

# Consciousness and Inclusiveness among Female Youths: A Way Forward



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## Abstract

*Social inclusiveness by creating equitable opportunities for all is one of envisages of National Youth Policy 2014. The inclusion of female youth in grabbing job opportunities needs education and higher education and implementation of education in getting job. As per the report of UGC the enrollment of female in the higher education had risen from 10% to 41.5% in 2010-11. Female have higher education but they deprive themselves from getting responsible job. There are many reasons responsible for that, female try to capture basic needs and neglects self-esteem. Female Youth's sense of self as empowered and competent will obviously make them aware of their inherent value and innate potential to bring educational, social, economical, political development. The objective of this paper is to find out the ways for promoting positive female youth so that they can become aware of their own identity. The present paper is based on observations and secondary data. Family, School, community and individual can contribute a way to consider female youth as individual member of society and not in relation with male and female only. Female youth's socialization has tremendous effect on the female mind and consequently has effect on their cognitive development so there is a need to change the process of socialization which promotes female youth supportive to male youth rather equal.*

**Keywords:** Inclusion, Female Consciousness, Socialization, Self-Identity, Inclusiveness

## Introduction

Youth development means growing and developing the skills and attitudes young people need to take part in society, now and in the forthcoming future. Female youth is entrapped in the bondage of patriarchal values, spiritual belief, and mostly in their being feminine. Because of their femininity they are looked as subsidiary or supportive to the male. They are in the society but are not inclusively adopted. For the female youth consciousness and inclusiveness it needs collective efforts on the behalf of government, individual, family and society which will boost and support female to achieve goal and a sense of being equal and free as like male youth. Social inclusiveness

by creating equitable opportunities for all is one of envisages of National Youth Policy 2014. Job opportunities require higher qualification and the will of the female youth to opt for job. Most of girl study to get better husband or become marriageable. Mary Wollstonecraft said in her book, "The minds of women are no different from the minds of men, but that only men and women differ in their bodies. Women become silly creatures because the goal of their education is to lure a man. A system based on one's sex's dependence is demeaning to everyone." The mindset of the female youth is being carved by social and traditional values. Women are reflected in epic and myths as totally devoted to their male partner of

father without questioning and submitting their wishes. In this century female youth requires self conscious efforts to go ahead and be a productive part of the society as well as the state.

Family connections, competence, character and self-identity which are stereotypically reflected in the patriarchal society and what young girls demand today are somewhat dissimilar. Connections with the family members and with other relations, learning in and out of the campus of school, having moral social values, identifying one's own strength and applying it into decision making power is important for empowering female with their bold decision. For that what could be strategies for promoting positive female youth development is a matter of research.

Much has been done to raise consciousness among the girls. Government, NGOs, Policy makers, Private institutions are working and planning for the betterment of the girls. The government of India has launched some programmes such, facility of girls' toilets in school, police help number for working girls. NGOs are rendering strategies for increasing enrollment in the school and pushing them to go for higher studies. But yet, a lot can be done on this much debated topic because transformation in traditional mind set up is not easy to occur. It always needs collective and effective efforts of the all strata of society.

### **An Overview on the topic**

Research area is about female youth and how they are being trapped in the shackles of tradition and stereotyping images which are being perpetuated by the patriarchal values as well as spiritual books. For better and liberal life female youth need to be conscious about their own identity and self esteem which is definitely useful for society. Female youth attempts to decode stereotype images and take whatever is appropriate for them. Inclusiveness of female youth in the employment and into education system is one of the envisages of the national youth policy 2014. Inclusion of all female youth from urban, rural, tribal society then and then only development in true sense possible.

### **Related Reviews**

Singh Sunitha and Gopalkrishna Gururaj (2014) in his research article, entitled "Health behaviours & problems among young people in India: Cause for concern & call for action", stated that the significant proportion of female youth has health impacting behaviours and discriminating conditions at home and society that affect their growth and development. The problem is on the increase, many are interlinked and coexist, and likely to increase in the coming years. There is a strong need for awareness generation towards the equal treatment and equal opportunities to the female youth not only in their family but also in society too.

