

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN ACCORDING TO THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION**Emdadul Islam¹ & Dr. Meena Vishweshwar Rakshe²**DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17504670>**Review: 01/10/2025,****Acceptance: 15/10/2025****Published: 02/11/2025**

Abstract; Women's Education is one of the main instruments of social development. Women's education can transform a country or nation into a prosperous and developed one. Educating women to lead a productive life not only makes them self-reliant but also contributes to the prosperity and strength of a region and a nation's economy. Therefore, women should be granted rights in all fields of education, as they are uniquely positioned to raise their children in a manner that will lead them down the path of progress and prosperity in the future. Therefore, after independence, the leaders of our country paid special attention to the expansion of Women's Education. Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Indian Constitution ensure equality. The Indian Constitution's Preamble conceals the magnificence of this Constitution. There will be no discrimination in government jobs. All the articles that are said about the rights of women are 14, 15 (1), 15 (3), 16, 29.2, 39 (a), 39 (d), 39 (e), 42, 45, 46, 51 (a), 243 D (3), 243 T (3), 243 D (4) T (4). All of these articles guaranteed women's rights and privileges in every area. This article aims to discuss the rights granted to women in various fields also including the field of education in the Indian Constitution, and discuss their positive aspects.

Keywords: Women's Education; Indian Constitution; Women's Rights; Educational Opportunity; Women's Empowerment.

Introduction: "Educating girls and women is the best way to fight poverty and build peace"(222nd session of the Executive Board, 2025). Women's empowerment is defined as self-worth, the ability to make one's own decisions, the right to influence societal change for the benefit of oneself and others, and so on. Women's empowerment can be said to be a fundamental part of human rights, which helps to create gender equality that plays a role in building global prosperity and strong economies. For women's empowerment, the education, training, and professional skills of women need to be increased. Along with this, it is necessary to refrain from discriminatory behavior in the workplace, respect the rights of all, and ensure safety. This will lead to women's empowerment as well as gender equality. Apart from this, public awareness, a positive attitude among all, encouragement in education and work, scholarships, etc., play an important role in bringing equality in education for girls.

Barriers to Women's Education:

Obstacles that are commonly seen in the path of Women's Education are:

- It was impossible to establish separate schools for girls, judging by the regional distance as required. There is a shortage of girls' schools, particularly in rural areas. In the absence of separate schools, girls are often forced to drop out against their will. "In rural and remote areas, the absence of nearby schools makes it challenging for girls to attend. Long distances and poor infrastructure can deter regular attendance"(Sharma, 2024)
- Most parents give more importance to their sons' education than to their daughters' education. The general perception of girls' education is that girls are suited for domestic work. So, girls are educated only to prepare them for marriage without giving value to their talent, ability, desire, or unwillingness. As a result, many women do not get further education after marriage, despite their ability and potential. "Patriarchal norms also reinforce the belief that education for girls is less valuable, perpetuating gender disparities in education."(Iqbal, 2024)
- Even though the equality of men and women has been talked about in policy, its implementation has not been significant.
- Rural schools hardly have any dormitories. As a result, it has become very difficult for rural girls to get an education. Many primary schools do not have separate restrooms, toilets for girls, which is very inconvenient for them. "The lack of functional

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toilets, separate toilets for girls and boys, washing areas, and access to sanitary products makes it difficult for girls to attend school due to hygiene and health concerns”(Varthana, 2023).

- The curriculum is flawed; boys and girls always have to follow the same curriculum. As a result, many girls cannot use the knowledge they have acquired in later life.
- Colleges for girls are not available everywhere for higher education, and many colleges do not offer co-education.
- Many believe that highly educated Women are less likely to follow family discipline. Many families are reluctant to educate their girls.
- Financial scarcity has become a barrier to Women’s Education. Conservatism and prejudice among the backward communities and tribes are hindering Women’s Education. “Poverty remains a significant barrier to the education of the girl child in India”(Iqbal, 2024).
- There are also fewer teacher-training colleges for girls, resulting in a shortage of qualified teachers.
- Although there are laws on child marriage, the law is not followed in many cases. Almost all girls are not able to continue their education after marriage.
- Napoleon Bonaparte said, “Give me an educated mother, I shall promise you the birth of a civilized, educated nation.” Most of the village women who will be the mothers of the future generation are illiterate. As a result, they neither encourage nor help in teaching their daughters. The lack of awareness among the mothers of the present generation has become a huge barrier in the way of education for the future generation of girls.
- Distance from residence to schools narrows rather than facilitates the path to female education.
- In a patriarchal society, the respect and status of women are relatively less than that of men, so Women’s Education is hindered.

There are many obstacles in the way of female education in modern times and present-day India, especially the backward society mentality, attitude, indifference, poverty, along with failure to implement any policies, programs, and corruption. Above all, Women’s Education is hindered due to a lack of women’s security.

Various Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution, Including the Provisions Relating to Women’s Education: Although Women’s Education, awareness, and their right to education are talked about in India, there is a lot of hesitancy and shyness about Women’s Education in society, which undermines women’s rights and interests, so the Centre and the state governments, through various schemes, public awareness, scholarships, reservations, etc. Women can expand their education a lot, and with it, women are becoming aware of their constitutional rights. The Indian Constitution guarantees women their rights to education and livelihood. The clauses related to women’s rights in the Indian Constitution are:

- ❖ **Article 14:** According to Article 14, “The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.” The State shall provide equal rights to all under the law. That is, women will have equal rights, including in the field of education.
- ❖ **Article 15 (1) and (2):** According to Article 15 (1) “The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.” and Article 15 (2), “No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition” That is, the State shall ensure equal rights without discriminating against citizens on the grounds of religion, race, caste, religion, sex, etc. In other words, there shall be no discrimination in the case of women.
- ❖ **Article 15(3):** according to Article 15(3) of the Indian Constitution: “Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.” In other words, women have the right to make any provision regarding education in any aspect of the Indian Constitution in Article 15(3).
- ❖ **Article 16(1):** 16 (1) “There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State.” In other words, women will get opportunities in any job or employment in the field of education.
- ❖ **Article 21. A:** According to Article 21A, “The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.” From now on, it can be said that girl children will also get the same opportunity.
- ❖ **Article 29(2):** 29 (2) According to the section, “No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them.” This means that women, even women from minority communities, will be given priority for admission to state-run educational institutions.

