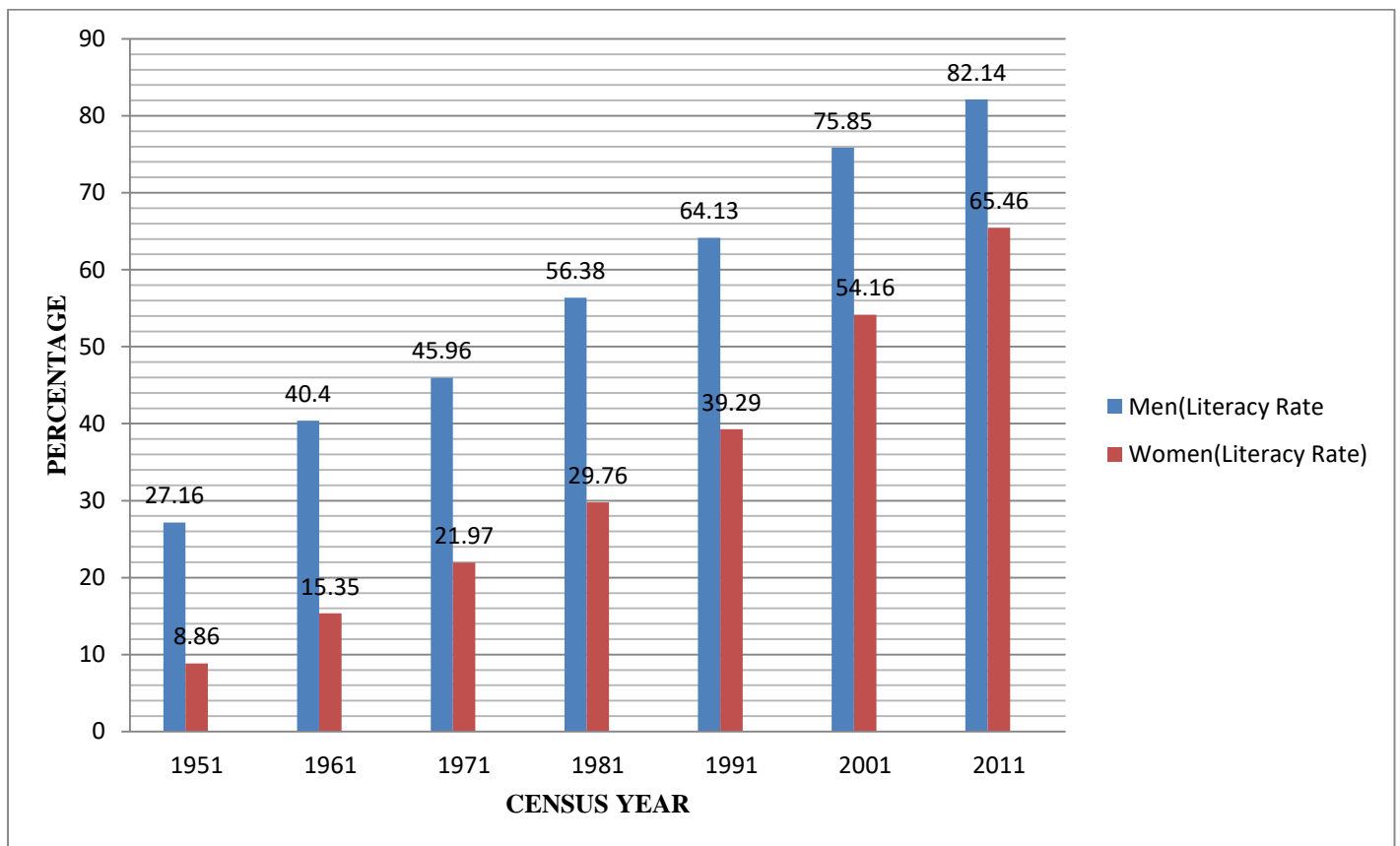


figure-2: literacy rate of men and women from 1951-2011 in india

[source: census.govt.in]

This table 2 and figure 2 showing that in 1950 men literacy rate was 27.16 where as women literacy rate was 8.86 and the gap was 18.3, and in 2011 men literacy rate was 82.14 where as women literacy rate was 65.46 and the gap between men and women literacy rate was 16.86. Gap between men and women literacy rate is decreasing slowly.

table 3: difference of GER (gross enrolment ratio) between men and women in Indian higher education from 2010-2011 to 2018-2019.

