



## **“Rural College Girls are Always Ahead of Boys in Every Academic Activity in College Life but Why They Goes Lag Behind in Social life: A Case Study of a College in North- East Maharashtra”**

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### **Abstract**

Female students are always ahead of boys. Especially rural female students have less facilities of transportation, sports, coaching classes, training centres etc. But however, they try to progress themselves. In any standard, especially in their degree education, they are far ahead of boys in every activity like attendance and participation in class activities, academic performance, cultural activities, social activities and online learning. Their leads can be seen in all areas. But the question is why they lag behind in social life. They have disappeared in the sports and political institutions. They are found in less numbers in social activities. There are several barriers in their economic development. Traditional social system, negative parents' approach, prevalence of stereotypical social life and Main barriers.

### **Introduction:**

Indian women are remarkable performing in every field and giving significant contribution to India's development. They are making progress in the area of sports, business, politics, industries, cultural, social welfare, technology, education and so on, despite having a lot of barriers, societal pressure and bindings. Emerging massive reforms in modern societies as compared to traditional one. Everyone witnessed that the rural women have full potential to achieve success in any area, but they are still facing more hurdles, more barriers in their developmental path. Especially young rural women facing more challenges in making their own identity. Despite many hurdles they are coping up with the challenges and getting their progress steadily.

This study put out the focus on potential of the rural female students and the reasons for their lag behind as compared to boys. This study shows the leads of young rural female students in every academic activity in the college. This study also highlights the truth that how traditional rural society and social bindings as well as parental approach makes difficulties in their career building. This is the case study and for this researcher have chosen a college as a case and which is located in a town of south east Maharashtra and in the district of Northern Marathwada.

### **1.Leads in attendance and participation:**

Everyone witnessed that female students are taking the leads in attendance and participation in the different activities, whether it is social, cultural or academic. In this college female students take more attention in every activity of the college than that of boys. Essay competition, elocution competition, Rangoli competition as well as sometimes in arranging any speech of any intellectual person in the college campus for enhancing the social, cultural and academic knowledge of the students. All these activities female students take part with an enthusiastic manner. It is observed that the greatest number of participants were and are of girl students. It is also found that female students always attend more as compared to boys in the Auditorium Hall in any kind of program.



Another fact is, the enrolments of male students in every subject in every stream is somewhat more than female. But the attendance in the classroom can be observed that, almost every female student attends the class. Their leading role can be seen in the classroom attendance. The same situation can be observed in the examination hall also.

In the last two years the teaching learning process is going on with online mode. For better communication as well as for teaching- learning process each teacher has made some WhatsApp groups of the students. With the help of these group female students were attending all of the virtual classes in a serious manner. Male students looked reluctant in the virtual teaching learning process. Female students were active in their different WhatsApp groups of different subjects for their further study. They were communicating and discussing with the teachers regarding their subjects, topics, internal examinations, semester examinations and all other academic activities. As a Co- curricular activity, the department of sociology had started the 'NGO administration and management certificate course' for the students with virtual mode. Almost more than 70 female students enrolled themselves out of 94 total enrolments. Here we found the great lead of the college female students. During this course online lectures were conducted by the department and in this online lecture more than 90% of the attendance were of the female students.

No doubt, about the fact that the female students have got the lead in attendance and participation in different kinds of academic activities.

## **2. Leads in academic performance:**

No one can deny the fact that women students are one step ahead than boys in academic performance. This college also is not an exception to this fact. The observation is, when a teacher gives some assignments, tutorials, or homework, or any kind of academic task, female students are always in the leading role to complete this work. Any class consists of 40 students and out of these 75 per cent attendance are female students.

As far as the classroom activities are concerned such as question answering sessions, doubt clearing sessions etc, usually the female students take part and respond a lot more in this regard. More often than not teachers arrange some seminars, group discussions, workshops for evaluation and enhancing the knowledge of students. In all the activities female students are one step ahead with taking the leading role for performing these activities. The fact is that they prepare themselves better and come in the next day and perform themselves in the classroom. On the other hand, it is observed that most boys do not come on the next day to perform the seminar.

When the semester exam is approaching, female students ask the doubts regarding the exam to their different teachers. They ask about the time table, schedule of examination, internal marks activities, running notes books, multiple choice questions, theory type questions and important questions and such other questions and doubts. They are very careful and serious in their study. Male students also ask their doubts and meet with the teacher to clarify their examination related questions but they are found in less numbers. Another comparison can be seen in making the topic notes. Whatever the topic teaches by the teacher in the classroom, female students write the topic notes in their separate notebooks at their own home. Female students take extra efforts in this regard. They always have more perfect topic quotes than that of boys. Boys always lag behind in this regard.

## **3. Leads in cultural activities:**

On different occasions different types of cultural activities takes place in the college campus during the academic year. Gathering, Youth Festival are major cultural activities. No doubt, in these two areas major leads can be seen of the male students. Several reasons behind leading the male students in these activities. Traditional rural society does not allow them to



go on the stage to perform. Since the last few years, the thoughts of rural people in this regard have been changed. Female students are showing their skills and talents such as singing, one act play, storytelling etc. and performing on the stage on the occasion of annual gatherings and youth festivals. But still their number are less as compared to male students.

