

## **Impact of Initiatives for Women Education on Women Employment: A case study of Madhya Pradesh**

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Education is the essence of life. To be educated is the basic right of an individual and one should get the accessibility to it for improvising the status. India is a country of diversity known for its historic and cultural richness. When it comes to the sustainable development the country has shown a tremendous transforms and innovation to achieve it. In spite of the achievements the country is majorly facing a problem of gender disparity mainly when it comes to impart education and employment. The situation is more in deep roots in the rural and semi urban areas. Continuous efforts have been made to reduce the disparity and the results are also bending towards the positive line. The present study is describing & exploring the initiatives and measures so far the **Madhya Pradesh (A state recognized as Beemaru Pradesh in India)** has taken over a decade to raise the level of education among the women fraternity and its impact on their employment. Secondary data have been used for the purpose and descriptive statistics is applied to draw the results. With the amendments in the policies and with the launching of various schemes and facilities the state has increased the accessibility of women to education, which has led to increase the female literacy level.

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## **Introduction:**

Census of India, 2001 indicates that only 54 % women are literate as compared to 76% men. Female literacy was 39 % in census 1991. Female literacy is highest in Kerala (88%) and lowest in Bihar (33%). The adult literacy rate of women aged 15 years and above is 48 % in 2001 against 73.4 % for adult men. This trend got reversal in the year 2007-08. In this year the girl's enrolment in the three levels of school education –primary, middle and secondary being more than that of boys in respective levels. The dropout ratio of the girl's enrolment has also shown a declining trend as compared to 2006-07. The main reason of females never attending schools are 'Expensive cost of education ', 'not interested in studies', education is not considered necessary and required for household work.(NFHS –III 2005-06).According to Quaterly Employment review, Ministry of labour the total employment of women in organized sector was 19.5 % in 2007. As per census 2001, the number of workers in the urban areas is 92.8 million of which only 16.10 million are females. Out of the total marginal workers of the country women constitute 90%.As per NSS 64<sup>th</sup> round 2007-08, the work force participation rate of females in rural sector was 28.9 % while that of males was 54.8 %.

## **Objective and Methodology:**

The present study is describing & exploring the initiatives and measures so far the **Madhya Pradesh (A state recognized as Beemaru Pradesh in India)** has taken over a decade to raise the level of education among the women fraternity and its impact on their employment. Secondary data have been used for the purpose and descriptive statistics is applied to draw the results.

## **Limitation of the Study:**

As due to the unavailability of the two concurrent data set of the women employment and gross enrolment girl ratio the correlation between the two have not been calculated .Although the study is showing the status of women employment for the period of 5years and also have calculated the descriptive statistics of the literacy level at district level of the state.

## **Female Education in Madhya Pradesh:**

The women status in all terms is not satisfactory in Madhya Pradesh. The female population of the state is 49 % of the total population of the state the state is being regarded as one of the state having gender disparity in literacy rate. Table no. 1 is showing the decadal gap in literacy by Sex:

**TABLE No. 1 Literacy Rate by Sex: 1991-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Gap in Literacy</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>29.2</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>63.7</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>25.8</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>20.5</b>

*Source: Census India 2011*

Parallel to the above stated table Table No. 2 is showing the decadal variation in literacy rate from 1981-2011.

**TABLE No. 2 Decadal Variation of Literacy Rate**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Literacy Rate (%)</b>
<b>1981</b>	<b>38.6</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>44.7</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>63.7</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>70.6</b>

*Source: Census India 2011*

From the figures depicting in the above stated tables it can be interpreted that the gap in the literacy has been reduced over the decades and also there is an increasing trend in the overall literacy rate in the state. The government of Madhya Pradesh has been taking tremendous measures to improve the status of literacy level with the special emphasis on female literacy level. Various schemes have been formulated to support the literacy level of the females. Few of the important schemes have been summarized as follows:

