

Educational problems of women in India

In spite of certain outstanding examples of individual achievement of Indian woman and a definite improvement in their general condition over the last one hundred years, it remains true that our woman still constitute a large body of under-privileged citizens. Women of course do not form a homogenous group in class or caste terms. Nevertheless, they face distinctive problems that call for special attention. The Backward Classes Commission set up by the Government of India in 1953 classified women of India as a backward group requiring special attention. The ministry of Education clubs girls with Scheduled Castes and Tribes as the



three most backward groups in education. Ram Manohar Lohia considered the lot of women to be similar to that of Harijans. Realizing the enormity of the problems of Indian women the Government of India has appointed a

separate committee on the Status of Women in India. The social backwardness of Indian women points to the great hiatus between their legal status which is more or less equal to that of men, and their actual position in society, which is still far from the ideal which exists on paper. The educational, economic, political and social backwardness of women makes them the largest group hindering the process of rapid social change.

Literacy Situation in India

India, Nigeria and Pakistan account for 27% of the world's out of school children. As for adult literacy less than 60% of the total adult population in South and West Asia - India, Bangladesh and Pakistan can read and write with understanding. This was revealed in UNESCO's Education for All Global monitoring report-2007 released this week.

The reports point out the poor picture of the total literacy campaign taken up by various countries including India. 101 of 127 countries are far from achieving total literacy. 72 countries would not succeed in bringing down their adult illiteracy levels by half by 2015. India is already at the bottom of the list. The number of out of school fell most dramatically in South and West Asia from 31 million in 1999 to 17 million in 2005. Girls form 66% of the out of school children in this region. In India nearly 70 lakh children are out of school. India is also among the 17 countries where survival for boys is higher than girls in primary education. Pakistan and Nepal have a better chance of surviving till the last grade of primary school.



Elementary Education in India 2005-06 - A Report Some Findings



At a time when the country is facing a shortage of educational institutions, over 32,000 schools do not have a single student a government survey has revealed. These institutions, 48% of which are primary schools are located mostly in rural areas and are in the public sector according to the report 'Elementary Education in India 2005-06' that was prepared by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration. The survey found that 2.92% of these schools had zero enrollment. Karnataka had the highest number of such schools standing at 7,945. While 15,791 were primary schools the rest were upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools, the report said. The states with lowest enrollment are Bihar, Delhi, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. The survey covered 11,24,033 schools in 35 states and Union Territories.



Girl Education

To correct the male-female sex-ratio and limit the family size the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has come up with a novel scheme of providing free ships and scholarships to all girls from single child families up to the post-graduate level. Starting from next academic session all single girl children will be eligible for free education from Class VI onwards for graduate and post-graduate studies. The scheme would apply to all government aided or affiliated schools and colleges in the country. If the two children in a family are girls, both will be entitled to a 50 per cent concession in fees. If there are two children in a family and one is a girl, she will still get the 50 per cent concession. The fee waiver will cover tuition fee but exclude money charged for transport and food. The scholarships for undergraduates will be given for non-medical and non-engineering courses in recognized colleges. At the end of three years, 1,650 students will receive these scholarships. The CBSE, which conducts entrance examinations for medical and engineering students, will also offer 500 fellowships every year for these courses - 350 for engineering students and 150 for medical students. These too will be given on merit. The UGC will give scholarships of Rs 2,000 a month to first and second rank holders among girls in the BA, B.Sc and B.Com courses to pursue higher degree.

Literacy scenario in India

Literacy is an effective instrument for social and economic development and national integration. It is defined in Census operations, as the ability to read and write with understanding in any language. Any formal education or minimum educational standard is not necessary to be considered literate. The latest census report (2001) reveal that at the beginning of new millennium literacy rate in India stands at 65.38% with male literacy level at 75.85% and female literacy level at 54.16%.

There has been only marginal increase in literacy level from the last census in 1991 (literacy level was 52.2%). The pace of progress in literacy rates, as revealed by decennial censuses, is very slow in India. Between 1961 and 1991, a span of thirty years, literacy rate has gone up by a mere 23.9 percentage points, from 28.3 in 1961 to 52.2 in 1991. From 1991 to 2001 there is 13.36% increase. However the literacy scenario in India is characterized by wide inequalities among different sections of the population.

Status of Sanitation in Cities in India



Recently Union Urban Development Ministry conducted a survey on safe sanitation practices in Indian cities. A majority of 423 cities were rated on different parameters like absence of visible open defecation, proportion of total human excreta generation that is safely collected, proportion of treated waste water that is recycled etc. Chandigarh has topped the list while Churu in Rajasthan is at the bottom of the list. About 190 cities mostly from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are on the brink of public health and environmental decay. Delhi in spite of being the capital of the country is no better. 96% of Delhi which comes under Municipal Corporation of Delhi has been put under the black category which means it needs considerable improvement.



Waste Management in India

In India the last three years have seen hazardous waste import increased by 48%. In 2009 6.4 million tonnes of hazardous waste came from the west to India and 5.9 million tonnes was produced domestically. Much of this waste was metal, electronics and plastics. They may have contaminated with lead, mercury and other toxins

which can cause serious illness and environmental damage. The brass import increased by 60%. Battery waste import doubled. Municipal ash import rose 70 times. Iron and stainless steel import increased by 40%. Plastic waste import increased seven times.

The government is supposed to monitor the import of

hazardous waste which enters India through a gap in the law that allows the import of waste for recycling. Most of the ports in India do not have radiation scanning technology. Workers processing hazardous waste use their eyes to tell the difference. Most of the waste enters through ports of Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Cochin and Visakhapatnam.

MEDI-SCENE : Schizophrenia

Schizophrenia is a mental illness that is categorized as a psychotic illness. People who have schizophrenia cannot tell the difference between what is real and what is just an imagination. This happens to 1% of the population and usually starts in early adulthood around 15 to 25 years of age, and usually happens after having a particular stressful time. Some common symptoms are the following:

- Strange beliefs or thoughts with little no basis in reality (called delusions). For example, you may think that you have special powers. Or you may



think someone from the house next door is trying to control your thoughts or feelings (called paranoid delusions).

- Hearing, seeing, feeling, or even smelling things

that are not there (called hallucinations). For example you may hear voices talking about you.

- Thoughts 'jumping between completely unrelated topics (called disordered

thinking). This can make conversations difficult.

- Inappropriate behavior, for example taking your clothes off in public.
- Lack of awareness of other people's feelings. Or you may not show your own feelings or emotions, possibly having a blank facial expression.
- Lack of pleasure or interest in activities. This could be social occasions you used to enjoy, like seeing friends, or going to the pub.
- Difficulty in concentrating, making decisions or planning.
- Feeling depressed or anxious.

World No Tobacco day 31st May

World No Tobacco Day (also popularly known as World Tobacco Day, and Anti Tobacco Day) is observed worldwide on 31st May every year to encourage tobacco users to abstain from consumption of all forms of tobacco for a period of 24 hours. World Tobacco Day was initiated in the year 1987, when

the World Health Assembly (WHA) of World Health Organization (WHO) passed a resolution WHA40.38 which ultimately formed World No Tobacco Day (WNTD). The primary objective of WNTD was to enlighten people about the deadly components of tobacco and its repercussions.

