

GENDER INEQUALITY IN SECONDARY EDUCATION IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Education is only tool for all types of development even no one can imagine the development without education. "Education for all" is for most requirements for every nation. India is a country where level of education is low as compare to other developed countries. Half of the population is consist of female and for the development of a nation all human resources must be productive; so that optimum production can be achieved, hence education for female is as much necessary as education for male. It is established fact that the minimum level of education for all our socio- economic change is secondary level of education. Secondary level education for all sections of society including SC, ST and Girls are essential for optimum development of India. SC and ST groups of society are considered deprived in education in India. The gender inequality in education may also persist more in SC ST group. The paper attempts to analyses the gender gap in Secondary Education among SC and ST group. It compares that gender inequality between SC and ST group. The study estimate the gender inequality in Secondary Education in various States mint to design the strategy accordingly.

Keywords: *Gender Inequality, Secondary Education, SC and ST Group. Equity, Equality.*

Introduction

Often, the terms "equity" and "equality" are interchanged when referring to educational equity. Although similar, there can be important distinctions between the two. Equity recognizes uneven playing field and aims to take extra measures by giving those who are in need more than others who are not. Equity aims at making sure that everyone's lifestyle is equal even if it may come at the cost of unequal distribution of access and goods.

The **American Library Association** defines equality as: "access to channels of communication and sources of information that is made available on even terms to all--a level playing field--is derived from the concept of fairness as uniform distribution, where everyone is entitled to the same level of access and can avail themselves if they so choose."^[3] In this definition of equality no one person has an unfair advantage. Everyone is given equal opportunities and accessibility.

Gender equity in practicality refers to both male and female concerns, yet most of the gender bias is against women in the developing world. Gender discrimination in education has been very evident and underlying problem in many countries.

Impact of Gender Discrimination on the Economy

Education is universally acknowledged as an essential human right because it highly impacts the socio-economic and cultural aspects of a country. Equity in education increases the work force of the nation, therefore increasing national income, economic productivity, and GDP. It reduces fertility and infant mortality, improves child health, increases life expectancy and increases standards of living. These are factors that allow economic stability and growth in the future. Above all, female education can increase output levels and allow countries to attain sustainable development. Equity in education of women also reduces the possibilities of trafficking and exploitation of women. UNESCO also refers gender equity as a major factor that allows for sustainable development.

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The traditional mythology and other belief states that, the universe is made up of male and female energy both. The Chinese called it YIN and YAN energy. Similarly the society consists of male and female human being. What they work and how they work is very important, the work done by women is remarkable. Men and women are the two human resources, to run the economy at optimum level and to enhance the productivity of human resources it is essential that woman has to be engaged in all the activities. Female education is essential for development of the society.

It is already established that productivity can only be enhanced by imparting education. So the female education at all the levels is to be enhanced by the increasing GER and reducing DOR at all levels of education. Thus a gender equity is must at all levels of education for not only enhancing economy but also for inclusive growth. Gender equity should be ensuring in educational development.

Methodology

The data of census of 2001 and 2011 are deployed for the study. The GER and DOR are computed as parameter for analysis. Simple statistical tools are used. The study is mainly based on cross sectional analysis.

Findings

The following table 1 illustrates the GER of boys and girls in Secondary Education among SC and ST community.

Table 1: GER among SC, ST Boys & Girls in Secondary Education in 2001 and 2011

States	SC						ST						Difference Between SC & ST 2001	Difference Between SC & ST 2011
	2001		Difference	2011		Difference	2001		Difference	2011		Difference		
	Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls			
All-India	85.55	71.82	13.73	94.7	96.2	-1.5	85.64	73.74	11.9	86.1	82.9	3.2	-1.92	13.3
Andhra Pradesh	84.84	80.81	4.03	83.2	83.8	-0.6	83.07	75.42	7.65	83.6	82.5	1.1	5.39	1.3
Assam	120.22	114.69	5.53	91.1	95.2	-4.1	89.15	83.14	6.01	74.6	77.1	-2.5	31.55	18.1
Bihar	58.71	37.25	21.46	82.2	75.7	6.5	50.15	32.76	17.39	88.3	80.1	8.2	4.49	-4.4
Gujarat	106.19	96.95	9.24	87.9	85.5	2.4	86.65	77.81	8.84	81.1	77.6	3.5	19.14	7.9
Karnataka	85.66	83.58	2.08	82.7	81	1.7	83.21	80.86	2.35	84.1	81.5	2.6	2.72	-0.5
Madhya Pradesh	103.49	96.61	6.88	105.1	105.9	-0.8	97.99	82.92	15.07	93	90.2	2.8	13.69	15.7
Maharashtra	121.28	117.24	4.04	103	100.1	2.9	92.78	80.01	12.77	87.6	83.2	4.4	37.23	16.9
Manipur	113.91	103.65	10.26	97.7	103	-5.3	89.92	81.81	8.11	77.5	81.6	-4.1	21.84	21.4
Meghalaya			0	203.8	209.3	-5.5	83.65	88.04	-4.39	88.8	96.3	-7.5	-88.04	113

