

# TO STUDY ROLE OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN MUMBAI

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## Abstract

*The women are beautiful creations of God. The role and importance of women in our society cannot be ignored. But unfortunately many women in India are deprived of one of the basic needs that is education. Due to lack of education they don't know their rights and they are the victim of practices such as infanticides, child marriage, dowry etc. Women's welfare will not be possible without education. Many Non governmental organizations are working to empower them through education all over India. This paper tries to explore the role of Non Governmental Organisation for women's education within Mumbai city. The study examines the pivotal role of non governmental organizations (NGOs) in advancing women's education in Mumbai city. It highlights how NGOs play a crucial role in bridging gaps in educational access and quality for women and women, particularly in marginalized communities. By implementing various programs such as scholarships, literacy campaigns, vocational training, and advocacy efforts, NGOs contribute to breaking down barriers to education, empowering women economically and socially, and fostering gender equality. Through case studies and statistical evidence, this abstract illustrates the tangible impact of NGO interventions on women's education outcomes, underscoring the importance of collaborative efforts between NGOs, governments, and other stakeholders in promoting women's empowerment through education.*

*The article reviews the best practices, methods and tools used by NGOs for women education and development in Mumbai city. The Paper will reveal the importance and influence of NGOs activity in women education. Overall, NGOs play a pivotal role in complementing government efforts and addressing gaps in promoting women's education in Mumbai, thereby contributing to the overall development and empowerment of women in the region.*

**Keywords:** NGO's, Women, bridging, examines, collaborative

## INTRODUCTION:

Education is a basic necessity that shapes the future of economies throughout the world. The intellectual wellbeing of people, especially women, marks the societal upliftment of the weaker sections of the society. All over the world there are around 130 million women who are still not enrolled in schools. In most of developing countries, due to the reasons such as poverty unawareness, child marriage, religious boundary, women are not allowed to get proper education. The supply of proper educational resources and the creation of jobs for women helps to empower them. In order to empower women, NGOs offer basic education, vocational training, training for self-employment, legal aid, protection for women, and self-awareness programmes.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To study and highlight role of Non Governmental Organisations in promoting women education.
- To create awareness about availability of such NGOs in Mumbai city, so that maximum women can reach to it.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The paper reveals the functioning role of the Non Governmental Organisations working in India. In the paper, qualitative research methodology has been utilised. The sources of data collection is document analysis which includes carefully chosen academic papers to access the role of NGOs in promoting women education and empowerment.

## NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in promoting women's education in Mumbai by providing various services such as:

#### **Education and Skill Development Programs:**

NGOs often establish schools, tuition centers, and vocational training programs specifically targeting girls and women, especially those from marginalized communities.

#### **Awareness Campaigns:**

NGOs conduct awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of education for girls and women, addressing cultural and social barriers that may hinder their access to education. Scholarships and Financial Assistance: Many NGOs offer scholarships and financial assistance to support girls and women in pursuing their education, covering expenses such as tuition fees, books, and transportation.

#### **Empowerment Workshops:**

NGOs organize workshops and seminars focusing on empowerment, leadership, and confidence-building for girls and women, encouraging them to aspire for higher education and career opportunities.

#### **Advocacy and Policy Influence:**

NGOs advocate for policy changes and reforms to promote gender equality in education, ensuring that government policies are implemented effectively to support women's education.

#### **Community Engagement:**

NGOs engage with local communities to gain support for women's education initiatives, involving parents, community leaders, and other stakeholders in the process. NGOs educate and facilitates self-employment opportunities to underprivileged women in order to raise their social and economic standing. In order to better the lives of the poor women, they also instil in them the habits of thrift and credit. Several NGOs are working towards this goal of providing better education to women. NGOs work together with government, non-government and non-profit organizations. There are many challenges faced when it comes to women' education. In India alone, there are around 200 million illiterate women, which is the highest in the world, despite the constitution providing free and compulsory education to all. The urban female literacy rate is 64%, whereas the rural literacy rate is 31%. In societies where women' rights are not protected, it could be the most difficult task to convince them to get educated. Some of the challenges are:

#### **Poverty:**

Poverty is the biggest hindrance to women' education. There are many additional costs that are associated which often demotivate the families of the women. Textbooks, bus fair and such costs add up due to which poor families avoid teaching their girl child. Also, poverty remains the number one cause of illiteracy according to World Bank. Along with the exempted fee, other facilities such as books, uniforms, and transport facilities are equally important to make education affordable to all.

