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Topic: Innovation and Technological Change and Education in the Digital Age for Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls

‘If you educate a man, you educate an individual. But if you educate a woman, you educate a nation’

India believes that it is very important that women have the same rights as men. While the number of girls attending school in India has been increasing, 17.3% of them still drop out of secondary school due to unsafe transportation, long distances, and even unsafe toilets. According to the latest National Family Health Survey, 29.3% married Indian women between the ages of 18-49 years have faced domestic violence. India’s [female workforce participation](https://www.statista.com/statistics/983020/female-labor-force-participation-rate-india/) was just over 27 percent in 2022. This is because of popular social norms and lack of educated women who are willing to work. The UN has enacted various solutions to combat this problem. For example, UN Women trained 3,572 Anganwadi Workers, 1,002 nurses and 1,400 police officers and lawyers, working with various helplines. Since 2018, UNCSW’s Second Chance Education programme has impacted more than 30,000 women from some of the poorest areas in India. Technology based solutions are also being implemented. UN Women, in partnership with Vodafone India Foundation, developed MyAmbar, a tech-based solution to ensure women had uninterrupted access to essential services, even during lockdowns. UN Women is also working with DolphinChat, an AI conversational platform, to develop SAMBAL, a chatbot for women survivors of violence.

In July 2020, the Rajasthan State Women’s Policy waived school fees for women and girls returning to formal education based on the SCE programme’s recommendations. Further, The SCE programme in partnership with National Skill Development Corporation trained 4500 trainers across the vocational training ecosystem in India on gender and equipped them with the knowledge to integrate gender sensitivity at each stage of training.

A measure to combat this problem would be to develop an online learning platform specifically catering to girls. This can address issues of long distance, safety, hygiene and harassment, allowing girls to access quality education at their own pace and convenience. We must invest in safe and public spaces, including reliable and affordable public transportation options for women. We must also encourage and support women-led businesses by providing resources to sell products and services online, utilizing e-commerce platforms.

Bibliography:

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[Challenges Faced by Women in India (dpu.edu.in)](https://bschool.dpu.edu.in/Blogs/challenges-faced-by-women-in-india)