



EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN MADHYA PRADESH

Dr. H. B. Gupta

Professor & Head Department of Economics

Institute for Excellence in Higher Education, Barkatullah University, Bhopal, India

Email: guptahb@yahoo.co.in

Orcid: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8975-6194>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.53724/inspiration/v1n2.55>

Abstract-

Education leads us from Darkness to Light. In this regard education is one of the best means to enable the people to move from darkness to light. The role of women in educating the family is much higher than male, but the Educational status of women in Madhya Pradesh is not well. The literacy rate of male and female in the state is 80.5% & 60% respectively as per census 2011. Female literacy rate is lower than the male in Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh is one among the five states having educational disparity in literacy rate. In 1951 the literacy rate of the state was 13.06%, out of which 20.2% were male and 4.9% were female. The education wise rank of the state was 24th in the country, which has declined to 26th rank. Madhya Pradesh is one of the backward states of India. The literacy rate of India is 74.04% as per census 2011, out of which male literacy rate is 82.14% and female rate is 65.46%, while the total literacy rate of Madhya Pradesh as per the census 2011 is 70.6%, where male literacy is 80.5% and female literacy is 60.0% which is less than female literacy of India. However all districts of Madhya Pradesh have reported an increase in the literacy rate since last two decade. Districts like Datia, Indore, Bhopal, Narsinghapur and Jabalpur reported over 75% literacy rate. On the other hand some districts reported less than 60% literacy rate are jhabua, Barwani and Sheopur & Alirajpur.

Therefore keeping a view on the existing gap between male & female education, the research paper includes causes of low female education in Madhya Pradesh and also the measures taken by the state Government. To remove the gaps between male & female education.

Keywords – Status, Disparity, Gender, Education, Scheme, Literacy, and Backward.



Introduction:-

Girls are always discriminated in giving her access to education from primary to college level. The educational differences between males and females are among the most significant indicators of gender inequality. Parents in many countries including India are more willing to dropout their daughter's school and college education in comparison to their son. Male education in contrast may be valued as an investment that will bring his parents higher income in the future and will ensure them a more secure old age. But, it is learnt from the experiences of majority, old people who stay in old age homes, they are always cheated by their sons not by their daughters. In India, parents hesitate to invest in daughter's education as they think they will lose their investment after daughter's marriage. There is a big gap between male & female education in M.P. as well as in India since very beginning. It is very essential to promote the female education in Madhya Pradesh as well as in country. As we know if one women is educated means whole family is educated. Empowerment of women leads the empowerment of society as well as country. For better and fast development of the state & country women empowerment is very essential. It helps to increase the growth rate of Madhya Pradesh and country also.

Objectives of the study:-

The main objectives of the study are-

- To analyze the literacy rate of women in Madhya Pradesh.
- To compare the literacy rate of Madhya Pradesh with other states.
- To find out causes of low literacy rate of women.
- To highlight the major schemes started by the Govt. to promote female Education.
- To find out solution for improvement of literacy rate.

Methodology:-

The research study is based on the secondary data. The major data and information pertaining to the research study has been collected from the various secondary sources such as annual reports of



Higher education department. School education department, Economics and statistics department of Madhya Pradesh, Census 2011, Planning Commission etc. Collected data has been classify, Tabulated & analyzed by applying various statistical tools and techniques.

History of Education:-

Before independence the British Government in India introduced formal system of education, but in the case of women modes of transmitting knowledge as well as Zenana system or home education for girls continued. Even the British supported the Zenana system as they were primarily interested in the formal education of men and not for women. The entry of women into the formal system of education began in the mid-19th century, but it got wider acceptance after the mid-20th century. The Government was slow in pushing policies promoting female education, yet the socio-religious reformers and women's organizations realized the value of female education at all levels. The efforts of Gandhi, Maharishi Karve, Maharishi Tagore and all India Women's Conference fully supported women education as helpful to women.

After independence the issue of female education became a concern for the Government but remained ambivalent about the kind of education appropriate for women. The Constitution of the Indian Republic, introduced in 1950, included a number of important provisions which had a direct or indirect bearing on education. The Constitution of India has made it obligatory on the part of the Government to provide free and compulsory education to all children until they complete the age of 14 years. The National Policy of Education 1986, includes free and compulsory education of all children up to the age of 14 years before the commencement of the 21st Century.

