

## WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION: A NEW APPROACH

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### Abstract

Higher education's, however, have not remained the same as always, but have kept changing with social, economic situations and political conditions. India has a long history of organized education. It indicates that higher education occupies a crucial position in the education system of a nation as it affects the overall development of a country. They are half of the human resources. But it is very unfortunate to say that for long years there has been a strong bias against women and thereby there is a tendency to deny an equal socio-economic opportunity for them. The participation of women in higher education is the theme of study.

Keywords: Women, social, economic, population etc

## Introduction

The constitution of India guarantees the equal right to men and women as voters and citizens. The present rate of women access to higher education is 46% does not ensure the quality of higher education. Access of women to technical disciplines viz. engineering, medicine, veterinary science, and the law should be increased through this subject in the colleges of smaller cities and town without comprising with quality. The initiative should be taken for increasing access of women to short-term diversified that may cater to large unorganized as well as organized sector. Taking the notion of the welfare of women we must know the status and participation of women in higher education. The participation, representation of women in higher education is the subject of study.

A study is a new approach in the field of higher education and gender studies which will give us a new path. The education and higher education system has the tool for the solution of every problem in the society. One of the most significant worldwide transformations in education is women's access to colleges and universities. It must be admitted that women are in no way inferior to men. They have all the power and capacity as that of men but they fail to manifest themselves amongst different opportunities. So their power and capacities must be recognized. The present study has enquired about the status of women in higher education and the opinion of the people in higher education regarding the participation of women in higher education.

## Objectives:

We have intended to study the status of women in higher education by observing their enrolment as a student and appointment as a faculty member either as an Assistant professor, Associate Professor and Professor in Indian Universities. The objective of the study is to describe the status of women in higher education.

## Higher education status in India:

Among the subjects studied here were grammar, metaphysics, logic etc.. Indian Higher Education in its present form begun to appear from the time when the British parliament renewed the Charter Act (1813) for educational development in India. Calcutta University Commission (1917) called as Saddler Commission also recommended for the autonomy of universities.

The Hartog Committee (1929) report suggested for the improvement of quality and standards at the University level education In India. Finally, Sargent Report (1944) recommendation for the establishment of U.G.C and formulation of blueprint for Indian Higher Education structure was the major landmark. After independence, India made various efforts to improve the higher education system. Secondary Education Commission (1952) pioneered a system of 3 years secondary and 4 years of higher education.

**Place of women in Higher Education in India:**

In India, female education has its roots in the British Regime. Initially, this education was limited only to primary school level education and only the richer section of the society enjoyed this facility. Thus as it was confined only for a small section of people in society so the literacy rate for women increased from 0.2% in 1882 to 6% only in 1947. In this connection, I may refer to the suggestions given by the University Education Commission in 1947. The report of the said commission revealed that they were against female education.

In some elite institutions, we find that the number of female students is more than male students and there is a possibility to increase this trend. It is true that a number of males are outnumbered in comparison with a female. One of the reasons for this is rampant sex selection and cultural factors. It is a common feature that from the time of birth girls are discriminated against in subtle and crude ways. Not only this, but it is also found that in some most competitive higher educational institutions women are gaining entry without availing gender quota.

This is undoubtedly credit for them. But today, in the 21st century none can ignore the necessity and urgency of higher education for women. Because nowadays there are no biological differences. That is why all over the world higher education for women has gained a wider role and responsibility. In the third world countries, the need for higher education among women is more important as because colonialism has remained a great force here which hinders education for the general masses and for women in particular.

Table 1: Higher education status 2011-2016

Particulars	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Number of universities	642	667	723	760	799
Number of colleges	34852	35525	36634	38498	39071
Number of the standalone institution	11157	11565	11664	12276	11923
Total	46651	47757	49021	51534	51793

Source: MHRD report in [www.mhrd.gov.in](http://www.mhrd.gov.in)

Table 2: Students Enrolment status in Higher Education in India

Particulars	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Male	16173473	16617294	17495394	18488619	18594723

Female	13010858	13535123	14840840	15723018	15990058
Total	29184331	30152417	32336234	34211637	34584781
Male %	55	55	54	54	54
female%	45	45	46	46	46

Source: MHRD report in [www.mhrd.gov.in](http://www.mhrd.gov.in)

Table 3: Faculty enrolment status in Higher education in India

Particulars	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Male	703666	732115	761757	818734	834722
Female	426231	441999	458440	480916	495152
Total	1129897	1174114	1220197	1299650	1329874
Male %	62	62	62	63	63
female%	38	38	38	37	37

Source: MHRD report in [www.mhrd.gov.in](http://www.mhrd.gov.in)