Ram Usha, Strohschein Lisa, and Gaur Kirti (2014) highlighted impotent issue in his research article that, Indian society is marked by deep gender inequality, evidence linking gender socialization to mental health problems among female youth is sorely lacking. This small amount of evidence on the Indian context lends support to the idea that gender socialization is linked to the development problems of male and female youth.

Research has been conducted on the issues of youth, youth empowerment. the problem of employment and unemployment..There is research on "What Works promoting positive youth development in your community "by Vermont Agency of Human Services planning Division February 2000. There is another research on "Restless Development India Strategic plan 2011-2015" by Youth Led Development Agency. The research on the female youth's consciousness and their inclusion in the employment is less and hence the topic is important to have research in that particular area.

### **Methodology**

This paper is conceptual and objective of this paper is to find out the ways for promoting positive female youth so that they can become aware of their own identity. The present paper is based on observations as well as on secondary data and analytical method is used.

### **Consciousness and Inclusiveness - Discussion**

Indian society has tremendous effect of the culture and tradition. A society's culture is defined by

qualities of modesty, tradition, character, and the genius of the individuals. In the same way women female youth can be described on the basis of her position and status in the Indian culture. Tradition has been major part of the life of the people and it has large impact on the lifestyle and ideology of the people. By the word female consciousness researcher means to say that female youth's consciousness about their resources to access knowledge as well as how to make use of that tools, society, culture, tradition, values, education, career opportunities, their cognitive power to take decision independently and with confidence. The very objective of inclusion as the National Youth Policy is to support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all disadvantaged & marginalized group. By the word inclusiveness researcher want to indicate that female should get equal opportunities in any employment. The inclusion of socially and economically, disadvantaged female youth including but not limited to female youth SC/ST/OBC female youth living in conflict affected districts, physically disabled female, female who are suffered by human trafficking, female who are lesbian and those who are living in institutional care like in jail, remand home.

Female youth can grow and can have equal access in the all spare of the society. Collective efforts, formal, informal, direct or indirect are needed. Because female has a lot of impact of the process of socialization and socialization is based on patriarchal values and tradition, family, epics, customs, festival, myths, the system of dowry. It is made in such an effective manner that female start to have believed on patriarchal made system of the society. The depiction of female in myth as totally devoted to their male partner and their roles subsidiary and supportive, they are only symbol of love and devotion. Through tradition female is thrown in the depth of clutches of traditional ethics. According the traditional belief that female should devote her life as a pure wife, not to take education, not to come forward in front of other male, rear children with utmost care, take care of old members of the family and bear all atrocities of the husband because husband is a god and god

has right to behave as he want and he is free to do whatever he want to do.

Festivals also put female youth behind .female can have fun of festivals which are performed in the home and those which are related with power and outside of the home are performed by the male for example. putting fire to Ravna on the day of Dashehara and festival of Rakshbandhan. All festivals are meant for the glorification of the male youth. Family has main role for the subsidiary position of female youth. They are kept at home without allowing having education and if they get elementary education then they face the problem of higher education as the family is neutral to send them for higher education and opt for the job. Again family don't want to invest money on the female youth because girls will not stay with them once they get married then why one should waste the money on them along with the education girls will need dowry for marriage and mere education can bring down dowry system.

For removing all these barriers girls should take initiative. Because without demand even mother don't feed milk. Growing consciousness about the reality of all the events is key factor and sign of development. Consciousness about education, tradition, culture, customs and tradition is important. Without penetrating eyes success is impossible. As per the report of Ministry of Human Resource Development the literacy rate for population in the age group 15-24 years has shown an up trend. The youth rate has increased from 76.43% to 86.14% during the period 2001-2011. A positive increase in youth literacy rate has been higher for females(14.21%) than that for male(5.9%) education is the tool in brining consciousness among the female youth. Progress is needed not in terms of clothes and manners but in the cultivation of personality and individuality. Without a philosophical or mental revolution among the women their cannot be any social change (Subbmma, 1985, p.33).