#### **Child Marriage:**

In many parts of our country girls are married early and are denied of education. Child marriage also leads to many other issues such as early pregnancy, domestic violence, and other complications.

#### **Household Chores:**

Most of the time is spent by women performing unpaid jobs like cooking, cleaning, and others. Women between the ages of 14 and 20 in developing countries have more burden of household jobs as compared to men. Investing more in household jobs finally leads to less time for education.

## **ANALYSIS AND RESULTS**

NGOs promoting women's education in Mumbai city are:

#### **APNALAYA**

Apnalaya is a secular voluntary organization, that has been building self-sustaining communities since 1973. Apnalaya's mission is to empower disadvantaged individuals, particularly those in Mumbai's slums, to surmount social, political, and economic hurdles, thereby enhancing their quality of life. Their health program, catering to 42 children under 6, emphasizes community empowerment to improve health-seeking behavior and access to government healthcare. Additionally, their livelihood program equips individuals of all ages to identify and seize economic opportunities, fostering productivity and sustainable growth within the community. They provide sewing classes, admit and train women who otherwise have been under cultural restraints to stay away from income-generating activities. Apnalaya's impact extends beyond health and livelihood, as evidenced by their self-help groups benefiting 209 women economically. Moreover, their education and citizenship program engages community volunteers, fostering a deeper understanding of local

challenges and a sense of responsibility towards addressing them. Their commitment to transparency and accountability is underscored by the prestigious Champion Level GuideStar India Platinum Award received in 2017, recognizing their highest standards of transparency and public accountability.

### **ABHILASHA FOUNDATION**

Abhilasha Foundation was founded by a group of social workers who work in the fields of health, education, sustainability, vocational training, women's empowerment, and child development. This NGO in Mumbai works with migrants, poor and abused women, neglected children, older people, school dropouts, self help groups. They raise awareness about a variety of social, health, and current concerns. They believe that the marginalised must be provided with adequate chances and encouraged to live a better life. Abhilasha Foundation seeks to assist the impoverished communities via a variety of charity programmes for women empowerment, and has supported more than 100 underprivileged and neglected women of the society. Apart from promoting women's education from underprivileged and neglected of the society, there is a NGO who is supporting higher education of the girls of weaker sections of society.

### **KRANTI**

Kranti is the NGO founded by Robin that works to empower children of sex workers aged 12- 22 and other exploited women from Mumbai's infamous red light area – Kamathipura. Kranti takes an innovative approach to empower women in red-light areas as agents of social change. Often trapped in a cycle of exploitation and abuse from a young age, these women find solace and healing in Kranti's nurturing environment. Through a range of programs including education, therapy, art, and music, Kranti provides a platform for these women to share their experiences and begin their journey towards healing. By fostering a culture of love, compassion, and self-respect, Kranti enables these women to reclaim their dignity and forge a new path forward, free from the shackles of their past traumas.

### **UDAYAN SHALINI FELLOWSHIP (USF)**

Udayan Shalini Fellowship derives its name from conjoining two Sanskrit words "Udayan" and "Shalini" meaning eternal sunrise and a dignified woman respectively. It's impressive to see the growth of the program since its inception in 2002, starting with 72 girls and expanding to 34 chapters across 13 states by September 2020. With over 12,737 girls being inducted, it's clear that it's making a significant impact in ensuring no girl is denied her dream due to lack of support. 4500+ girls are already graduates in different disciplines, and vocations, and in prestigious jobs, in corporate, schools, colleges, and in NGOs, the rest of our girls, whom they call Shalinis (Dignified Women), are pursuing fields like Engineering, Medical, Chartered Accountancy, Company Secretary, Vocational, Nursing, and Computer Science, among others. The five most important objectives of USF programme has to provide financial support to deserving but needy girl students from government and government aided schools to enable them to continue their education; To provide individual attention, counselling and grooming through personalised mentoring to assure their overall mental, moral and over-all development; Through life Skill trainings & personality development workshops build their capacities, enhance new set skills & provide opportunities to widen their horizon of knowledge on social issues. It's admirable how the program focuses on developing employability skills, career options, job-oriented skills, and a better understanding of the employment world for its participants. Additionally, instilling social sensitivity and a sense of responsibility, with the aim of encouraging participants to give back once they become independent, is crucial for creating well-rounded individuals. Partnering with inspired individuals who establish USF chapters on a voluntary basis as conveners helps in providing guidance and leadership, while also unlocking multiple funding and mentoring opportunities for the Shalinis involved in the programme..

