

GIRLS' EDUCATION FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT:

Girls` Education in India has been a need of the hour, as education is a Foundation stone for the Empowerment of woman. Educating girl is one of the best investments Her family, community and country can make. We know that the quality of education which can Be life changing for girls, boys, young men and women and helping them to develop their full Potential and putting them on a path for success in their life. We also know that educating Girls Can break cycles of poverty. More educated girls means marry later, have healthier children, earn More money, take decisions and play more active roles in leading their communities and countries. But girls in India face barriers to education that boys do not. The present paper is an attempt to analyze the barriers of Girl`s education, the gender gap in secondary enrollment or learning and What should we do them to accelerate progress on their education and through education Empowering them. This study is based on mainly secondary sources of data from different Government Reports, research Articles, journals and another sources. The study also discusses the Playing role of the Government and NGOs for changing the educational prospects of girls and Empowered them.

KEYWORDS: Education, Foundation Stone, Investment, women Empowerment, Community, Marry, Barriers, Prospects, NGO`s.

INTRODUCTION

Education is the mirror of modern society. It is inevitable truth that “Higher the education facility, better the literacy rate and lesser the education facility, lower the literacy rate.”The Government Policy –“literacy for all” has always enlightened the human beings in our present society. It is one of the most important parts to measure Human Development Index (HDI) at international, national and regional levels. Education does not only mean literacy but also transfer of knowledge to improve communication skills, and capability to improve their

environment .To make elementary education compulsory the 86th Amendment of the constitution in the year 2002 made provision of the Article 21-A“The state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the state may, by law, determine and its consequential legislation (RTE Act, 2009).” Literacy for all means all boys and girls. But in reality girls in India are faces lots of problem or difficulties to continue or fulfill their education. This is the world- wide problem. Over the last 25 years there has been a large gain in girls’ education but lack of quality education with comparison of boys. Where there certainly are places where boys are behind but we have focused on understanding where and how girls’ behind in West Bengal. There is prominent in gender gap in literacy which is the main impediment for the advancement of socio-economic progress of any nation.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

“If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a family (Nation).”-----

Dr. James Kwegyir Aggrey

Girls’ education is necessary for making the homes a happy place. Home is a miniature of society and society makes nation. They can share the burden of men in the different walk of life. When girls’ are well educated, not forced to marry during childhood, they will be able to serve their society as writers, educators, teachers, lawyers, doctors, administrators, politicians, scientists and much more. They can work at banks, hospitals, government offices and large business. They can play an important role during war. Education is boon to girls’ in this age of economic crisis. After marriage they can add to the income of their husbands. If a woman is educated, she can earn a living after the death of her husband. A man’s life blossom he is blessed with well-educated women as wife and mother. Educated girls can brighten the future of their country by the good upbringing of their children. Education gives a woman freedom of thought. It boardens her outlook and makes her aware of her duties and responsibilities. Education empowers a grown up girl to become economically independent. They will be able to stand up for their rights. Empowerment of Girls and women is necessary to fight against the problem of gender in equality.

