



ROLE OF EDUCATION IN SOCIAL CHANGES: A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND HEALTH

Suraj Pratap Singh
(Research Scholar)

Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Science,
Dyalbagh Educational Institute (Deemed to be University), Agra (U.P)

ABSTRACT

Education plays an important role as a representative or tool of social change and social development is widely recognized in the present time. Social transformation may take place, when human being needs change. When the current social system or network of social organizations fails to meet the existing human demands and when new materials offer ways of fulfilling human needs, education is seen as a primary vector in the community. Education is also important for women's empowerment and health in India. At present time there are lots of government and private organizations, and NGOs, especially working in the favor of women to change their lifestyle, and health and also enhance the literacy rate of females in our country. In this research paper, we discussed the role of education in social reforms, women's empowerment, health, and other suitable factors regarding women. At present time there will be a strong need to change the mentality of society, especially in backward areas where the literacy rate is very less due to this female faces many problems like gender discrimination, early marriages, and other health-related issues.

KEY WORDS: Social Changes, Women's Health in INDIA, Women Empowerment, Reproductive Health

INTRODUCTION

Education can be used as an instrument to empower any person. Through child-centered learning, students can see their role in social transformation. Societal change comes from the cooperative transformation of the individuals within that society. Education has brought about phenomenal changes in every aspect of human life. Francis J. Brown states that Education is a process that brings about changes in the behavior of society. It is a process that enables every person to effectively participate in the activities of society and to make a positive contribution to the progress of society.

Education is a never-ending cycle; it starts with the birth of an individual one and continues till life lasts. Education makes a person a real human being. It is a necessary human virtue. Education furnishes the individual with social, moral, cultural, and spiritual aspects and thus makes life advanced, cultured, and civilized. P. C. Banerjee (1947) described education: "It is the

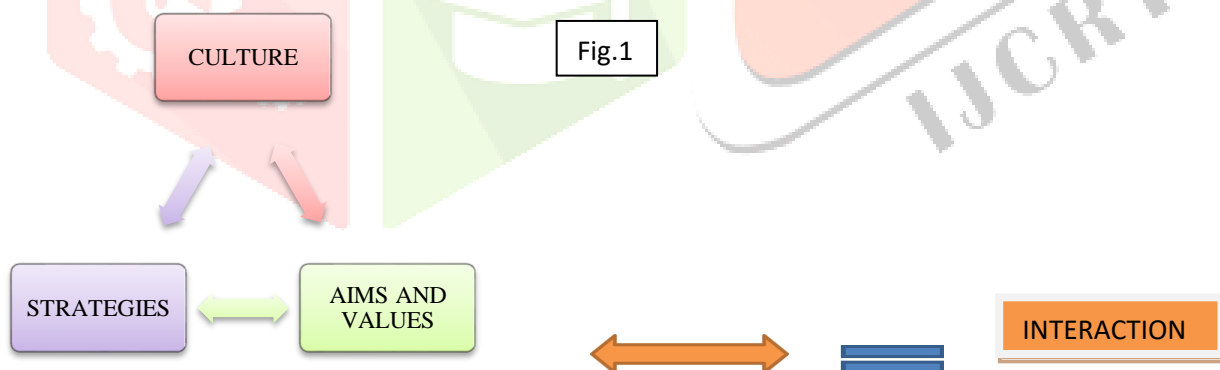
development of the strength of adaptation to an ever-changing social environment". In the present time, the role of education as a catalyst for social change and improvement is widely recognized. For its growth and success, society must adapt from time to time. Changes in personality, social structures, and social behavior, are all examples of social change. Admitting new ideas may lead to development and growth, which is why change is so important. Various elements contribute to social change, including changes in both the social and nonsocial atmospheres. Technical developments are fueled by education because of its capability to increase productivity and creativity in individuals. Poverty may be eliminated by delivering access to a wide range of employment options through education.

