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“The Status of Gender Equality in Higher Education in India”

(2015-16 to 2019-20)

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Abstract

Gender Equality in education is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development goal (SDG-5). The targets for Sustainable Development goal-5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. The Indian constitution mentions ‘Education’ as a fundamental right and the higher education sector in India. Higher education includes Doctoral Degrees, Post Graduate, Under Graduate, PG Diploma, Diploma and Certificates. Men and women students’ are enrolment in various courses in establishment of Institutes and Universities. The researcher tries to find out the status of gender equality in higher education in India through this research paper. The five year Gross enrolment ratio of various courses was analysed. The researcher observed that the gender gap (Male : Female) was fluctuating from last five years. In the academic year 2018-19 and 2019-20, female student had enrolled more than male student it means gender equality in higher education in India.

Key words: Higher Education, Gender Equality, Enrolment.

1. Introduction

Higher Education is defined as education beyond secondary school and it is provided by Universities, Colleges and Institutes. Higher education is vital to achieving human development, economic and social culture. Higher education prepares students to meet different challenges and explores facets of students Skill, individuality and perseverance. The University Grants Commission (UGC Act-1956) is the statutory body of higher education in India. UGC is responsible for coordinating, determining and maintaining standards of higher education. India has founded higher education system that is the third largest in the world. In India, the Kothari Commission had made recommendations in 1964-66 on equality in educational opportunities for men and women. Government has special constitutional provisions for

improving the higher education gap between male and female. It is vital that access to higher education should be available to every citizen of the country, regardless, of gender or caste.

2. Review of Literature

1. Nitesh Sanklecha

Nitesh Sanklecha highlighted the research problem “Current Scenario of Higher Education in India.” The study shows that it’s identify and discuss a number of problem & challenges faced by Higher Education in India. The study found that confront Indian higher education today are decreasing of enrolment, unequal access, and poor quality of infrastructure and lack of relevance.

2. Sahil Sharma & Purnendu Sharma

Sahil Sharma & Purnendu Sharma attempted to study the research problem on “Indian Higher Education System: Challenges and Suggestion” in 2015. The researchers identify the challenges like demand and supply gap, lack of quality research, problem of infrastructure and basic facilities in higher education. Higher education system plays an important role for overall development includes social, economic and personal. It is observed that the key challenges that India is currently facing in higher education and also includes some initiatives taken by the government to meet those challenges.

3. Younis Ahmad Sheikh

Younis Ahmad Sheikh in his research paper entitled “Higher Education in India: Challenges and Opportunities” examined the challenges and to point out the opportunities in higher education system in India. The author observes that there have been lot of challenges of higher education system in India and equally have lot of opportunities to overcome these challenges and to make higher education system much better. Higher education in India has expanded very rapidly in the last six decades after independence. The study finds the higher education of India provides highly skilled people to other countries and India to transfer our country from a developing nation to a developed nation.

4. Trina Banerjee, Jayasankara Reddy K.

Trina Banerjee & Jayasankara Reddy K. conducted the study with research problem “Status of Higher Education in India: Challenges, Issues and Opportunities.” The study evaluates to assess the factors which contribute to decline idea of this study was being about a change in thought about higher education in India. The researchers were study an exploratory study conducted to determine the opinion of Indian researcher and academicians regarding higher education. The study finds the hopes to shed light on these issues and bring about a holistic change in the way the country’s academics function.

5. Jandhyala B G Tilak & Pradeep Kumar Choudhury

Jandhyala B G Tilak and Pradeep Kumar Choudhury in their research project, “Inequality in Access to Higher Education in India between the Poor and the Rich” examined the how far students from poor

households are able to access higher education in India. The researcher analyzed inequality in access to higher education, measured in terms of the gross enrolment ratio, gross attendance ratio, and rate of higher education attainment that is percentage of higher educated people in the total population by economic status of the households in India. It is found that the trends and patterns of the inequality in access to higher education among different economic classes in India and the barriers they face in their participation in higher education.

3. Objective

- 1) To study the status of Gender equality in Higher education in India

4. Research Methodology

4.1 Sample Selection

The study was conducted the data regarding gender equality of enrolled students in higher education in India. There is the population of the research that is gender gap in enrolled students at various courses in higher education in India from the academic year 2015-16 to 2019-20. Such as: Ph.D., M.Phil., Post Graduate, Under Graduate, PG Diploma, Diploma, Certificate and Integrated.