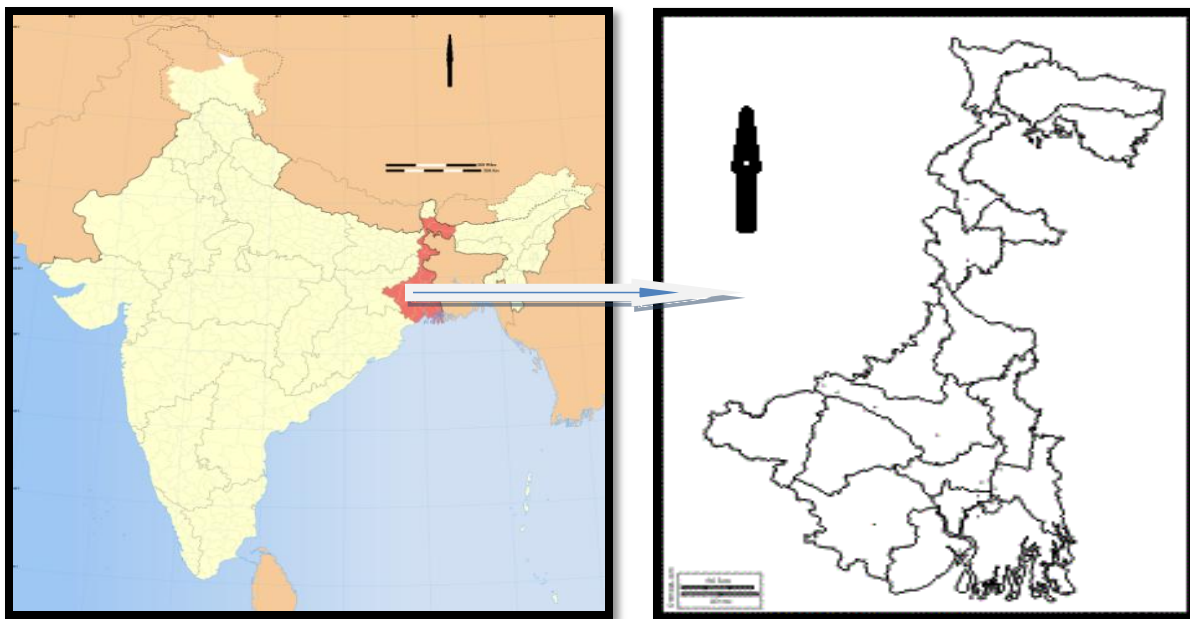
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To find out needs of girls education.
- Investigate about facing problems of girls education
- To examine the gender gap in literacy and rank correlation between literacy and gender gap.

- To show how women education related with women empowerment and socio-economic development with the help of theoretical model and developmental frame work.
- To suggest some solutions and playing role of Government

LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

West Bengal is an Indian state, Located in east India. It is India`s fourth most populous state. It has an area of 88,752 km². It borders Bangladesh in the East and Nepal and Bhutan in the north. It also has borders five Indian states, Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim and Assam .The geography of West Bengal includes the Darjeeling Himalayan hill region in its extreme north, the Ganges Delta, the Rarh region and the coastal Sundarbans. West Bengal divided into 19 districts, previously but now 23 districts. Total population is 91276115 person (male=46809027, female=44467088) according to 2011 census and and literacy rate is 76.26% (female literacy rate is 70.54 %). It lies between 85°50` longitude to 89°50` East longitudes and 21° 38` to 27°10` North latitude.



STUDY AREA MAP: WEST BENGAL

DATA USED AND METHODOLOGY:

The study has been made based on Secondary sources of data, collected from District Statistical Handbook 2014, School Education Department, Kolkata 2009-2010 and Census of India 2011. Various Statistical techniques have been evolve to analyze and acquire the accuracy of the data with the help of Spearman`s Rank Correlation Method and Calculate Gender Gap in literacy to draw out the situation of Girls `Education in West Bengal.

HYPOTHESIS FORMULATION:

A number of hypotheses will be formulated and tested to present this paper. Some of them are as follows:

- ❖ Present condition and needs of Girl`s education
- ❖ Real problems of Girl`s education
- ❖ Female literacy and Gender gap are interrelated with women empowerment.
- ❖ Theoretical model and Development framework are related with women education, women empowerment and socio-economic development.

PROBLEMS OF GIRLS` EDUCATION

- Poverty: one-fourth of India`s population lives below the poverty line
- Social values and Parental preference
- Various domestic responsibilities at Early stage
- Early marriage and teen pregnancy
- Inadequate school facilities
- School related violence(Mala Yusufazai`s incident in Pakistan)
- Shortage of female teachers
- And Gender bias in curriculum.

