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## HISTORY OF WOMAN EDUCATION AND IMPORTANCE OF WOMAN EDUCATION

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**Abstract:** Education clears off the darkness of ignorance. If we educate the woman they will come out from the darkness of ignorance and they will help to develop the Nation. No Country can achieve development without educating her women. Women Education is essential part for any nation. There is a proverb without educated mother you will not get educated nation. The education of women is as important as that of men. If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a family or you educate a nation. The present paper shows enhancement of women education from Vedic era to till date.

**Keywords:** History of women education in India, Importance of women Education Women in the Constitution of India.

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**Introduction:** Today government has become aware that female education is as important as that of men .A Sanskrit sloka says that “a woman is under the guardianship of her father before marriage, dependant on her husband after her marriage and on her son after the death of her husband. For centuries a woman has been treated as ward or dependent.. But now all these have changed with the spread of education, women have now begun to claim equality with men.

**History of Women Education in India:** History may divide into two parts one is prehistory and second is proto history. The pre history did not disclose the writings. It completely depends upon archaeological evidence. Such as, moments, coins, and inscriptions. Whereas proto history clearly gives the literacy evidence.

**Women Education in Ancient India:** History concerned the woman education come into existence in Vedic period, Particularly Rigvedic period. In that period the woman has much respect in society. They have right to study Rig-Veda and Upanishad. They also participated in discussions. The woman enjoyed equivalent position and rights in the early Vedic period. During the period a versatile genius figures are found named by Gargi and Mythreyee. In that period the woman are well versed Vedas, Vedangas and Upanishad. It clearly gives evidence that the women have right to learn education. They have much respect, in social bigotry. In the rich families, the woman has no restriction to study. They participated in all the activities like the gents, gradually the position of woman reduced in latter Vedic period. In this period the women were confined to the house. They have no right to study Vedas and Vedangaas. They are restricted customs and traditions. They are not participated in discussions also. In latter Vedic period the woman are suppressed and down trodden. During the period of Satavahanas, who ruled from 225 B.C. to 225 A.D., they patronized woman education. They gave much importance to woman. They established universities for women education. First time they established to prefix the woman name before the name of the man for example Gouthami Sri Satakarni, Gouthamiputra Sri Satakarni. Hose kings patronized Buddhism. Whereas the queens established Buddhistic

universities like Kosambi, Taxila. The women were also allows to study Buddhistic scriptures and education. So the satavahana kings gave much patronization to the woman education. The position of woman was very high in this period.

After that the rulers of Gupta, Chandra Gupta, and Samudra Gupta also gave importance to woman education. The ruler Harsha yielded the pen as well as the sword. In his period the literature was splended. In that the woman also participated. The coins of Samudra Gupta consisting of parents figures. It clearly shows that he gave more importance to woman. Because he printed his mother picture on the coins.s

During the period of Chola, Chalukya and Pandyas the position of woman was too high. They established Ghatikas, which were used for educational institutions. The women participated in political activities, equal rights to men. During the period of Rajaputs the queens were also participated in war fares and education. They also participated in administration. In this period also the position of woman was high. After sometime, they were accustomed to Superstitions like Jowhar, Satisahagamanam.

**Woman Education in Medieval Period:** In Medieval period the Sultanath was formulated by Kutubuddin aiback prior to this the Muslim invasions Gajani Ghoris was took place. They demolished Hindu educational institutions which were established by ancient kings and introduced Islamic education system and purdah system. These traditions, customs and usages were deteriorated the status of women in the country. Because they are all accustomed superstitions. Alla-ud-din-khilji completely avoids the woman education in India. During his period the women were only luxurious goods in the hands of men. They lived like slaves. During the period of Moghul rule in India The position of women were gradually improved. The great emperor Akbar established equal rights to women. During his period Meerabi was there. She was educated. She was the worshipper of Krishna. She educated most of the women during this period. During the period of Jahangir, his wife Noorjahan played an important role in administration. She became Sovereign. She wrote so many poems. She established educational institutions,

particularly for women. During the period of Shajahan he built Tajmahal in memory of his wife Muntaj Begum. This also shoes the evidence that the position of woman was rose to high. In this period Aurangzeb, a fanatic, who degrade the women education? He suppressed their rights. He treated them as slaves. The Bhakti moment also contributed to the development of women literacy in the country. Gurunanak, Kabirdas were also contributed very much for the development of women.



