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# EDUCATIONAL STUDIES



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# Chapter Book on

## **Educational Studies**

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## **EDUCATIONAL STUDIES**

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## WOMEN EDUCATION IN INDIA: MEANING, IMPORTANCE AND VARIOUS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ON WOMEN EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

We all are well known about the word women education. Women play a prominent role in the cultural, social, political and economic life of a country. To make enlighten the family women plays crucial role both physically and psychologically. We all are well aware that from ancient period women's education was encourages in Indian society. Separate organizations had been set up to provide education to the women during Buddhist period. But less importance was given to women and their education during Muslim period. At the end of the nineteenth century, some progressive Indian and Englishman like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Gandhiji, David Hard and Annie Besant worked for making women aware of education. Though ancient or medieval period was encourages women education but most of the women deprived from education. After independence many commissions was give recommendation for the welfare of the women education. Now rapid growth of science and technology not only men as well as women also equality acquired knowledge, skills. In 21<sup>st</sup> century women educated equally with man and contribute ideas, values, ethics, and energy towards development of Nation.

Keywords: Women Education, importance of women education, commission, recommendation.

### INTRODUCTION

"The union of man and women will represent a perfect co-operation in the building up human history on equal terms in every department of life".

—Rabindranath Tagore

Education is a tool of life which taught us how to behave, work, promote, protect and exchange of knowledge to development of an individual. Without education we can't imagine our life. Education it doesn't means only formal or institutional information it is beyond that. Education is important aspects of life. So, to educate the women is very much important for our life. Though in ancient and medieval period we faced some ups and down regarding women education. But after independence the national government considered the expansion of women's education as its sacred duty. As the result, the progress of women

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education has been continuing and the girls belonging to remote areas, rural areas and ST/SC, backward people are being encouraged to receive education. Swami Vivekananda has emphasized, "If you do not raise the women who living embodiments of divine mother, don't think that you have any other way to their social and economic status". Pundit Jawahar Lal Nehru has very rightly observed, "Education of a boy is the education of one person but education of a girl is the education of the entire family".

### MEANING OF WOMEN EDUCATION

In simply we can say the provision of all facilities and opportunities to women for education is called women education. Women education refers to every form of education that aims at improving the knowledge, skills and values of women and girls. It includes both formal and non-formal education. Educated women not only capable enough to take care of their family its also capable of bringing socio-economic, political changes. Our constitution give great importance to the equality of status and opportunities for men and women. The state shall not discriminate against any citizen on the basis of religion, caste, sex or place of birth. The unit of National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for women education has formulated the following objectives of women education:

1. To promote the education and the development of girls.
2. To undertake and promote research in the areas of girl's education and development.
3. To suitably intervene in the areas of policy planning, curriculum and teacher education for removing gender bias and disparities.
4. To provide constantly services in the areas of girls education and development.

### NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EDUCATION

Women education becomes very much crucial for us when we accepted that the mother is the first teacher of her children. In fact, we can say that a good mother is better than the teachers. In our country like India, there is huge gap between girls and boys education. This is may be illiteracy, economic backwardness, traditional outlook, superstitious values and beliefs and so on. But after independence these kinds of problems slowly remove from the society and now people are aware about the importance of women education.

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (University Education Commission 1948-1949) states, "There cannot be educated people without educated women. If general education has to be limited to mere men or women, the opportunity should be given to women, for then it would must surely passed on to the next generation".

For the development of individual or society we must think about the women education, that is why this education very much essential for us. Here try to highlight some points about the need and importance of women education -

1. Women education is important because its produces an educated family and an educated society.

2. To make home environment happy and healthy. Because, educated women or girls are aware the importance of health and hygiene.
3. An educated woman helps to develop national integration, world peace and international understanding.
4. Educated women more concern about their rights for justice, equality and equity. So it's make a society keep away from the violence, injustice and discrimination on the basis of caste, sex, gender, place of birth and so on.
5. An educated woman produces better responsible citizens which help to make democracies more powerful and strong.
6. Another importance of women education is choice to choose a profession of her own choice. Educated women able to choose their profession according to their need and interest.
7. An educated woman can help in removing social evils and save the society from old beliefs and customs which negatively impact on progress of the society.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES ON GIRLS OR WOMEN EDUCATION:

There are various commissions and committees provide recommendations or suggestion on women or girls education. These commissions are-

##### • University Education Commission (1948-1949)

The University Education Commission is popularly known as Radhakrishnan Commission. This commission analyzed the problems of women education at the college and university level and made the following recommendations:

1. The education of women should be in conformity with the requirements of women in order to make them successful and good housewives.
2. Women should be given maximum facilities for education. In this regard, colleges for women should be opened and co-education should be encouraged, where separate colleges are not possible.
3. Selection of curriculum should be consistent with the needs, tastes and aptitudes of women.
4. Women should be well-informed about their rights and duties pertaining to the society and nation.
5. Women teachers should be paid the same salaries as male teachers for equal work.

