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## IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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### Abstract

Women constitute almost half of the population of the world. Education for women is the way to improve the health, nutrition, and economic status of the household that constitutes the micro-unit of a nation's economy. In this context, it can be argued that the lack of women's education can be an impediment to the country's social & economic development. In the present investigation an attempt has been made to study the impact of education on social and economic development of women. The survey method of the research has been utilized as a part of this research study. To collect the relevant data two questionnaires i.e. Education and Social Development; and Education and Economic Development developed by the investigator were used. For this study a sample of 200 undergraduate women students and 110 postgraduate women students were selected by using systematic random sampling technique from two districts i.e. Shimla and Solan of Himachal Pradesh. The information collected was calculated by using percentage technique.

**Key Terms:** Women Education, Social Development, Economic Development, Undergraduate and Postgraduate Women Student

### Introduction

Women education plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. If it is said that education is the key to all problems, then it won't be improper. Education means the modification of behavior in every aspect, such as mentality, outlook, attitude, etc. Educated women not only tend to promote the education of their girl children but also can provide better guidance to all their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of the population. Education is a milestone of women's development because it enables them to respond to the challenges, confront their traditional roles and change their life. We can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women development. India poised to become a superpower in recent years. The education of women is the most powerful tool to change their position in society. Women's education in India has been a need of the hour, as

education is a foundation stone for the development of women. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family and develops the concept of social and economic participation.

### **Need of the Study**

There has been so much written on the effects of educating girls on development and social change that articles no longer reference these claims. The rhetoric has been in the range of hyperbole as educated girls are seen as the solution to all development problems. Once educated, girls and women will realize the global dream of freedom for all. They will annihilate poverty, increase the health of society, control family size, create harmonious societies where all are equal, be represented in the workforce in direct ratio to their numbers, take their rightful place in governing the state, eliminate child marriage, and prevent violence, conflict and wars. *“The closest to a silver bullet in human development is educating women, and particularly mothers.”* (Malik, 2014). From the point of view of the latest developments in the field of education as an inter-disciplinary subject, this study will be helpful in understanding the primary cause of finding out some of the effective means of measuring women education in Himachal Pradesh which have been growing and expanding both spatially as well as temporally in the State since 2001 onwards. The study is so significant that it social and economic relevance. The purpose of this research work is to see how women have progressed in their education and how it has helped them in the process of social and economic development. Hence, the study will be more significant to highlight some possibilities to overcome the above problems for the improvement of women.

### **Related Literature Review**

**Nath (2014)** in his study “Higher Education Women Participation in India.” concluded that; (i) Increased number of Higher Educational Institutions helped women to complete their higher studies. (ii) Expectations for education based employments very high amongst women. This factor worked very silently in completing their higher studies. (iii) In some cases women students get inspirations from the teachers working in higher education institutions which helped them to complete their higher studies. (iv) In many cases early marriage leads to withdrawal of women from higher studies. (v) In most cases women were dependent on males both in economically and in decision making and as such they suffered more.

**Sharma (2015)** in his study “Impact of Education on the Development of Women in Educationally Backward Districts of Himachal Pradesh” found that; (i) Highly qualified women were more aware of the source of education due to their more knowledge and source whereas for illiterate women due to their limited knowledge and exposure ratio and other sources is the easy source of awareness. (ii) The higher education the more were the personal development of individuals. (iii) Education helped in creating awareness regarding illness treatment of individuals. It can be concluded that education played a significant role in health treatment. But one thing common in decreasing from illiterate women to higher level women was that they still seek the help of tantric. This showed that higher level have more awareness and less ignorance and superstitions. (iv) Women’s of different level of their education had different needs and priorities. Higher educated women were

more aware regarding loan and source of loan facilities. (v) Education played a significant role in political awareness and working of panchayat system.

**Sonkar (2020)** in his study “Impact of Education on Women Development a Case Study of Unnao District” concluded that the female literacy was 56.76 percent (2011) and percentage of male literacy was remained always higher (75.05 percent in 2011). Male and female differential in literacy had found 18.29 percent which was decreased till 6.40 percent in next decade. Study also compiled that low female literacy in comparison to male was because of the traditional mentality and due to patriarchal society. Thus large numbers of girls were required for domestic chores. Study further discussed that 89.8 percent respondents were thinking that if the daughter get higher education there will be trouble to find out suitable partner for marriage at affordable level of dowry. Thus higher education for girls was considered as a course for parents. Study also concluded that the modern govt. initiatives, facilities and awareness have helped to increase the tendency among the parents to send their girls for higher education but still in some traditional family’s female education is treated futile because they think it has no bearing on future marital and economic role.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The present study was undertaken with the following objectives;

1. To study the impact of education on social development of undergraduate women students.
2. To study the impact of education on social development of postgraduate women students
3. To study the impact of education on economic development of undergraduate women students.
4. To study the impact of education on economic development of postgraduate women students

### **Delimitation of the Study**

The study was delimited to the following:

1. The study was delimited to two districts i.e. Shimla and Solan of Himachal Pradesh only.
2. The study was restricted to undergraduate and postgraduate women students only.