Apart from this whenever some other cultural activities take place in the campus female students always stand on the front row for inviting and welcoming the guests. On this occasion they draw beautiful rangoli designs, sing welcoming songs for the honour of guests. Also, they help during the programme and provide garland and bouquets in the tray, give vote of thanks etc. Sometimes they express their views in such programs. The researcher observed that, on the occasion of the celebration of National Voter's Day 2014 and 2019 female students took part in a rangoli design competition which were organized by the S D office. In this competition some female students have achieved the first and second rank in both years and won the prize from SDO.

#### **4. Leads in online learning:**

In December 2019, the lockdown was announced by the government in the entire country. Except for some months it is continuing till today. During this period educational and teaching learning activities are running on the online platform. In this regard following facts observed by the researcher. The teachers were taking their classes with the online platform and maximum numbers of female students were attending the classes. Sometimes teachers were taking the online tests and most of the female students were attempting such unit tests as compared to the male students. A certificate course organized by the department of sociology under the Memorandum of Understanding for academic development with the noted college in Pune. In this course 94 students were admitted and, in that number, around more than 70 students were female. The coordinator of this course made 9 separate WhatsApp groups of these all students for better implementation and communication of the course. 8 out of these 9 WhatsApp group admins were female students. These female group admins were effectively communicating with their group members and getting work done from them.

Numbers of video lectures made by the different teachers and they were sending these video lectures on their different subject WhatsApp groups. The surprising thing came from the observation that all the video lectures were seen by the female students. Several teachers have observed that the doubts regarding topics have been asked by the female students on their subject WhatsApp groups whether they are from Arts, Science or commerce stream. Also, the fact of observation is most of the female students have made the phone calls to their teachers to clarify their educational doubts related to examination, test-tutorials, time of lectures, assignments and so on than that of male students.

#### **5. Leads in social activities:**

During the academic year several social activities organize in the college campus such as, elocution, essay writing, debate in different social issues like, save water, voting, enhancing moral values, road safety, AIDS awareness etc. Several times the department of sociology of this college has arranged study visits in the slum area. In this all social activities the leads of the female students have clearly indicated. In the month of August 2012 a female student achieved first number in the elocution competition under Save The Girl Child campaign. On the Independence Day 2012 a noted hospital has taken the elocution competition in awareness of stop female foeticide practices. In this competition four female students took part from this college and achieved the certificate of appreciation. Another campaign was conducted by noted Sakal newspaper in the entire Maharashtra in order to establish the 'Tanishka' group of female students in college campuses in order to raise the social issue by the girl students. In this college the same Tanishka group of girl students have been established with the help of a



coordinator teacher. In this activity more than 20 girls came forward with taking lead in the form of this group. The female students who were associated with Tanishka group collected some amount as relief fund for Uttarakhand flood calamity in the month of July 2013. Several other social activities they had taken in their hand in the later years.

In the year 2014, an essay competition was arranged in the college campus on the occasion of national voter's day for all college students. In this event female students only have got success. Three female students achieved the rank first, second and third and got the prize from the hand of Honourable president of the college.

On the occasion of World Population Day, the department of sociology arranged the rally in order to raise awareness of population control. Teachers tried to involve both male and female students into this really. But very few boys took interest in this really and the majority of female students were actively involved. In the First row the banner held by two female students in their hand with taking the lead. Also, they were loudly announcing different slogans and others were following them. The success of this really could done only due to took part of the female students with enthusiasm.

Gandhi Vichar Sanskar Pariksha has been conducted every year in the college since 2012 for all college students. In this district level competitive examination female students only could get the first rank with price and shield in 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2017.

Another great lead of the female students found in the special event of Swachhata Mitra Karandak Vakrutva Spardha which is organized by Panchayat Samiti, Basmat in order to raise awareness of cleanliness. Under this cleanliness campaign elocution competition arranged in the college continues for 3 to 4 years. In the year 2013 to 2017 only female students only from B.A. B.Com. and B.Sc. streams succeeded in this competition and achieved top rank with getting Rs. 3000 as prize in Taluk level and 5000 Rs. in district level. After selection of four female students on the district level in the same competition they also succeeded in the district level and achieved 3000 and 2000 rupees as prize. Surprising that there was not a single name of any boy in the district level competition.

It is also observed that most of the female students as compared to boys took the initiative in making the wall poster on different occasions.

