

PARENTS' GENDER DISCRIMINATION ATTITUDES TOWARDS EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN - A STUDY



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ABSTRACT

Parents play a crucial role in providing the right kind of education, training, and culture, and socializing their younger generations. The proper level of parental aspirations, care, positive attitudes mental as well emotional support and help the young boys and girls to grow into successful personality with much efficiency. Their decisions affect and make young persons' future life. Again the negative attitudes and apathy of parents make the children's life spoiled. The study is contemplated to present a complete picture of the parent's attitudes towards education of their children. For this purpose 82 (N=82) parents of different strata were selected for

the interview technique to study their attitudes towards the education of their children. It was found in all academic matters, the male child were got better and first preferences by their parents.

KEYWORDS : Parents, Gender, Gender discrimination attitudes.

INTRODUCTION :

"Out of twelve millions females born in India, about one million fail to celebrate their first birth day. Most of them undoubtedly fall prey to rampaging infanticide".-Child Rights and You (CRY), an India based NGO.

It is fact that two thirds of the world's non-literate adults are women, which is the striking illustration of gender discrimination. The gender disparity in literacy and demography has been a regular observation in all the Census periods from 1951 to 2011. For the better study, the tabular depiction of literacy rate has been showed in Table-cum-Fig-1. A statistics from UN Department of Economics and Social Affairs revealed that, in February-2012, Indian girls between the age group of 1-5 years were 75% more likely to die than boys. The females through the world continue to be denied their rights in terms of access as well as progress in learning. Various statistics implied that the overall representation of women in the field of education is very poor. For years back, India has adopted various policies and plans aiming to promote academic attainment of the girls by reducing the social

gaps in literacy. But the rate of success is not so satisfactory. High dropout rates, low enrolment, high rate of illiteracy and poor academic performance are key in case of females. The investigator highlighted that, current female unrest is not merely the problem of socio-economic backwardness but it also owes its origin to certain other deep rooted psychological reasons which ought to be taken into account. The negative parental attitudes and gender discrimination attitudes are vital psychological factors which may cause such educational backwardness of females. Keeping these in view, the investigator aimed to find out the impact of the parental gender discrimination attitudes towards education of the children.

For better perception of the gender disparity in literacy, the graph has been drawn in fig.-1.

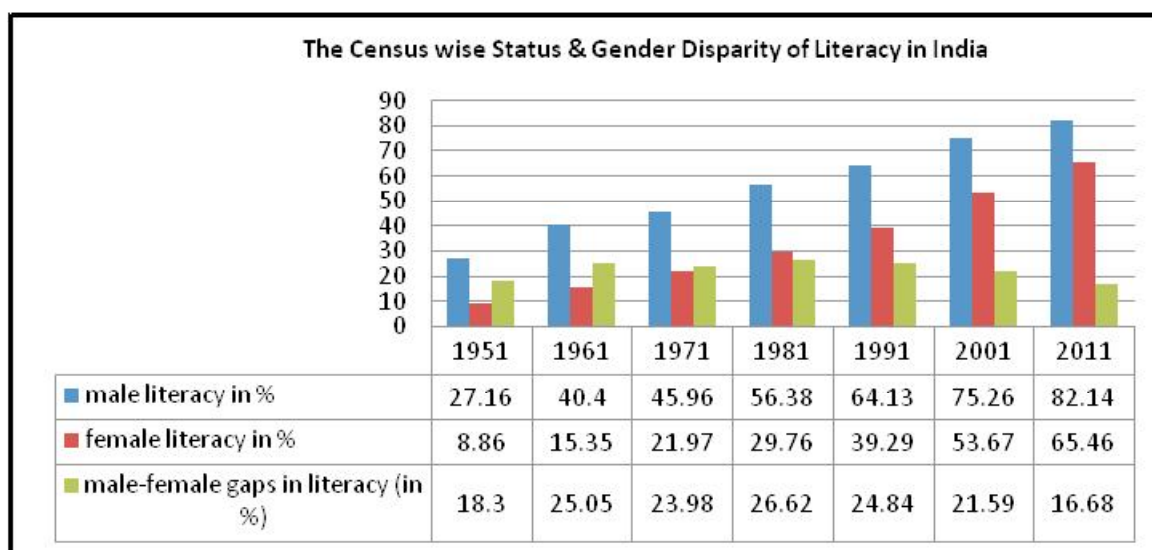


Fig.-cum-table-1: Showing the Status and Male-Female Disparity rate of Literacy in India

The literacy status depicting in Fig.-cum-table-1 revealed that, in all the Census periods the females were more backward than males. For the period of 1981-Census the gender disparity in literacy was very high i.e. 26.62.

