

Cry for the Dignity: Status of Dalit Women in Education*Authors:*

**¹ Ashwin Makawana, ² Dinesh Makawana
³ Solanki Mayur**

Address for Correspondence:

^{1, 2, 3} Center for Studies in Social Management, Central University of Gujarat,
Gandhinagar, India

Introduction:

The main objective of this article is not only to publicize the gross human rights violations against India's million untouchables (now known as Dalits), but also to create international awareness and to seek international support for the plight of the Dalits women education in India. The world communities must assume responsibility in bringing total justice to the Dalits who have been systematically deprived of their respect, dignity, culture and rights by the upper caste people of India (wadhvaniya, 2012).

Whenever we are talking about education in India particularly in Dalit women's, we should have clarification about some concept like what is education? , what is the meaning of Dalit? , etc....

What is Education?

In a simple meaning education means the delivery of knowledge, skills and information from teachers to students, is inadequate to capture what is really important about being and becoming educated. (Don Berg)

Being an educated person means you have access to optimal states of mind regardless of the situation you are in.

Education in India:

India has a prosperous and interesting history regarding education and it is also believed that education was passed on by orally and also provides scholars in antique times.

As for as history of Indian education is concerned there was also distributed the written literature and temples and community centers play the responsibility of schools. In former times, the system of education came named as “Gurukul”. At that time The Indian women were also provided the same right to get education and teaching. The Brahmins persons only give education to those students who are in Kshatriyas at the Gurukul. The students belongs to lower cast have not right to learning and they used to learn family business from their father. (history of education in india).

The main region for education as school was temple, mosque and village during the rule of British in India. There was some subject taught as reading, writing, theory, arithmetic, law, astronomy, medical sciences, and ethics and also taught religion. (history of education in india)

During the period of British, education was like best layer in all over in India. For instance every student of every culture was attended school for obtain study and also teach or provided knowledge according to the British Model. There was deviously encouraged in the values and beliefs in Indian society due to English educated layer so that people can understand all about education. (history of education in india)

Before India got independence British Administrative motivated Indian education and need of financial. There were many people fight and changed the system of education in India. And they were wanted to spread British culture in the world. And today you can find that India as middle attraction place in the field of education. Shearing education with multiple countries. India has developed more number of university, colleges, and schools under the Indian government as well as private sector moreover students from different countries also came to here for the study purpose. (history of education in india)

Women's Education:

In Indian culture male is dominant. If women have to go out-side of the house she has to take permission from her husband or her Father-in-law. She cannot work out of house. Why because of the society, culture, communities...etc. all those factor are part of culture. And we must have to follow the culture. Why this is happening? Is it enough that only male can get education? What about women? We should remember that men and women are the two wheels of the society. Without any one of them family can't exist, society cannot progress. Female is playing important role in the society. Mother is the first teacher of the children and also first teachers of the future citizens of the country. We can't ignore women because if we ignore women we cannot take proper care of children and also society will lose the services of a powerful part of our society. So, female education is quite necessary for the girls. (Womens education in india).

Women education is one of the major and central problems of India as well as the society at large because in the past women were denied opportunity and had to suffer the hegemonic masculine ideology This unjustifiable and unwarrantable operation had resulted into a movement that fought to achieve the equal status of women in all over the world. Nevertheless education of female literacy is considered as major concern today. (Womens education in india).

In the present time India has established number of institutions and organizations for the girls and women for the development purpose. The aims of these institutions are to provide immense help for women's in modern society. Through these women now participating in all the fields like Indian women is at par with men in all kind of tasks like reading the moon, conquering Mount Everest etc. all this is possible because of the impact of education on women. (Womens education in india).

Dalit Women's Education:

The drop out percentage of the Dalit girl is approximately 75% in primary schools, through there exists strict law of govt. of India which hold reservation for dalit children as for as National Commission for Scheduled Caste And Scheduled Tribe 2000 is concerned, is because of Poverty or to escape humiliation, bullying isolation by classmate, society and even their teachers.

(Mahey).

According Dalit girls feel discourage to participating in school because Caste-best discrimination was practiced by upper caste (majority of the educated people) and as result we see very lowest literacy rate of dalit girls as compared with other (Upper caste) The Annual Report of University Grant Commission for 1999- 2000, shows that Dalits in general have very low participation rates in higher education. (Mahey).