NEEDS OF GIRLS` EDUCATION

Girls Education is like sowing the seed which gives rise to green, cheerful and full grown family plant. It is said that if we educate a man, we educate a man only, but if we educate a woman we educate the whole family (Nation). Needs of Girls `education are presented below-

- ➔ Educated future generations
- ➔ Decrease infant mortality
- ➔ Decrease maternal mortality
- ➔ Decrease child marriage
- ➔ Decrease population explosion
- ➔ Increase involvement in political process
- ➔ Decrease domestic and sexual violence

➤ Improve socio economic (Empowerment of women) condition and help to close gender gap.

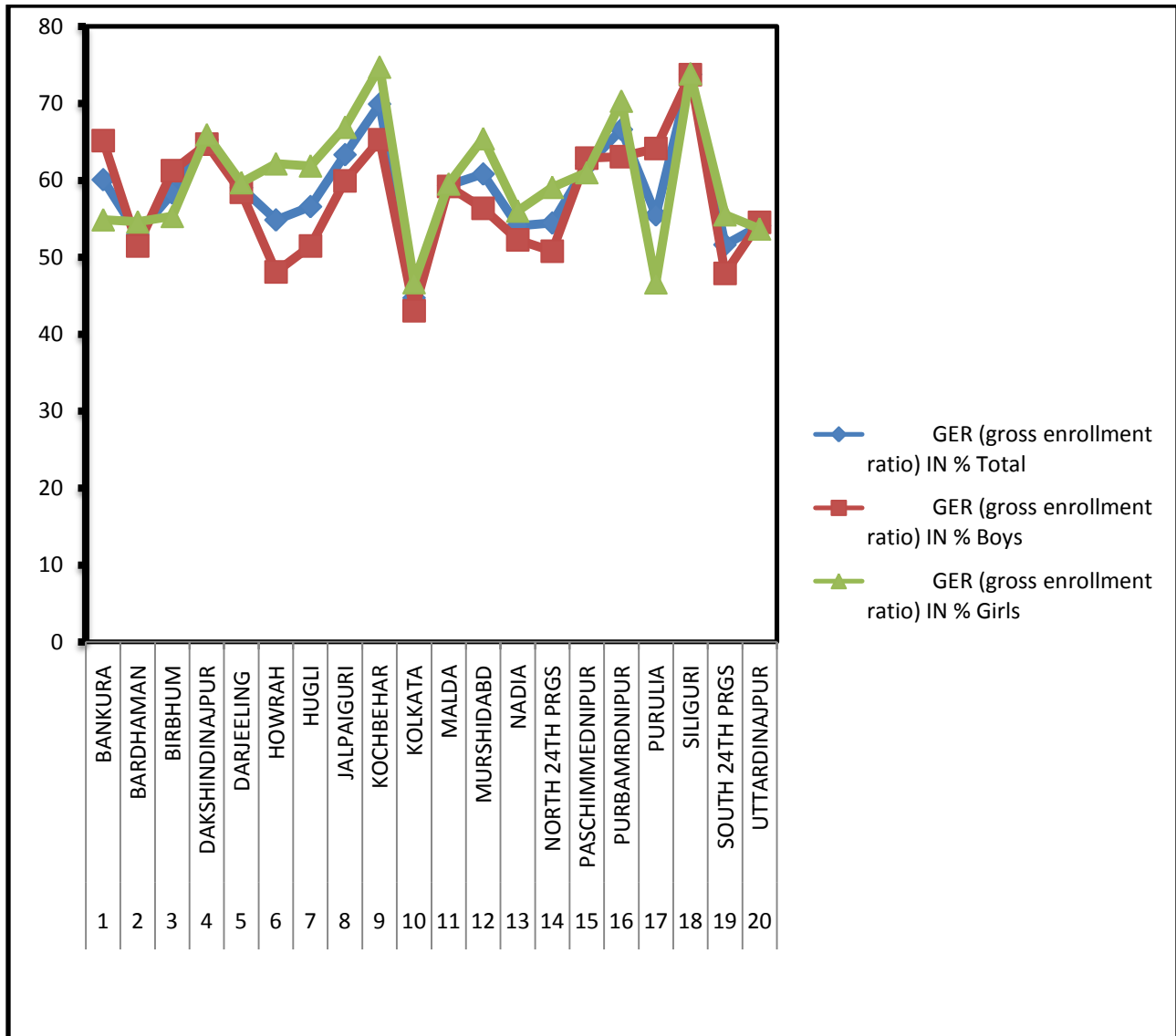
DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Table: 1
Secondary education enrollment in the districts of West Bengal