No nation can succeed in sustainable economic development without substantial investment in human capital. Education increases people's understanding of themselves and the world. The education system should be constructed more practical rather than providing theoretical knowledge. Instead of learning only the theoretical aspects practical knowledge should be provided. ICT is not only considered as an instrument, which can be added to existing teaching techniques but also nowadays ICT is seen as an essential instrument to support new ways of the teaching learning process. In this 21st century, the term "technology" is an important issue in many fields including education.

PROCESS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

According to Ottaway, the culture of a society during a provided period is specified by the interaction of two types of factors

- (1) The stage of technological invention and scientific discovery it has reached.
- (2) The dominant purposes and values of the society.



Hence it can be said that culture in our society is determined by the interaction of strategies and values. The connection can be represented diagrammatically as in Fig.1 where the double arrows represent a dynamic interaction, or a two-way process.

Both strategies and values change and it is their interaction that determines the qualities of society at an offered time. It is not easy to say which impact is dominant in any individual social change. Innovations are considered to be a primary origin of social change but that is not a satisfactory explanation. Its use will depend on the prevailing set of values in society. The ambitions and values of a society determine how its strategies will be used. On the other hand, the force of technology changes habits of life and work which in

turn changes habits of thinking and belief. Thus some variables influence each other and cause social transformation, the relative importance of values or techniques will be different on various occasions

FACTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL CHANGES

There is lots of factor which was responsible for bringing about social changes in our society are given below:

Demographical Factors: Changes in the size and composition of the population are very important factors leading to social change. The fast growth of the population brings about many changes in the standard of living as well as evolutions in the social structures and organization of society.

Biological Factors: Due to the problem of conflict between generations there is always a scope for new habits to emerge. No new generation ever exactly reenacts the social life of its ancestor leading to the rejection of some aspects of social life while acceptance and innovating some others.

Technological Factors: Technological developments play a very important role in societal transformations as they change the structure of the entire society. This immediate technological progress brings about many changes in the attitudes, beliefs, and even traditions of society. **Natural Factors:** Man can never have full control over nature as none can claim to control the weather which extremely affects our mode of thinking, habits, traditions, eating habits, clothing, etc. Moreover, it is tough to achieve technological development in a country lacking natural resources.

Psychological Factors: Human nature continuously wants change. He does not like to be tied to the same surroundings, same customs, traditions, and same cultural values. Human beings welcome invention for the development and advancement of society. As a result of these changes, modernization takes place.

WOMEN HEALTH IN INDIA

India is one of the nations in the globe where men and women have almost the same life expectancy at birth time. The fact is that the typical female advantage in life longing is not seen in India suggesting there are systematic issues with women's healthiness. Indian women's have high mortality rates, mainly in their reproductive health and during childhood time. The health of women is innately linked to their status in our Indian society. A study on women's living status has found that the contributions of Indian women's make to families usually are overlooked, and rather, they are viewed as economic responsibilities. There is a strong baby boy preference in our Indian society, as sons are expected to overlook for parents as they old. This son preference, along with high dowry costs for daughters, sometimes results in the injustice of daughters. Further, Indian females have low status of both education and formal labor force participation. They generally have little autonomy, living under the control of first their fathers, than after marriage their husbands, and ultimately their sons. According to Chatterjee, (1990), Desai, in the year 1994, Horowitz and Kishwar, in the year 1985, and the World Bank, in 1996. All of these components exert an unfavorable impact on the women's health status. Women in poor health are more likely to give birth to low weight babies. They also are less likely to be able to provide nourishment and adequate supervision for their children. Ultimately, a woman's fitness affects the family economic well-being, as a woman in low-grade health will be less

productive in the labor force. While females in India face many serious health problems, this profile concentrates on only five critical issues:

(A) Reproductive Health

Reproductive health is a state of entire physical, mental, and social well-being and not only the absence of disorder or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and its operations and processes. Reproductive health indicates that people can have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they can reproduce and have the freedom to decide if, when, and how often to do so. Reproductive health is a component of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The World Health Organization evaluated in the year 2008 that reproductive health accounts for 20% of the global burden of bad health for females and 14% for males. Out of eight goals of Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Improving Maternal Health is goal number five with two aims

