



## MALALA MOVEMENT: IMPACT ON INDIAN GIRL'S EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

Education plays vital role in society. If it is related to women, it matters. Education related to status of women. In India female suffers from so many reasons. Dowry, child marriage, devdasi, sati pratha, widow, purdah, system, illiteracy, gender discrimination, killing of female infancy, rapes etc.

From ancient period women is secondary. She is always dependent on males. At the child age on father, young age on husband and at the time of old age on son. Our country approaching to technological development, India is using lots of modern techniques. There is a drastic change in scientific development. Majority of our country's population is staying in rural area. There are lots of villages in India where there is no development. The orthodox thinking and lots of superstition have impact on them. There is gender wise discrimination between male and female. Discussing the women problems, she is still secondary. We reached successfully on Mars but male mentality is not changed towards female. There should be lots of changes related to female which must be focused. If we want female to be developed, she should be educated. If she is educated, automatically the problems related to her will be reduced.

Malala Yousafzai, a teenage Pakistani girl is fighting for girl's education even after assassinated by Taliban. If woman is educated whole society will develop.

**Key words:** education, women, development, society

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The present research paper is based on the importance of girl's education in society. India is known for its divine culture and traditions in the world. As well as gender wise discrimination plays vital role in India. In this developed era, the girls are keeping far from education still in some part of India.

There are lots of ups and downs in the position and identity of women in India. India is facing many problems related to female, likewise killing of female infancy, rapes, early marriages, insecurity, divorce, gender wise violence, illiteracy...etc

India is approaching to technological development; India is using lots of modern techniques. There is a drastic change in scientific development. Our former President, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam has seen the dream of India fully developed in 2020. Youth is the power of future development of the country. The path is turning towards that but every coin has two sides. The same is here. Is rural India is developing? Surely not. Majority of Indian population is residing in rural area. There are lots of villages in India where there is no development. The orthodox thinking and lots of superstitions have strong impact on them. There is gender wise

discrimination between male and female. Discussing the women problems, she is still secondary. India reached successfully on Mars few days ago but male mentality is not changed towards female. There should be lots of changes related to female which must be focused. If female to be developed, she should be educated. If she is educated, automatically the problems related to her will be reduced.

Women, in ancient India got the equal status in society like men. Even they got good education in Vedic era. In Purana's, women have rights to choose her own husband. That much freedom she got from her families. But after some years of Puranas, freedom of women restricted. Indian women never have liberty for anything or they don't have any equal status. They are tortured by men and families if she give birth to female child as if she is the only responsible person for that. Even after taking the whole and sole care of her family, she is not allowed to express her opinions to outside matters and domestic affairs. Every religion has different restrictions to women. Jauhar is practiced by Rajput's, Purdah brought by Muslims, and Hindu's brought Sati pratha. In earlier time, there were different compartments for females. They were not allowed to come in front of males.

Time changes, India got freedom before 69 years. India had lots of brave women like Vijayalaxmi Pandit, Sarojini Naidu, Mother Teresa, Kalpana Chawala who worked and devoted for country and PT Usha, Kiran Bedi, Sanghmitra Bandopadhya, Sudha Murthi, Sonia Gandhi, Saniya Mirza etc. are working for India hand to hand with males. Recently two females got medals in Olympic sports. We are proud for them, but these are very few in number. There is rise in women reformers. They start to fight for females rights, their education etc. The blooming of different female writer's arises. Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Kashmira Sheth, Bharati Mukherji, Namita Gokhale etc. They write about the different real life issues of women in their works. The main reason behind this devaluation is illiteracy of females. Many parents of girls are still uneducated. Girls from rural areas want to get education but gender becomes the obstacle between them and education. Only because they

are girls, they are not allowed to go outside to take education.

The story is quite similar like Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani teenage girl. The world awakened on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 when Taliban attacked this teenage girl. She was opposed by Taliban's for getting education. She was taking education and further wanted to become a doctor. She was a girl of fifteen years only when she got hitted by Taliban guns. Malala is from a very small village from Swat valley, Mingora in Pakistan. She was having very strong desire to learn, to go to school but only because of Taliban, all the girls from Swat Valley could not get education. So, she revolted against Taliban. She decided to do something for girl's education and she forced girls to go to school. She openly crossed Taliban, only for the purpose of girl's education and for that reason Taliban decided to kill her. Malala only wanted to go to school nothing else. While envisioning a confrontation with Taliban, she said:

....I think of it often and imagine the scene clearly. Even if they come to kill me, I will tell them what they are trying to do is wrong, that education is our basic right. (Web article)

On 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, she was hit by a masked gunman, also her two school friends were wounded in that attack. The assassination news spread all over the world. It burst with anger and sympathy toward this teenage girl. Later on, Malala got treatment in U.K. and got different awards in honor from different parts of the countries all over the world. She keeps continuing her education movement and says:

let us pick our books and our pens. They are our most powerful weapons. One child, One Teacher, One book and one pen...Can change the world. (149)

Malala addresses United Nations Youth. Malala, at the Girl Summit in London says:

Traditions are not sent from heaven, they are not sent from God. It is we who make cultures and we have the right to change it and we should change it. (Web article)

Malala has written her own experiences in the book- *I am Malala: The story of the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban*. The

book is about her bravery, fearlessness and passion for education.

