

## Progress of Women Education in Punjab

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### Abstract

There are enough research evidences that Women education plays pivotal role in the social and economic development of any society. This paper has sought to review the educational progress of women education in Punjab in terms of female literacy, adult literacy, enrolments and deployment of women teachers over the last 2-3 decades and also enlists various initiatives of the government to promote women education in Punjab. The data reveals that literacy rate has been rising consistently. The gap between the rural-urban literacy has reduced significantly and adult literacy has been increasing incessantly.

### Introduction

Education is considered to be the driving force for bringing about desirable changes in any society. Even the poorest countries have been realizing the need to make impressive investments in education over the last several decades. Women education is at the heart of social and economic development of any society. There goes a saying- “If a boy is educated, only an individual is educated, but if a girl is educated, thereby the whole family is educated.” Some people believe, if a female is educated, she awakens two families- one, that of her own, another, that of her parents. The University Education Commission has rightly observed;

“If general education has to be limited to men or women, that opportunity should be given to women, for then it would most surely be passed on to the next generation”.<sup>1</sup>

Education influences women’s chances of paid employment, her earning power, her age at marriage, her control over child bearing, her exercise of legal and political rights, and her ability to care for herself and her children (Kumar, 1990). Education has made radical changes in the attitude of women towards their marriage. There was a time when they had no alternative other than accepting early marriage. Now they are gaining economic independence. They are being given option to choose when and whom to marry (Gupta, 2001). As regarding the expenditure on women education, the World Bank takes it as the “single most influential investment that can be made in developing world<sup>2</sup>”. Now women education is supported not merely to foster economic growth, but also to promote smaller families and improve child health (Population Bulletin, 2001).

Five decades ago in the conservative, agrarian and feudal society of Punjab, women’s participation in education particularly higher education and employment outside the home had been viewed as inappropriate and harmful to the chastity and womanly virtue. Socially, women’s working was considered to be a degrading factor for the status of the family. However, with the passage of time as the women education progressed this orthodox attitude towards women education and their employment gradually changed to

<sup>1</sup> Report of the University Education Commission, 1948-49, Vol. 1, p. 393

<sup>2</sup> Quoted in Population Reference Bureau: (PRB): World Population Data Sheet, PRB, Washington, DC (2001). Policy briefs available at [http://www.prb.org/pdf/IsEducate-Contracept\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.prb.org/pdf/IsEducate-Contracept_Eng.pdf).



the extent that now virtually all families cutting across different standards of living, habitations, financial status, castes and religions want their daughters to possess skillful and employable education so that they may have an independent source of earnings as against marital dissolution.

### Objectives

Major objective of the study is to examine the growth of women education in Punjab. Specifically, this paper has sought:

1. To investigate the access to education of females;
2. To analyse the growth of female teaching staff in schools education; and,
3. To enlist various schemes of the government to promote women education in the State.

### Data Source

To achieve above listed objectives of the study, the data regarding literacy rate and various indicators of educational growth such as enrolment; number of teachers; number of institutions etc. have been collected from various statistical abstracts of Punjab, Economic Survey, Census of India, National Sample Survey Organization Reports and reports of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Punjab. For the discussion and analysis of the data simple averages, percentages and growth rates have been calculated.

### Female Literacy

Literacy is considered as a major indicator to study the educational awakening level in a state. In Punjab, there is a consistent rise in the literacy rate. It was 34.12 percent in 1971 and it went up to 75.8 percent in 2011. The same trends can be shown in the literacy among women. It was 24.65 percent in 1971 and it rose to 70.7 percent in 2011 i.e. an increase of 46.05 percent points over a period of 40 years. The gap between the male-female literacy has reduced considerably over a period of four decades, from 17.58 percent points in 1971 to 9.7 percent points in 2011 (see Table 1 and Figure 1).