4.2 Data Source

The study is purely based on secondary data that have been collected from annual reports of statistical data from education department in India and AISHE for the year 2015-16 to 2019-20, Books, Journals, Research Papers, Project and other published information.

4.3 Tools used for Analysis

$$\text{Gender Gap Percentage} = \frac{\text{Male Students Enrolment} - \text{Female Students Enrolment}}{\text{Male Students Enrolment}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Gross Enrolment Ratio} = \frac{\text{Total Number of students in higher education}}{\text{Total population that age in the country}} \times 100$$

5. Data Analysis

Data were analyzed and interpreted through the tabular classification and column, graphs.

5.1. Course Wise Enrolment in Higher Education in India

There are various courses of higher education in India, enrolled by male and female students. Course such as: Ph.D., M.Phil., Post Graduate, Under Graduate, PG Diploma, Diploma, Certificate and Integrated. Course wise enrolment in higher education in India from the academic year 2015-16 to 2019-20, has been given in the table no.01.

Table No. 01

Course Wise Enrolment in Higher Education in India

| Courses | 2015-16 | | | 2016-17 | | | 2017-18 | | | 2018-19 | | | 2019-20 | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| | Male | Female | Gender Gap% | Male | Female | Gender Gap% | Male | Female | Gender Gap% | Male | Female | Gender Gap % | Male | Female | Gender Gap % |
| Ph.D. | 74547 | 51904 | 30.37 | 81795 | 59242 | 27.57 | 10346 | 10941 | -5.75 | 95043 | 74127 | 22.01 | 111444 | 91106 | 18.25 |
| M.Phil. | 17473 | 25050 | -43.36 | 16064 | 26803 | -66.85 | 4788 | 11215 | -134.23 | 11623 | 19069 | -64.06 | 9043 | 14891 | -64.67 |
| Post Graduate | 1818443 | 2098713 | -15.41 | 1820564 | 2187006 | -20.13 | 845434 | 1200761 | -42.03 | 1761330 | 2281192 | -29.51 | 1860163 | 2452372 | -31.84 |
| Under Graduate | 14611603 | 12808847 | 12.34 | 14933909 | 13414288 | 10.18 | 12036234 | 11828366 | 1.73 | 15203346 | 14625729 | 3.80 | 15563077 | 15084210 | 3.08 |
| PG Diploma | 123392 | 106167 | 13.96 | 120792 | 92259 | 23.62 | 22777 | 24738 | -8.60 | 121555 | 103156 | 15.14 | 116346 | 100903 | 13.27 |
| Diploma | 1793335 | 755825 | 57.85 | 1820977 | 791232 | 56.54 | 276597 | 145407 | 47.43 | 1803208 | 896187 | 50.30 | 1740798 | 931764 | 46.48 |
| Certificate | 63284 | 80776 | -27.64 | 83640 | 82977 | 0.79 | 21777 | 31332 | -43.88 | 75127 | 87570 | -16.56 | 74164 | 85705 | -15.56 |
| Integrated | 92646 | 62776 | 32.24 | 102454 | 71503 | 30.21 | 46435 | 35153 | 24.29 | 138656 | 102470 | 26.09 | 168712 | 131661 | 21.96 |

Sources: 1) education.gov.in 2) aish.gov.in

The table no.01 shows that, course wise enrolment in higher education in India. During the academic year 2015-16, there was 30.37% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Ph.D. There was -43.36% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for M.Phil. There was -15.41% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for Post Graduate. There was 12.34% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Under Graduate. There was 13.96% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for PG Diploma. There was 57.85% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Diploma. There was -27.64% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for Certificate. There was 32.24% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Integrated.

During the academic year 2016-17, there was 27.57% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Ph.D. There was -66.85% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for M.Phil. There was -20.13% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for Post Graduate. There was 10.18% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Under Graduate. There was 23.62% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for PG Diploma. There was 56.54% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Diploma. There was 0.79% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Certificate. There was 32.24% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Integrated.

During the academic year 2017-18, there was -5.75% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for Ph.D. There was -134.23% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for M.Phil. There was -42.03% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for Post Graduate. There was 1.73% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Under Graduate. There was -8.60% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for PG Diploma. There was 47.43% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Diploma. There was -43.88% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for Certificate. There was 24.29% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Integrated.

During the academic year 2018-19, there was 22.01% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Ph.D. There was -64.06% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for M.Phil. There was -29.51% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for Post Graduate. There was 3.80% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Under Graduate. There was 15.14% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for PG Diploma. There was 50.30% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Diploma. There was -16.56% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for Certificate. There was 32.24% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Integrated.