History of Education in Madhya Pradesh:-

A council was setup in year 1960 in Madhya Pradesh to promote female education in the state. Again in 1982 under the patronage of the Governor a Balika shiksha Nidhi Samiti was set up in



the state. Chief Minister and the Education Minister were the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of this Samiti respectively. The Samiti made efforts to increase the enrolment of girl students. It also included distribution of free books, school dresses and meals to the girls. National Education Policy was implemented in the state in 1986. In 1995 Mahila Samakhya was implemented to enhance girl education and later plans for the empowerment of women in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

The Census 2001 records a major leap in the literacy rate in the state. In 1951 it was 13.06% which reached to 63.7% and female literacy increased from 4.9% to 50.3% in 2001(as shown in below table No. 01)

LITERACY RATE IN M.P.

Table No. 01

Year	Male	Female	Total (in %)
1951	20.2	4.9	13.06
1961	32.9	8.9	21.4
1971	39.4	13.9	27.2
1981	38.6	26.9	38.6
1991	58.6	29.4	44.7
2001	76.1	50.3	63.7
2011	80.5	60.0	70.6

The literacy rate of India has improved a lot over the last two decades, especially after the implementation of free education. In spite of great efforts of the govt. of India to formulate policy to



educate the women, still there is gender disparity in education. Gender disparity in literacy continued to exist with male literacy rate being consistently ahead of female literacy rate. The disparities are far wider in the four northern states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has taken various steps to improve the literacy rate of women; still the female literacy rate of the state is 60% of the total population of the state as per census 2011, which is lower than the male. Madhya Pradesh is one among the five states having female disparity literacy rate at higher side. In 1951 the literacy rate in the state was 13.06%, out of which 20.2% were males and 4.9% were females. The total literacy rate of Madhya Pradesh according to the census of 2011 is 70.6% where male literacy is 80.5% and female literacy is 60.0% which is less than total female literacy of India. Table (No. 02) below shows gender disparity in Madhya Pradesh from 1951 to 2011.

GENDER DISPARITY IN LITERACY IN M.P

Table No. 02

Year	Total Literacy Rate	Male Literacy	Female Literacy	Difference in Male/Female Literacy (in %)
1951	13.06	20.2	4.9	15.3
1961	21.4	32.9	8.9	24.0
1971	27.2	39.4	13.9	25.5
1981	38.6	49.3	26.9	22.4
1991	44.6	58.5	29.4	29.1
2001	64.1	76.5	50.6	25.9
2011	70.6	80.5	60.0	20.5



Literacy of Top Five Distt. in M.P:-

However all districts of Madhya Pradesh have recorded an increase in the literacy rate since last decade. Some Districts like Datia, Indore, Bhopal, Narsinghpur, Balaghat and Jabalpur recorded over 75% literacy rate. Jabalpur district reported highest literacy rate in state. Female literacy is also reported highest in Jabalpur. Literacy rate of top five distt. is shown in below table.

LITERACY OF TOP FIVE DISTT. IN M.P

Table No.03

S.N.	Name	Male	Female	Total (in %)
1	Jabalpur	89.2	76.57	82.47
2	Indore	89.11	75.30	82.32
3	Bhopal	87.44	74.89	82.26
4	Balaghat	87.17	69.71	78.29
5	Gwalior	87.13	68.29	77.93

Literacy of Bottom Five Distt. in M.P:-

Many distt. of Madhya Pradesh is still not doing well in education sectors. Some of the Districts of Madhya Pradesh which are still recorded with less than 60% literacy rate are jhabua, Barwani and Sheopur & Alirajpur. Out of below mentioned five distt. Alirajpur reported lowest literacy rate. Total literacy of the Alirajpur distt is only 37.22% .which is lowest in state. Literacy rate of bottom five distt. is shown in below table.