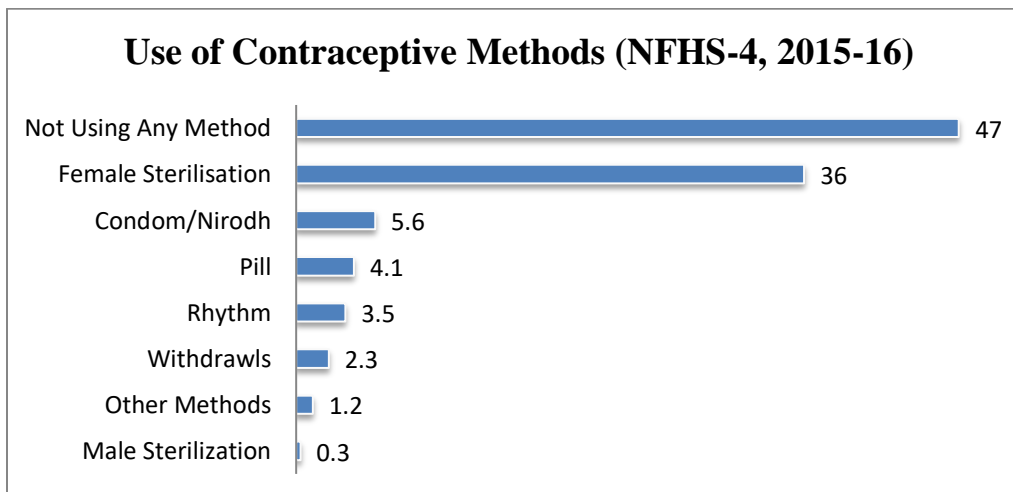
(a) To decrease the maternal mortality ratio by 75 %

(b) To achieve universal permit to reproductive health, by maintaining Contraceptive prevalence rate, adolescent birth rate, antenatal care coverage, and Unmet need for family planning

Table.1

S.No	Year	Area Wise Fertility Rate Per Women		Education Wise Fertility Rate Per Women	
		Urban	Rural	Illiterate	Literate
1.	2010	1.9	2.8	3.4	2.2
2.	2011	1.9	2.7	3.3	2.1
3.	2012	1.8	2.6	3.2	2.1
4.	2013	1.8	2.5	3.1	2.1

Fig.1.1



Source: NFHS Report 2015-16

(B) Domestic Violence

According to the WHO, out of three one woman experienced physical or sexual domestic violence in their life time and 30 percent of women experienced sexual violence from their life partners. Domestic violence is faced by women from men, which badly affects their mental and physical health. In India most women feel unsafe in marital homes, it's because women are not given enough opportunities in a patriarchal society. Their husbands, their in-laws, and others are violent toward them. Due to rigid social conventions, women rarely report incidences of domestic violence. Despite experiencing numerous forms of domestic violence, many women choose not to report it. Although the nations have a system in place that allows wives to report their husbands for domestic violence.

