



Educational Backwardness of Indian Muslims: A Review

Dr. Sadiq Bagwan

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University

Abstract:

Education is one of the most important social capital that prepares an individual to better face the exigencies of life. Since time immemorial, societies have emphasized and recognized the importance of education. Equal opportunities for quality education for all sections of society ensure societal progress and prosperity. The lack of education among sizeable section of society is a cause of concern. Poverty, lack of equal opportunities, discrimination, and lack of awareness are some of the important reasons for low education among any section of the population. The Muslims in India which accounts for more than 18 per cent of total population represents a gloomy picture in terms of education. The Muslim community is besieged with problem of high illiteracy, low enrolment, high dropout, low percentage of graduates, and negligible presence in professional education. The high percent of poverty, unemployment and self-employment activities among Muslims leaves them with only two choices: low education or no education. The lower representation of Muslims in education is reflected in their lower presence in government services and in jobs with higher salary and prestige. Invariably, the high incidence of poverty and self-employment among

Muslims can be attributed among other things to lack of quality education and lower presence in higher and professional education. The Muslim community is caught in never ending vicious cycle of poverty, low education and unemployment. There is urgent need for implementation of the Sachhar Commission (2006) recommendations of providing quality basic education, provision of technical education and equality of opportunity for Muslim masses enhancing their representation in high paid jobs across sectors, both government and private. Similarly, access to formal financial institutions for loans will boost their financial resources and leverage their mindset towards accessing quality education for next generation. The issue of educational backwardness of Muslims is multi-faceted. There is need for a coordinated efforts at community, societal and governmental level to address this challenge which dragging the development and prosperity of both, the Muslim community and the nation.

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