

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. How has schooling and literacy scenario improved in the last few years?

Ans. (i) Today both boys and girls attend school in large numbers.

(ii) Still there remains a big gap between boys and girls. India does a census every 10 year, which counts the population of the whole country.

(iii) It gathers detailed information about people living in India, their age, schooling, what they do, etc.

(iv) This is used to measure literacy ratio and sex ratio. According to 1961 census, about 40% of all boys and men (7 years and above) were literate compared to just 15% of girls and women.

(v) In the 2001 census, this has risen to 76% for men and boys and 54% for girls and women.

(vi) This means that the percentage of people going to school has increased.

(vii) But the percentage of male group is still higher than the female groups. The gap has not gone away.

Q.2. Write a note on the achievements of Rashsundari Devi.

Ans. (i) Rashsundari Devi (1800–1890) was born in West Bengal.

(ii) At the age of 60, she wrote her autobiography in Bangla called 'Amar Jiban', the first known autobiography written by an Indian woman.

(iii) She was a housewife from a rich landlord's family.

(iv) She would do household work for the whole day but due to her longing, to study, she learnt to read a religious manuscript.

(v) After a lot of resentment, she started reading Chaitanya Bhagabat.

(vi) She used to read her son's alphabet and practise them with the book she read.

(vii) After learning the alphabet, she was able to read the Chaitanya Bhagabat.

(viii) She learnt reading and writing against all odds and at a time when women's status was in a bad condition.

Q.3. Write a note on the achievements of Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain.

Ans. (i) Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain belonged to a rich family of landlords and knew how to read and write Urdu.

- (ii) She was stopped from learning Bangla and English. English was seen as a language which would expose girls to incorrect ideas.
- (iii) She learnt Bangla and English with the support of her elder brother and sister.
- (iv) She wrote a story titled 'Sultana's Dream' in 1905 to practise her English skills.
- (v) This story talked about a woman who reaches a place called Ladyland.
- (vi) She dreamed for women's education. In 1910, she started a school for girls in Kolkata which is still functioning.

Q.4. How did the condition for women change in the nineteenth century?

- Ans. (i)** In the nineteenth century, many new ideas about education and learning emerged.
- (ii) Schools became more common and communities that had never learnt reading and writing started sending their children to school.
 - (iii) However, girls still faced a lot of opposition in going to school.
 - (iv) Women struggled to learn to read and write.

Q.5. How do girls from backward communities suffer in schooling?

- Ans. (i)** The rate of SC and ST girls who leave school is higher than the category 'All Girls'.
- (ii) This means that girls from Dalit (SC) and Adivasi (ST) are less likely to remain in school.
 - (iii) Further, the 2001 census showed that Muslim girls are less likely to complete primary school.
 - (iv) While a Muslim girl is likely to stay in school for around 3 years, girls from other communities spend around 4 years in school.

Q.6. How has women's movement gained momentum?

- Ans. (i)** Women and girls now study and do jobs.
- (ii) Many areas like legal reform, course of action against various types of violence and health have improved for girls and women.
 - (iii) Women have individually and collectively struggled for these changes.
 - (iv) This struggle is known as the women's movement.
 - (v) Many individual women and women's organisations with men's support are passionately involved in this struggle.

(vi) Different strategies like spreading awareness, campaigning fighting against discrimination and seeking justice have been used in this fight.