Odisha	88.87	79.07	9.8	82.7	79.4	3.3	76.63	65.89	10.74	79.2	73.1	6.1	13.18	6.3
Rajasthan	89.31	72.38	16.93	89.1	81.8	7.3	87.98	67.51	20.47	89.8	79.9	9.9	4.87	1.9
Sikkim	107.43	108.48	-1.05	129.2	136.3	-7.1	131.55	139.19	-7.64	91.9	105.6	-13.7	-30.71	30.7
Tripura	97.41	88.37	9.04	107.4	110	-2.6	83.77	73.77	10	91.6	88.2	3.4	14.6	21.8
Uttar Pradesh	86.59	52.34	34.25	105	112.6	-7.6	117.7	76.07	41.63	93.2	94.9	-1.7	-23.73	17.7
West Bengal	74.88	67.02	7.86	97.3	100.1	-2.8	78.08	66.87	11.21	90.2	91	-0.8	0.15	9.1

Source: MHRD,GOI

The following findings have been drawn from the above table:

- There is wide gap between boys and girls enrollment among SC group in 2001. Girls are less enrolled than boys by 13 points.
- All states witnessed a wide gender gap in 2001.
- The gender gap has reduced in all state in 2011 and the GER of girls is almost equal to GER of boys except Bihar and Rajasthan.
- The GER of female is low in Bihar and Rajasthan in 2001 and 2011 among SC group. Although the female GER has been increased over the study period but still there is gap in Bihar and Rajasthan which depicts the less female inclusion in Secondary Education among SC group.
- A wide gap between girls and boys enrollment have seen in 2001 in all the states among ST community, but over the study period female enrollment increased and reached at the level of boys enrollment in 2011, it means educational development is inclusive in nature for ST female.
- Although the enrollment of ST female has been increased over the period in all states except Bihar, Rajasthan and Sikkim.
- The female enrollment in SC and ST increased over two decade period but the difference between SC and ST is still persistent which means there is more inclusiveness among SC group then ST group. The ST female are lagging behind the SC female.

Education at secondary level really makes a dent in society especially for girl's education. Sustainable secondary education for girls can change the society thus it is quite essential to analyze the DOR of girls at secondary education level.

The following table 2 can give the picture of DOR of girls in SC and ST of Secondary Education.

Table 2: DOR among SC, ST Boys & Girls in Secondary Education in 2001 and 2011

States	SC						ST						Difference Between SC & ST 2001	Difference Between SC & ST 2011
	2001		Difference	2011		Difference	2001		Difference	2011		Difference		
	Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls			
All-India	71.14	74.91	3.77	55	55.6	0.6	79.95	82.89	2.94	64.4	67.6	3.2	7.98	12
Andhra Pradesh	75.37	80.21	4.84	49.1	48.4	-0.7	85.78	90.63	4.85	69.9	73.5	3.6	10.42	25.1

Assam	73.09	69.55	-3.54	70.4	65.8	-4.6	78.38	76.4	-1.98	70.5	69	-1.5	6.85	3.2
Bihar	89.27	91.92	2.65	80.5	81.1	0.6	89.52	91.28	1.76	65.8	63.7	-2.1	-0.64	-17.4
Gujarat	69.05	80.78	11.73	39.1	52.6	13.5	81.01	83.82	2.81	65.3	68	2.7	3.04	15.4
Karnataka	67.81	70.16	2.35	48.6	50.3	1.7	69.98	69.94	-0.04	45.6	48.1	2.5	-0.22	-2.2
Madhya Pradesh	67.68	79.85	12.17	33.5	49.4	15.9	77.83	84.03	6.2	55.4	71.7	16.3	4.18	22.3
Maharashtra	54.07	62.24	8.17	33.2	39.3	6.1	70.99	77.41	6.42	52.1	55.1	3	15.17	15.8
Manipur	58.76	64.77	6.01	63.1	63.7	0.6	74.07	73.26	-0.81	80.2	78.2	-2	8.49	14.5
Meghalaya	74.16	82	7.84	66.3	70.2	3.9	84.81	84.82	0.01	77.7	73.5	-4.2	2.82	3.3
Odisha	73.09	79.18	6.09	69.9	69.3	-0.6	82.53	84.94	2.41	77	77	0	5.76	7.7
Rajasthan	78.02	87.57	9.55	65.1	78.1	13	78.78	87.87	9.09	57.5	70	12.5	0.3	-8.1
Sikkim	88.94	88.22	-0.72	72.8	70.5	-2.3	88.68	86.57	-2.11	39.9	22.1	-17.8	-1.65	-48.4
Tripura	74.95	77.57	2.62	35.8	34	-1.8	85.65	87.85	2.2	66.9	67.7	0.8	10.28	33.7
Uttar Pradesh	66.73	73.56	6.83	53.8	51.1	-2.7	32.5	59.13	26.63	36.3	24.4	-11.9	-14.43	-26.7
West Bengal	83.47	89.91	6.44	64.9	65.1	0.2	86.31	88.3	1.99	73.3	74.4	1.1	-1.61	9.3