(C) Nutritional Status

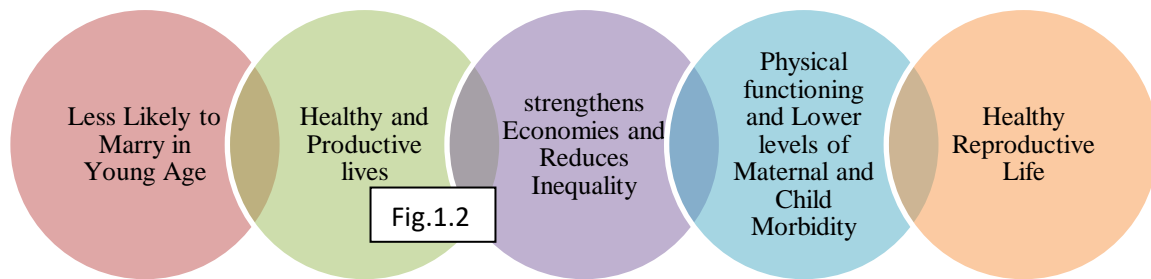
In India one fourth females of reproductive age are under nourished condition, with body mass index of less 18.5kg/m according to NFHS 4 report 2015-16. It is clearly known that under nourished mother gives birth to an under nourished baby. The 5th round of the National Family Health Survey clearly highlights a situation concerning the nutritional status and anemia among both children and women. In India, there are 189.2 million undernourished individuals, mostly women and children. Health indicators of India's profile in the world hunger index include malnutrition which is well known, as well as the widespread presence of stunting, wasting, and nutritional deficiencies among children and mother.

(D) Gender Discrimination

Gender discrimination is the unequal or disadvantageous therapy inflicted on the individual because they belong to a specific gender. It is usually the females who usually have to face such gender discrimination. Gender-wise literacy rates in our country shows the broad gap between females and males education. According to 2011 census data, effective literacy rates (age 7 and above) were 65.46% for males and 82.14% for females. Parents are unwilling to spend on girls' education because educating women is of no value as they will only serve their husbands in the future. The Indian constitution provides equal privileges and rights for both men and women, but most women in India don't value these rights and opportunities ensured to them. This is because of several reasons some of them are:

- Poverty
- Illiteracy
- Patriarchal setup in our Indian society
- Social Customs, Beliefs and Practices
- Lack of Awareness Among Women

There are lots of positive impact of education on women health some of the are given below in the figure form

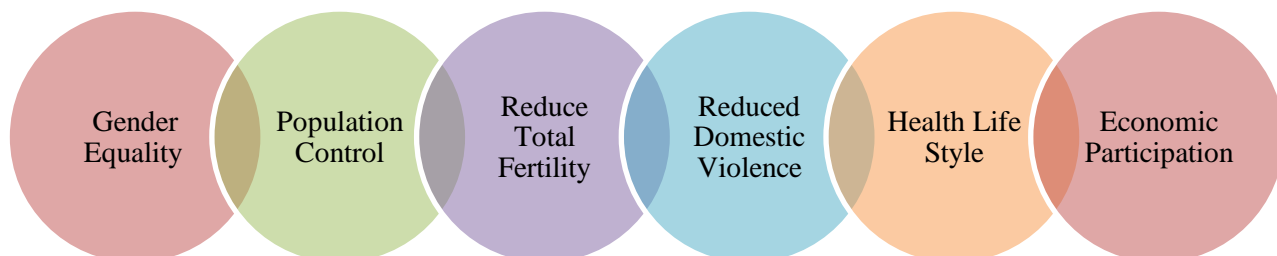


Many analysts have shown the advantages that education has for women. The studies link education with reduced maternal deaths, improved youngster health, and lower fertility. Women with at least some proper education are more likely than illiterate women to use marry later, contraception, have fewer children, and be sufficiently informed on the nutritious and other requirements of children. Female's education helps women handle how many children they have. Increasing girls' participation in school also help in decreases fertility rates.

ROLE OF EDUCATION IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

"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's education in India plays a very meaningful role in the overall growth of the country. It not only assists in the development of half of the human resources but in enhancing the quality of life outside and at home. If it is stated that education is the key to all problems and difficulties, then it won't be inappropriate. Philosophers have given several definitions of education but out of these definitions, the most meaningful definition is that which was put forth by M. Phule. According to M. Phule, "Education is that which clarifies the difference between what is good and what is bad". If we believe the above definition, we come to know that whatever revolutions have taken place in our past, education is at the base of them. Education means the modification of behavior in every aspect, such as mentality, ou, attitude, outlook, etc. Literate women not only tend to promote the education of their girl children but also can provide better directions to all their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of the infant mortality rate and the growth of the population. Gender discrimination continues in India and a lot more needs to be done in the field of women's education in India. The gap in the male-female literacy rate is just a simple indicator. While the male literary rate is more than 82.14% and the female literacy rate is just 65.46%. Some advantages of women empowerment given below: Fig.1.3