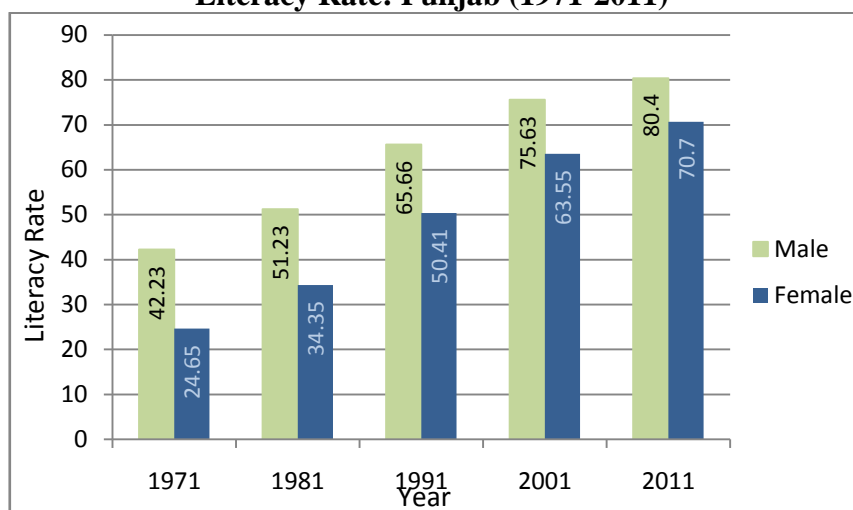
**Table 1**  
**Gender-wise Literacy Rate and Gender Gap, Punjab (1971-2011)**

Years	Population	Literates			Literacy rate			Gender gap
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1971	13551060	2934281	1627842	4562123	42.23	24.65	34.12	17.58
1981	16788915	4214878	2645471	6860349	51.23	34.35	43.37	16.88
1991	20281969	5919225	4012891	9932116	65.66	50.41	58.51	15.25
2001	24358999	8442493	6314677	14757170	75.63	63.55	69.95	12.08
2011	27743338	10436056	8271081	18007137	80.4	70.7	75.8	9.70

**Source:** Statistical Abstracts, Punjab; Director, Census Operations

**Note:** Literacy rate have been computed by excluding 0-6 age group

**Figure 1**  
**Literacy Rate: Punjab (1971-2011)**



### Adult Literacy

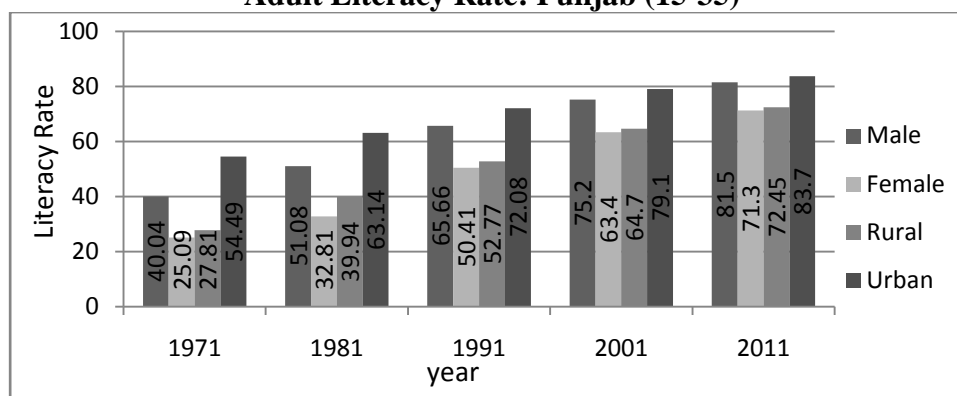
Table 2 and Figure 2 show adult literacy rate of Punjab from 1971 to 2011 and it is clear from the Table 2 that Punjab has progressed continuously in this regard. But still there are 23 percent illiterates in the 15+ age group. The gap between male and female literacy rate has reduced after 1981. The gap of literacy between rural and urban areas also shows a declining trend. There was gap of 27 percent in 1971 which came down to 11 percent in 2011.

