



History

Explore—Journal of Research for UG and PG Students

ISSN 2278 – 0297 (Print)

ISSN 2278 – 6414 (Online)

© Patna Women's College, Patna, India

<http://www.patnawomenscollege.in/journal>

Female education in Bihar (An overview)

Rafat Perween • Samreen Kausar • Monika Kumari
• Sister Celine Crasta A.C.

Received : December 2010
Accepted : February 2011
Corresponding Author : Sister Celine Crasta A.C.

Abstract : *Free and compulsory education has been enshrined in the Indian constitution since its inception. It became a guiding force in the form of article 45 for providing basic education for all the children up to the age of fourteen years without any discrimination of caste, creed, sex, religion, and colour. Even after more than 60 years of independence, though in some states progress is distinctly noticeable, many states are still struggling to achieve universal enrollment, retention and quality education, and some states lag far behind. Female Education in India is not a gift of modern*

civilization. India has always been a relentless champion of the cause of women at all international and national fronts. The policy makers have become conscious that real development cannot take root if it bypasses women, who represent the essential part around which social change must take shape. The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women for neutralizing the socio-economic, educational and political disadvantages that they could be facing. This research provides an overview of educational achievements and challenges in Bihar, one of India's backward states. There still exists disparity in educational opportunities between Bihar and India as a whole, and across socio-economic, spectrum and gender, location among other factors within Bihar. Nevertheless, overall access to school has slowly increased over the years, however, unequal opportunity in access to an equitable quality of education remains.

Key words: *Female education, Elementary level, Secondary education, Government schemes.*