
WOMEN LITERACY IN SARGODHA, PUNJAB PAKISTAN

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Abstract

This Article describes the difficulties faced by women in getting higher education which prevent them from continuing their educational journey. In this Article has used secondary data for literature. In Pakistan, there are two approaches to girls' education: some families don't send their girls to school due to poverty, social norms, child labor, discrimination, and insecurity. Others may allow girls to receive education but discourage them from working or contributing to society. The lack of access to education and legal illiteracy contribute to the existence of parallel justice systems that often sanction violence against women or impose severe punishments for perceived transgressions. It's clear that education is crucial in challenging these harmful practices and promoting gender equality.

Key words:

Female education, Rate of literacy, Barriers, Orthodox approach, Education empowers, Self – dignity

INTRODUCTION:

Women's education is super important for enhancing self-respect and self-dignity. Feminist Education refers to the education of women which means having the skills to read, write and speak to understand and create meaning. It's about being able to effectively communicate and comprehend information. Literacy is an essential skill that empowers individuals to actively participate in society and pursue opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Women's education is crucial for enhancing nation building in terms of economic and human development. The content of women's education should be selected at the national level and adapted to the specific needs of each society. It can include subjects like occupational enrichment, consumer economics, civics, and health and family living. These subjects reflect the society's idea of the roles assigned to women, such as cooking, sewing, and home management. However, it is also important to include subjects like science, technology, commerce, and arts to empower women to compete with men and have equal opportunities in the labor market. Women's education should provide practical skills that can benefit the family, like health and nutrition knowledge. Ultimately, women should educate themselves to challenge

Norms, values, and behavior patterns, becoming masters of their own lives and makers of their own destinies.

IMPORTANCE:

Absolutely, education is a powerful tool for the empowerment of women. It plays a crucial role in improving their status and providing them with the knowledge and skills to face life's challenges. When women are educated, they gain self-esteem, self-confidence, and the courage to pursue their dreams. The advantages of female education are immense. Mothers, as

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the first teachers, have a significant impact on the upbringing of children. If mothers are educated, they can provide better care and instill good qualities in their children. This strengthens the foundation of society and ensures the contribution of a powerful part of our population. Women are in no way inferior to men, and education allows them to excel in various fields. In Western countries, women are actively involved in writing books, driving cars, flying planes, and making significant contributions to society. It's essential to recognize the value of female education and provide equal opportunities for all.

WOMEN LITERACY IN BACKWARD AREAS OF PUNJAB:

It's unfortunate that in the social pattern of Punjab, females face numerous challenges throughout their lives. The patriarchal culture often suppresses their fundamental rights in the name of honor. Educations sometimes undervalued, with the four walls of the home being considered more respectable for females. As a result, the literacy rate among women is quite low. It's disheartening to see that women who are less educated than their husbands are more vulnerable to discrimination and domestic violence. This inequality is deeply rooted in societal attitudes and inherited characteristics of aggressive attitudes in males. Bandura's theory of social learning highlights how these attitudes can perpetuate harmful behaviors towards women. It's crucial to challenge these stereotypes and promote education as a means to empower women and create a more equal society.

Table No.1

Literacy Rate:

Literacy Rate	Male	Female	Total
World	90.0%	82.7%.	100%
Pakistan	72.5%	51.8%.	59.9%
Punjab	73.4%	51.9%.	67.7%
Sargodha	74.12%	56.88%.	65.54%

It's important to analyze the accessibility and outreach of education services. Integrated regional planning can definitely help improve public service delivery.

Table No 2

Total Male and female Govt educational institutions in Sargodha:

Primary Scholl's

Primary Schools	Male	Female	Total
District Level	633	665	1298
Tehsil Level	153	200	353

Middle Scholl's

Middle Schools	Male	Female	Total
District Level	153	212	365
Tehsil Level	68	73	141

High Scholl's

High Schools	Male	Female	Total
District Level	142	160	302
Tehsil Level	48	89	137

Colleges

Colleges	Male	Female	Total
District Level	15	18	33

Higher Education

Higher	Education	U ni ve	rsity Of Sargodha



Programs	Male	F e m a l e
BS/BA.ED/MSC MS/M.PHIL/PH.D	12423	1 2 7 0 5

In 1998, Sargodha literacy rate was 67.8% while in 2017, it increase from 67% to 80%. That's impressive to see the increase in literacy rate in Sargodha. It shows the progress being made in education. Both for Male and female students.