Source: MHRD,GOI

The following results can be drawn from above table:

- The DOR is higher in girls and boys in SC category in 2001, but the difference has been reduced. It shows the DOR of girls in SC group is reduced means retention rate of girls at secondary school is becoming higher.
- The DOR is higher in girls in ST group as compared to boys DOR in 2001. Similar trend is shown in 2011, but the difference of DOR between boys and girls reduced, it means now ST girls are more into completing their secondary education as compared to 2001.
- In secondary education the growth in retention of girls in SC and ST group have seen during the period of study, but the DOR in ST is higher than SC. The girls of SC group are more empowering themselves by completing their secondary education as compared to ST girls. The gap of DOR between SC and ST is always there in 2001 and 2011. But the difference is widening which is in favour of SC girls. It can be explained that earlier is 2001 more ST girls drop their education than SC girls, but in 2011 now lesser SC,ST girls drop their education but the declining rate is higher in SC and thus the more ST girls drop their education than SC girls in comparison to 2001.

The comparative analysis of girls DOR among SC and ST, give a proper gender equity scenario within deprived section of the society. The following table 3 gives the comparative analysis of gender equity between SC and ST.

Table 3: Comparative Analysis of Gender Equity between SC & ST
(On the basis of DOR among SC, ST Girls in Primary, Secondary Education in 2001 and 2011)

States	Difference Between Primary & Secondary Education DOR in 2001 among SC	Difference Between Primary & Secondary Education DOR in 2011 among SC	Increase/ Decrease	Difference Between Primary & Secondary Education DOR in 2001 among ST	Difference Between Primary & Secondary Education DOR in 2011 among ST	Increase / Decrease
All-India	11.28	19.2	Increase	10.2	10.5	Increase
Andhra Pradesh	6.36	17.3	Increase	4.01	15.3	Increase
Assam	2.65	18.6	Increase	0.96	16	Increase
Bihar	8.07	20.6	Increase	6.49	41	Increase
Gujarat	9.41	-5.9	Decrease	5.83	-3.2	Decrease
Karnataka	10.26	26.2	Increase	12.99	24.6	Increase
Madhya Pradesh	23.3	6.7	Decrease	17.74	14.4	Decrease
Maharashtra	17.86	8	Decrease	9.95	7.3	Decrease
Manipur	2.24	46.9	Increase	1.88	24.9	Increase
Meghalaya	7.15	35.1	Increase	4.37	11.9	Increase
Odisha	5.09	12.8	Increase	19.3	3.6	Decrease
Rajasthan	16.79	19.6	Increase	14.97	6.6	Decrease
Sikkim	19.39	14.5	Decrease	22.71	-17.5	Decrease
Tripura	8.58	10	Increase	6.89	9.3	Increase
Uttar Pradesh	-6.43	14.6	Increase	22.34	24.4	Increase
West Bengal	26.11	29.7	Increase	6.92	14.7	Increase

Source: Calculated from table table 1 and 2

The following results can be drawn from above table:

- The girl DOR in Secondary Education in SC group is higher than the primary education.
- The difference between girls DOR of secondary and primary level is 11 points which increase over the study period and became 19 points which is really very high. All states shown the same tendency, it means during the study period the girls DOR at primary level has been reduced but at the same the girls DOR at Secondary School reduced but not as much as at primary education level so we can concluded that girls are completing the primary education but not at the secondary education level, the situation has not improved at desired level.
- At primary level the 36 SC girls drop their education while in ST it is 57 which are much higher.
- At secondary education level 55 SC girls drop their education while in ST it is 67, which is again higher level.
- The gender equity is ensured at primary education by increasing GER and reducing DOR.

Conclusion

The Gender inequality among SC and ST Group at secondary education level is reduced during study period, but existing gap depicts that girls are still deprived as compare to boys. The Gender inequality is much higher in ST in comparison to SC due to high DOR. Gender inequality is not high in primary education but it is cause of concern at secondary education level. All states witnessed the reducing trend of Gender inequality except Rajasthan and Bihar. The study reveals that is high DOR is major cause of Gender inequality at secondary education.

Recommendations

Efforts are required for reducing DOR among SC and ST both. Education Policy should be designed in such a way that can hamper the drop out of girls at secondary education level. A special approach or awareness campaign is needed for girl's education especially for ST. Rajasthan and Bihar are required to redesign their education policy incorporating the special measures to reducing drop out of Scand ST at secondary education.

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