This incident also got strike in India. The position of Indian girl's education is not different in rural part of India. In India, we don't have Taliban militant that they stop the girl's education. Then why girls are restricted to take education in some part of India? Even after the 69 years of freedom, India's female literacy rate is one of the lowest in Asia, even Indian government signed contract to education to all. But that is not 100% fulfilled. In 1991, less than 40 percent of the 330 million women aged 7 and over were literate, which means today there are over 200 million illiterate women in India.

India still has the orthodox thinking towards women. The women are only for household works. What she will do after education .She always becomes a burden to her family till her marriage .Once the marriage is done, the family feel relax. Due to this reason child marriages started. The same mentality of people are in some part of India like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and some aadivasi areas...etc. They are thinking it is wastage of money to spend on girl's education. Indian society and community is not serious about girl's education. Low literacy rate of female leads to early marriages. It affects their lives, their families and automatically reflects the economic development of country. Illiterate women may lack in health and knowledge to run household things properly. If a woman is educated, naturally her family's health becomes healthy.

Many girls are not attending schools because of long distance. Lack of safety, to do household work, to take care of sibling's .Considering this situation, at one side the world is inspired by Malala's active movement to education. Every mother, teacher and parents inspire their students and children about the bravery of Malala and education. Malala is the education icon for the girls who want to be educated. The movement "I am Malala" started in every country.

NDTV's group editor Barkha Datt took Malala's interview. NDTV was the first Indian channel to take Malala's interview. Malala shared her thoughts about girl's education, rights of

women...etc. She motivated Indians and especially girls for education and their rights. She requested parents to send their daughters to schools. She requested girls to take benefit of education. She further said:

A woman is powerful but when she gets education she becomes more powerful. And the terrorist do not want women to take part in the society, in the development of society. They think that the only job of women is to cook food, to serve the family, to give birth to children, to feed them. It's her only job according to their laws and beliefs. But in my opinion and the truth is that, women have equal rights as men. And women are very important for the development of a society. If you think about development in the world and if you see that, half of the population-women---are not given opportunities to go forward in their lives, this world is never going to succeed. If you want to succeed, if you want prosperity of the country, you must give space to women to their talent and work. Because there is no difference between a man and a woman. We should not be judged by our physical features---if we do not have a muscular body, it does not mean we are less powerful. We are powerful, we can do anything. We have skills. The best thing we women can do is give birth to a new life .Can men do it? Not at all. And that is evidence of the power of women. (Web interview)

Malala is the recipient of many awards for her bravery and fight for girl's education. India's first honor to Malala is from Karnataka. United Nations declared the 'Malala Award' on her birthday 12<sup>th</sup> July. This is given for those who worked for girl's education.

United Nations awards two Indians among 7 girls on Malala day. Two Indians were among the seven young girls honored with the UN special Envoy for Global Education's Youth Courage Award for education as part of Malala Day celebrations at the world body .Special awards were given to 7

young girls from around the world for their courage and achievement to promote the cause of girl's education and dignity of women.

Two Indian girls were among them. One is Ashwini, who is visually impaired, a 21 year old girl from Bangaluru and other is Razia, 15 year old girl from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, were awarded with UN special Envoy for Global Education's Youth Courage Award for Education.

Ashwini was awarded because she started fighting for disabled children's right to education. She campaigns for such children and allows them to realize that they are worthy of taking education. When Ashwini was awarded, Malala said, "This should not have been called Malala Day but Ashwini Day. You are an inspiration to the whole world" Malala's words on United Nations Plaza.

Razia Sultana is a former child laborer who stitched footballs at the very early age of her childhood. She struggled a lot to come out from that. Finally succeeded and took the advantage of studying. Many were opposed to her but she passed her 11<sup>th</sup> standard. Presently she is working against child labor and forced these children to go to school and register their names in schools. She becomes a youth icon in Meerut city. She is working with NGO and carried out campaign for child education. 48 children are rescued by Razia from child labor and admitted in school. She is the first Indian teenage girl bestowed with the first United Nations Malala Award for spreading education among child laborers.

From ancient time to modern period status of women is not changed up to the mark especially in rural India. She is always prohibited everywhere. Male dominated society believe that she should be always secondary, should not be given education, should be limited to house boundaries, should not participate in household affairs, If she is educated, she is dominant to male. She is always exploited for education. Malala, a Pakistani girl is fighting for girl's education even after assassinated by Taliban. If woman is educated whole society will develop. Ashwini and Razia from India also fighting for education. Women should be educated in all part of India, and then only she will get her status and country will develop.

To change the scenario of country, 'Education' is the elementary need. Indian government is also motivating for girl's education by providing different facilities for girls. Due to illiteracy; people are unknown about these schemes. Government launches many plans for the education of girl child. Among them **Sukanya Samridhi Account** is launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 for girl's higher education and marriage, **Kanya Saaksharta Protsahan Yojna** for the rural girls education to increase literacy rate in villages by providing some amount of money to the girls. **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Yojna** for promoting the education of girls, as well as the residential facility for girls in different schools. "**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**" is newly launched scheme by government. Rs. 5 crore is made available to reinforce girl's education in selected 100 districts where literacy rate of girls is very poor. To boost up maximum admission of girls in schools, the award of 1 lack rupees will be given to school management.

Like this, many schemes are provided by government for girl's education. Many girls are taking advantage of it but still many are depriving for that. The literacy rate is increasing but not up to the mark. The only whole and sole slogan should be "All girls should be literate."

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