**Table 2**  
**Adult Literacy Rate: Punjab (15-35)**

	197	198	199	200	201
Mal	40.0	51.0	65.6	75.	81.
Femal	25.0	32.8	50.4	63.	71.
<b>Tot</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>69.</b>	<b>76.</b>
Rura	27.8	39.9	52.7	64.	72.
Urba	54.4	63.1	72.0	79.	83.
<b>Tot</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>69.</b>	<b>76.</b>

**Source:** NSSO, 1998, Census of India (Punjab), 1971-2011 and Economic Survey 2013

**Figure 2**  
**Adult Literacy Rate: Punjab (15-35)**



It is pertinent to mention here that in Punjab, state government programmes deal only with the 15-35 age group and not with the total illiterate adult population<sup>3</sup>.

## School Education

### Universal Enrolment

Total enrolment of students in recognized institutions has gone up from 30.6 lakh in 1980-81 to 36.1 lakh in 1990-91 i.e. an increase of 5.5 lakh over a decade. The increase in the next nine years was not that much. It increased by only 3.51 lakh between 1990-91 and 1999-2000. Thereafter, the total enrolment of students decreased marginally by 0.13 lakh in the next year 2000-01 and further by 0.78 lakh by 2006. After that from 2006 to 2010, there was an increase of 3.13 lakh. From 2010 to 2012 it increased by 13.69 i.e. from 41.83 in 2010 to 55.94 in 2014 but fell slightly in 2015. Hence, massive expansion in enrolment took place during 2010-2012. Enrolment of girls is consistently lower than boys in all age groups and in all years. Enrolment among girls as well as boys has followed somewhat the same trend. It went up rapidly during 1980-1991 and the rise was comparatively slower during the next nine years period. Enrolment of both declined marginally in 2000-2001 as well as in 2006. Thereafter, it again rises after 2006. The growth of enrolment has been more in the case of girls than boys during 1980-2001

**Table 3**

### Enrolment of Scheduled Caste, Non-Scheduled Caste and Total Students in Recognized Institutions, 2015 (In lakh)

Age-group	Total			Non-Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Castes		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>6-11</b>									
1980-	11.4	9.3	20.	7.9	6.7	14.	3.5	2.6	6.1
1990-	11.1	9.5	20.	7.1	6.3	13.	4.0	3.2	7.2
1999-	11.2	10.1	21.3	6.3	5.6	12.0	4.8	4.4	9.3
2000-	11.2	9.9	21.1	6.3	5.5	11.8	4.8	4.3	9.2
200	10.1	8.9	19.1	5.4	4.5	10.0	4.7	4.3	9.0
201	10.6	8.7	19.4	5.9	4.5	10.5	4.6	4.1	8.8
201	14.3	11.	25.8	8.9	6.8	15.7	5.4	4.6	10.
201	14.3	11.	26.0	9.0	7.0	16.0	5.4	4.7	10.
201	14.1	11.6	25.7	9	7.08	16.0	5.13	4.55	9.69
201	14.0	11.6	25.6	9	7.13	16.1	5.04	4.51	9.54
201	13.5	11.2	24.8	8.69	6.91	15.6	4.9	4.38	9.28
<b>11-14</b>									
1980-	4.3	2.7	7.0	3.4	2.3	5.6	0.9	0.4	1.4
1990-	5.3	3.9	9.3	4.1	3.2	7.3	1.2	0.7	2.0
1999-	5.27	4.6	9.9	3.5	3.2	6.7	1.7	1.4	3.1
2000-	5.22	4.6	9.9	3.4	3.1	6.6	1.7	1.5	3.2
200	5.84	4.9	10.7	3.7	3.0	6.8	3.1	1.8	3.9
201	6.37	5.0	11.0	3.8	2.9	6.7	2.5	2.1	4.7
201	7.87	6.1	14.0	5.0	3.7	8.8	2.7	2.3	5.1
201	8.08	6.3	14.3	5.1	3.8	8.9	2.9	2.4	5.4
201	8.04	6.32	14.3	5.13	3.84	8.97	2.91	2.48	5.39
201	8.1	6.43	14.5	5.13	3.88	9.02	2.97	2.55	5.52

<sup>3</sup> However, the Shakshar Bharat Mission which is launched in 2009 has been amended to extend the scope of adult literacy programme beyond 35 age group in 2012.