Year	Men	Women	Gap
2010-2011	20.8	17.9	2.9
2011-2012	22.1	19.4	2.7
2012-2013	22.7	20.1	2.6
2013-2014	23.9	22	1.9
2014-2015	25.3	23.2	2.1
2015-2016	25.4	23.5	1.9
2016-2017	26	24.5	1.5
2017-2018	26.3	25.4	0.9
2018-2019	26.3	26.4	-0.1

[Source: based on AISHE report]

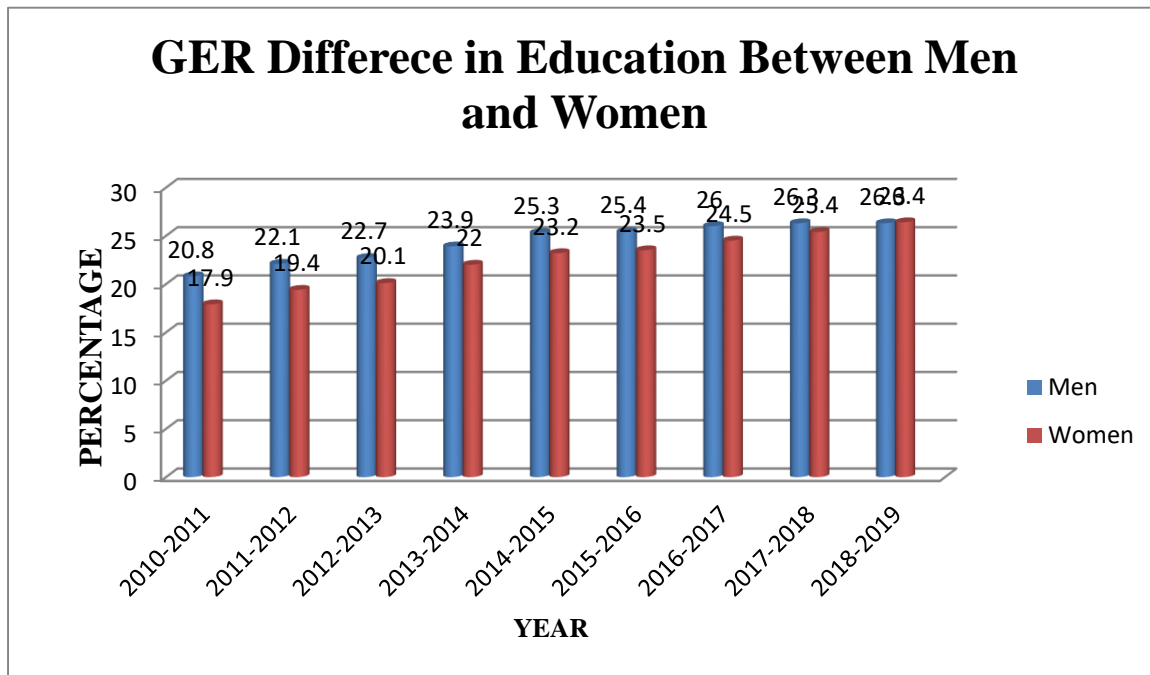


figure-3.1: GER difference in education between men and women

[Source: based on AISHE report]

The table 3 and the figure 3.1 showing that in 2010-2011 in India GER of men was 20.8 where as GER of women was 17.9. But in 2018 GER of men was 26.3 where as GER of women was 26.4 means GER of women is increasing greatly. Even in 2018-19 GER of women is higher than men.