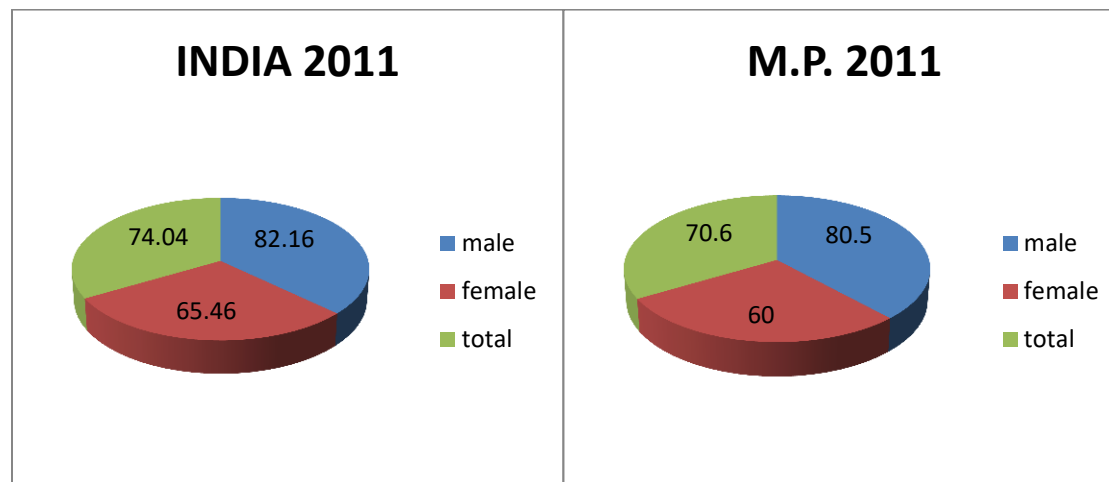
LITERACY OF BOTTOM FIVE DISTT. IN M.P

TableNo.04

S.N.	Nsme	Male	Female	Total.(in %)
1	Alirajpur	43.58	30.97	37.22
2	Jhabua	54.69	34.29	44.49
3	Barwani	57.32	43.07	50.23
4	Sheopur	70.30	44.49	58.02
5	Dhar	71.12	49.47	60.57

Comparative Study of Literacy Rate:-

The total literacy of India as per 2011 census was 74.04% out of which male and female literacy rate is 82.14% & 65.46% respectively. However total literacy rate of Madhya Pradesh according to the census of 2011 is 70.6% where male literacy is 80.5% and female literacy is 60.0% which is less than total female literacy of India, which is shown in below pie diagram:-





Causes of Low Literacy Rate:-

Madhya Pradesh is one among the five states having female disparity literacy rate at higher side. The education wise rank of the state was 24th in the country as per census 200, which has declined to 26th rank in 2011. This is the alarming situation for the state and we need to think over the following causes of gender disparity in MP:

- Inadequate number of girls schools in urban areas.
- Below block level there is no separate schools for girls.
- Unavailability of toilet facilities in most of the schools of rural areas.
- In M.P. poverty is at higher side in comparison to other states, so people don't prefer to send their daughters to school, instead they send them for daily wages work.
- Due to lack of security most of the parents feel insecure to send their girls to school/college.
- There are no girl's hostel facilities up to block level.

Important Schemes:-

The Government of M.P. has taken various steps to promote female education. Some of the important schemes implemented by the govt. Madhya Pradesh are:

1 Ladli Laxmi Yojana:- This scheme was implemented in 2006. The objective of this scheme was to lay a firm foundation of girl's future through improvement in their educational and economic status and to bring about a positive change in social attitude towards the birth of a girl child. The girl covered under this scheme is given Rs.2000/- on getting admission in class VI, Rs.4000/- on getting admission in class IX & Rs.7500 on admission in class X. She is also given Rs. 200 per month during her studies in class XI and XII.

2 Free Cycle Distribution:- The objective of this scheme is to motivate girls to continue education after primary level, under this scheme; free bicycle is given by the state government to a rural girl who takes admission in class IX in another village. The benefit of scheme is given to village girls belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward class as well as general category.



Before the implementation of this scheme there were lakhs of girls who had to abandon their studies after completing primary education only because there was no middle high or higher secondary school in their village and they did not have means to travel to other villages to pursue education. Going on foot was difficult as well as risky. The scheme has removed all these hurdles in the way of girls' education.

3 Gaon ki Beti Yojana:- The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to motivate talented rural girls for higher education. Under the scheme Rs. 500 per month scholarship is given for 10 months to the rural girl who passes their 12th exam with first division. So far, 80 thousands rural girls have availed benefit of this scheme. As a result of this scheme now a large number of rural girls are pursuing Collegiate Education.

4 Pratibha Kiran Yojana :- The objective of this scheme is to improve educational standard of girls belonging to urban below poverty line families who pass their 12th examination with first division, and took admission in higher classes in the same year. Every girl covered under the scheme is given Rs. 500 per month for degree courses for ten months and Rs. 750 per month for technical courses as incentive money.