There are many reasons for the high rate of illiteracy in Dalit women for example (1) Resistance from the family to send girls to schools, (2) fear of insecurity in villages, (3) lack of physical facilities like accommodation, (4) School transport and medical facilities, (5) The girls are forced to take care of the siblings when the parents are away at work to work to earn for the family and to do domestic chores which prevent them from attending school. One of the major reasons is that many girls are forced to get married at young age. This is also significant factor to stops schooling because as i mentioned above in the pare of Education in India about Indian culture that Indians traditional thinking is that the girls should stop studying after marriage. Fear of alienation of girls from their environment as a result of education can be attributed as one of the reason for low literacy level among Dalit girls. Even if the education improved the marriage prospects of the girls, the minus point is the increase in dowry. Therefore Educational development among SC women is very marginal because girls are not sent to school. (AIDMAM)

Gender inequality among dalit women-education:

Girls were not sent to the school because it's her responsibility to take care of home and therefore Female Infanticide is more prevalent among the uneducated families.

Therefore the gender discrimination starts at the very early stage in the life of a dalit girl. Normally girl children are retained at home to look after the siblings. Another thing is the compulsory marriage of the girls at very early age after which the education is stopped.

Generally in the male-dominated society, polygamy is allowed and more so in many dalit families. Because of this the position of the women deteriorated. Joint family system, polygamy, property structure, early marriage, and permanent widowhood were hurdles for the development of all women in early period. But in the twentieth century, after the Mahatma Gandhien movement to educate women, slowly changes occurred in the position of women. But here, rural women were more blessed than urban women because divorce and remarriage were allowed for them. Mainly Sudras allowed divorce and remarriage for their women. (MUTHUMARY)

Current Scenario:

The present position is better because of education, literacy rate for boys 31.48%, and girls 10.93%. Now they have lot of self-respect, aware of their rights, organizations to voice their feelings. The creamy layer is well aware of the Government welfare schemes. Among SC Dalits executive positions in associations are occupied only by men, very poor representation by women. Feedback about the welfare Programme is very essential. (MUTHUMARY)

Human rights of dalit women:

India is a democracy and is a Party to most of the major human rights treaties. These treaties provide the same rights for men and for women. Because India is also a Party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Government has an extra obligation to make sure that women can realize their rights. It is generally accepted in international law that governments have to do more than just pass legislation to protect human rights. (Manorama)

The Government of India has an obligation to take all measures, including policy and budgetary measures, to make sure that women can fulfill their rights. It also has an obligation to punish those who engage in caste-based violence and discrimination. The government of India, as a modern country with a growing economy, has the means to fulfill its obligations. (Manorama)

Civil and political rights:

India is a Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Based on this treaty, the Government of India has an obligation to make sure that Dalit women can enjoy a whole range of human rights, such as the right to life, freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, freedom from slavery, the right to be equal before the court, the right to recognition as a person before the law, the right to privacy, the right to marry. (Manorama)

Opportunities for dalits in education:

The government has made reservations for Dalit, so that they can enter into jobs in the public sector, parliamentary State Assemblies and Universities. This reservation, however, makes them even more vulnerable in the society. Most Dalit continue to live in extreme poverty, without land or opportunities for better employment or education, with the exception of a minority who have benefited from India's policy of quotas in education and government jobs. (Narnaware)

According to Constitution of India, reservation for Dalits in Government jobs is secured, but in reality, only a few are filled out as they have full control of recruitment. According to the National Commission for SC and ST and as per India's constitution, total job reservation for Dalits is 22.5% but only 2.1% in case of class-I (Dalits serving in public commission, civil services, chief executives in major companies) and 9.0% in the case of class-II (this includes Dalits serving as college lecturers, bank manager, in government, etcetera). To date, most Dalit students are prevented from entering in government as well as the public sectors as a part of the caste based discrimination, hence there is a stiff increment in unemployment. (Narnaware)

Many bright Dalit students are prevented from sitting in the front classroom row, sharing water or food, and mixing with high caste students. Teachers are often violent against them for showing greater aptitudes in classrooms. Often humiliated in front of class by the teacher and high caste students, most of those students return back to their family profession. (Narnaware)

For instance, most recently a Dalit girl student who accidentally joined a street dance performed by high caste performers was humiliated and was threatened with rape if she complained to the police. Turning to the police for a complaint only exaggerated the situation. She later committed suicide. (Narnaware)

Conclusion:

Looking at the present situation of women in the Dalit community and also in the society as a whole there is an increase consensus about the women education because in today's world education is the tool to destroy unemployment and poverty. Secondly, there has been many instances where women are been denied their right on education so for that there should be special provisions were they don't have to face such consequences. Now coming to the women's education in Dalit community, we all know that Dalit's and their community have been victim of the discrimination earlier and even today so to think the question of women's education is far

from reality. The society claims that now there is an equality and there is growing awareness about education but this claim is not been true on real grounds, indeed there are special provisions in the government or there are laws were there has been special space for the Dalit woman and specially their education but even those are not useful. The main reason is that being a Tag of backward Dalit always has financial problems and due to that it becomes impossible for them to educate their children specially the female child. So in a nutshell we can say that the situation is not as it should be, we can just hope that these situations can change in the coming time as education is must for the community.

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