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RECOMMENDATIONS OF DIFFERENT COMMISSIONS ON WOMEN EDUCATION

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Abstract

A nation cannot be educated without the education of women, as they play an important role in every sphere in upbringing a nation as a whole. It is true that women must be educated and efficient so that they can establish their own status and esteem. Education can only bring them light in achieving their life goals, to become self-confident and to hold a position. Women education directly or indirectly serves the development of a country. Thus, it was felt by some that providing women an education is urgent and a must deed. For it many commissions and policies were formed and differently they gave some major recommendations for women education.

Keywords

Women Education, Empowerment, Self-Confidence, Self-Esteem, Knowledge, Equal Rights, Policies, Recommendations

1. Introduction

Since, the dawn of human history, Education has started to evolve more and more widely and has diversified its reach and coverage in every sphere. The first and most important step taken by different commissions and committees in the direction of educational reconstruction were done through numerous survey studies and reviews in different sectors of education. Out of all, the most important sector was women education. Women and girl education in the country was acquired since the attainment of Independence. But to continue

the discussions and to focus on the special issues regarding women education by drafting new policies which will be in favour of the Indian women's, many special commissions, committees were formed. They undertook the authority to recommend the policies that are put forward at different time.

Indian Constitution has boldly announced equal rights of men and women in every field and this is valid in the field of education also. Then, gradually progress of women education has taken a steady acceleration.

2. Significance

- To know about the objectives of women education.
- To know about the recommendations of various commissions and committees on women education in India.

3. Objectives of Women Education

We must know the objectives of women education in our society first before knowing the recommendations taken by different commissions for the education of women.

- Through women education illiteracy can be eradicated from the country.
- Women will become self-confident, self-conscious and will acquire self-dignity through education.
- Women will become conscious about their rights in different fields and skill to do different jobs and thus contribute directly to the society.
- Development of leadership qualities through education and improves the quality of life styles through development of capacity and production and income.
- Education also improves the health and hygiene quality of the family.

4. Discussions

4.1 Radhakrishnan Commission (1948-49)

In Independent India first commission on education was Radhakrishnan commission under chairmanship of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. According to him, 'Women are human beings and have as much right to full development as men have. The position of women in any society is a true index of its cultural and spiritual level'. Recommendations of this commission on women education are:

- Scope of women education should be increased and they should be given facilities.
- Curriculum will be same for boys and girls.

- Women should be respected and they should be included in different educational activities.
- Female teachers should get same salary like male teachers for same work.

4.2 Mudaliar Commission (1952)

Mudaliar commission was framed under chairmanship of Dr. A. Lakshmanswamy Mudaliar and it is the first commission to review the secondary education. Recommendations of this commission on women education are:

- Girls and boys should get same education.
- Home science should be introduced where girls study.
- State Govt. should set up girls' school according to necessity.
- Art and music should be introduced in the curriculum of girls.
- Changes in the methods of teaching were suggested, to achieve new aims in education.

4.3 National Committee for Women Education (1958)

This committee was setup by Govt. of India under the leadership of Srimanti Durgabai Desmukh for suggestion regarding the progress of women education. Recommendations of this committee are:

- Women education should be considered as the special issue for a long time.
- In central administration and in each state there should be a joint Director specially for women education.
- Teachers in the girls' school should be lady teachers only.
- Curriculum for boys and girls should be same at primary level but that should be different in secondary stage.
- Separate arrangement of technical and adult education for women should be made.

4.4 Hansa Mehta Committee (1962)

It was formed under the leadership of Smt. Hansa Mehta. There she laid some important considerations like,

- At the primary and middle stages of education, there should be no differentiation in the curricula for boys and girls.
- Schools for the girls must take probable steps to improve the teaching of music and fine arts and liberal financial assistance for the introduction of these courses.
- Steps must be taken for the improvement of home economics.
- Universities should review the provisions periodically which they have made for the courses designed to meet the needs of girls.

4.5 Kothari Commission (1964-66)

On the basis of recommendations of above committees Govt. took several steps through which women education had moved forward a lot. But still it was not up to the mark. In this situation Kothari commission was formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Daulat Singh Kothari. Recommendations of this commission were:

- There should not be any difference in curriculum between boys and girls.
- Home science will be an additional subject for girls and it should not be mandatory for them.
- Provision for music and art education should be increased for them.
- Women should be encouraged to learn science and mathematics.

4.6 National Policies on Education (1968 and 1986)

The policies of education were framed since a radical reconstruction of education system was recommended by various commissions. The first NPE was on 1968 and second was in 1986.

First NPE laid down a common scheme for women education i.e. Science and mathematics must be incorporated as the compulsory subjects for both boys and girls.

Second NPE took steps of education for women's equality and special focus on the education of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and minorities.

4.7 National Commission for Women (1992)

This commission also interacts for gender equality through media, social activists and academics for suggesting the ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres. It was constituted on 31st January 1992 with Mrs. Jayanti Patnaik as the chairperson. The mandate of this commission is to study the problems faced by the women and to make recommendations to eradicate those. It also evaluates the status of the Indian women from time to time.

4.8 National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (2001)

This policy aims at bringing about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. It focuses on equal access to women health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational education, employment and community practices by active participation and involvement of women in public offices etc.

4.9 The National Knowledge Commission (2007)

This commission focussed on access to knowledge, knowledge concepts and creation of new knowledge. Under this, Universities are making sincere efforts for providing facilities and necessary provisions to the female students.

Though there are many committees and policies, these are some major commissions and policies led to the empowerment of women through women education in India after its Independence.

5. Conclusion

Women education is a most needed and urgent issue in the progressive era. It is rather a big opportunity for India to develop socially and economically. Educated women are the only weapons who yield positive impact on the Indian society through their contributions both at home and in professional fields. Thus, women education is a much needed one in present days. Many committees, Commissions and policies were formed by the Govt. of India for the upliftment of women education throughout and for the spread of education for their own life, own way of living, gaining self-confidence and strength to establish own identity.

The role of women outside the home has become an important feature of the social and economic life of the country. With the progress of the years this will become more and more significant. So, from this point of view more and greater attention should be paid to the various problems of training and development of the women. The education of women must therefore be emphasized not only on the grounds of social justice, but also because it accelerates social transformation leading to in turn development of the nation.

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