#### **Objectives of Udayan Shalini Fellowship**

USF helps girls studying in government schools transcend the limits of their socio-economic background and realize their full potential, by providing the financial backing they need to continue studying after class X. Monetary support allows Shalinis to focus on their education and pursue their secondary school and college. They equip Shalinis to excel at life by giving them the necessary tools to grow and flourish. t's admirable how the program focuses on developing employability skills, career options, job oriented skills, and a better understanding of the employment world for its participants. Additionally, instilling social sensitivity and a sense of responsibility, with the aim of encouraging participants to give back once they become independent, is crucial for creating well-rounded individuals. Partnering with inspired individuals who establish USF chapters on a voluntary basis as conveners helps in providing guidance and leadership, while also unlocking multiple funding and mentoring opportunities for the Shalinis involved in the program.

East Mumbai consists of the localities of Sion, Kurla, Ghatkopar, Vidyavihar, Vikroli, Kanjurmarg, Bhandup, Nahur, Mulund, Thane. To the southeast lie the localities of Wadala, Chembur, Govandi and Mankhurd. It's

interesting to note that Thane district, located on the northwestern side of Maharashtra, is an immediate neighbour of Mumbai City and part of the Mumbai metropolitan region. The average literacy rates, with 70.6% for men and 79.27% for women, indicate the educational landscape of the area. The establishment of the Shalini Fellowship Program in the Bhayandar area of Thane district in 2018 likely aimed to address educational and developmental needs within this context, potentially providing valuable opportunities for girls in the region to further their education and personal growth. The transformational impact of the Shalini Fellowship Program in the Bhayandar area of Thane district since its inception in 2018 is truly remarkable. From its modest beginnings, the chapter now stands as a beacon of empowerment, supporting 110 ambitious and enthusiastic girls. This growth underscores the program's unwavering commitment to nurturing the potential of young women, fostering their educational and personal development, and ultimately, empowering them to reach their full potential.

Overall, NGOs play a pivotal role in complementing government efforts and addressing gaps in promoting women's education in Mumbai, thereby contributing to the overall development and empowerment of women in the region. Furthermore, NGOs in Mumbai conduct awareness campaigns and community outreach activities to highlight the importance of educating girls and challenge societal norms that hinder female education. Through partnerships with schools, local communities, and government agencies, they advocate for policy reforms and investments in educational infrastructure to create a more conducive environment for women's learning.

## CONCLUSION

Girl education and the lack of it is a major concern for us, however, it has been significantly reduced as compared to the previous 10-20 years. Still, there are a lot of regions in the world where women do not get proper education and are lacking of such necessities. Everyone needs to get free education and if we want to empower our women, then we need to come up together for their education. This will break the traditional prejudices against the women' education and will improve the intellectual level of society as a whole. This famous quote by Brigham Young sums it all up, "You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation". The movement for women education in India has come a long way, but there is still much works needs to be done. It requires continuous commitment and dedication among all stakeholders to sustain the gains made and thus a pave for such a society where every women has opportunity to get educated. Women empowerment is not possible with women's education. Women's education is a important tool for women empowerment. By educating women India not only fulfils its moral obligation towards more than 50 percent population but also unlocks numerous potentials lies within the women which will lead to social progress and sustainable development of our country. Women are pillar of strength in our society. Lets recognise disseminate the contributions of these NGOs, so most of. the women can be benefitted.

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