

## **A note: Gender and Education book**

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*Gender and Education: Essays from Economic and Political Weekly* (2019) is a book recently published by Orient Black Swan publishers. This book is a collection of different essays, focusing on education and women in India, originally published in *Economic and Political Weekly* from 2000-2017.

The book is divided into three sections, namely: Gender and social equity; The political economic and social, and Pedagogy, Curriculum and textbooks. All the essays focus on education as an institution and its interaction with different social factors such as cultural values, class, caste, gender, and neoliberalisation.

The work explains that the female literacy rate in India has always been behind the male literacy rate as women in the past were usually confined to four walls of the home. Educating women though sound a modern concept, was introduced in India on traditional principles of making women more efficient wives and mothers. With the rapidly changing social and cultural norms; and the introduction of neoliberal policies have led to greater participation of women in higher education. Higher education is now viewed as a way to enhance and maintain the social and financial standard.

The essays in the book shed light on interesting and complex issues of modern and traditional values shaping women's education's choices. Education does not stand alone as development, but oppression, empowerment, equality, inequality, patriarchy, and neoliberalisation all exist together. The book will be useful for students, researchers, sociologists, NGOs, and different organisations working in the field of women's education.

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