Fig. 1.3



Empowerment is about transformation, choice, and power. It is cycle of change by which people and groups achieve the strength and ability to make choices that affect their lives. Women empowerment is a phase of acquiring power for women to understand her rights and to perform her duties towards oneself and others in a most effective way. According to K. Sayulu, G. Sardar & B.Sridevi, (2005), “Women empowerment is any process that delivers greater freedom to women through the sharing of relevant knowledge and provision of control over factors affecting their performance”. Women constituted a key role in the arch of our Indian society.

Women's education in India is traced back to the years after Indian Independence. University Education Commission (1948-49), Modular Commission (1952-53), Kothari Commission (1964-66), National Policy in Education (1968), and National Policy for Education (1986) have suggested lots of new policies in the favor of women's education. In the present time, the Indian government takes different measures to provide education to all females. Women's literacy rate seemingly rose in the modern days. Women's education in our country became a compulsory concern and the female literacy rate has gone higher than the male literacy rate. At present time, our constitution grants free primary school education for both boys and girls up to age 14. After independence, various measures are taken to improve women's education

Table.1.1

S.No	Census Year	Males	Females	Male-Female gap in literacy Rate
1.	1901	9.83	0.60	9.23
2.	1911	10.56	1.05	9.51
3.	1921	12.21	1.81	10.40
4.	1931	15.59	2.93	12.66
5.	1941	24.90	7.30	17.60
6.	1951	27.16	8.86	18.30
7.	1961	40.40	15.35	25.05
8.	1971	45.96	21.97	23.99
9.	1981	56.38	29.76	26.62
10.	1991	64.13	39.29	24.84
11.	2001	75.26	53.67	21.59
12.	2011	82.14	65.46	16.68

Source: Census of India

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- Desai (1969:) states that “the student of the rural community should study the village, the fundamental unit of rural society as it originated, and experienced a constant state of development and

transformation due to the activity of its developing internal forces as also due to its interaction with different societies”.

- Lerner (1958) said that the key to modernization lies in the participant society – one in which people go through educational institutes, read newspapers, participate politically through elections and change beliefs on diverse matters. He also posted that education is the pivotal agent in the change to a full participant society.
- Manheim (1940) said that: “Sociologists do not believe education solely as a means of realizing abstract ideals of civilization, such as humanism or technological specialization, but as part of the process of influencing men and women. Education can only be understood when we know for what society and for what social position the learners are being educated.”
- Marion Levy (1972) told that the aspects of social relations of people may be discussed in terms of (i) universalism and particularism; (ii) rationality and conservatism; (iii) functional particularity and functional diffuseness (iv) avoidance and intimacy.

NEED OF THE STUDY

At present time there will be a strong need of enhancing education, especially for women because only education can change the issues like reproductive health, literacy rate, domestic violence, sexual harassment, women's empowerment, and other problems related to women in our country. Crime rate and physical abuse increase day per day in our country, Indian government should take important steps and also make powerful acts in the favor of women. In our country, women do not know about their rights, laws, and act that work in their favor and help them in condition like domestic violence, physical harassment, etc. so in the present time there will be a strong need for education for social transformation, especially in women's health and empowerment.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To study the status of women health and women empowerment in India
- To know the role of education in social transformation
- To know the positive aspects of education in women empowerment and health

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data, to ascertain the role of education in social changes with special reference to women's health and empowerment in India. Secondary data will be collected from authentic secondary sources such as census reports, health report research papers; magazines, synopsis, etc are used for this research paper.

