

## **Status of Women Education in Tamilnadu**

**Ms. S. Seetha**

*Assistant Professor,  
Department of Commerce JP College of Arts and Science, Tenkasi*

**Dr. R. Sri Andal Esakkirani**

*Assistant Professor,  
Department of Commerce, Sri Parasakthi College for women, Courtallam*

### **Introduction**

Education is important for every individual living on this earth, but it is more significant for women. Educating girls is not only important because it gives them an opportunity to earn but the most important reason of educating women is because they are the one who develop the whole family. No doubt, an educated woman can support her family in managing the budget as well as helping them save some money for future. Therefore young girls should always be given every opportunity to gain proper education. According to the International Conference on Population and development Programme of Action, paragraph 4.2 "Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process."<sup>1</sup>

In today's world we are facing so many changes within seconds that it is becoming difficult to cope with this fast moving world. To avoid the generation gap between mother and her kids, education is very important. If a mother is not aware of the technological advancements and the new terminologies etc she won't be able to guide her kids properly. Also this is important for her self grooming. Thus education of a woman opens up the new horizons, broadens her thinking, develops new ideas and hopes, enhances knowledge and skills, provides the courage to meet the challenges of life and give freedom of expressions.

### **Higher Education in India**

India's higher education system is the third largest in the world, after China and the United States.

- i. There were only 20 Universities and 500 colleges at the time of independence.
- ii. At present

415	Universities
251	State Universities
24	Central Universities
103	Deemed Universities
33	Institutes of National Importance
20677	Colleges
2166	Women Colleges
116.13	Lakhs Students
15.03	Lakhs Students in Universities
101.10	Lakhs Students in Colleges
47.09	Lakhs Women Students
18730	Doctorate Holders
5.05	Lakhs Teachers

### **Importance of Women's Education in India**

Women's education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources, but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl children, but also can provide better guidance to all their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of the population.

**Characteristics of Empowered women’s**

The empowered women share the following characteristics.<sup>2</sup>

- i. Empowered women define their attitudes, values, and behaviour in relation to their own real interest. They have autonomy because they claim their freedom from existing male hierarchies.
- ii. Empowered women maintain equal-mindedness, rather than act out roles that merely confront and challenge male dominance. Empowered women do not aim at being superior to men. They respond as equals and co-operate in order to work towards the common good.
- iii. Empowered women use their talents to live fulfilling lives. They maintain their strength in the presence of pressures of family, religion, and work, and they contribute towards the empowerment of all women.
- iv. Empowered women define their values and formulate their beliefs themselves. They strengthen themselves through other women’s support and sustain their own moral visions. Their actions flow from their own distinctive ideals.
- v. Empowered women can be found in all social groups and all societies. However, the optional conditions for empowered women are both individual and social.

**Obstacles of Women Education**

Gender discrimination still persists in India and lot more needs to be done in the field of women's education in India. The gap in the male-female literacy rate is just a simple indicator. While the male literary rate is more than 75% according to the 2001 census, the female literacy rate is just 54.16%. Prevailing prejudices, low enrollment of girl child in the schools, engagements of girl children in domestic works and high drop out rate are major obstacles in the path of making all Indian women educated.

**Literacy Rate – India versus Tamil Nadu**

The Table 1 shows that literacy rate trend – India vs. Tamil Nadu during the year 1901 to 2001.

**Table – 1**  
**Literacy Rate Trend - India versus Tamil Nadu (1901 to 2001)**

Year	All India Literacy			Tamil Nadu Literacy		
	Male(%)	Female(%)	Person(%)	Male(%)	Female(%)	Person(%)
1901	9.80	0.60	5.30	14.10	1.00	7.60
1911	10.60	1.10	5.90	17.10	1.50	9.20
1921	12.20	1.80	7.20	18.60	2.40	10.40
1931	15.60	2.90	9.50	20.00	2.90	11.30
1941	24.90	7.30	16.10	25.60	6.90	16.20
1951	27.16	8.86	18.33	31.70	10.10	20.80
1961	40.40	15.34	28.31	51.59	21.06	36.39
1971	45.95	21.97	34.45	59.54	30.92	45.40
1981	56.37	29.75	43.56	68.05	40.43	54.39
1991	64.13	39.29	52.21	73.05	51.33	62.66
2001	79.56	54.28	65.38	82.33	64.55	73.47

**Source:** Census of India 2001

Table 1 reveals that female literacy rate in India is registering 0.60 Per cent in 1901 and it is increased 54.28 Per cent in the year 2001. It is also clear that female literacy rate in Tamil Nadu is only 1.00 Per cent in the year 1901 and it is increased 64.55 Per cent in the year 2001. Compare to India and Tamil Nadu, female literacy rate in Tamil Nadu is top position in all years except 1931 and 1941.

