
A Case Study of Literacy Rate of Women in Rural Area: With Special Reference to Bellippady Village of Puttur Taluk

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***Abstract:** Women education has become a policy priority to “Economic Development” in India. Empowering the women by giving education can ultimately result in overall economic growth. Women education in rural area is the integral part of rural development and to the extent 21st century women’s stands unique from the earlier generation women’s in promoting rural development. In this context present paper examines the role of women education in promoting economic development in rural area. This paper tries to explain the level of literacy rate of women, why women education in rural area is not getting more importance? What are the reasons for low literacy rate? we interacted with both educated and uneducated women of Bellipady village of Puttur Taluk, DK District. The study shows that, compared to the olden days now the status of women is improved, many are getting education and they are also supporting their children’s to go for higher education.*

Key Words: *Women Education, Rural Development, Economic Development, Higher Education*

Introduction

India’s Constitution guarantees free primary school education for both boys and girls up to age 14. This goal has been repeatedly reconfirmed, but primary education in India is not universal. According to 2011 census the literacy rate for women in rural area is 57.9% as against 79.1% in urban area. This low level of literacy rate among rural women, not only has a negative impact on women’s lives but also on their families and the country.

Women education

According to Elezebeth M. King and M. Anne Hill “Improving girls’ educational levels has been demonstrated to have clear impacts on the health

and economic future of young women, which in turn improves the prospects of their entire community”

According to Data from Demographic and health Survey-Women with no education have large families of 6-7 children, whereas better education women have family sizes of 1-2 children.

Methodology

Objectives of the study

To find out the literacy rate of women in rural area and reason behind the illiteracy

To understand the reasons for “dropping out” of female children

To examine the socio-economic conditions of women in rural area

To understand the family support to attain education in rural area

To identify the problems of illiterate women in rural area

Need for Education for Rural Women

Numerous studies show that illiterate women have high levels of fertility and mortality, poor nutritional status, low earning potential and little autonomy within the household. A woman’s lack of education also has a negative impact on the health and well-being of her children. For instance, a recent survey in India found out that infant mortality is inversely related to mother’s educational level.

Therefore, there is a need for minimum threshold of education (more than 5 or 6 years) that must be achieved before bringing about significant improvements in female autonomy. Of the literate women in India, 59 percent only have primary education or less. This level of education may not be sufficient to meaningfully improve the status of these women.

In Bellipady village compared to the olden days the scenario of rural women education has changed completely. Though some women are uneducated or less educated they know the importance of education, they support their kids, neighbours, siblings to go to school and have higher education. Most of the children are going to the nearby govt schools. Here they get the govt facilities like free books, free uniform, scholarship, free bags and mid day meal.

But women’s from this particular area both educated / uneducated mainly engaged in private sector like agriculture, beedi rolling and labeling, pickle

preparing, snacks preparing, pineal making etc. and many are house wives. Though some women are educated they are not interested to go out and work.

As per our survey uneducated women of this particular area are interested in adult education. And educated women are ready to teach their uneducated neighbour's and ready to support the adult education programme.

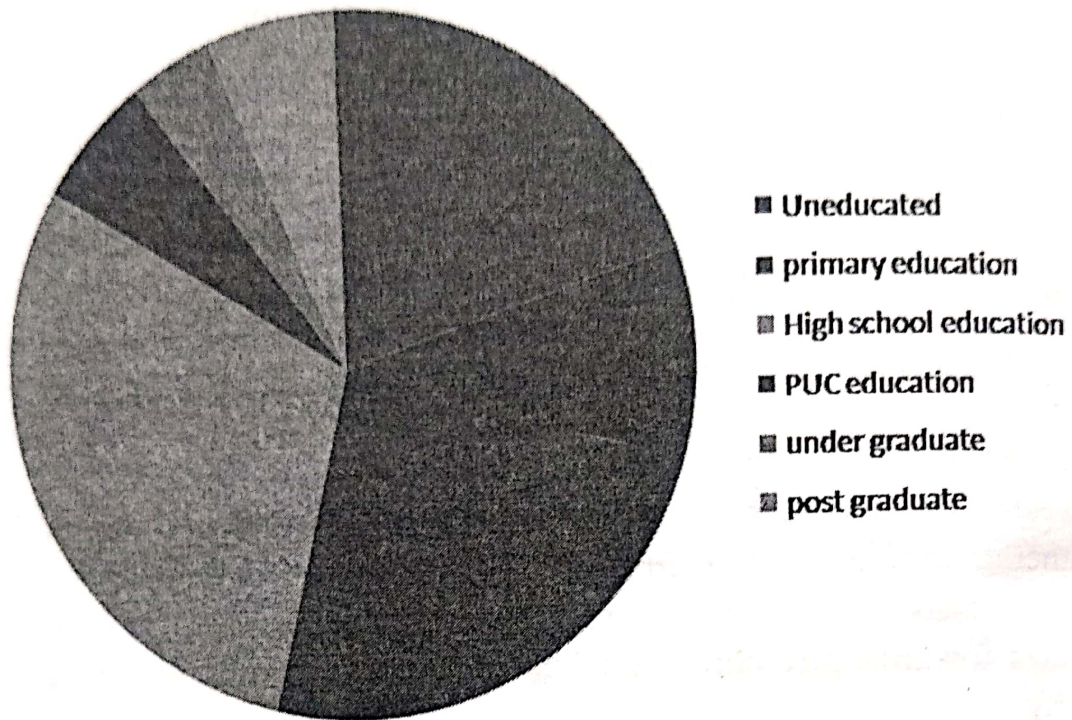
Reasons behind the dropping out of female children

Caste and tradition, financial problems, poor health problems, lack of personal interest, to support their family in agricultural work, though it is agriculture based family, some time parents will be sick and in this case children will be the source of income so they drop the school, death of their parent etc. Another important reason is in olden days families were having never ending debt, and also the society was male dominant where parents had negative attitudes towards girl child and her education, another main reason was poverty.

Problem of illiterate women in rural area

The women's of these area faced several problems like early marriages, dependency on male (father, brother, husband) low wage rate compare to literate women and men, insecure to visit banks, hospitals, government offices etc. Due to their illiteracy they are also suffering from different types of health problems and are not able to get proper health facilities. They are forced to send their children to work (child labour)

In Bellippady 20 percent women are uneducated, 34 percent have primary education, 30 percent women have high school education, 6 percent PUC education, 4 percent under graduates and 3 percent Post Graduates.



Conclusion

Women must be educated for a healthy and happy life. A educated women can be a better human being, successful mother and responsible citizen. Educating the women will be definitely increasing the living standard of both at and outside home. Educated women will be aware of her rights; she can also fight against the social evils. By educating women we can improve a family, our society, and our country as well.

References

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