Sl no.	District	GER (gross enrollment ratio) IN %		
		Total	Boys	Girls
1	BANKURA	60.09	65.16	54.87
2	BARDHAMAN	52.99	51.49	54.59
3	BIRBHUM	58.33	61.26	55.31
4	DAKSHINDINAJPUR	65.31	64.71	65.92
5	DARJEELING	59.06	58.43	59.69
6	HOWRAH	54.86	48.10	62.14
7	HUGLI	56.59	51.48	61.87
8	JALPAIGURI	63.34	59.91	66.89
9	KOCHBEHAR	69.92	65.28	74.71
10	KOLKATA	44.73	43.06	46.70
11	MALDA	59.36	59.20	59.52
12	MURSHIDABD	60.83	56.37	65.41
13	NADIA	54.11	52.28	56.00
14	NORTH 24 TH PRGS	54.46	50.8	59.09
15	PASCHIMMEDNIPUR	61.95	62.89	61.00
16	PURBAMRDNIPUR	66.62	63.08	70.29
17	PURULIA	55.51	64.12	46.68
18	SILIGURI	73.78	73.72	73.85
19	SOUTH 24 TH PRGS	51.64	47.92	55.52
20	UTTARDINAJPUR	54.11	54.53	53.68

SOURCE: SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, KOLKATA (2009-10)

FIG: 1
SECONDARY EDUCATION ENROLLMENT IN THE DISTRICTS OF WESTBENGAL



- In this line graph we see that in some districts girls enrollment is larger than boys (Howrah, Hooghly, Jalpaiguri, Kochbehar, Murshidabad, South 24th Porganas).
- In some districts boy's enrollment is higher than girls (Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, and Uttar Dinajpur).
- There is a hope but enrollment does not mean quality of education.

TABLE: 2
LITERACY RATE AND GENDER GAP IN WEST BENGAL BY DISTRICT

DISTRICT	2014			
	MALE LITERACY	FEMALE LITERACY	TOTAL LITERACY RATE IN %	GENDER GAP
BURDWAN	82.42	69.63	76.21	12.79
BIRBHUM	76.92	64.14	70.68	6.78
BANKURA	80.05	60.05	70.26	15.91
PURBA MEDINIPUR	92.32	81.37	87.02	10.95
PSCHIM MEDINIPUR	85.26	70.50	78.00	14.76
HOWRAH	86.95	79.43	83.30	7.52
HOOGLY	87.03	76.36	81.80	10.67
24-PARGANAS(N)	87.60	80.34	84.06	7.26
24-PARGANAS(S)	83.35	71.40	77.51	11.95
KOLKATA	88.34	84.06	86.31	4.28
NADIA	78.75	70.98	74.97	7.77
MURSHIDABAD	69.95	63.09	66.59	6.86
UTTAR DINAJPUR	65.52	52.17	59.07	13.35
DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	78.37	67.01	72.82	11.36
MALDA	66.24	56.96	61.73	9.28
JALPAIGURI	79.95	66.23	73.25	13.72
DARJEELING	85.61	73.33	79.56	12.28
COOCH BEHAR	80.71	68.49	74.78	12.22
PURULIA	77.86	50.52	64.48	27.34
WEST BENGAL	81.69	70.54	76.26	11.15

SOURCE: STATE STATISTICAL HANDBOOK 2014

TABLE: 3
RANK CORRELATION BETWEEN LITERACY AND GENDER GAP ACROSS THE DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL

DISTRICTS	2014			
	RANK IN LITERACY(X)	RANK IN GENDER GAP(Y)	d=RANK DIFFERENCE (X-Y)	$d^2 = (x-y)^2$
BURDWAN	10	6	4	16
BIRBHUM	15	18	-3	9
BANKURA	16	2	14	196
PURBA MEDINIPUR	1	11	-10	100
PASCHIM MEDINIPUR	8	3	5	25
HOWRAH	4	15	-11	121
HOOGLY	5	12	-7	49
24-PARGANAS(N)	3	16	-13	169
24-PARGANAS(S)	9	9	0	0
KOLKATA	2	19	-17	289
NADIA	11	14	-3	9
MURSHIDABAD	17	17	0	0
UTTARDINAJPUR	19	5	14	196
DAKSHINDINAJPUR	14	10	4	16
MALDA	6	13	-7	49
JALPAIGURI	13	4	9	81
DARJEELING	7	7	0	0
COOCH BEHAR	12	8	4	16
PURULIA	18	1	17	289
Total				$\Sigma d^2 = 1630$

SOURCE: AUTHORS OWN CALCULATION

SPEARMAN'S RANK CORRELATION METHOD

According to Spearman's Rank correlation coefficient-

$$R_{+} = 1 - \frac{6 \sum d^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

where, R= Rank correlation of coefficient.

$d^2 = \text{sum}$ of the squares of the differences of two ranks

n= No. of observations.

$$\text{Therefore, } R_{+} = 1 - \frac{9780}{6840}$$

$$1 - 1.42 = -0.42 \text{ (Negative correlation)}$$

As per census of India, it is seen that the proportion of male literate in the state West Bengal is comparatively higher than the female literate (Table. 2). Among the 19th districts of west Bengal Purulia recorded highest gender gap in literacy with 27.34 % while Kolkata has lowest gender gap with 4.28 % (Table. 3). Finally the result comes out from above calculation that rank correlation between literacy and gender gap is negative.