201	8.16	6.58	14.7	5.08	3.91	8.98	3.08	2.67	5.76
<b>14-18</b>									
1980-	1.8	1.1	2.9	1.5	1.0	2.5	0.3	0.1	0.4
1990-	3.6	2.5	6.1	2.9	2.1	5.1	0.7	0.4	1.0
1999-	4.54	3.7	8.2	3.5	2.9	6.5	0.9	0.7	1.7
2000-	4.59	3.8	8.4	3.6	3.0	6.6	0.9	0.8	1.7
200	4.83	3.9	8.8	3.5	2.9	6.5	1.2	1.0	2.2
201	5.96	5.0	10.	4.2	3.4	7.7	1.6	1.5	3.2
201	7.68	6.3	13.	5.5	4.3	9.8	2.1	1.9	4.1
201	8.33	6.7	15.	5.8	4.5	10.	2.4	2.2	4.7
201	8.67	6.86	15.5	5.95	4.48	10.4	2.72	2.38	5.1
201	8.8	6.92	15.7	6.03	4.46	10.5	2.77	2.46	5.22
201	8.87	6.92	15.7	6	4.42	10.4	2.87	2.5	5.37
<b>Total</b>									
1980-	17.4	13.	30.	12.	10.	22.	4.7	3.1	7.9
1990-	20.0	15.	36.	13.	11.	25.	6.7	4.3	10.
1999-	21.0	18.5	39.6	13.5	11.8	25.3	7.5	6.6	14.2
2000-	21.0	18.4	39.4	13.4	11.7	25.1	7.6	6.7	14.3
200	20.8	17.8	38.7	12.7	10.6	23.4	8.0	7.2	15.2
201	22.9	18.8	41.8	14.1	10.9	25.0	8.8	7.9	16.7
201	29.8	24.0	53.8	19.5	14.9	34.5	10.	9.0	19.3
201	30.7	24.7	55.5	20.0	15.3	35.3	10.	9.4	20.1
201	30.8	24.8	55.6	20.0	15.4	35.4	10.7	9.41	20.1
201	30.9	24.9	55.9	20.1	15.4	35.6	10.7	9.52	20.2
201	30.6	24.7	55.4	19.7	15.2	35.0	10.8	9.55	20.4

*Source: Director Public Instruction Schools, Punjab; c.f. Economic Survey of Punjab, 2001, 2007-15 and MIS Wing of SSA and RMSA Punjab*

Enrolment has increased for both SC and non-SC students at the all stages of schooling over the past 42 years (from 1971 to 2013) but phenomenal growth is witnessed in the enrolment of SC girls mainly at 10+2 stage (4379 percent i.e. from 6926 in 1971 to 667226 in 2013). The enrolment has dipped at middle/senior basic stage from 1971 to 1981 for both SC and non-SC students, but again it started rising. In 2013, it shows an increase of 76 percent (95 percent for girls and 63 percent for boys) for non-SC students and 380 percent (585 percent for girls and 285 percent for boys) for SC students (see Table 4).

**Table 4**  
**Enrolment of Scheduled Caste, Non-Scheduled Caste at different stages**

Year s	SENOIR SEC.SCHOOL(+2)			SENIOR SEC. SCHOOL(+2)(SC)			HIGH/POST BASIC SCHOOL			HIGH/POST BASIC SCHOOL(SC)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	TOTAL	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1971	176159	93717	269876	24846	6926	31772	37081	22640	597225	57040	17534	74574
1981	149808	88181	237989	24980	8761	33741	44775	30799	755745	94045	44901	138946
1991	348507	254468	602973	68894	35850	10474	52551	41862	944144	115481	83011	198492
2001	623878	507069	1130947	15008	12546	275552	41494	36225	777198	109495	96747	206242
2011	121521	945963	216117	26395	23735	501307	69157	53598	122756	165126	139880	305006

	1		4	5	2		3	8	1			
2012	1349569	1049556	2399125	289473	260064	549537	707689	546916	1254605	164304	135561	299865
2013	1417592	1091228	2508820	356992	310234	667226	687882	532148	1220030	199479	163511	362990