### **Research Method**

The present piece of research was conducted by adopting descriptive survey method of research.

### **The Sample**

To obtain the requisite information from the respondents the researcher selected 310 (200 undergraduate women students and 110 postgraduate) students from two districts of Himachal Pradesh by adopting the procedure of systematic random sampling technique.

### **The Tools Used**

Following two tools were used by the researcher to collect the relevant data;

1. Questionnaire on Education & Social Development developed by the researcher.
2. Questionnaire on Education & Economic Development developed by the researcher.

### **Statistical Technique Used**

The data was analyzed and tabulated by using the percentage technique.

## Data Analysis

The results of the empirical study are reported and discussed the perception of the respondents about impact of women education on socio economic development. The data was analyzed as following;

### Impact of Education on Social Development of Undergraduate & Postgraduate Women Students

Women's education leads to significant social development. Educated women are more likely to engage in social participation. Following table 1 & fig. 1 shows the responses of undergraduate and postgraduate women students with respect to the impact of education on social development;

**Table 1**  
**Data Showing Responses of UG & PG Women Students**

Levels	No. of Students	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)
UG	200	66.5%	26.5%	7%
PG	110	75.45%	21.65%	2.90%

**Fig. 1**

### Impact of Education on Social Development of Women

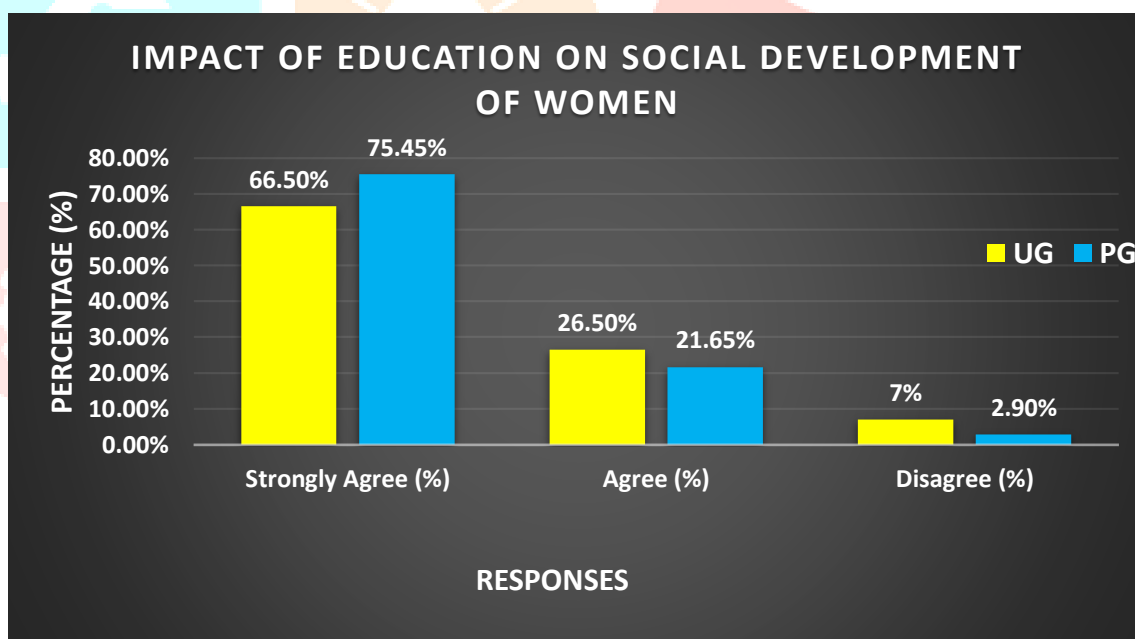


Table no. 1 & figure 1 indicates that total 310 women students 200 women students were at undergraduate level and 110 women students belongs to postgraduate level. It was observed that out of 200 undergraduate women students around 93 per cent agreed that there is a positive impact of education on the social development of women whereas, only 7 % disagreed to the fact.

On the other hand, 97.1 per cent postgraduate women students agreed to the fact that education enhances the social development of women, whereas, 2.90 per cent post graduate women students disagreed about the fact.

