

**Aims and Ideals of Female Education in Ancient India**

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**Introduction :-**

Education is a lifelong Process. This process develops human beings. All the aspect of human development is possible only through education and training. Women education is seen as a Key to their own development and their impartial means to raise the quality of life of people. In the overall developmental process of country women's education emphasized as an essential foundation of Human Resource Development. According to Census of India, the speed of progress of women education is not so good. The rate of girl's expansion is quite high. But till the progress of female education is not satisfactory. Female literacy rate are scoring at faster rate than any other country. But still there is wider disparity in the literacy man and women. The literacy rate of man is higher than the literacy rate of female from Ancient Period of our Country.

The aims and ideals of female education in Ancient India was narrow. But in the modern society, it is going to broad due to rate of population growth in India. I have selected a study relating to Aims and ideals of female education in Ancient India for systematic and scientific effort. I have used two methods for this study. One is Historical method and other is Descriptive method. Educational History of Ancient India of female education has used the Historical method. Descriptive method is also essential to broadly discuss for this study.

**Objectives :-**

- 1) To study relative educational status of women in Ancient India.
- 2) To study educational status of different communities of women in Ancient India.
- 3) To compare educational Status of men and women in Ancient India.
- 4) To measures and improve the female education in India.

**Discussion :-**

The status of women in a particular society may be judged by the manner in which the birth of a female infant is received. One of the best ways to understand the spirit of a Civilization and to appreciate its excellences and realize its limitation is to study the history of the position and status of women. The marriage laws and customs enable us to realize weather men regarding women merely as marked commodities. The progress in fine arts like music and dancing depends a good deal on the facilities given to women for specializing in them. In ancient times in all societies the birth of a girl was generally an unwelcome event. Almost everywhere the son was valued more than the daughter. The daughter, on the other hand, had no fighting value whatever. The reasons why daughter were relatively less unpopular in Ancient Bihar like other parts of India during the early Centuries are not different to understand. There were some among them who realized that it was causing great harm to society and felt that it ought to be counteracted. The feeling of dejection and dissatisfaction at the birth of a daughter was a fleeting.

The attitude of society towards women determines her property and legal right. The greatest duty of a house holder was to entertain the guests. As a particular part of their education daughters performed this duty at their parental homes. To impart education of children and to help those in setting in life are the two main duties of Parents. Both of them were well discharged with reference to the daughter for several centuries in Ancient India. Women students were divided into two classes. One is Brahmavadin and other is Adyodvahas. The former were lifelong student's theology and philosophy the latter used to prosecute their studies actuated till their marriage at the age of 15 or 16. During the eight or nine years that were thus available to them for study, they used to learn by heart the Vedic hymns prescribed for the daily. The admission of women to the Buddhist order gave a great impetus to the cause of female education among the ladies in commercial and aristocratic families. Many educated women used to follow teaching career either out of love or out of necessity.

The modern reader told that female education was fairly wide spread and there was a system of co-education but lady students are taught separately. In the Vedic education was mostly centred in the family, brother's sisters and causing probably studies together under the family elder. It is not easy to determine the extent of education among women from the Vedic to the Sutra period. Most of the girls in the well to do families used to given a fair amount of

education down to C. 300 B.C. Music and dancing formed the principal indoor games. The cause of women education suffered a good deal after C. 300 B.C. on account of the new fashion of child marriage that than began to come into vogue. Cultured and rich families were naturally few in society. They had sufficient resources to educate their daughter. To impart education and help the child in their life the two main duties were setting. The period before marriage was utilized for imparting education to them.

Girls in ruling families used to receive some military and administrative training also. It was sought to be realized by the proper training of the rising generation in the different branches of knowledge, professions and industries. It would be interesting to compare the aims and ideals of ancient Indian education with those of some other systems, both ancient and modern, both eastern and western. If we understand the duty in a sufficiently wide sense, this definition of the aim of education would appear to be very similar to that of ancient Indian educationalists. The function of education is to acquaint the individual with the culture of the race.

### **Conclusion :-**

The Educational System in Ancient India was based on the conception of Brahmacharya which laid greater emphasis on learning. The method of teaching was oral and committing texts by heart. The status of women in a particular society may be judged by the manner in which the birth of a female infant is received. The progress in fine arts like music and dancing depends a good deal on the facilities given to women for specializing in them. Lastly, it is concluded that the aims of female education in ancient India was not broad. But ideals were perfect. The sense of sympathy that is developed in a community through female education in Ancient India. Ancient educationists considered knowledge as the third eye of man, which give him insight into all affairs and teachers. The teacher was required to teach everything to know the discipline. On the other hand, the social structure in Ancient India was based on scientific principles.

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