

THE EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN NEPAL

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APPROVAL SHEET

This dissertation entitled "The Educational status of Women in Nepal" Submitted to Central Department of Rural Development under the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University in the prescribed format by Janak Raj Regmi has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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This thesis entitled "**The Educational Status of Women in Nepal**" is prepared by Mr. Janak Raj Regmi under my supervision in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. I hereby recommend this dissertation for evaluation and acceptance.

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ABSTRACT

Men and women are two parts of a coin, two wheels of a cart but there is vast gender discrimination in accessing each level of education in Nepal. Most of the rural women are illiterate in Nepal and their participation is very low in every sector of development activities.

This study analyses the educational status of women in Nepal. The objectives of this study are (a) to review the government's objectives, policy and programmes towards women's education. (b) to examine and compare the regional variation of education attainment in terms of gender disparity. (c) to find the temporal variation of literate rate and educational attainment at different levels in each region of the country.

Education is the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. The major challenges of this sector are related to incapability in increasing the rate of literacy especially among the women and the access of basic education effectively among poor people and under developed places.

The study is mainly based on the secondary sources. The main techniques which are utilized to analyze data are: literacy rate, percentage of literate girls, GER, NER, promotion rate, drop out rate etc.

The literacy rate of Nepal is 53.8 percent while only 42.8 percent female are literate compared to 65.5 percent of males. Eastern Development Region has the highest (29.2%) female literacy rate and Far Western Development Region has the lowest literacy rate (13.3%) in 1991. The over all female literacy rate was 25 % at that time. But in 2001, western development region has the highest literacy rate (49.3%) and far western development region has the lowest literacy rate (33.2%). The hill region has the highest (58.6%) literacy rate followed by Terai region (51.3%) in 2001. there are about 24% female teachers among the 165552 teachers in 2003.

The study shows that the educational status of women is very low than men in Nepal. This discrimination to access education should be abolished through making free and

compulsory education till secondary level and furthermore, scholarship and financial support for female students, eliminate gender discrimination in all educational institutions, number of schools should be increased in rural areas. The educational status of female should be raised with proper policies and programmes.

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ACRONYMS / ASBBREVIATIONS

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDR	:	Central Development Region
DOE	:	Department of Education
EDR	:	Eastern Development Region
EAWE	:	Equal Access of Women to Education
FWDR	:	Far West Development Region
GER	:	Gross Enrollment Rate
ILO	:	International Labour Organization
MOES	:	Ministry of Education and Sports
MWDR	:	Mid Western Development Region
NESP	:	New Education System Plan
NEPC	:	National Education Planning Commission
NER	:	Net Enrollment Rate
NPA	:	Nepal Plan of Action
NGO	:	National Government Organization
WDR	:	Western Development Region