

EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION: A PILLAR OF ' HUMARA SANKALP VIKSIT BHARAT'

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Abstract:

Education is a cornerstone for empowering girls, driving sustainable growth, and enabling societal transformation. As a central focus of the 'Humara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' initiative, promoting girls' education is vital for building a more inclusive and thriving India. By equipping girls with the knowledge and skills needed for personal growth, we help them unlock their full potential. Education plays a vital role in promoting and enhancing social equity. This paper examines the crucial role of education in empowering girls, reviews existing strategies and programs supporting this mission, and identifies challenges that hinder universal access to quality education. In addition, it presents effective strategies to overcome these challenges, ensuring that every girl has the opportunity to actively participate in and contribute to the nation's development. Prioritizing girls' education unlocks immense potential within the population, catalysing both social and economic development.

Keywords: *Empowering Girls, Education, Humara Sankalp Viksit Bharat.*

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Introduction:

Achieving equitable growth and long-term progress requires empowering girls via education, which goes beyond just being morally just. Education gives females the abilities, information, and self-assurance they need to fully engage in the political, social, and economic realms. "Humara Sankalp Viksit Bharat" acknowledges this and emphasizes education as a key component of its goal to build an inclusive and developed India. This study looks at the many facets of the effects of girls' education, analyses government programs and policies, and makes suggestions to hasten advancement.

Men and women are entitled to equal rights, although their responsibilities may vary according to the Rig Veda. Gender equality stands as a core value of a developed India. It is not merely a slogan, but a

fundamental principle that shapes the nation's overall progress.

In the vision of Viksit Bharat, where India seeks holistic growth in economic, social, and cultural areas, gender equality is an essential, non-negotiable element. Empowering women and eradicating gender-based discrimination are key to unlocking the nation's full potential.

Objectives of the Study:

- ✓ To analyze the role that girls' education plays in promoting social, cultural, and economic change.
- ✓ To assess how government programs under "Humara Sankalp Viksit Bharat" are improving girls' access to schooling.
- ✓ To determine the main obstacles preventing girls in India from receiving universal education.
- ✓ To make practical suggestions for removing obstacles and guaranteeing fair access to education.

Research Methodology:

The study, titled "Empowering Girls through Education: A Pillar of 'Humara Sankalp Viksit Bharat'," employed a descriptive research design. To tackle the key problem areas, the researcher utilized secondary data gathered from diverse sources, including books, academic journals, websites, and other relevant materials.

Review of Literature:

- **Aruna Deshpande and Puvvada Viswanadha Gupta (2024):** The aim of this study is to explore into the transformative impact of lifelong learning on women in Viksit Bharat, as they break stereotypes in traditionally male-dominated industries. Their journey highlights the integration of life education outside of formal settings by showcasing resiliency, skill development, and societal progress. These women challenge antiquated stereotypes and pave the path for a more inclusive workforce by making substantial contributions to their families and communities via professional development and empowerment.
- **N. Ritikumar Singh (2024):** This paper examines various government welfare schemes and initiatives aimed at achieving inclusive development by 2047, marking the 100th anniversary of the country's independence.
- **Rajesh Arora (2024)** The paper explores the transformative journey of women's empowerment in India, striving to overcome historical gender imbalances and create a society where women are equally valued and supported. This comprehensive approach encompasses social, economic, and political dimensions, challenging deeply rooted norms and stereotypes. Initiatives like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana illustrate efforts to tackle issues such as female foeticide, promote education, and enhance women's economic independence. Economic empowerment

plays a crucial role, driven by programs focused on skill development and entrepreneurship, which not only ensure financial stability but also contribute to broader community development. These initiatives reflect a steadfast commitment to advancing women's empowerment across all aspects of Indian society.

- **Sanjeev Kumar and Disha Sirohi (2024):** This paper explores the positive trends in the Female Labor Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) while addressing persistent gender disparities, highlighting India's progress compared to its sub-continental counterparts. Significant advancements in empowering Indian women financially demonstrated by increased account ownership, Mutual fund involvement and a spike in the number of people opening Demat accounts during the pandemic indicate meaningful progress. Closing the gender investment gap necessitates customized financial education programs and targeted financial products, aligning with India's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- **Salman Dokadia (2024):** The objective of this research is to examine the intricate technological aspects of India's endeavor to achieve a \$5 trillion GDP. It draws attention to how important cutting-edge technologies are in propelling the nation into a new era of economic prominence, crafting a vision that transcends traditional economic paradigms. The paper seeks to unravel the intricacies of India's economic ambitions, offering insights into the multifaceted dimensions shaping its path toward global economic leadership.
- **Vineetha Nair (2024):** This paper explores the growing prominence of spiritual tourism in India, analyzing its relationship with the cultural economy, their mutual impacts (using secondary data), and the contribution of spiritual tourism to

- achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat. The study specifically focuses on domestic spiritual tourism.
- **E Shireesha (2021)** This study examines several programs for women's empowerment and their advantages, coming to the conclusion that encouraging women's autonomy requires giving them the freedom to make their own decisions.
 - **V. Darling Selvi (2018)** This paper examines the multifaceted concept of women's empowerment, exploring its various types, significance, and specific relevance to India. It traces the historical evolution of women's empowerment in the country, analyzing its development in parallel with the Indian Constitution and related legislation. The study highlights government policies and schemes designed to promote women's empowerment,

Importance of Girls' Education:

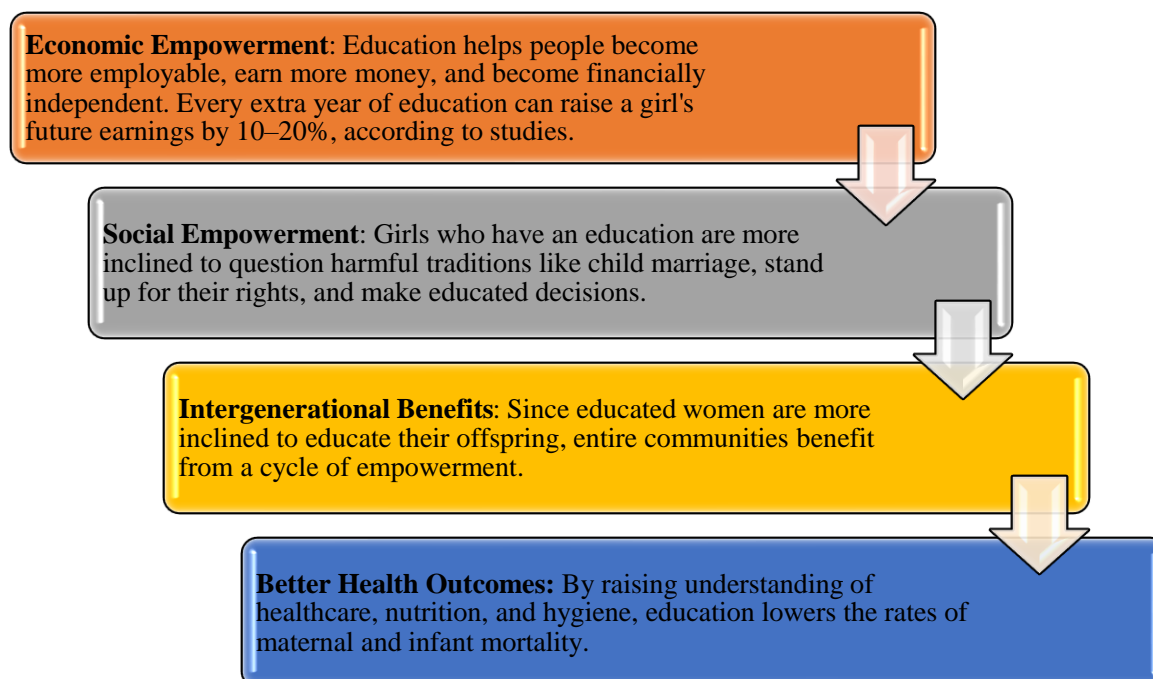


Figure No. 3.1.

Government Initiatives under 'Humara Sankalp Viksit Bharat'

1. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:** Through awareness campaigns and financial incentives, this flagship

emphasizing shifts in their societal roles. It identifies the key attributes of empowerment, examines the total effects of specific programs for Indian women.

- **Aparna Samudra ,(2014)** Women's empowerment is acknowledged by the author of this article as one of the UNDP's Millennium Development Goals. She has made an attempt to evaluate the educational development among females and impact of various socio-economic factors on female-literacy. Male and female disparity is shown in literacy rate. Early marriage, household work, male dominance, poverty was some of the factors found out by the author during her research in some districts of Maharashtra.

program addresses the falling child-to-sex ratio and encourages girls' education.

2. **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan:** A holistic initiative to improve school infrastructure, provide gender-

segregated toilets, and ensure gender equity in education.

3. **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas (KGBVs):** Residential schools specifically for girls from marginalized communities to enhance access and retention.
4. **Digital Literacy Programs:** Initiatives like PM eVidya and DIKSHA platforms aim to bridge digital divides and provide access to quality education.

Challenge of Ensuring Girls' Universal Education

- ✓ **Sociocultural Barriers:** Girls' access to school is frequently restricted by prevailing patriarchal traditions, early marriages, and safety concerns.
- ✓ **Economic Constraints:** Due to a lack of funds, many families prioritize their boys' schooling, making poverty a major obstacle.
- ✓ **Inadequate Infrastructure:** In remote areas, the absence of basic facilities such as private restrooms, secure transportation, and operational schools deters females from going to school.
- ✓ **Digital Divide:** Girls in poor communities are disproportionately impacted by limited access to digital tools and internet connectivity.

Conclusion:

- ❖ Educating girls is a powerful catalyst for empowering women and driving societal transformation. The 'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' initiative underscores the importance of girls' education as a cornerstone for inclusive growth and national development. While significant progress has been made, ongoing efforts are essential to overcome existing challenges and ensure that every girl in India has the opportunity to receive an education, thrive, and contribute to the nation's advancement. By prioritizing education, India can unlock the potential of its population and create a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

- ❖ The 'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' campaign is a nationwide effort to raise awareness and achieve comprehensive coverage of government schemes across the country. It aims to reach vulnerable populations who are eligible for various schemes but have not yet benefited from them. The initiative emphasizes the importance of education in empowering individuals and fostering societal progress.

Recommendations for Enhancing Girls' Education:

- ✚ **Policy Interventions:** Ensure free and obligatory education for all girls up to the age of eighteen and bolster enforcement of current laws prohibiting child marriage.
- ✚ **Community Engagement:** To change social perceptions, include parents and religious leaders in awareness efforts with local stakeholders.
- ✚ **Building secure, accessible schools** with the amenities they need should be a top priority, especially in rural and isolated locations.
- ✚ **Making Use of Technology** To guarantee fair access, increase digital literacy initiatives, give away inexpensive devices, and offer subsidized internet.
- ✚ **Incentives and Scholarships:** To lessen the financial strain on families, increase funding for girls' education through midday meals, free textbooks, and scholarships.

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