Objectives: The objectives of the study were:

- 1.To find out the gender discrimination attitudes of parents in education.
- 2.To investigate parents' good will and support in their children's education.
- 3.To suggest some strategies for developing the education of female children.

Population: The parents of the children studying in primary schools in Doars area of West Bengal are considered as population for the study.

Sample: The subjects included in the sample were found in two districts of West Bengal i.e. Darzeeling and Jalpaiguri. 82 (N = 82) parents also were included in the sample and for the study the purposive sample technique was employed. Among the 82 (N = 82) parents, 49 parents are found having both male & female children, 17 parents having only single male child or single gender child, 13 parents with only single girl child or single gender, 2 with single gender but many male and 1 with single gender but many female children of parents were studied.

Tools: An attitude scale consisting of 11 statements was prepared where responses were invited in such a way that the gender preferences might be judged.

Method: The method of the investigation was confined to a descriptive and analytical approach.

Data Analysis: To know the attitude of the parents towards boys and girls, frequency, critical ratio and percentage of the data collected were found out.

Analysis of the Data:

1. Proportions of Parents with satisfaction of their boys and girls children:

Parents (having children of male/female/both)	% of parents Fully Satisfied With		
	Male Child	Female Child	Both
Parents having both Male & Female Children	49	13	38
Parents having only Male child.	93		
Parents having only Female child.		57	

The percentage of Parents having children of both gender reported to be more satisfied with male child was 49 where only 13 % parents reported as satisfied with their female child and only 38% were happy with both boys & girls. The 93% parents were having only male child were happy where as 57% having only female child were satisfied.

2. Parents' consideration on children's educational level: (in Percentage)

In case of	Only primary	Secondary	Only U.G.	Only P.G.	More than P.G.
Male Child	02	23	32	26	17
Female Child	14	37	35	11	03
Both for Male & Female Children.	2	43	22	22	11

The gender consideration in case of providing the level of education to their children was also found. In each case the parents' preference to boys were found more than girls.

3. Parents' justification on the investment for the education of their children: (in Percentage)

In Case of	Level of Education	More Justified	Unjustified
Male Child	Primary	100	Nil
	Secondary	92	08
	Higher	87	13
Female Child	Primary	99	01
	Secondary	81	19
	Higher	63	37

The cent percent parents considered the investment on primary education for boys whereas 99% made it justified for female child. The proportion of parent's consideration was 87% for boys and

63% for girls in case of providing higher education.

4. Parents' expectation for the return of their investments on their children's Education:

The 66% parents expected it might be return of their investment in case of male children where as in case of female children it was only 21% and 9% reported it might be better return in case of both male & female children. Another 4% did not feel the return of the investment.

5. Parents' consideration about the type of the courses to provide their children:

The 88 % parents wanted for vocational courses in case of boy child and 12% wanted it for girl child. Among 88% parents 31% preferred PG level vocational courses for their boys and this preference was only 5% in case of parents of female children.

6. Parents' consideration to supply sophisticated learning materials to the children:

Maximum parents preferred to provide all types of opportunities and materials for male children than female children.

7. Parents' opinion on children's private tutors for better performance:

The 81 % parents are ready to provide private tutors for boys whereas only 15% parents supported for providing private tutors for their girl children and 4% parents are against the private tuition.

8. Parents' preferences regarding occupations for children:

Choice of Occupation	Farm labor	Teaching	Doctor	Engineering	Civil services	Others
For Boys	3%	29%	11%	15%	29%	13%
For Girls	2%	53%	6%	8%	15%	16%

The maximum Parents preferred teaching profession for their girls but in case of boys their choice was varied.

9. Parents' preferences of work for their children for economic gain:

Most parents wanted their boys to work for economic gain and this percentage was 59%. They reported that young boys should be efficiency in earning for the shake families. It was only 16% in case girls. The remaining reported as the education of their children was for the development of their status and social prestige.

10. Parents' Unwillingness about the places to send their children alone by gender:

Not allowed	
For Boys	For Girls
Cinema, Restaurant, Video game shops, etc.	Market, Cinema, Hotel, Restaurants, Friends' house, Long Tours, Open places, Distance Coaching Centers, Neighbors' house, etc.