**Woman Education in British period:** During the period of European advent in India the position of women education was too high and splendour. The Christian missionaries were established so many educational institutions to each and every where in India. They suspended the restrictions in women education. They sacrificed their lives for the development of women education in India. They established superstitions like Satisahagamana, infanticide, to offering Bali and so on. The British governor-general like Warn Hastings, Bentinck, Reppon, and Cornwallis established especially women educational institutions with collaboration of the Indian social reformers like Raja Rama Mohan Roy, Kandukuri Veeresalingam Pantulu, Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu, Swami Dayananda Saraswathi, Ramade. The Indian reformers sacrificed their lives for woman education, they established so many schools in Andhra Pradesh i.e., in Pitapuram, Dhavaleswaram, Rajahmundry and at Guntur.

**Woman Education in Modern India:** After Independence the scope of women increased and women education was widened. In civil society an educated women can play a vital role in the development of the country. Women education in modern India increased the intellectuality of the Indian women. Education is turning point of women empowerment which responds to the challenges to confront their traditional role and changes their life. In modern India the literacy rate hiked from time to time.



**Table: Illiteracy Rates in India (1951-2011):**

Census year	Persons	Males	Females	Male-female gap in literacy rate
1951	18.33	27.16	8.86	18.30
1961	28.3	40.4	15.35	25.05
1971	34.45	45.96	21.97	23.98
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76	26.62
1991	52.21	64.13	39.29	24.84
2001	64.83	75.26	53.67	21.59
2011	74.04	82.14	65.46	16.68

**Women in the constitution of India:** The Indian constitution come into existence in the year 1950 which guarantees equal rights to woman like as fundamental rights. The government implemented much programs for woman education. They also tried to give 30% reservation in political and job orientation. So many methods were devised by the government for the improvement and progress of women.



**Importance of woman education:**

- ❖ **Equal Rights to men:** If the woman is educated the society gave much respect and they play an important role equal to men.
- ❖ **Economical Disparities:** If the woman is educated she stands upon her legs she fought for inequality in wages in between men and women.
- ❖ **Social aspects:** The educated woman fought against intoxication and their reservations in admissions, employment and so on.
- ❖ **Eradicate anti social elements:** She try to eradicate superstitions, like as Sathisahagamana, dowry system, infanticide.
- ❖ **Reduce of Poverty:** She devised various plans for the welfare their family and society.

**Causes of hindrance of women education:**

- ❖ Superstitions, usages, traditions and customs are restricted women education.
- ❖ Poverty.

- ❖ Religious conditions.
- ❖ Empowerment of men.
- ❖ The problem of dowry.
- ❖ Economical conditions.

**Steps to improve the woman education:**

- ❖ Establish the women institutions and to appoint exclusively woman's.
- ❖ Propagate the importance of women education mainly in villages.
- ❖ Free transportation should be arranged in tribal area.
- ❖ Establish the woman employment burrow.
- ❖ Bank loans are granted in favour of woman.

**Conclusion:** Woman Education in India from ancient India to modern India gradually improved. Some fluctuations accrued in latter Vedic and medieval period; finally it reached its highest peak in modern India under the leadership of British governor general

and Indian Social Reformers. After independence the education of woman reached every hook and corner of entire India. Now the women are also treated as equal to gents that was guaranteed by Indian constitution. Due to their contribution the India was developed in various aspects like political, economical, social and religious aspects.

The educated woman fought against the superstitions which are played an important role for the superstitions of women.

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