Taking education and remain at home is a hurdle in female development. There is need of the counseling about the career opportunities and which will help to create self confidence among the girls.

Girls who live in remote areas or tribal areas need special focus and strategy. Government provides transportation facilities, free pass to girls along with this some motivational schemes will prove milestone in growing female consciousness.. Media can play a better and effective role in bringing female self-consciousness about their position in the society and its impact on their lives. Media has tremendous impact on the minds of youth.

It is observed in findings of various studies and reports, in the changing scenario, youths need some space to think, act and reshape our self. Space means not only physical but also its related to psychological and relationship too (Mahadevan 2015). Traditionally, family provide supportive environment for development of their members but considering the female youths there is always different angle in family too. The Central and State government has taken initiatives considering the special needs and issues of female youths. Government programmes like Sukanya Yojana, Samrudhi Yojana, Balika Suraksha Yojana and special focus on skill development of female youths has supporting to the development process more inclusive and gender sensitive (Rao, 2013). Inclusion of female youth in employment is significant. Female youth can become a part of the economy if they enroll themselves in the education system. Government provides plans such as enablement and capability building for disadvantaged youth, ensuring economic opportunities for youth in conflict affected regions, by creating awareness and opportunities to female youth so that they can get liberty to adopt job as per their capabilities. MHRD has special schemes to support girl's education, MoTA deals with issues that tribals face such as livelihood security and promotion of or access to education. For SC/ST/OBC girls education scholarships, hostels, credit to support self employment, reservations for the female, creating infrastructure in the remote areas, create awareness and opportunities to prevent youth being put at risk and not to become addict of drugs & alcohol.

In the present situation equity is more important than equality to enhance the inclusive

development of female youths in India. Along with state and central government the nongovernmental and voluntary efforts also started taking up for the empowerment of female youths. The collaborative efforts of NGOs, CBOs, FBOs and other voluntary organizations at community level is becoming more fruitful enhance the participation of female youths at all level of development (Aruna, 2013). The inclusive empowerment of female youth not a single stroke phenomena, there is need of sensitization of the whole development process. Empowerment refers with power and power had different faces. India's youth power needs to be converts in productive manpower of the country, for that range of activities is needed. Caste, gender, cultural, and demographical barriers of female youth development need to address within the systematic participatory approach.

### **Conclusion**

Poised to have one of the largest pools of young people in the world, youth will play a pivotal role in building the future of the Indian society. As youth enter adult roles and prepare to parent the next generation, there is a pressing need to understand how gender socialization has shaped their experiences and how these experiences are connected to their positive development. Female youth also faced greater barriers to independence than male youth as they were less likely to engage in independent decision-making in their day-to-day lives, faced greater restrictions on their mobility, and lacked access to money. To the extent that these are key stepping stones for success in adulthood, observed deficits among female youth are likely to limit upward mobility and contribute to persisting gender inequalities throughout adulthood.

Our constitution provides safeguards to the all venerable groups of the society. The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women. In addition to that, National Policy also takes note of the commitments of the Ninth Five Year Plan and the other Sectoral

Policies relating to empowerment female youth of the country.

Female youth development means to develop knowledge, skills, decision power, individuality, self respect, and self confidence to achieve goals. Female consciousness and inclusiveness do not mean the extreme point of the struggle. From collective consciousness of male youth and female youth directly or indirectly can bring female in the inclusive economy. Education not mere chasing of degrees and find out good bridegrooms but it will create awareness about their plight in a patriarchal society. In the same way employment is not only way of earning but is the means for development of personality, feeling of connectedness, sense of self empowered and competent.

Initiatives are being taken for improvement of health, social status, education, nutrition, sanitation, micro-credit for livelihood generation to the development of female youth in the country by bringing about holistic development in various fields. Along with the government's efforts, work is underway to increase accountability and initiative at the local level with the contribution of NGOs and CBOs.

Public-private initiative is needed to identify, prepare, integrate and implement activities that help to promote equitable and accessible resources to enhance socio-economic and healthy lifestyles

of young people and establish mechanisms for delivery of population-based interventions along with measuring its impact.

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