## Impact of Education on Economic Development of Undergraduate & Postgraduate Women Students

In addition to total economic growth, women's education also increases the equitability of the distribution of wealth in a society. Following table no. 2 & fig. 2 indicates the opinion of undergraduate and postgraduate women students with regards to the impact of education on economic development;

**Table 2**

**Data Showing Responses of UG & PG Women Students**

Levels	No. of Students	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)
UG	200	70.5%	23.5%	6%
PG	110	80.9%	13.65%	5.45%

**Fig. 2**

**Impact of Education on Economic Development of Women**

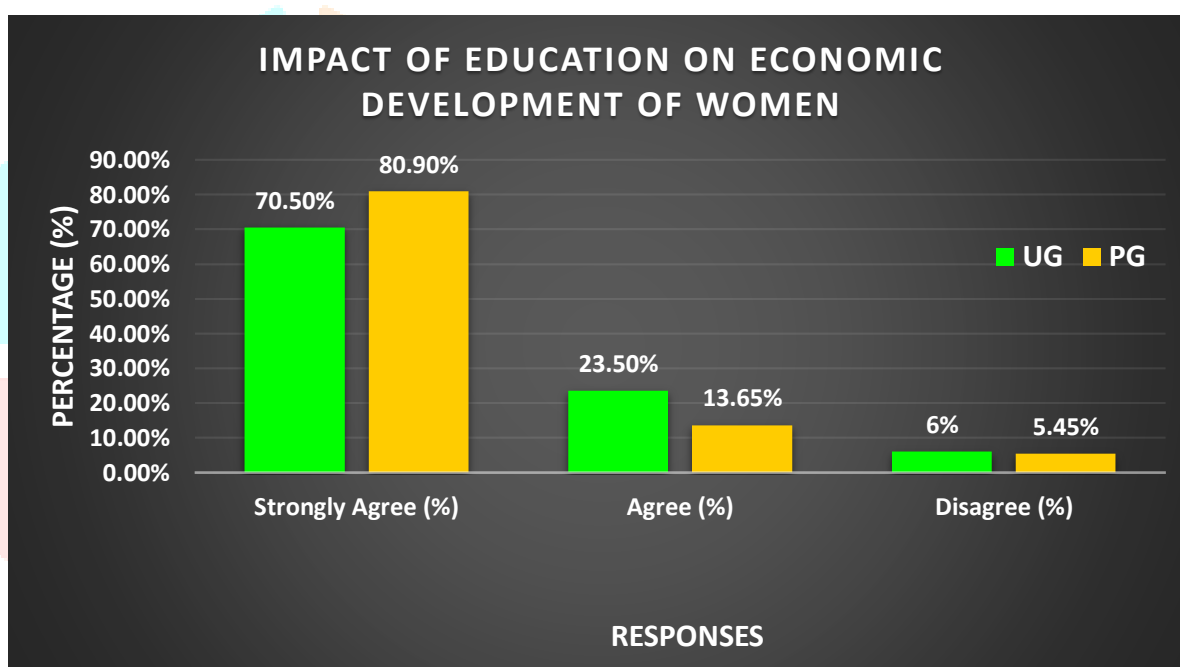


Table no. 2 & fig. 2 observed that, out of 200 undergraduate women students around 94 per cent agreed that education ensures more access to job and support microeconomics of the women, however, only 6 % disagreed to the fact.

In spite of that, 94.44 per cent postgraduate women students agreed to the fact that education helps in rising the women's productivity and provide better opportunities for employment, however, 5.45 per cent post graduate women students disagreed about the fact.

## Findings of the Study

The major research findings are;

- 1) 93 per cent undergraduate students believed that educated women helps in reducing gender disparity and having better knowledge of human rights.
- 2) 97.1 per cent postgraduate women students agreed that education develops decision making and communication skills.
- 3) Around 94 per cent undergraduate women students agreed that education ensures more access to job and improves household welfare.
- 4) 94.44 per cent postgraduate women students agreed to the fact that education helps in raising the women's productivity and helps in choosing better occupation.

## Suggestions for Future Research

Following are the suggestions for future research;

- 1) The present study is just limited to a sample of 310 graduate and undergraduate students. The same can also do with a larger sample.
- 2) The study could be extended to other parts of country and different other grades of educational institutions.
- 3) The present study shows the result for only two districts i.e. Shimla & Solan of Himachal Pradesh. A study with more districts can also be done
- 4) This study only focused with only two areas i.e. social and economic development other areas may also be includes.

## Conclusion

Women play an imperative role in making a nation progressive and guiding it towards development. These are essential goods of a living humanity required for national improvement, so if we are to see a bright future for women in our country, giving them an education must be a concern. Women's development means moving from a weak position to exercising power. The education of women is the most powerful tool to change the position of society. Education also brings about a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. To encourage the education of women at all levels and to dilute gender biases by providing knowledge and education, schools, colleges and universities were established, even exclusively for women in the state. Education develops the idea of participation in government, decision-making, public and economic affairs, etc. for the elimination of gender discrimination.

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