During the academic year 2019-20, there was 18.25% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Ph.D. There was -64.67% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male

students enrolled for M.Phil. There was -31.84% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for Post Graduate. There was 3.08% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Under Graduate. There was 13.27% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for PG Diploma. There was 46.48% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Diploma. There was -15.56% gender gap between male to female but female students more than male students enrolled for Certificate. There was 21.96% gender gap between male to female students enrolled for Integrated.

It is observed that the gender gap (Male : Female) was fluctuating from last five years. In the academic year 2018-19 and 2019-20, female students were enrolled more than male students.

5.2. Gender wise Gross Enrolment in Higher Education in India

Gender wise gross enrolment in higher education in India during the academic year 2015-16 to 2019-20, the details of Male, Female and Gender gap have been given in the table no. 02.

Table No. 02

Gender wise Gross Enrolment in Higher Education in India

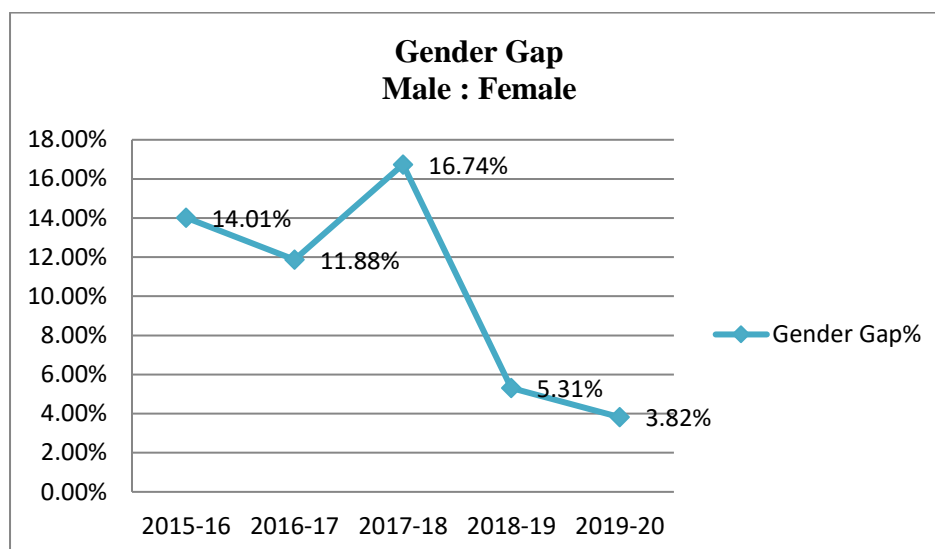
| Year | Male | Female | Gender Gap% |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 2015-16 | 18594723 | 15990058 | 14.01% |
| 2016-17 | 18980595 | 16725310 | 11.88% |
| 2017-18 | 19204674 | 15990058 | 16.74% |
| 2018-19 | 19209888 | 18189500 | 5.31% |
| 2019-20 | 19643747 | 18892612 | 3.82% |

Sources: 1) education.gov.in 2) aish.gov.in

The table no.02 and graph no.01 show that, gender wise gross enrolment in higher education in India. During the academic year 2015-16, there were 18594723 male students and 15990058 female students enrolled in higher education, gender gap (Male : Female) was 14.01% . During 2016-17, there were 18980595 male students and 16725310 female students enrolled, gender gap was 11.88%. During 2017-18, there were 19204674 male students and 1599058 female students enrolled, gender gap was 16.74%. During 2018-19, there were 19209888 male students and 18189500 female students enrolled, gender gap was 5.31%. During 2019-20, there were 19643747 male students and 188992612 female students enrolled, gender gap was 3.82% in higher education. It is observed that the gross enrolment in higher education (Male : Female) was fluctuating during the five years.

Graph No. 01

Gender wise Gross Enrolment in Higher Education in India



5.3. Gender Wise Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education in India

The table no. 03 and graph no. 02 show that gross enrolment ratio of male in higher education from 2015-16 to 2019-20 was 25.40%, 26%, 26.30%, 26.30% and 26.90%. The growth of GER for male students in higher education is steady. The gross enrolment ratio of female in higher education from 2015-16 to 2019-20 was 23.50%, 24.50%, 25.40%, 26.40% and 27.30%. The growth of GER for female students in higher education is increasing continually from last five year. The details of Male, Female and Gender Gap have been given in the table no.03.