BARRIERS WITHIN HOME:

Socio-cultural barriers and economic factors contribute to the deprivation of girls' education. The orthodox approach often prioritizes boys' education, assuming that investing in girls' education is useless because they will eventually get married and contribute to their husband's family. On the other hand, sons are seen as future providers, so investing in their education is considered more beneficial. It's disheartening to see that girls' education is not encouraged in our society, as they are expected to take on household responsibilities. The dominance of a misogynistic culture further exacerbates the issue, with many parents fearing for their daughters' safety and resorting to child marriages. It's crucial to challenge these harmful beliefs and promote equal educational opportunities for all.

BARRIERS OUTSIDE HOME:

The lack of education among women and the underreporting of violence to law enforcement agencies are significant barriers to women's empowerment. Political instability, security forces' influence on governance, and societal tensions further distract from the government's responsibility to provide essential services like education, with girls being the most affected. In Pakistan, there are two approaches to girls' education: some families don't send their girls to school due to poverty, social norms, child labor, discrimination, and insecurity. Others may allow girls to receive education but discourage them from working or contributing to society. The lack of access to education and legal illiteracy contribute to the existence of parallel justice systems that often sanction violence against women or impose severe punishments for perceived transgressions. It's clear that education is crucial in challenging these harmful practices and promoting gender equality.

CHALLENGES:

Factors affecting women literacy is unfortunate that there is a lack of emphasis on Female education in Pakistan, which hinder the overall economic and social progress. It's important to address the Socio- Cultural and Economic barriers in that prevent women from accessing education and empower them to play an active role in society. There were some factors affecting the women literacy like,

- **Cultural Norms**
- **Early Marriage**
- **Security problems**
- **Poverty**
- **Negative attitude of parents**
- **Lack of transportation**

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STATEMENTS:

1. My Name is Nazia ' Despite being a bright student, I was not allowed to pursue higher education because my parents believed that education makes them rebellious and make them develop mindset like that of an infidel. Instead, they preferred them to be married off.
2. In our family, girls are not allowed to pursue higher education because our elders thinks that if girls go to colleges and universities, they become independent and disobedient of parents do not listen to them, pay more attention to other things instead of studies like friendship with boys , demand for love marriage and rebellious.
3. The biggest obstacle in my education is our poverty, because of poverty we are not strong enough to get higher education. We don't have enough resources to afford the fees or to get the education because we can only feed ourselves in our sources of income.
4. In our family there is a trend of early marriage due to which girls get married after matriculation or inter and if they are not married by 18 or 19 years then The pressure of the relatives increases on the parents that why you have not married your daughter till now and Daughters should be married early. Study is not important then marriage.
5. Our custom is that pay more attention to the education of boys than that of girls, because they think that money should be wasted on the education of girls, instead, they should spend the same money on their marriage.
6. Since the university was far away from home, I could not continue my studies after BA because it was not allowed from home to send a girl so far alone because of some security concerns I was not allowed to study further in the University. Besides the Due to some family ideals, staying in the hostel was not allowed, so my educational journey stopped there.
7. Due to the lack of good and efficient means of transportation, it is very difficult to go outside the village for study .A special vehicle has to be arranged to reach the educational institution but the fares are very high due to which we are not tight enough to pay the fares.

CONCLUSION:

It's high time that we challenge the unfair social status of women in Pakistan. Lack of education is at the root of many issues faced by women. We need to rethink our values and prioritize education for girls. Society shouldn't focus solely on marrying daughters into the right family or providing dowry. Instead, we should empower our daughters with education and skills, so they can support themselves and have the

Confidence to speak up against unfair treatment. Let's break the chains of oppression and give every human, regardless of gender, the respect and opportunities they deserve. We should encourage women to get education and succeed in the field of life.

Sometimes it happens that girls often become widows after marriage and due to lack of education, they are not provided with any further job opportunities due to which they have to depend on others. Being economically dependent on others is inferior.

Due to economic weakness, she has to depend on others. Besides this Educated women is very important for the development of any society because no society can develop until the women of that society stand by the side of the men of that society.

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