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National Girl Child Day 2023: Why educating and empowering rural girls is key to building a new India

Education is the founding pillar for the growth and progress of a nation. It is a powerful tool that appries people of their rights and duties and helps them make informed choices.



India Today Web Desk

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National Girl Child Day 2023: Educating and empowering rural girls to build a new India

By India Today Web Desk: Today's women from India write their own stories! And they are emerging as changemakers- be they rural or urban. Navalben Dalsangbhai Chaudhary from Banskantha district in Gujarat started a dairy in her house in her early 60s and today caters to the milk needs of people in several villages. Defying all odds, Jyothi Reddy from Warangal, who owns a nearly \$15 million IT company today, grew in a welfare orphanage and earned Rs 5 per day through tailoring.

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Even in spaces that are considered stereotypical to men, young women are carving a niche for themselves. Bhawna Kanth from Darbhanga, Bihar, is one of the first three female fighter pilots in India.

WOMEN EXCELLING IN EVERY FIELD



Whether it is sports, arts, academics, or defence, young women are excelling in every field and taking an active part in the social and economic development of the country. Though successful women come from varied backgrounds, they are all a testimony to how education along with support from families and society can equip and encourage young girls towards realising their potential.

EDUCATION IS THE PILLAR FOR THE GROWTH OF A NATION



500 'Aam Aadmi Clinics' to come up in Punjab on January 27



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Education is the founding pillar for the growth and progress of a nation. It is a powerful tool that appries people of their rights and duties and helps them make informed choices, thus creating an empowered and powerful federation. Access to equitable quality education is pivotal for the overall growth of the economy across a stratum of society.

Women play a pivotal role in nation-building and 'an educated woman implies an empowered nation'. Giving girls an early and right head start can arm them with the skills and knowledge, hence transforming the social, political, and economic status of a country.

ROLE MODELS LIKE DROUPADI MURMU AN INSPIRATION

One of the prime examples and role models of this is our honourable President, Droupadi Murmu, who fought all odds and became the first person from the tribal community to hold the highest office in the country. She inspires and motivates all the girls who hail from the rural parts of the country to aspire without constraints and restrictions.

SCHEMES INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT



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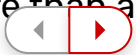
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The Government of India has introduced several unique initiatives which focus on improving their education and living conditions. These include Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, Balika Samridhi Yojana, CBSE Udaan Scheme, and many other schemes rolled out by the state governments.

Working in sync with the UN SDG4, which promotes the concept of quality education for all, the recently formulated New Education Policy 2020 aims towards a 100 percent gross enrolment ratio of girls by 2030 for school education and is further expected to eliminate the gender disparity in the education sector.

MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

While the educational status of girls in rural areas is getting better, there are still various factors such as safety concerns, poor hygiene conditions, and more than a



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when all sectors and communities come together and work with a common goal in mind.

We need to put a stop to early marriage and young women should be permitted to build a self-sustained life for themselves. Further, there needs to be a vigorous focus on improving the infrastructure and basic facilities like water, electricity, hygiene, and sanitisation as a step towards better health and safety.

Article by: Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Ltd.

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