

EduInspire

- An International Peer Reviewed and Referred Journal



VOL: XII

ISSUE: I

JANUARY-

2025

**Council for Teacher Education Foundation,
(CTEF, Gujarat Chapter)**

Gujarat government initiatives for quality and support to HEIs for women*

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Any government aimed holistic development of their citizens. That includes not only social but also economic development of all sections of the society. Agenda 2030 of sustainable development goals by UN also focus the same. According to this Gujarat government prepared Gujarat sustainable vision 2030. To bring out desired outcome for women's empowerment and gender equality, the state government has been implementing many schemes for women and girls development. In this paper various schemes of Gujarat government for women, its implementation and implications will be explored. Gujarat government initiated many scheme positively but hundred percentage achievement yet to be achieved.

Key Words: *Gujarat, Quality, Support, HEI, Women*

Introduction:

Gujarat government clearly knows their responsibility of holistic development of their citizens from all the sections of society. Hence, government already put the efforts in this directions with extra emphasis development of women in society. According to Sindhuja and Murugan (2017), 'Swami Vivekananda insisted that women should be put in the position of power to solve their own problem in their own way and this cannot be possible without education.' It means education of women is important. Same thing suggested by the United Nation's in their agenda 2030 of sustainable development goals(SDGs). 'This agenda is universal call for to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Among the 17 SDGs, goal 5 aimed to achieve general equality and empower all women through ending all type of discrimination against women and girls.' (Finance department, 2019). Gujarat government already adopted this goals as Gujarat sustainable vision 2030 including gender equality.

The only way to bring gender equality is to provide education to the women. Our society has its own characteristics and customs. Which will become hurdle in achieving goals of providing education to

women. Thus, government has to support women by making such policies that encourages society to give an opportunity for women education. What Gujarat government do for promoting women education? How it implemented in society? And what are the result of efforts in such directions? Such questions were raised in mind of investigator. Hence, investigator carried out this study.

Questions

Following were questions of present study:

1. What Gujarat government initiates for women education?
2. What Gujarat government do to provide quality education to women?
3. How Gujarat government supports women to take higher education?

Methodology

Present study is about to know the initiation of Gujarat government for higher education of women. Hence, it is survey type study. Required data collected by detail study of the documents and websites from the various department of Gujarat government as well as MHRD.

Analysis of the collected data was done by observing documents with keep in mind women education.

Findings

After taking bird-eye-view of different documents and information uploaded on the websites, it is clearly shows that Gujarat government initiates in many ways to promote women education. Government started many schemes to promote and support women education.

Government of Gujarat has allocated ₹6,885 crores in year 2024-25 for women and child development which is 13% more from the last year. (CMO-Gujarat, 2024). Which shows the government investing more in women empowerment and of course more in women education.

Free bus passes for the girl and women who travelled for study to city from interior village.

Waive tuition fees for girl or women.

Post SSC scholarship to girls.

Educational loans.

Special scholarship for civil services exam in Gujarat - For girls who clear preliminary or main examination of UPSC, they shall be given financial assistance of ₹60,000 for clear preliminary exam and ₹30,000 for clear main examination of UPSC.

Vidhya Deep Yojna - Vidhya Deep Yojna, the Insurance scheme is adopted children where the premium is paid by the

Government to ensure financial assistance to parents in case of untoward incident.

Saraswati Sadhna Yojna - Introduced first in Gujarat, this is an innovative 'Go Green' initiative of the WCD. Saraswati Sadhna Yojana to provide bicycles to Scheduled Castes students by the Gujarat Government. A sum of ₹1500/- is provided to girls below 8th Grade to buy bicycle. Apart from this, provisions are made for students in elementary and high school education to get food and lodging, free of cost.

Vidhya Lakshmi" Bond (Primary and Secondary Education). To reach the goal of universalization of primary and secondary education and to promote girl child education, the State Government is doing comprehensive efforts. the villages having less than 50% of women literacy rate and in the cities, if girls of BPL families get admission in the primary and secondary schools then they get 2000/- ₹ Narmada Shri Nidhi Bonds in the name of the girl child. The amount will be paid with interest after the completion of her Study.

Kanaya Kelavni Rath Yatra. To increase rate of admission, improvement in quality education and 100% enrolment of girls, the State Govt. runs Shala Praveshotsav (School Enrolment Drive) with people's participation. Hon'ble C.M.,

all Ministers, and IAS officers, State officers participate and visit the villages during the same.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya (KGBV). For the Universalization of primary education, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, to eliminate gender gaps and for the development of the educationally deprived group, primary education is provided to the age group from 6 to 14 years. The Government of India sanctions the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya Nivasi Shala. The students studying in KGBV, provided residence facility for secondary education. In these residential schools, the girls get food, stationary, uniforms and other facilities.

Mahila Samakhya Gujarat. Mahila Samakhya Gujarat (Education for Women's Equality) programme began in 2016. Various programmes are conducted for the empowerment of Women and Girls by these centers. In it education, health, legal, economic and panchayat level activities will be done. It is a 100 % Stat supported scheme.

Anna Triveni scheme for free food grain to parents of Tribal girl students. It aims to increase attendance and retention of tribal girls up to at least class VIII to reduce dropout rate. Under Anna

Triveni Scheme 60 kgs. food grain given to parents of tribal girls students without any cost. For this purpose there is provision to give 10 kg. rice, 10 kg. Wheat and 10 kg. Corn per term. In this scheme, the tribal girl who completes 70% attendance will get the benefit of the scheme. Maximum two girls from each family will get the benefit. The scheme is being implemented in 14 backward areas.

Government Girls Hostel, Ahmedabad. The State Government has started hostel to provide safe place to stay for women who come from villages or remote areas to cities for study. They are provided with food and shelter facilities at a subsidized rate.

Hostel Facility for Girls' of Government Polytechnics. For the girls studying in Govt. Polytechnics, construction of hostels will be done in 9 polytechnics.

Government Ladies Hostel, Ahmedabad (Furnishing and other Equipment). The provision for providing Furniture and other equipment to benefit about 550 girls students of Government Girls Hostel, Ahmedabad.

Stipend to Girl Students in Nursing Schools. Monthly stipend of ₹1220/- given to Girl Students studying in

Government Nursing Schools as a financial assistance.

Mahila surkasha samitis. To ensure safety of women in the state, mahila surkasha samitis have been formed by Home Department at State, City and District level. These samitis carry out various programmes to address the issue of violence against women such as Sammlenas, Shibirs, Training Programmes and Self Defence programmes.

Self Defense scheme for Women.

In the State, there are 26 centers started at district level for women and girls to face challenging situations bravely. Women undergo two months training of Judo/Karate under the same.

Discussion

After study of the various schemes for women education and empowerment by Gujarat government it is confirm that government of Gujarat has started so many initiative for women education at various stages and for women of various caste. As result of implementing various schemes for women education the literacy rate of women in Gujarat state was increases by 57.80 in 2001 to 69.68 in 2011. It means quantity of women who takes education is definitely increased. But, there were no evidence found about quality of women education. State government also increases

the fund for women education by announcing gender budget but, still it is not a proper evidence of quality education. Thus, government should come with such scheme which ensure the quality of women education.

Further, investigator would like to suggest that there should be maternity leave for women in higher education as many married girls are enrolled in higher education. Maternity leave already given to the women who are working, so there should be some provision of maternity leave during higher studies specially courses of more the one year duration.

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