GOVERNMENT STEPS TOWARDS GIRLS EDUCATION

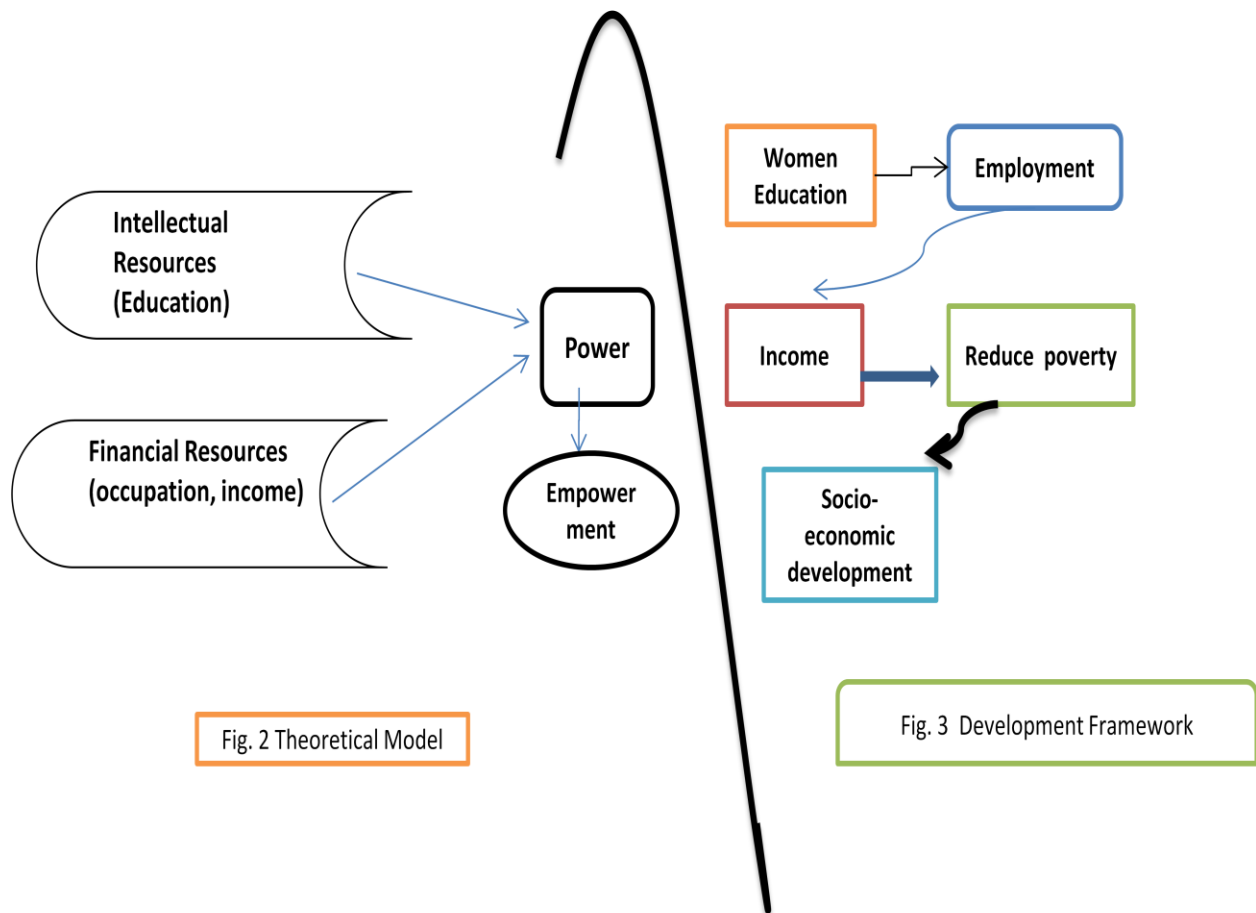
- Government has initiated various programmes and policies to ensure that a girl does not miss out any opportunity of getting education.
- In the year 1964 the education commission was set up, which largely talked about focusing on educating the girl child.
- The government has provided free and compulsory education in the age group of 6-14 years. The undertaking is more widely known as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and RTE Act. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Bahaman (infrastructure for girl's hostel for secondary education).
- Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya(KGVB)
- National Programme for education of girls at elementary level(NPEGEL)
- Mid day meal schemes.
- NPA—National plan of action for women 1976, Another NPA for Girl Child (1991-2000).
- SABLA Rajiv Gandhi scheme for empowerment of Adolescent Girls.

- Sakshar Bharat mission for female literacy launched in 2008.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment means giving power and authority and women empowerment mean giving power and authority to the women. The process of empowerment requires control over material and intellectual recourses, gaining decisions, making authority and reduction of gender inequality. This requires that women must recognize their strategic needs, their social position and understand how coercive it is. Thus reduce violence in women and make them gain more influence over decision making.

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND SOCIO- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION WITH WOMEN EDUCATION



SUGGESTIONS

- Give girls a strong foundation through Early childhood development programme(ECD)
- Focuses on Basic Education(primary education)
- Helping girls to grow job-relevant skills
- Focuses on some women centric subject like Nutrition, Women's studies , Home science
- Create school environment healthy and safety
- Create career counseling programme in school environment especially for Girls.
- Creates an encourageable environment at home
- Some Government scheme to Encourage Girls student (like W.B government kanyasree prokolpo)
- And we should understand that they are born not only for maintaining home.... Education is their right...so we should change our thought and educating them properly where ever possible.

CONCLUSION

Only a handful of people have actually realized the importance of educating a girl. Educated girls can brighten the future of their country by the good upbringing of their children. Education gives her freedom of thought. It broadens her outlook and makes her aware of her duties and responsibilities. The progress of country depends on Girls Education, so it should be encouraged.

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