

**Educational status of Gujjar women in Higher
Education in Jammu Province: with special reference to
Rajouri district (1991-2011)**

DISSERTATION

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SUMMARY

Educational status of Gujjar women in Higher Education in Jammu Province: with special reference to Rajouri district (1991-2011)

This study explores the educational status of Gujjar women in higher education in Jammu province with special reference to Rajouri district between 1991 to 2011. Gujjar's are the semi-nomads found in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. They are more concentrated in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and are found in all the districts except Ladakh. Their number is comparatively more in the rural areas of Poonch and Rajouri, Baramulla, Anantnag, Doda, Udhampur, and Srinagar district. Gujjar's mainly keep buffalo's cows, goats and sheep. Their main profession is to breed the livestock, deal in milk and milk products such as ghee, cheese etc. Besides they also supply raw wool and mutton.

In Jammu and Kashmir, these pastoral nomads can be broadly classified into three sub-groups: 1. Gujjar's, 2. Dodhi Gujjar's, 3. Bakkerwals. However, our area of research would have Gujjar community only. As far as Gujjar women in higher education in Jammu province are concerned, in Gujjar Society where the men-folk are generally illiterate the chances of women education are quite dim and bleak. It can be understood by the fact that for a population of 12 lakh Gujjar women which constitute the 24% of total women population in the state there is only a Government Girls Gujjar Hostel in Jammu and Kashmir located in Jammu. Naturally, only hundred girls are fortunate enough to board in the hostel. As far as Higher Educational institutions are concerned only a few girls have been able to get admission at University Level. In Jammu region, only 5 girl students could make it to Post-graduation as regular students from the University of Jammu this year. Even in 2002-03, three Gujjar Girls were able to get admission at P.G level. In comparison, there are 34 girl students of tribal communities in Ladakh (considered as most backward) pursuing their Post-Graduation in Jammu University and an equal number of Girl students from Kargil area are getting Education in Kashmir

University. As far as the percentage of Graduate Gujjar Girls are concerned, the graduate girls in the tribe can be counted on fingers.

CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

The present study is different from other studies. This study is mainly focused on the Educational status of Gujjar women in Higher education in Jammu Province with special reference to Rajouri district. Gujjar women in higher education are explored in this study. Before it, a lot of Researchers have worked upon the culture and social richness of the Gujjar community in the Jammu Province. Some work was also done on the educational status of Gujjar women in Jammu and Kashmir.

To increase enrollment and decrease in female dropouts, a large number of programmes have been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a flagship programme aimed at achieving the objectives of Universalization of Elementary Education, retention and bridging all gender and social gaps, strives to secure the right to quality basic education for all children in 6-14 years' age group. Gujjar girls of the tribal community are mainly focused upon in this scheme. Gujjar girls are also connected to the mainstream of education through this scheme. Gujjar girl's enrollment at the primary level of education is very low because of the various factors like poverty, lack of awareness, residence away from the urban areas and from the schools, orthodox thinking of the society and parents, and early marriage system. Basically, Gujjar's live on the high altitude and in the hilly areas. Under these schemes schools are opened in hilly areas to impart education to these tribal girls. These schemes are being implemented in the state of Jammu and Kashmir for improvement in Gross Enrollment ratio apart from UEE and Universal retention like rest of the country. Girls' Education is one of the important components of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan recognizes that ensuring girls' education requires changes not only in the education system but also in societal norms and attitudes. A two-pronged gender strategy has, therefore,

been adopted to make the education system responsive to the needs of the girls through targeted interventions which serve as a pull factor to enhance access and retention of girls in schools and on the other hand, to generate a community demand for girls' education through training and mobilization.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This Study explores the challenges faced by the Gujjar women in Higher Education in Rajouri district of Jammu Province. The Present Picture of the Gujjar girl's in this area is also explored.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the study is to analyze the status of women education in Jammu and Kashmir since independence. However, it will incorporate the following specific objectives as well:

- To discuss the government schemes and policies to promote the education of Gujjar women in Jammu and Kashmir.
- To find out the challenges for empowering the Gujjar women with education in Rajouri District.
- To find out the extent of enrollment of Gujjar women in Higher Education.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

Based on the objectives of the study, the following major hypothesis is formulated and tested.

- The government schemes for empowering Gujjar women with education is not effective in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Gujjar women's participation in the services sector is very low.
- The Gujjar women have not got equal opportunities in the socio-economic field.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is mainly based on Primary sources but Secondary Sources are also used in the present study. The main sources of data are the Census reports, Field Survey, Web sites, Research Articles, Journals, Books, government sources, Registrar General of Jammu and Kashmir, discussions with Scholars, Jammu University Department of Gujjar and Bakkerwal, District Office of Rajouri District and Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust Jammu and Kashmir.

The educational status of females in Jammu and Kashmir is examined on the basis of female literacy rate and sex ratio. Status of female education in all district is compared with overall sex ratio and the overall female literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir and India. The study is also based on the primary data. Field survey method is used in the collection of the primary data. Interview Method is also used in the collection of primary data. In this study, the main focus is on the educational status of Gujjar women in the higher education.

CHAPTERISATION OF STUDY

The Present work has been divided into five chapters.

CHAPTER-1

This chapter deals with introductory aspects of the study. Elaborative narration has been offered on context of the study, objective, hypothesis, and conceptual framework, review of literature and chapterisation of the study. The main objective of this chapter is to propose thematic illustration of the study and various aspects of it.

CHAPTER-2

In this chapter, my study is mainly focused on how socio-economic conditions have influenced the education of the Gujjar women in higher education in district Rajouri. In order to understand better the socio-economic conditions of the Gujjar women, we need to discuss the factor which are mostly responsible for the deplorable condition of the Gujjar women in higher education.

CHAPTER-3

In this chapter, the college wise survey of the Gujjar women enrollment is mentioned and the factors which are responsible for the low enrollment of the Gujjar women in higher education are also discussed in this chapter. Interview with the members of the Gujjar families is also discussed that what are the factors which are responsible for the low enrollment of the Gujjar women in higher education. The details regarding the field survey of the colleges, interviews of the Gujjar families, interview of Journalist Rabia Shafiq Choudhary, interview of Wajahid Choudhary Provincial President of Gujjar-Bakkerwal Youth conference and In-charge Rajouri Poonch range are also discussed in this chapter.

CHAPTER-4

This chapter briefly discussed the various schemes of the state government and Central government for the upliftment of Gujjar women in Higher education. In order to better understand the empowerment of the Gujjar women, it is also discussed that why there is need of empowerment in the Gujjar society. Apart from these, the present picture of the changing Gujjar community is also discussed.

CHAPTER-5

This chapter is about the conclusion and certain broad observation. This study proposed related to the Educational status of Gujjar women in Higher education in Jammu province: with special reference to Rajouri district (1991-2011). The main purpose of this chapter is to propose a brief summary of the study at one level and highlights the important findings of the study.