Years	PRIMARY/JUNIOR BASIC SCHOOL			PRIMARY/JUNIOR BASIC SCHOOL(SC)			MIDDLE/SENIOR BASIC SCHOOL			MIDDLE/SENIOR BASIC SCHOOL (SC)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1971	522589	349001	871590	108348	512265	620613	194189	127939	322128	28015	13010	41025
1981	1024546	836324	1860870	334972	246486	581458	95126	82688	157814	20820	10194	31014
1991	1000674	860326	1861000	391197	312947	704144	109899	85988	195887	28359	18815	47174
2001	948403	863225	1811628	469953	426279	896232	127643	110569	238212	44349	38031	82380
2011	733670	647649	1381319	516527	472562	989089	300245	239856	540101	91948	78360	170308
2012	696574	627242	1323816	437439	395306	832745	321183	253486	574669	83292	67818	151110
2013	648980	594060	1243040	409536	376046	785582	316477	250386	566845	107913	89159	197072

### Retention of Female Children in Schools

There is a declining trend in the drop-out rate at all the levels of education in Punjab, but the decline is not consistent. In all cases decline in drop-out rates has been followed by rise more than once. Till 2002-2003, the scenario continued to be very alarming. In 2002-03 more than 25 percent of the children drop out of schools at the primary level, 32 percent by the time they reach the middle level, 48 percent at the secondary and 77 percent at the 10+2 level.

With the launch of SSA in 2002-03 and RMSA in 2007-08 and enactment of RtE Act 2009 the dropout rates at all levels of schooling have fallen significantly. Total drop out rate at the primary level (Class V) has gone down to 1.12% (1.12% for boys and 0.92% for girls). Total drop out rate for elementary (at level VIII) is 1.71 (1.63% for boys and 1.79% for girls) and it has been consistently lower for boys. At secondary and senior secondary stages the drop out rates have dipped to 5.58% (5.42% for boys and 5.75% for girls) and 9.27% (10.17% for boys and 8.38% for girls) respectively. As regarding the gender differentials in drop rates, at all the levels of schooling, the drop rate for boys has been consistently lower than girls in early years, thereafter, position reversed sooner or later

(see Table 5). Perhaps it may be due to various schemes provided by government to promote girls' education<sup>4</sup>.

**Table 5**  
**Dropout Rate in Punjab, 1988-89 to 2014-15**

Year	Primary (I-V)			Elementary (I-VIII)			Secondary (I - X)			Senior Secondary (I -XII)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1988-89	29.20	29.62	29.39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1991-92	29.83	30.25	30.02	33.12	41.29	36.90	-	-	-	-	-	-
2000-01	21.96	18.53	20.36	36.86	37.42	37.13	40.39	38.84	39.67	-	-	-
2001-02	21.28	19.28	20.33	35.31	38.82	36.99	38.95	38.25	38.62	-	-	-
2002-03	26.37	24.07	25.29	33.71	31.67	32.75	48.81	47.10	48.10	-	-	-
2011-12	2.13	1.88	2.01			1.51	8.68	8.22	8.48	5.91	7.68	6.73
2012-13	1.75	1.56	1.65			-0.01	3.90	4.16	4.02			6.74
2013-14	2.05	1.96	2.00	0.72	0.96	0.84	4.89	5.54	5.21	12.38	11.65	12.02
2014-15	1.12	0.92	1.12	1.63	1.79	1.71	5.42	5.75	5.58	10.17	8.38	9.27

**Source:** Directorate of Secondary Education, Punjab and MIS Wing of SSA/RMSA Punjab.

### Teaching Staff (School Education)

Although the number of teachers has been growing over 1971-2013 at all stages, but the growth trend is not uniform. It falls and then rises. The reason might be the retirement of teachers every year, but new recruitments are not done regularly.

In the beginning, number of women teachers in the school education lagged behind that of male teachers, but later The trend of more women teachers in the school education can be seen at all stages. At the primary stage of schooling the proportion of women teachers is consistently more after 1980, at the senior secondary stage this shift occurred after 1993 and at high and middle stage it arise after 1997. In 2013, at the all the stages of schooling i.e. primary, middle, high and senior secondary 68 percent, 75 percent, 74 percent and 73 percent of the teachers are women respectively. Thus women teachers outnumber male teachers in schools at all levels<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup>Based on the data compiled by Directorate of Secondary Education, Punjab and MIS Wing of SSA/RMSA Punjab.