- ❖ **Article 39 (a):** According to Article 39(a), "... the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood," so that women also get equal rights to livelihood.
- ❖ **Article 39 (d):** "... there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women" under Section 39(d). That is, women will get equal pay in any case, working in educational institutions.
- ❖ **Article 39 (e):** In 39 (e), "the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength." Therefore, women cannot be forced into any work against their economic needs or their will.
- ❖ **Article 42:** According to Article 42, "The State shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief." Women engaged in any work will get maternity relief.
- ❖ **Article 46:** In accordance with Article 46, "The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation." As a result, the state must assist women's economic and educational interests as well as shield them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation because they are considered members of the lower classes.
- ❖ **Article 51. A (K):** 51A (k) "who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years." It is the duty of parents to educate their daughters as well as their sons.
- ❖ **Articles 243 D (3) and 243 T (3):** Articles 243 D (3) and 243 T (3) require women to be allocated a minimum of one-third of all Panchayat and Municipality seats through rotation in various constituencies.
- ❖ **Article 243 D (4) T (4):** According to Article 243 D (4) T (4), women must make up at least one-third of all officeholders for panchayat, municipal, and leadership positions at each level.

Apart from the Women's Education section, other educational sections are:

- Articles 29 and 30 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the freedom of education and educational institutions of minorities. Minorities have the right to practice and protect their language, script, and culture.

All citizens are granted religious freedom under Article 28.

- Article 29 of the Indian Constitution gives every citizen the right to attend an educational institution of their choice.
- The protection of languages is also clearly mentioned in the Indian Constitution. Even in Article 350A, minority children can receive education in their mother tongue, and in Article 350B, it is said that the state can appoint a special official to protect the language rights of minorities.
- Article 46 mentions the education of SC, ST, and OBCs. The right of all citizens to education is fully protected, and the state shall protect every citizen against social injustice and exploitation.
- According to Article 45, the mandate that make every effort to provide all children with early childhood care and education (ECCE) up until the age of six years.

Above, in other educational streams such as minority, SC, ST, and OBC, the rights of community education are not only about the rights of men but also about the rights of both men and women. That is, the aspect of equal opportunity for both is revealed.

Importance of Women's Education: "Overall, the message is clear: educating girls is not only the right thing to do. It also makes economic and strategic sense for countries to fulfill their development potential" (*Wulffhorst, 2018*). Even looking at household work, it can be seen that the importance of Women's Education is immense. Educated women can calculate the daily income and expenses of the family according to the hygiene rules, according to the rules of health; uneducated women cannot. If the responsibility of the family is in the hands of educated women, then the family will improve. Women's Education is very important in the formation of the country. "For full development of our human resources, for improvement of homes and for mounding the character of children during the most impressionable years of infancy, the education of women is of even greater importance than that of men" (*Kothari Commission, 1966, p.221*). In the past, women played a significant role in the formation of the country. Even today, women have a considerable role in the formation of the country. From the language movement till now, women have contributed to every movement. And only educated girls have contributed to this. Therefore, the importance of Women's Education in the formation of the country is immense. The role of women in society in the overall progress of the modern world is immense. In the present era, women are educated in modern education

and are crossing from the dark bottom of the ocean to space. Women are now leading everything from large countries to the largest financial institutions. Starting from those countries, financial institutions and even big companies are seeing great improvement under their able leadership.

- If women are educated, the next generation will be educated and science-minded. According to Brigham Young, "You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation."
- As a result of female education, various social inequalities will be eliminated, and a permanent social order will be formed.
- The economic prosperity of the region will be sustained as a result of Women's Education. "Educating women and girls is fundamental to development and growth because learning and skills enable all people to live healthier, happier, and more productive lives"(World Bank Group, 2011).
- The education of women will eliminate child marriage in a conscious society, and marriage of women at an appropriate age will begin.
- As a result of Women's Education, environmental awareness will increase, and the right attitude will be formed about the various aspects of the environment, by which the awareness about the good and bad aspects of the environment will be developed.
- Women who are educated will be aware of their rights.
- As a result of Women's Education, human and social values will develop.
- As a result of Women's Education, various crimes related to women will be removed, and no one will be able to use women for any bad work.
- Inequality will be removed in society, and harmony will be established.

Conclusion: The greatness of the Indian Constitution emerges from all these discussions. The Indian Constitution guarantees every Indian's rights including women in all areas, from free and compulsory education under Article 21A to women's education under Articles 14, 15(1), and 15(3), which provide for equality and allow special provisions for women and children; to minority education under Articles 29 and 30; and to socially and educationally backward classes under Articles 15(4) and 46. The state plays a voluntary role. By discussing all these aspects, the comprehensiveness of the Indian Constitution's scope emerges. Currently, women's education is increasing significantly, and women are showing their prowess at par with men in higher education. The participation of women in various fields, such as college principals and university vice chancellors, is notable. The inclusion of women in research also informs the need and relevance of their education.

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