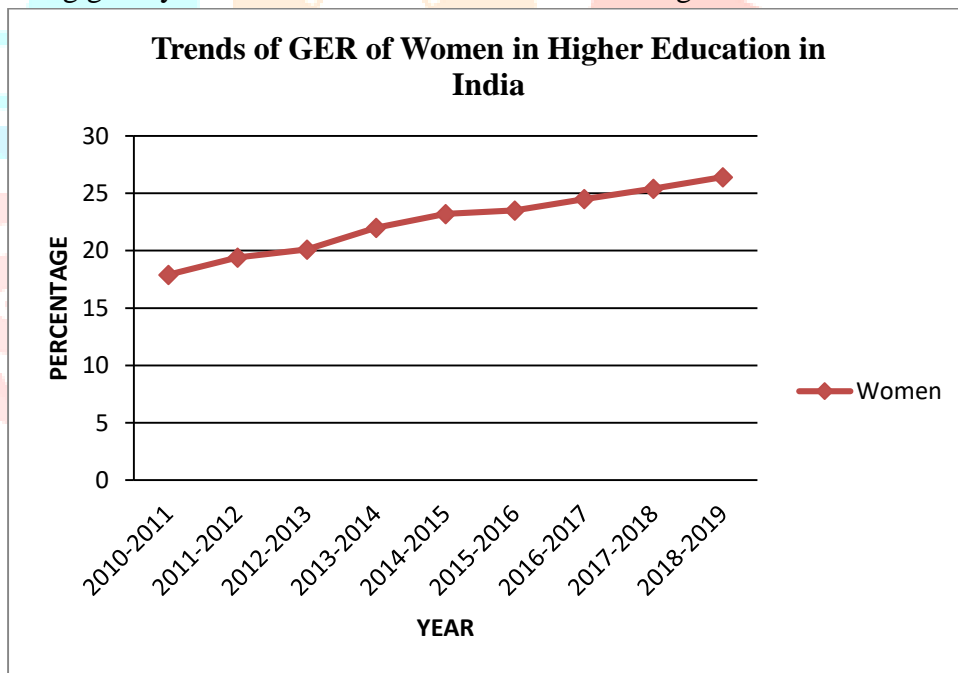


figure 3.2: trends of GER of women in higher education in India

[Source: based on AISHE report]

The figure 3.2 showing that a whopping increment happened in GER of women in higher education from 2010-2011 to 2018-2019 in India.

table 4: GPI (gender parity index) report from 2010-2011 to 2018-2019 in India

Year	All category	SC	ST
2010-2011	0.86	0.84	0.87
2011-2012	0.90	0.90	0.80
2012-2013	0.89	0.89	0.79
2013-2014	0.92	0.92	0.81
2014-2015	0.92	0.91	0.81
2015-2016	0.92	0.81	0.83
2016-2017	0.94	0.93	0.86
2017-2018	0.97	0.96	0.87
2018-2019	1.00	1.02	0.92

[Source: based on AISHE report]

Table 4 showing the GPI report from 2010-2011 to 2018-2019 in India. GPI or Gender parity Index is released by UNESCO. It is a socio-economical index which is designed to measure parity of men and women's access to education.

Discussion:

Data of AISHE reports from 1950-51 to 2018-19 imply that enrollment of women in higher education in respect of all student was just 10% in 1950-51, where as 48.6% in 2018-19. However percentage of women's enrollment is gradually increased except 1970-71(20% where as in 1965-66 it was 20.4%). Census report of Government of India from 1950 to 2011 also showing the same result. Where as in 1950 gap between men and women literacy rate was 18.3%, in 2011 it was 16.68%. But AISHE report of Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) difference between men and women in higher education in India from 2010-11 to 2018-19 showing that a whopping increment is happen. In 2010-11 GER percentage of men was 20.8 and women was 17.9(gap was 2.9%) but in 2018-19 GER percentage of women (26.4%) surpassed men (26.3%). Another report of Gender Parity Index (GPI) of India from 2010-2011 to 2018-2019 also indicate that enrollment of women in higher education is increase.

Conclusion:

From data and other relevant sources it is clear that women's enrollment in higher education is increasing greatly from past decades. In this study the data were shown about women's enrollment in higher education from 1950-2019 which is showing that a visible change or increment is happen. This change has great affects on socio-cultural structure. Once when a women was a just homemaker now they are balancing their home successfully with workplace and makes won identity. Some women play role as main income source in family. Through education and economical independent women become able to know and fight for their right and to live their life as equal part of society. They are aware about their won and family health. On other side low infertility, single mother, divorce rate are increase day to day. Increase rate of Women's enrollment in higher education change social attitude to traditional and narrow views, social structure, cultural structure, family structure, and day to day life style. Though whopping increment is happen in women enrollment in higher education from past decades but still it is not equal as men. Position of women in higher posts of various sectors is still in minority. Grant Thornton, (2017) released that only 7% women in India hold senior management role, 39% women or female student enrolling their name in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology subject (girlsintech.org). In lower house of Indian parliament, there are hardly 14.36% women representative whereas 44.37% women are representative in Panchayati Raj(www.panchayat.gov.in). So for sustainable development education of women rather higher education is important. Still in 21st century challenges are there, so government should take more relevant initiatives to improve enrollment of women in higher education rather than literacy rate because only literacy cannot help women to be a self dependable individual and in sustainable development.

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