<sup>5</sup>Based on data given in Punjab Statistical Abstracts (various years).

The SCs constitute 31.9% of the total population in Punjab which is the highest in the country. The percentage of SC teachers increased from 16.4 in 2010-11 to 19.1% in 2011-12.



**Table 6**  
**Number of Teachers in Schools in Punjab: 1971-2013**

Year	Senior Secondary School(10+2)			High/ Post Basic School			Middle Senior Basic school			Primary /Junior Basic School		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1971	4830	3632	8462	11775	7121	18896	6364	4556	10920	13367	9429	22796
1981	5005	4052	9057	19508	13004	32512	5602	4060	9662	22409	25417	47826
1991	9976	9440	19416	17559	14049	31653	5069	4046	9115	21843	26262	48105
2001	16866	21643	38509	13688	15732	29420	6784	7136	13920	14482	26495	40977
2011	17085	38445	55530	11852	25986	37838	7255	12580	19835	14777	25991	40768
2012	23977	59296	83273	14508	40954	55462	9059	26684	35743	16295	36335	52630
2013	25196	65109	90305	14591	42303	56894	8977	27834	36811	15800	34182	49982

**Source:** DPI, Punjab; cf Statistical Abstracts of Punjab

### Schemes to Promote Girls' Education

**Free Bicycle for girls under Mai Bhago Scheme:** The Punjab government had launched Mai Bhago Vidya Scheme in 2011, so as to improve the girl education scenario in the state. The Punjab government had launched Mai Bhago Vidya Scheme in 2011, so as to improve the girl education scenario in the state. It was observed that the schools dropout rate of girls were very high as their homes were too far away from the schools and it was becoming inconvenient for them to come all the way.

As per the scheme, initially girl students of Class 11 and 12 studying at the government schools were given bicycles, but later on it was decided that they will provide the same to students studying in Class 9 and 10 as well.

**Reservation of seats for Girls in Meritorious Schools:** To provide free education to the students who passed their matric examination with 80% marks and above, seven meritorious residential senior secondary schools with the capacity of 1000 students have been opened in seven districts of the state namely Amritsar, Bathinda, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Mohali and Patiala. In six meritorious schools, 60% seats have been reserved for girl students. The seventh meritorious school at Talwara in districts Hoshiarpur is only for girls students.

**Strengthening of 162 Senior Secondary Girls Schools:** To provide quality education, the State government has taken initiative to strengthen 162 Government Girls Senior Secondary Schools with facilities like integrated science lab, Physics and chemistry lab, biology lab, additional class rooms, separate toilet and furniture. For this an amount of Rs. 4645.90 lacs has been approved under RIDF NABARD Project.

**Swasth Kanya Yojna:** While focussing on women empowerment, announced the Swasth Kanya Yojana in the Budget for year 2016-17. This yojna aims to improve health and educational status of girls, and has been proposed with an outlay of Rs. 70 crore in the annual plan 2016-17.

Under this scheme, free schoolbags containing stationery items will be provided to girl students in government schools from Class I to XII. There will also be a "Benefit Eligibility Card" in this bag that shows the benefits being provided to girls under various schemes. Girls studying from Class VI to XII in all government schools will also be provided "Kanya Health Care Kits" on monthly basis.

**National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education:** This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to promote enrolment of SC/ST girl child in the age group of 14-18 at secondary stage, especially those who passed Class VIII. Under this scheme, a sum of Rs. 3,000/- is deposited in the name of eligible girls as fixed deposit. The girls are entitled to withdraw the sum along with interest thereon on reaching 18 years of age and on passing 10th class examination.

