



General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 June 2024

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-sixth session

18 June–12 July 2024

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 May 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Right to Education: The Evolution of Girl's Education in India

In India, the status of women has undergone significant changes throughout its history. Today, the government and society have recognized the importance of educating women and have made it a priority. Educated women can help the country develop in many ways. Women's education is becoming increasingly important every day, as it is not only necessary to educate girls and women but also to provide them with basic necessities. In many developing countries, women face significant barriers to education. As a result, they have lower literacy rates than men. Educating women is essential for raising living standards and is critical to the country's workforce.

The progress of women in society and the economy helps the country grow sustainably. Promoting women's education in India has led to success stories in every field, boosting their knowledge and making them more resilient and self-assured. However, it is not easy for girls to receive an education in India. There are many factors that make it challenging for them, including inadequate food and healthcare, harassment or abuse, poverty, poor health, traditional restrictions, obedience to elders, gender discrimination, housework responsibilities, and financial exploitation. These factors must be addressed with utmost urgency.

To encourage women's education, the government has implemented several welfare schemes and projects. These plans provide financial aid, scholarships, and other incentives to families and girls to support their education. One such initiative is the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme launched in 2015, which aims to address the declining child sex ratio and promote girl children's education. The scheme is implemented through a three-tier structure: District, State, and National levels and includes creating awareness, strengthening schools and education, and enabling girls' education.(1)

Another scheme is the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) launched in 2004, which aims to provide education to girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. These residential schools are established in areas with low female literacy rates and primarily target girls belonging to marginalized communities. The schools provide education up to the 8th standard and also offer hostel facilities to ensure that girls have a conducive learning environment.(2)

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana is another scheme launched in 2015, which is a small deposit scheme for the girl child. Parents can open a savings account in the name of their daughter and earn a high-interest rate of 7.6%. The money can be withdrawn when the girl child turns 18 and used for her education or marriage.(3)

National Girl Child Day is celebrated every year on January 24. This day raises awareness about the importance of girl child education and the challenges faced by girls in India. Various activities and programs are organized to promote girl child education and empowerment.(4)

The National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) Scheme provides financial assistance to students from economically weaker sections to pursue higher education. The scholarship is awarded to students who score well in the 8th standard examination and can be availed by students from economically weaker sections of society.(5)

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) launched in 2009 aims to improve the quality of education in secondary schools in India. Financial assistance is provided to schools to improve infrastructure, teacher training, and education materials.(6)

Breaking Barriers: India's Right to Education Act Paves the Way for Equality In an effort to address the declining state of education and poor learning outcomes in India, the Parliament passed the Right to Education Act in 2009. The act aims to provide all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years with free and compulsory elementary education, regardless of their gender, caste, creed, or family income. The act, which came into effect on April 1, 2010, guarantees education as a fundamental right for every child in India. It includes several important provisions, such as: - Private schools are required to reserve 25% of their seats for children belonging to weaker sections of society. - Unrecognized schools are prohibited from conducting interviews with children or their parents during the admission process.

- No child pursuing elementary education can be held back, expelled, or asked to pass a board examination. - The act provides for students who have dropped out of school. - Schools are not allowed to charge any capitation fee during the admission process. - All government and aided schools must create a School Management Committee composed of 75% parents or guardians.

The main aim of the RTE Act is to make sure that all kids in India, no matter how rich or poor they are, get a good education. Section 12(1)(c) of the Act mandates that all schools reserve at least 25% of their seats for children from marginalized and financially backward sections of society. This provision helps in the social integration of economically weaker sections (EWS) and disadvantaged groups (DG). Schools should be neutral places that welcome all children to learn and grow together. The central government reimburses schools for all students who are admitted because of the 25% quota. Since its inception, the RTE Act has brought about significant changes in enrollment levels, literacy rates, and education standards in India. The Act has moved from policy-level decisions to creating an environment that promotes education as a fundamental right and a legal obligation of the states.

“Empowering minds , Empowering Women : Education Fuels the Rise of Female Leadership” India has recently shifted its focus from "Women's Development" to "Women-Led Development," recognizing the vital role of women in promoting sustainable and equitable development. This shift marks a significant step forward in gender equality and women's empowerment, and the Indian government has launched various initiatives to support women's leadership and empowerment and achieve SDG 5.

The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan provides free prenatal care to marginalized pregnant women, while the Sakhi Centres offer counseling, legal aid, and other assistance to women facing violence. The National Scheme for Adolescent Girls supports young girls in rural areas by providing food, healthcare, and education, and The National Health Mission works to improve the health and well-being of women and children, especially those who are marginalized. The National Commission for Women, an independent body, protects the rights and interests of women in India, while the Women in Security Force (WISF) Scheme aims to have more women in security forces and encourages them to take part in law enforcement. Furthermore, the Indian government has implemented policies to increase women's participation in decision-making roles, such as local councils and legislative assemblies.

Rajasthan Samgra Kalyan Sansthan is a notable example of an organization that works tirelessly to empower women by providing them with opportunities to acquire new skills, access credit, and build networks. These programs have helped women become financially independent and strengthened their decision-making abilities. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan (RSKS India) has taken various initiatives to support women's empowerment, such as the Stop Violence Against Women mission, the creation of women's help groups, organization of capacity building, life skills, and leadership training programs, running pathshala schools for marginalized adolescent girls in remote areas, sustainable livelihood, entrepreneurship programs for the development of women, empowering disabled people, value-based education camps, and providing education support to slum and street children.

These initiatives are a testament to the government's unwavering commitment to addressing the challenges women face in India and providing them with more opportunities to lead and thrive in every aspect of life. The shift from "Women's Development" to "Women-Led Development" is an essential step forward in supporting gender equality and women's empowerment in India.

In conclusion, educating women is crucial for the development of India. We must provide girls and women with necessities and support their education. While the government has implemented schemes to encourage women's education, there is still more work to be done. We must continue to strive towards creating an inclusive society where every girl child has access to education and is empowered to realize her dreams.

- (3) [https://www.nsiindia.gov.in/\(S\(40fu4aivthgr2hebyr2cfrmz\)\)/InternalPage.aspx?Id_Pk=89](https://www.nsiindia.gov.in/(S(40fu4aivthgr2hebyr2cfrmz))/InternalPage.aspx?Id_Pk=89)
- (4) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Girl_Child_Day
- (6) <https://www.education.gov.in/rmsa>