5 Vikramaditya Nishulk Shiksha Yojana – This scheme is for general category below poverty line student to pursue higher education free of cost. The government also made a scheme that school that promotes education for girls will be given Rs. 5000 as prize money. This prize will be awarded to one school in every cluster formed under sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

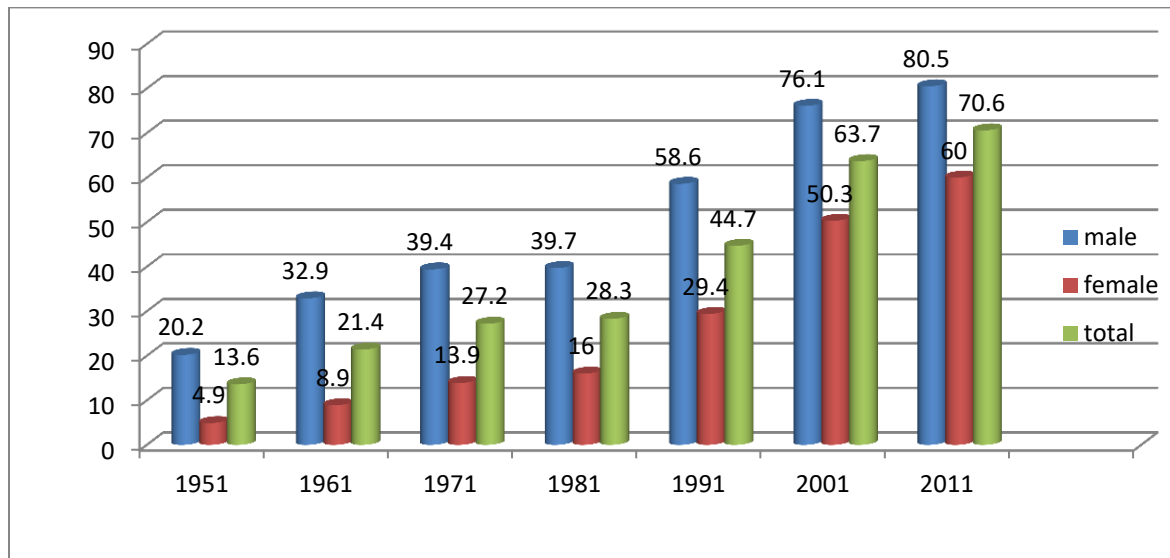
6 Book Bank Yojana The objective of this scheme is to motivate the SC/ ST students to continue education after higher secondary level. Under this scheme, free books & stationary is given by the state government to SC/ ST students.

Conclusion and Suggestion:-

All these policies of the Madhya Pradesh Government are playing an important role in increasing women's education. These schemes have covered even the rural girls. The scheme of Gaon Ki Beti Yojana has benefited about 80 thousands rural girls. As a result a large number of rural



girls are pursuing college education in Madhya Pradesh. Free cycle distribution to the rural girls is also motivating scheme to enhance female education. The literacy rate of Madhya Pradesh has improved a lot over the last two decade, especially after the implementation of free education.



Moreover there are some suggestions to improve the status of female education in Madhya Pradesh:-

- ❖ Open more Girls school in rural areas.
- ❖ Enhance hostel facilities for girls.
- ❖ Provide toilet facilities in all girls schools.
- ❖ Provide more incentives to girls.
- ❖ Link BPL facilities with girl's education.
- ❖ Provide safety to school/ college going girls.
- ❖ Provide good number of teachers in all the school

Reference:-

1. *Women Status in M.P. and planned interventions. A Gender Review by state planning Commission.*
2. *Census of India 2001. & 2011.*
3. *Dr. Lakshmi Mishra, Madhya Pradesh aur Chhatisgarh Mein Shiksha (Madhya Pradesh Hindi - Granth Academy, 2002).*
4. *S.P. Agarwal, J.C. Agarwal, women's Education in India (New Delhi, concept publication, 1992).*



Research Inspiration

An International Multidisciplinary e-Journal

(Peer Reviewed & Opened Access Indexed)

www.researchinspiration.com

Email: researchinspiration.com@gmail.com, publish1257@gmail.com

ISSN: 2455-443X

Vol. 1, Issue-II

March 2016

5. Department of public Relation, Report on planning.
6. India Development Report, 2002.
7. Neera Desai & Usha Thakur .women in Indian society (Delhi NBT2001).
8. Nidhi Gupta & Dr Manju Malhotra.
9. Department of Higher Education Govt. of M.P.
10. Census of M.P. 2001. & 2011.
11. Department of Economics & statistics, Govt. of M.P.
12. MP state planning commission.
13. www.iimpact.org/Women-Education .
14. www.jaipurrugs.org/project
15. www.planindia.org/biag
16. <https://en.wikipedia.org>
17. www.womenempowermentinindia.com
18. www.iimpact.org/Girls-Education
19. www.srcindore.com/lit_database.php
20. www.ssa.mp.gov.in
21. mpplanningcommission.gov.in
22. www.census2011.co.in › States
23. www.acoh.or.ke