**Scholarship Schemes:** In order to encourage the education among SC girls, State government runs various scholarship schemes. Some of the schemes being run by State Government to promote girls education are as below:

- **Special Grant to SC Girls (Post matric):** This is 100 percent State sponsored scheme. Under this scheme stipend @Rs. 50 per month per girls is being provided to facilitate SC girls.
- **Award scheme for SC Girls of classes 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>:** To encourage SC girls for further studies, state government provides consolidated amount of Rs 3000/- per girl.
- **Promotion of education among Educationally Backward Classes (for both boys and girls):** this is a pre-matric scheme being run by state for SC/BC students of 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> classes. An amount of Rs. 40/- per month for girls and Rs.30/- per month for boys is being provided.
- **Scholarship for De-notified tribes (for both boys and girls):** State provides an amount of Rs. 40/- per month for students of classes 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> and Rs. 63/- per month for the students of classes 11<sup>th</sup>&12<sup>th</sup> belonging to denotified tribes.
- **Scholarship for SC brilliant students at block level (for both boys and girls):** State government provided scholarships of Rs. 100/- per month to the students of classes 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> who got first, second and third positions at block level.
- **Award to SC sports students from class 6h to 12<sup>th</sup> (for both boys and girls):** For encouraging students to participate in sports activities, special efforts are being made by the state. For this purpose, state government provided scholarships to SC students who got first three positions in sports like Athletics, Kabbadi, Kho-Kho and Gymnastics. An amount or Rs. 500/- for the students of middle classes, Rs. 750/- for the students of secondary classes and Rs. 1000/-for the students of senior secondary classes.
- **Free books to SC girls of classes 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>:** State provided free books to those SC girls of classes 11<sup>th</sup>& 12<sup>th</sup>who belongs BPL families.
- **State Education Welfare scheme for SC students (for both boys and girls):** State government has taken an initiative to promote education among SC students by exempting them from board examination fees of class 10<sup>th</sup>.

Apart from this, under RMSA and SSA following activities are being run for promoting Girls education:

- Community is sensitized through community training programmes conducted under SSA.
- For emphasizing on '*Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*' Kala Utsav was organized to flash the message of 'SAVE THE GIRL CHILD, EDUCATE THE GIRL CHILD!'

- Under RMSA, Vocational education is being imparted in higher classes on trades of girls' interests like beauty & wellness, Healthcare, Stitching & tailoring etc. to motivate the girls to continue their education after elementary level.
- Self Defense training is being provided under SSA to girls of classes 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and under RMSA, girls of classes 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> are being covered.
- KGBV hostels under SSA and girls hostels under RMSA are providing immense help for girls from disadvantaged group of society.
- Under SSA and RMSA, separate toilet for girls' students are provided.

**Free Uniforms:** Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, free uniforms are being provided to all girls from classes 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> studying in government schools.

### Summary

This paper has reviewed the educational progress of women in Punjab. The data reveals that literacy rate has been rising consistently. The gap between the rural-urban literacy has reduced significantly over a period of four decades. There was a continuous growth as regarding adult literacy rate. Further, the gap between male and female literacy rate has reduced consistently after 1981.

Total enrolment of students in recognized institutions has gone up from 30.6 in 1980-81 to 55.94 in 2014 but fell slightly in 2015. Massive increase in enrolment took place during 2010-2012. Enrolment of girls is constantly lower than boys in all age groups and in all years. Enrolment of Scheduled Caste students (of total as well as of boys and girls) has grown consistently from 1980 to 2015.

There is a declining trend in the drop-out rate at all the levels of education in Punjab. Till 2002-2003, the scenario continued to be very alarming. With the launch of SSA in 2002-03 and RMSA in 2007-08 and enactment of RtE Act 2009 the dropout rates at all levels of schooling have fallen significantly. Total drop out rate at the primary level (Class V) has gone down to 1.12% (1.12% for boys and 0.92% for girls). Total drop out rate for elementary (at level VIII) is 1.71 (1.63% for boys and 1.79% for girls) and it has been consistently lower for boys. At secondary and senior secondary stages the drop out rates have dipped to 5.58% (5.42% for boys and 5.75% for girls) and 9.27% (10.17% for boys and 8.38% for girls) respectively.

Although the number of teachers has been growing over 1971-2013 at all stages; number of women teachers in the school education lagged behind that of male teachers, but later the trend of more women teachers in the school education can be seen at all stages.

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