## **6. Struggle in the sports activity:**

Sports is the massive and wide range of areas which remain negligible for making the career of women. In the rural area the situation is more negative in this regard. This college sports department exists for college students. Physical education is the subject also available for BA stream. Numbers of male students choose the physical education subject whereas very few female students choose the physical education subject in their degree level. Sports department conducts its routine activities within the academic period of time. Whatever the basic facilities are needed which are available in the college. Large size of ground, indoor hall, Girls Hostel, sports equipment such facilities are available. Usually boys play football, Kabaddi, volleyball, cricket, and other heavy games. But girl students play very limited games. They play only table tennis, Kho Kho, badminton, running and other suitable games. They do not come for regular practice on the ground. They only come for practice when inter college competition begins. On average 5 to 7 girls reach till zone and interzone competition matches every year. After completion of their graduation, it was observed that they kept themselves away from sports and got married. Only one female student is actively involved in Table Tennis still today even after completion of her graduation. As per discussion with her she said that she wishes to open an Academy for the exposure of table tennis. It is also true that lots of barriers are coming in her path.



### **Why they are lag behind in social life:**

In this case study we found that women students from rural areas have great potential to take the lead in overall academic development. But still some barriers exist in the path of their social and economic development. It means that in the path of their led development. In the rural societies there are lots of social bindings on women. They are bound to follow a stereotypical life. They aren't allowed to take part freely in the social activities in rural life the same as men. Parents are usually reluctant to make the career of their daughters in sports, as well as such other skills like singing, dancing, swimming, and such all other areas which are dominated by men. At a certain age parents take the decision to stop their sports activities, no matter if their daughters have extreme skills in a certain sport event. Approximately 30% of female students get married during their degree education. Most of the parents feel the burden of the marriage of their daughters rather than making their career. This type of social background makes the hurdle in their degree education as well as in making their career also. Here we observed the negative parental attitudes towards educating their daughters. This negative approach of their parents makes them passive and promotes them to live under the control of their life partner's family.

In the college life of the female students, they take part in different social activities like participating in the rallies in order to raise awareness of different social issues, debates, elocution. As well as celebration of different events like World Population Day, Women's Day water awareness campaign, Beti Bachao Abhiyan and so on. They take leads in these all activities. But in social life they lag behind after graduation. After completion of the college education no one female student found in the last two decades as a political leader or as social activist. Among them several women students are in the position of Sarpanch, ZP members, Panchayat Samiti members only due to women reservation. It is also true that, always take care of their socio-political work by male from their family members. On the other hand, lots of male students are actively involved in the socio-political field in their own villages. Nowadays male students are making banners of their political activities and placing it besides the roads. As well as their birthday celebration banners can also be seen everywhere. But women are not allowed to do this type of action because of social and traditional pressure. Certainly, boys should be involved in the socio-political fields. It is very good for shaping up our democratic state. But as compared to boys or male students, females also should be involved. Gender bias approach existed in this regard.

Sports is a large area where the rural female student can make their career as well as make them strengthened. In this rural area there are lots of barriers in their sports career. Parents' negative approach is the main hurdle in their sports career. However, if some parents decide to allow their daughters to go to regular practice for their certain sports event, there are not certain sports facilities available. Professional clubs, grounds, equipment, training canter and such facilities are not easily available to females in their own area. For these types of practice, female students can't go to the metro area due to the poor economic conditions of their families. However, if someone decided to go, suddenly start the buzz against them in their own village. As such, traditional society forces them to do their house work instead of making a career.

### **Bitter Truth:**

Usually, the women or girls from common people and common families do not take interest in politics or to be a political leader. This truth indicates more clearly in Indian rural areas. In the result India slipped in Global Gender Gap Index 2021 in women's representation. 'India's poor record on women's representation is starkly revealed by the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2021, where it has slipped 28 places, ranking 140 among 156 countries' (1).



BBC.com surveyed regarding Indian women in sport. According to this, 'The research showed that as many as 64% of Indian adults did not participate in any kind of sport or physical activity. this figure was even worse when broken down by gender- nearly one and half times more than (42) % said they played sport than women (29%)' (2).

This Research indicates the truth that Indian women does not take part or take interest into the sports or maybe they don't allow to take part in the sports by their family or traditional social system. Rural women literacy rate is also concerned. 'India accounts for 30 percent of the world's total illiterate population and out of which 70% are women' (3)

Every Indian should take this truth into consideration. If female students are always ahead of male students in every academic activity the question arises why they are lagging behind in the literacy rate.

### Conclusion:

Rural women students have great talent as well as great potential to do any kind of creativity. They are hard workers also. They can make their career in sports dancing, singing or any art. Also, they can enter into politics, business, technology and like all these fields in which boys are making their career. But the truth is that all areas are captured and dominated by the masculine gender. On the other hand, India's young women are struggling a lot in making their career. They are facing a lot of hurdles in their developmental path. Rural poverty is the main hurdle along with social and traditional pressure. Weak rural infrastructure is also another factor by which women cannot do the regular practice of sports, and can't go to regular college. Due to insufficient transportation facilities, they cannot get the benefits of skills or educational training institutions which are located in urban semi urban areas.

Most of the female students got married till the end of their degree education. After marriage increases their dependence on their life partner's family. Women can make strong and superior politicians but they do not take an active part in politics. They don't work as activists or members of certain political parties. Only male domination and proficiency are found in these areas. The area of politics seems prohibited to Indian women especially for rural women. As such the social pressure and tradition does not allow rural women to take part freely into any social activities as men.

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