

## Women and their education in Allahabad District (1900-1950)

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**Summary:** Men and women both are equally important for the society and it is also important that both should get educated. During the Rigvedic period both had a right of education but after that it was not necessary for a woman that she should get education.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century many reformers emerged in India and advocated for women's education. After their efforts what was the progress of women education in Allahabad district, this paper is an attempt to analyses it. I have chosen Allahabad district for this because Allahabad was the main education hub during the British period as well as centre for their politics also for a while.

**Keywords:** Women, Men, education, literacy rate.

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### I. Introduction:

Allahabad is one of the sacred city of India. According to historian Badauni, when Akbar visited Prayag in 1575, he founded a new city and named it Allahabads. Which in process of time became Ilahabad and than Allahabad.

The district was an important figure of Indian districts since ancient period. The main reason behind its importance was the sangam of three rivers (Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati) but on the other hand it was equally important for its political position. On November 14, 1801 the district was ceded by the britishers and became a military station and the headquarter of the civil district.<sup>2</sup>

In 1858 on the formation of North western Provinces, Allahabad became the center of politics of that area.<sup>3</sup> Regarding the condition of female education Allahabad district was also as backward as others. In the Nineteenth century Indian renaissance made India advance especially for women upliftment. So many reformers came into the front and tried to make the condition of women easier. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the first one of them. After that Dayanand Saraswati, Jyotirao Phule, Vivekanand, Annie Besant and some other. These reformers were understanding the fact that until women would not get educated their condition would not be ameliorated. So every reformer was interested in the progress of female education. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the first who advocated for female education.<sup>4</sup> Dayanand Saraswati established Arya Samaj and paid attention towards female education.<sup>5</sup> He told that after 5<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> year girls must be send in a school for studing.<sup>6</sup> Vivekanand also advocated for the same.<sup>7</sup> Jyotirao Phule was best then others. He believed in women's education and made it possible also.<sup>8</sup>

These reformers not only advocated but also started their institution for the growth of female education. Jyotirao Phule established first girls school in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In which lower-Class girls were admitted.<sup>9</sup> In 1880 and 1884 branches of the Arya Samaj and Brahma Samaj were established in the district respectively. The Ram Krishna Mission established a branch in Muthhiganj.<sup>10</sup>

After the efforts of social reformers British govt also took interest in female education. They started their work in 1907<sup>11</sup> but till 1912 nothing was done.<sup>12</sup> In 1913 govt again started to pay attention towards it.<sup>13</sup> Then its growth was started increasing. It could be analyzed by the literacy rate during 1901 to 1951.<sup>14</sup>

### Growth of Literacy

Year	Male	Female
1901	7.06	0.56
1911	7.0	0.7
1921	7.2	1.2
1931	10.2	1.7
1951	21.2	5.2

**Source:** Uttar Pradesh district Gazetteer Allahabad, Esha Basant Joshi, State editor, Published by govt of Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad, UP, 1968, P.266

If we Compare the progress of male and female then we come into conclusion that female literacy rate was lower then the male.

## **II. Conclusion:**

The Causes behind that were

1. Female Schools were less in numbers, for example until 1963-64 Zila parish maintained 970 Junior Basic Schools for boys while for girls only 132.
2. Female teachers were less in numbers. until 1963-64 3406 men and 751 women teachers were employed in junior basic school and 819 men and 285 women teachers in the senior basic schools.
3. Another big reason was colonial govt. This govt was paying attention towards their own interest rather than education. It used to expend only some money for the growth of education.
4. Moreover, Society was patriarchal, where women achieved only a lower status while men were not and it was definite that their progress would be slow.

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