Table No. 03

Gender wise Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education in India

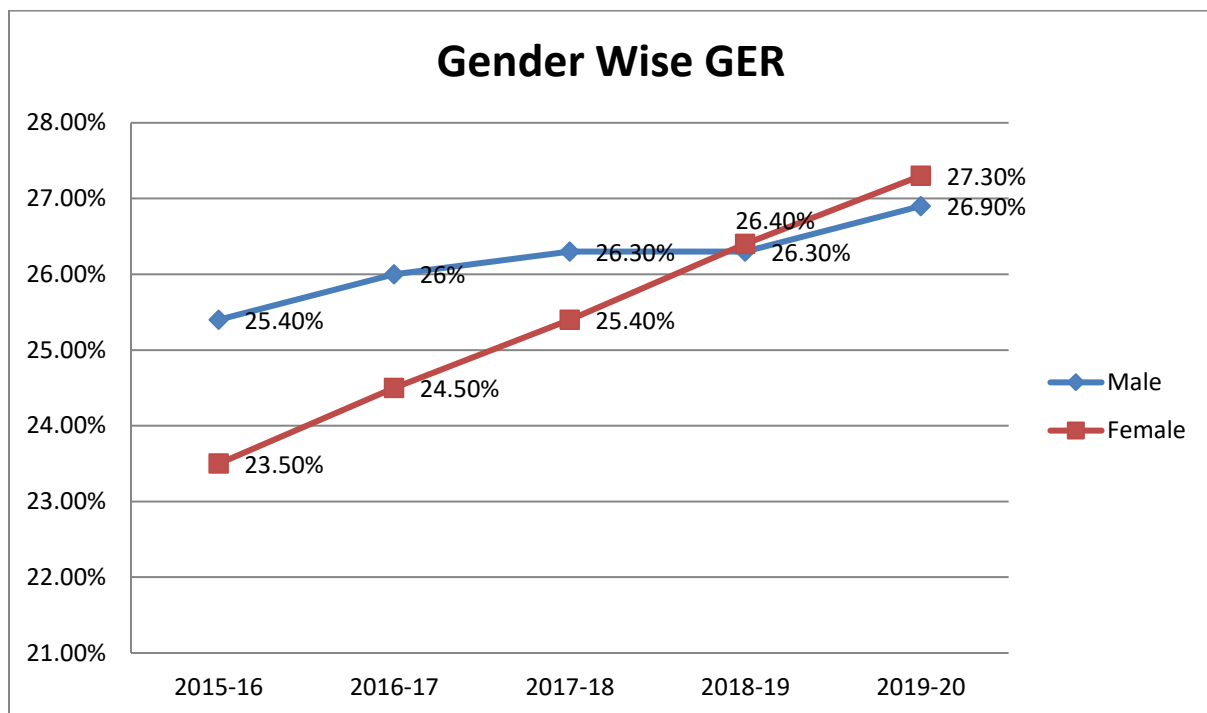
| Year | Male | Female | Gender Gap% |
|---------|--------|--------|-------------|
| 2015-16 | 25.40% | 23.50% | 7.48% |
| 2016-17 | 26.00% | 24.50% | 5.77% |
| 2017-18 | 26.30% | 25.40% | 3.42% |
| 2018-19 | 26.30% | 26.40% | -0.38% |
| 2019-20 | 26.90% | 27.30% | -1.48% |

Sources: 1) education.gov.in 2) aishe.gov.in

Table no. 03 and Graph no. 02 represent that the gender gap percentage of gross enrolment ratio (Male : Female) in higher education was 7.48% for the academic year 2015-16. In the year 2016-17, it was 5.77%. In the year 2017-18, it was 3.42%. In the year 2018-19, it was -0.38% means female student's gross enrolment ratio was higher than male students in India and in the year 2019-20, it was -1.48%. It is observed that the gender gap (Male : Female) was decreasing from last five years and from the academic year 2018-19 female students enrolment more than male students in higher education .

Graph No. 02

Gender wise Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education in India

**Conclusion:**

The study shows that the trend of the Course Wise Enrolment (Male : Female) in Higher Education was fluctuating during the years 2015-16 to 2019-20. The gender gap between male to female was decreasing in gender wise gross enrolment ratio from last five years. It is also shows that female students continuously increasing enrolment of higher education.

It is observed that the gender gap (Male : Female) was fluctuating from last five years. In the academic year 2018-19, female students had enrolled more than male students it means gender equality in higher education in India.

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