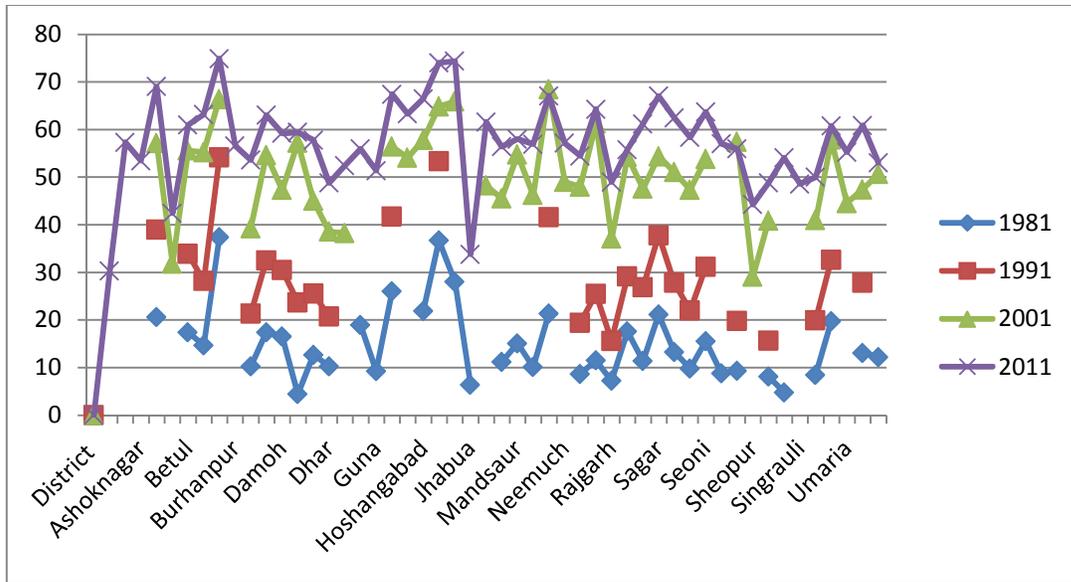
1. **Ladli Laxmi Yojana:** The scheme was being implemented in the year 2006 with an objective to lay a firm foundation of girl's future through improvement in their educational and economic status. Under the scheme, National Savings Certificates worth Rs 6 thousand are purchase by the state government in the name of a girl every year after her birth till the amount reaches Rs 30,000. The girl covered under the scheme is given Rs 2 thousand on getting admission in class VI, Rs four thousand on getting admission in class IX and Rs 7,500 on admission in class XI. She is given Rs 200 per month during her studies in class XI and XII. When the girl attains the age of 21 and had not married before 18 years of age, she will be paid the amount in lump sum, which comes to Rs one lakh. The benefits of the scheme are extended to the parents, who had adopted family planning after two alive children, are registered in anganwadi centre and are not income

tax payees. The number of girls benefited by the scheme so far is 5.50 lakh. After the scheme's implementation, a positive change has started to come in the social attitude towards birth of a girl child.

2. **Free Cycle Distribution:** This scheme was being initiated to motivate girls to continue education after primary level. As the girls were deprived of going to schools due to conveyance problem, the state government has provided free cycles to the girls who take admission in class IX in another village. The scheme's benefit is given to village girls belonging to scheduled caste, scheduled tribes, backward class as well as general category. Since 2009 the benefit of this scheme is being extended to girls belonging to all the sections of society. So far 1650 lakh cycles have been distributed.
3. **Gaon ki Beti Yojana:** This scheme was carrying the objective to provide financial assistance to motivate talented rural girls for higher education. As the rural families are unable to bear the expenses of higher education, the scheme provides the scholarship of 500 Rs. Per month for the period of 10 months to the girls who passed 12<sup>th</sup> class in I division. As a result of this scheme a large no. of rural girls are pursuing collegiate education.
4. **Pratibha Kiran Yojana :** This scheme was being launched to improve educational standard of girls belonging to urban BPL families who pass their 12<sup>th</sup> Examination in First division. The condition to avail this scheme is that girl has to take admission in higher classes in the same year. Every girl covered under this scheme is given Rs. 300 per month for degree courses for ten months and Rs. 750 per month for technical courses as incentive money. So far three thousand two hundred twenty four urban girls have availed benefit for the scheme.

### **Analysis and Interpretation:**

The policies and measures which have been taken by the state government have created a positive bending in the female literacy level at the district level. The decadal scenario of literacy rate at district level of the state is being depicted in the form of Graph:



It is evident from the graph that from the period of 1981 to 2011 the trend of female literacy level has gone to upward side. In the year 1981 the level is very low and even nil in certain areas. Over a period of time the year 1991 has shown an increase in the female literacy level in certain districts. Then further it has pick up the momentum over another two decades. This indicates the results of the efforts being put up by the various regulatory bodies of the state. The support and the awareness generation have created a positive set of mind to become literate and employed. Further the descriptive statistics have been calculated for the literacy level at decadal level for the districts of Madhya Pradesh, it has been found that the average values of the literacy level among the districts has gone upward consistently. It is mainly due to the awareness generation created among the rural and urban level about the value of education and also the facilitation which is being provided for the purpose. Further the variation levels have shown the declining trend over the decades, which are also supporting the fact that the level of the literacy has gone up on the district level of the state. Table No.3 is depicting the descriptive statistics of the Districts of Madhya Pradesh at the decadal level.

**TABLE No. 3- Descriptive statistics of Districts at Decadal level**

	Year	year	year	year
	1981	1991	2001	2011
Mean	14.91421	29.52556	50.529	57.4018
Standard Deviation	7.744897	10.04878	9.199788	8.862924
coefficient of variation	51.92965	34.03416	18.20695	15.44015

To further analyze the status of the women employment in the state the data set of the five year period has been taken at the private and public sector level. Table No. 4 is depicting the figures of the employment at the public and private sector level

**TABLE NO .4 - Women Employment in Madhya Pradesh (Figures in ‘000)**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Public sector	123.67	122.79	119.54	120.37	121.07
Private sector	18.78	18.02	18.75	18.69	19.45
	<b>142.45</b>	<b>140.81</b>	<b>138.29</b>	<b>139.06</b>	<b>140.52</b>

Through the above stated figures it can be interperated that the women are more inclined towards the private sector as compared to public. The reason is mainly the facilities provided by the private sector is more appealing then the public.

**Conclusion:** *“Educate one men you educate one person but educate women and you educate a whole civilsation” Mahatma Gandhi.* The state is going with the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, and aiming to create a healthy and viable environment for the girl child education to make them more independent and self sustainable.

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Annexure :