PREFACE

The present study is an analysis of development of women education, in Punjab in the 20th century, with a special study of Ropar District. The study provides insight into the growth of Primary, Secondary and Higher Education of women. An analysis has been provided on the status of Dalit women. Modern education took new shape under the British rule, but the progress of women education was very slow due to lack of awareness. After India gained Independence, new measures were implemented in the field of education. The Constitution of India recognized the importance of education in the Directive Principles of state policy, and the government showed interest, in improving education both quantitatively and qualitatively. However in Punjab due to partition and the refuge problems, the progress of education was slow. The work indicates that the real development of women education in Punjab emerged after 1966.

In the Introduction, the traditional educational institutions, their growth and development have been concerned. Light has been thrown on the steps taken by the Colonial State, Missionaries, and Social Reformers. In the Second Chapter, the Central, State Government’s Plan and Policies, Commissions and Committees which were appointed in the 20th century, to improve women education in the state have been studied. New measures were suggested for its speedier progress. In the Third Chapter, the role of the Colonial Government has been outlined and the constant efforts for the progress of Primary and Secondary education analyzed. In the Fourth Chapter, a study of the progress and problems of women in Higher education has been undertaken. The Fifth Chapter, elaborates on the distinct identity of Dalit women compared to other women, as she bore the triple burden of caste, class and gender. Numerous women’s organizations made efforts to promote education for Dalit woman and worked for the improvement of their status. In the Sixth Chapter, a study of development of education in the district of Ropar has been made, on the basis of interviews of 70 respondents in the district. In the concluding chapter, the impact of education on aspects, such as women employment and her changing status due to better economic condition has been discussed. A study has been made of social abuses in society such as dowry, female foeticide, honour killing, domestic violence against women and the adverse sex ratio in Punjab.
An interdisciplinary approach has been undertaken, specially using research tools from subjects such as Sociology, Geography, Gender and Education. The primary sources used, include reports of various Commissions Central and State, Annual Reports of the Punjab Department of Education, District Gazetteers, Statistical data of the Five Year Plans, Census Reports, records available at Archives of Punjab at Chandigarh, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library New Delhi, ICHR Library New Delhi. Records of various Women Educational Institutes of the state have been utilized. Material available from newspapers, research papers published in research Journals, like Punjab Past and Present and Journal of Panjab University, Chandigarh, Proceedings of Punjab History Conference, Punjabi University, Patiala have also been studied. Personal interviews have been conducted, especially in district Ropar. Secondary sources in the form of books, articles, periodicals, unpublished thesis etc. have been consulted thoroughly, to pursue the said proposed study, in a lucid and objective manner.

Acknowledging these earnest efforts, is a humble expression of gratitude towards all, who inspired my ideas and stood by me through thick and thin in the achievement of my goals.

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Date :

Place :

Pushpa Devi