Table 4: Participation of women as faculty in higher education in India

Particulars	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Professor	102738	120156	125338	136966	146021
Male	76133	88543	93334	102822	108277
Female	26605	31613	32004	34144	37744
Male%	74	74	74	75	74
Female %	26	26	26	25	26
Associate Professor	174265	176402	182681	177599	174657
Male	115391	116817	119671	116319	113830
Female	58874	59585	63010	61280	60827
Male%	66	66	66	65	65
Female %	34	34	34	35	35
Assistant Professor	852894	877556	912178	985085	1009196
Male	512142	526755	548752	599593	612615
Female	340752	350801	363426	385492	396581
Male%	60	60	60	61	61
Female %	40	40	40	39	39

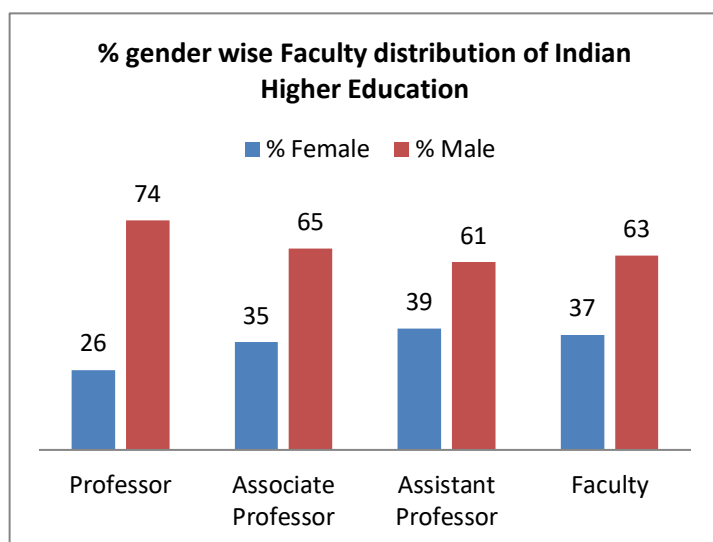
Source: MHRD report in [www.mhrd.gov.in](http://www.mhrd.gov.in)

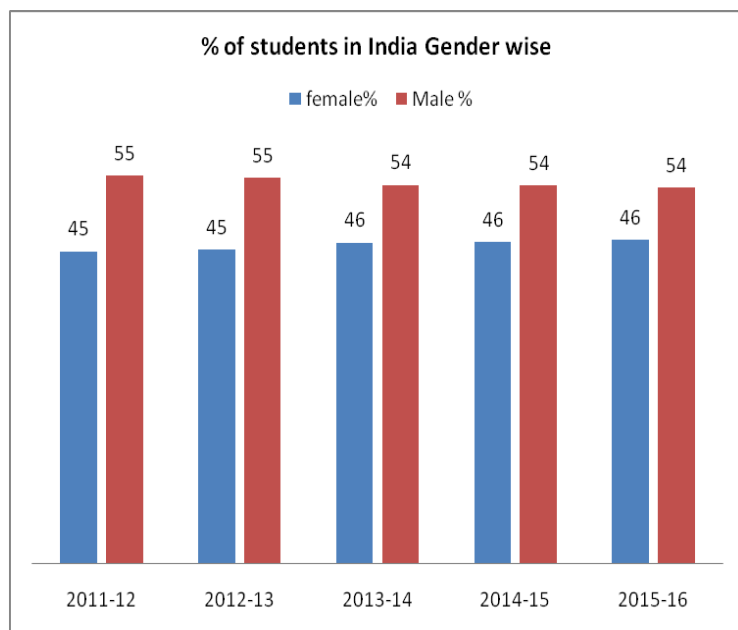
Table 5: Participation of women as a student in higher education in India

Particulars	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
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Male	16173473	16617294	17495394	18488619	18594723
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**Discussion:**

The participation of women as faculty in different positions of higher education is 37% whereas male participation is 63%. In the position of professor only 26% of female instead of 74% male. In the position of Associate professor 35% Female and 65% Male again in Assistant Professor Female 39% and Male 61%. In our observation, it is revealed that the percentage of women participation in higher education as faculty or teacher is 26% less whereas the female population is 50% in India.

The participation of women as a student in different programmes of higher education is 46% whereas male participation is 54%... In our observation, it is revealed that the percentage of women participation in higher education as the student in different programmes is 8% less whereas the female population is 50% in India.

**Conclusion:**

The participation, representation of women in higher education is the subject of study. Finally, the findings will help in further study. A study is a new approach in the field of higher education and gender studies which will give us a new path. The education and higher education system has the tool for the solution of every problem in the society. One of the most significant worldwide transformations in education is women's access to colleges and universities. It must be admitted that women are in no way inferior to men. They have all the power and capacity as that of men but they fail to manifest themselves amongst different opportunities. So their power and capacities must be recognized.

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