

BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ACCESSING EDUCATION FOR GIRLS IN URBAN SLUMS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CHALLENGES AND INTERVENTIONS IN RAICHUR KARNATAKA INDIA

Rajashree Sunder Raj¹ & Dr Sayar Ahmad Sheikh²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan, India

²Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan, India

ABSTRACT

This research investigates the barriers and opportunities in providing education to girls living in urban slums, with a case study focusing on seven slums in Raichur, Karnataka, India. The study is based on data collected from 490 respondents across these slums, examining their perceptions of the necessity of education for girls, the level of education needed, and the socio-cultural factors influencing educational access. Findings reveal that 78% of respondents affirm the need for girls' education, with higher education being particularly emphasized—55% of participants believe girls must pursue higher education to improve their prospects. The primary motivations for advocating girls' education include employment opportunities (51%) and the development of literacy and knowledge (37%). However, traditional gender norms, myths, and belief systems still act as significant barriers, with 60% of respondents acknowledging that these factors negatively impact girls' access to education. Despite these challenges, there is strong community support for the belief that educating girls contributes to building a healthy society, with 98% of respondents agreeing on this point. The research also explores employment outcomes, showing that uneducated girls are more likely to work in labor-intensive sectors (73% in labor or housework), while educated girls, though more likely to secure company jobs (28%), still face significant hurdles, as 57% continue to work in labor-intensive roles. Moreover, deeply rooted gender inequality persists, with all respondents (100%) recognizing the existence of gender-based disparities in educational opportunities. The study underscores the urgent need for tailored interventions, policy reforms, and community engagement programs aimed at breaking down cultural and economic barriers to education. By addressing these issues, it is possible to enhance educational access for girls in slums and empower them to contribute meaningfully to society.

KEYWORDS: Girl's Education, Urban Slums, Raichur, Gender Inequality

Article History

Received: 06 Oct 2024 | Revised: 25 Oct 2024 | Accepted: 26 Oct 2024