##### • National Committee on Women's Education (1958)

Education panel of the planning commission recommended in July 1957 that "A suitable committee should be appointed to go into the various aspects of the question relating to the nature of education for girls at the elementary, secondary and adult stages and to examine whether the present system was helping them to lead a happier and more useful life". This was placed before the conference of the State Education Ministers. The government of India appointed the National

Committee on Women's Education under the chairmanship of Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh. The committee made the following recommendations:

1. The attempts for expansion of girls' education should aim at universal enrolment of girls in the age group 6-11 by 1979 and in the age group 11-14 by 1981.
2. The girl students of backward, hilly and isolated areas should be provided with facilities such as free transport and free residential accommodation to encourage them to get education.
3. Central social welfare board should start condensed courses to give suitable education to adult women.
4. There should be provision for an adequate number of scholarships to encourage the girls to continue their education.
5. The gap between the education of men and women should be filled as fast as possible.

##### • Recommendation of Durgabai Deshmukh Committee (1959)

1. The central and the state government should give priority to the education of girls.
2. In the central ministry of education, a department of women's education should be created.
3. Co-education should be properly organized at higher level of education.
4. A large number of seats in various services should be reserved for them.
5. Programme for the development of adult women's education should be properly initiated and encouraged.

##### • Recommendations of Hansa Mehta Committee (1962)

National Council of Women's Education appointed Hansa Mehta Committee in 1962 to suggest measures for the improvement of women's education. It made some recommendations:

1. Co-education should be adopted and encouraged at primary stage.
2. Number of women teachers should be increased in primary schools. Women teachers should also be appointed in all institutions at the secondary and college stages which are meant for boys, but where girls are also admitted.
3. Music, drawing, painting, tailoring and fine arts are the subjects of interest for girls. Therefore, proper facilities should be provided in educational institutions.
4. Women should be given adequate representation in textbook committees.
5. Special needs of girls should be kept in view while constructing the curriculum at the university stage.

##### • National Council for Women's Education (1964)

National Council for Women's Education was set up in 1959 by the Central Ministry of Education. It was reconstructed in 1964 and consisted of the Chairman, the Secretary and 27 members. The main functions of the council are:

1. To advise the government on the education of the girls at school level and the education of adult women.
2. To suggest and fix programme, targets and priorities for the improvement and expansion of girls' and women's education.
3. To create awareness in the society with regard to the importance of women education.
4. To make periodic evaluation for the progress of women's education.

**Kothari Commission on Women Education (1964-66)**

Kothari commission has given a lot of importance to women education. According to this commission women education is very important and helpful in reducing the birth rate. In this commission made the following recommendations regarding women education:

1. There should be a special administrative machinery to look after the education of girls and women.
2. Emphasis should be placed on establishing separate schools for girls, provision of hostels and part time vocational courses.
3. Research units should be set up in one or two universities to deal specially with women's education.
4. At the graduate level separate colleges for women may be established if there is a local demand. Courses in home science, nursing and social work need to be developed as these have attraction for a large number of girls.

**Recommendations of National Policy on Women Education (1986)**

National Policy on Education plays a positive role in order to provide powers to the women. In this regard, its recommendations are as under:

1. Education will be used as an agent of basic change in the status of women.
2. There should be improvement of women education through re-designed curricula, textbooks, training and orientation of teachers and decision making on administration.
3. Various vocational and professional courses will be provided for the promotion of women's education.
4. Highest place would be given to eradicate women's illiteracy. The obstacles that come in the way of primary level of education should be put to an end.

**Janardhan Reddy Committee Report (1992)**

The central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) appointed a committee on national policy of education under the chairmanship of Janardhan Reddy, The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. This committee was appointed in July 1919 and it submitted its report in January 1992. The CABE considered the report of Janardhan Reddy Committee as the Revised National Policy on May, 1992. This committee made following recommendation on women education:

1. Education can be effective tool for women's empowerment.
2. Literacy Campaigns with special attention to women in 15-15 age group.
3. Programmes for continuing education will be undertaken.
4. There will be improvement of girls' access to technical, vocational and professional education.

**CONCLUSION:**

The women of 21<sup>st</sup> century are very conscious of their social, moral, economic, political, mental, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development. Women play crucial role to removes social evils, superstitious beliefs, thoughts, mode and outside the home or society. Today's women we can't discriminate in terms of education or other activities. Women are now a day more aware about their right and law and provides major contribution to the nation in case of economic development. So, women education is very much importance not only for enlightens also to promote traditions, culture and customs from one generation to another.

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