

CHALLENGES OF WOMEN EDUCATION IN SOCIALLY BACKWARD COMMUNITY

Saidalavi Kundupuzhakkal

Pondicherry University

Abstract

Getting education for women still a challenge in socially backward classes in all over the world. A Pakistani teenage girl Malala Yousafzai, who asked for girls right for education became the target of some religious fundamentalist. Talibani peoples shoot her and she was severely injured. What the attack on Malala makes clear that this is really a battle over education. It shows how the backward community especially Muslims looks on female education.

In Indian scenario Muslim women so badly placed at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid. In the hamlets of rural India and the slums of urban India, young girls are still compelled to stay within the home. A complex web of circumstances makes the schooling of Muslim girls a daunting task. There is, of course, a fair degree of conservatism, a general mistrust of Western-style education. Another myth about Muslims is that they refuse to opt for secular education and prefer only madrasa education and madrasa education makes them religious.

Education ensure empowerment social security and self reliance for women. But, why this conservative minded people still deny the opportunity of girl education. The reason behind is that, if girls are educated the male dominance in society and the social exploitation in the name of faith will not survive no longer.

Introduction

Education for women still a challenge in socially backward classes in all over the world. A Pakistani teenage girl Malala Yousafzai, who stood for girls right for education became the target of some religious fundamentalist. Malala was shot by Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) people and she was severely injured.

When Malala was 11 year old she earned international fame for raising the voice against Taliban oppression in Swat by maintaining a blog of the BBC under the pen name of "Gul Makai", where she described the atrocities of the Taliban. She wrote about the charting life in

Swat under the Taliban, whose bloody two-year reign of terror supposedly came to an end with an army operation in 2009. When Taliban occupied Swat they closed schools and banned education for girls. Malala protested against the action of Taliban and she became the target of them. They shot her when she was travelling in her school van on October 9, 2012 in Swat Valley. This attack was a cold-blooded murder attempt for the 'crime' of campaigning for girls' rights to go to school. The 15-year-old survived and her courage has won the hearts of millions around the world. It prompted the United Nations to declare November 10 as 'global day of action' for her. (Malala Day)

After that Malala became the 'global symbol' of every girl's' right to education. People around the world held vigils and demonstrations honouring Malala and calling for the 32 million girls worldwide who are denied education to be allowed to go to school. Thousands of people from across the world have signed a global petition calling for her to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

As a follow up of this incident Pakistan launched 'Waseela-e-Taleem' Program, whereby over 3 million children of the poor families of the country would be provided financial assistance for enrolling them in primary schools in next four years. The program lays solid foundation for brighter future of the poor children of the country and enabling the poorest of the poor to stand on their own feet. It will help to promote education and to safeguard the future of the youth and the coming generations. Waseela e Taleem, the Right to Education, was a landmark in the history of the Pakistan. This was the first ever and the largest initiative for primary education, and it was aiming at promoting education, empowerment and emancipation of children as per the MDGs of new millennium.

Malala opened the eyes of pakistani policy makers and administrators. Pakistan declared Malala as the Education Ambassador of the nation. Pakistan National Assembly passed "The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2012" (RFCE) in November 2012. The bill provides for free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years and ten percent quota in all the private educational institutions.

Barriers to Empowerment

Malala, the Daughter of Pakistan, is the symbol of courage and women empowerment. What the attack on Malala makes clear that this is really a battle over education. It shows how the backward community especially Muslims looks on female education. In Indian scenario also

Muslim women so badly placed at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid. In the hamlets of rural India and the slums of urban India, young girls are still compelled to stay within the home. A complex web of circumstances makes the schooling of Muslim girls a daunting task. There is, of course, a fair degree of conservatism, a general mistrust of Western-style education. Another myth about Muslims is that they refuse to opt for secular education and prefer only religious education, which makes them more conservative.

Backward Women are spending much time and energy responding to family needs. They are not getting opportunity to education and empowerment. In case of empowered woman they are appreciated by the time she spends on domestic work and outside the home. She is aware that overwork is harmful to her physical and mental condition and that health is vital. She is able to question her double responsibility and seeks help from others to have enough leisure to spend on learning and participating in the social and political life of the community.

The empowered woman appreciates the value of her contribution whether remunerated or not. She is aware that she has tremendous potential to contribute to the progress of her family, community and nation. With that understanding, she is confident of her worth, is open-minded and can appreciate others. The empowered woman understands that she is a human being and can control her own life. Hence, she could and should question the family and social practices which negatively affect her. She seeks to get scientific insights into superstitions, and challenges those which are unjust to women. She has freedom of movement and expression on a par with men. She appreciates her strengths and weaknesses and seeks self-improvement.

The empowered woman is aware of her rights as a citizen and protects them actively. She is convinced of her equality with men. She knows which laws and legal processes treat women unfairly and seeks to use her legal knowledge to protect her own and other women's rights. The empowered woman respects herself and dares take credit and responsibility for her contribution and action. She looks for options and makes informed decisions. She dares to be different and creative. The empowered woman is aware that her health is related to the number of children she has. She respects the dignity of womanhood and appreciates daughters in the same way she does sons. The empowered woman nurtures herself. She wants everybody to understand that, as The empowered woman appreciates and supports other women. She is aware that organization means

strength and seeks to strengthen her organisational, management and leadership skills a human being, she is entitled to happiness in the same way that others are.

Educate to Empower

Literacy regarded as a powerful tool development and empowerment of women. Literacy is considered as a light, an essential and adds value to person's life. Conceptually it is important to distinguish between literacy that empowers and literacy which domesticates. Traditionally, literacy programmes have focused on acquisition of technical skills of reading and writing. While the importance of acquisition of literacy skills should not be discounted, the fact remains that in the case of women, such a literacy oftentimes merely reinforces their domestic role and does not bring about any change in social relations either within the family or outside. Literacy that empowers, on the other hand, seeks to combine both consciousness-raising and participation so that women not only understand the causes of their oppression but also take steps to ameliorate their conditions.

Education ensures empowerment, social security and self reliance for women. Then why the conservative minded people still deny the opportunity of girl education. The reason behind is that, if girls are educated the male dominance in society and the social exploitation in the name of faith will not survive no longer.

Another thing is that most of the time government declare some policies and planning, but it will fail in execution. In this case the proper implementation is more important. There have so many social and economic barriers like poverty, and conservatism. The peoples are not aware about these things, so the parents as well as the whole society should be get awareness about it.

Reference :

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