**Districts – wise Literacy Rate in Tamil Nadu**

The Table-2 shows that districts wise performance on literacy rate in Tamil Nadu during year 2001.

**Table - 2**  
**Districts performance on Literacy Rate in Tamil Nadu for the year 2001**

District Name		Literacy Rate		
		Person(%)	Male(%)	Female(%)
<b>STATE Average</b>		<b>73.47</b>	<b>82.33</b>	<b>64.55</b>
1	Kanniyakumari	88.11	90.88	85.38
2	Thoothukudi	81.96	88.66	75.64
3	Chennai	80.14	84.71	75.32
4	The Nilgiris	81.44	89.63	73.39
5	Tiruchirapalli	79.16	87.16	71.19
6	Kancheepuram	77.61	84.82	70.21
7	Madurai	78.65	87.24	69.93
8	Coimbatore	76.95	83.82	69.80
9	Tirunelveli	76.97	85.89	68.50
10	Thiruvarur	76.90	85.59	68.36
11	Nagapattinam	76.89	85.61	68.35
12	Thiruvallur	76.54	84.62	68.23
13	Thanjavur	76.07	85.45	66.95
14	Virudhunagar	74.23	84.56	64.09
15	Ramanathapuram	73.05	82.96	63.55
16	Vellore	73.07	82.67	63.53
17	Sivagangai	72.66	83.70	62.12
18	Theni	72.01	82.50	61.41
19	Pudukkottai	71.96	83.22	60.94
20	Cuddalore	71.85	82.76	60.85
21	Dindigul	69.83	80.29	59.30
22	Karur	68.74	80.42	57.30
23	Nammakkal	67.66	78.02	57.04
24	Tiruvannamalai	68.22	80.14	56.31
25	Salem	65.72	75.25	55.61
26	Erode	65.51	75.49	55.26
27	Perambalur	65.88	77.68	54.26
28	Villupuram	64.68	76.02	53.16
29	Dharmapuri	59.23	68.82	49.10

Source: <http://www.tn.gov.in>

Table 2 inferred that out of 29 districts in Tamil Nadu, Kanyakumari District is occupies number one position registering 85.38 per cent followed by Thoothukudi stood at 75.64 per cent and Chennai is 75.39 per cent. The least female literacy rate was goes to Dharmapuri District registering 49.10 per cent.

**Women Education in Tamilnadu- Success and Failure**

The Tamil Nadu is one among the leading state in the development of women education in the country. It has various success and failure in this front. They are

**Success**

- i. Women are strongly motivated to succeed in the education stream.
- ii. The merit basis of the education system permits females to excel.
- iii. Prejudice against women’s education has been reduced. Higher Education has come to be considered equivalent to a bride’s "dowry".
- iv. Women’s universities promote women’s Higher Education.
- v. Women’s expectations for education based employment are high.

- vi. Some Higher Education courses provide scholarship facilities for women.
- vii. Female students have been provided with residential facilities in some areas.

#### **Failure**

- i. Female students have difficulties in access to transport facilities in general.
- ii. Sexual harassment as well as occasional student violence hinder female students completion of higher education.
- iii. Marriage in many cases leads to early withdraw.
- iv. Gender stereotyping inhibits completion of studies.
- v. Financial constraints can cause withdrawal from the education stream.
- vi. Part-time work to earn living interferes with studies.

#### **Conclusion**

Educating a woman is actually providing her with a weapon to live up her customary part, fight with the challenges and bring positive change in her life. It is said that no nation can be a great nation unless and until they have educated and healthy mothers. Therefore it is utmost important to educate a woman because being a mother she is the one who will decide how the future generations will be. The future of a nation is dependent on well-groomed mothers.

#### **Reference**

- [1]. <http://women.writearticles.org>
- [2]. Hall, C.M. (1992), *Women and Empowerment*, London: Hemisphere Publishing Corporation.
- [3]. [http://www.indianetzone.com/38/higher\\_education\\_women\\_india.htm](http://www.indianetzone.com/38/higher_education_women_india.htm)
- [4]. [www.tn.gov.in](http://www.tn.gov.in)
- [5]. [www.censusindia.gov.in](http://www.censusindia.gov.in)
- [6]. [www.education.nic.in](http://www.education.nic.in)