SUGGESTION

Awareness programs must be organized for creating awareness among women mainly belonging to weaker sections about their rights. The first preference should be given to the education of women; therefore, education for women has to be paid special attention. Strict implementation of Programmes and Acts in favor

of women should be followed in our society. Females should be allowed to work outside the home and provided enough safety and help in their work. They should be provided with fair salaries and work well than men so that their standard of living can be promoted in our society. By making it possible for everyone who wants to be educated citizens of their nation and help in social changes. Some other suggestions are given below:

- By promoting a fair and scientific perspective.
- By creation of an inclusive community that values diversity in religion, caste, class, language, etc.
- By ensuring that everyone has equivalent access to social mobility in society.
- The Spread of social and cultural education in rural and urban areas leads to social transformation
- Attitude toward female education
- Political participation of females.

CONCLUSION

The main purpose of the present study was to discuss the role of education in social changes, women's health, and empowerment. The primary assumption is that education can bring changes in the attitudes of the youth towards various social institutions i.e. marriage, caste, family, and religion. Education also plays a powerful role in encouraging our youth for giving up traditional practices and welcome development and change.

In India, education has continued to be one of the most effective tools for social transformation in our society and also plays an effective role in women's health and empowerment. It helps individuals grow by altering their perspectives and is seen as a device for social change by politicians, sociologists, social psychologists, educators, philosophers, and educational planners.

Education can change society by providing opportunities through which the person can develop himself to adjust to the emerging needs and philosophy of the changing society. Women's empowerment in India is dependent on various variables that include geographical area (urban/rural) social status (caste and class) and age. Policies on Women's empowerment exist at the national, state, and local levels in many sectors, including education, health, economic opportunities, gender-based violence and political participation. And last, it's very important to remember that those involved in school and colleges themselves have a heavy burden of responsibility for social change.

REFERENCES

- Altekar, A. S., (1983), Position of women in Hindu Civilization. Banaras: The Culture publication House, Banaras Hindu University.
- Desai, Neera. (1977). Women in modern India. Mumbai: Vora Company.
- Devendra, Kiran. (1985). Status and position of women in India. With Special Reference to Women in Contemporary India. New Delhi: Shakti Books.
- K. V. Sobha Rani(2021) A Study on Women Empowerment in India.

- Barman S. Socio-economic demographic differentials of contraceptive usage in Indian States: A study based on NFHS data socio-economic and demographic differentials of contraceptive usage in Indian States: a study based on NFHS data. J Hum Ecol. 2013;42(1):53–68.
- Kelkar, Govind, (1992), Violence Against Women: Perspectives and Strategies in India, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Occasional Papers 30, New Delhi.
- Ankur Barman, (2015), Education as an Instrument of Social Change in India.
- Sunil Vyankatesh Samag, (2017), a study on the role of education in India's social transformation.
- Fleischmann, K. (2015). The democratization of design and design learning: how do we educate the next-generation designer? International Journal of Art and Sciences (IJAS), 08(06), 101–108.
- Dickens, L., & Watkins, K. (1999), Action research: Rethinking Lewin, Management Learning Special Issue: The Action Dimension in Management: Diverse Approaches to Research, Teaching, and Development, 30(2), pp. 127–40.
- Prasad, Shally, (1996), “Instituting Measures to Address Violence Against Women in India,” paper presented at the Association of Women in Development International Conference, Washington, DC.

WEBSITES

<https://www.savethechildren.in/blog/others/gender-discrimination-in-the-indian-society/>
<https://www.civildaily.com/women-empowerment-in-india-gender-equality-linkage-between-women-empowerment-and-economic-development-indicators-of-women-empowerment/>
<https://ehe.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/ehe/article/view/43#:~:text=Education%20transforms%20both%20societies%20and,further%20individual%20and%20social%20transformation.>
<https://www.prb.org/resources/the-effect-of-girls-education-on-health-outcomes-fact-sheet/>
<https://www.orfonline.org/research/domestic-violence-and-womens-health-in-india/#:~:text=In%20India%2C%2030%25%20of%20women,form%20of%20GBV%20against%20women.>