

# Lesson Plan Outline: **Education**

Created South Asian Feminist Activism Archive Project group  
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## **Learning Objectives**

- Understand domestic and international women's educational access issues.
- Understand primary domestic women's educational access issues within the broader context of international women's education issues.

## **Activity Outline**

- Provide students with general facts about women's educational access issues.
- Small group discussions in-class will provide students with the opportunity to make connections between personal experience and class material.

## **Prerequisites**

- This lesson will be conducted with the assumption that the learners do not have any background knowledge about women's educational issues.

## **Material**

- PowerPoint presentation
- Access to SAFAA archive material

## **Lesson Description**

- Utilizes primary source material from the South Asian Feminist Activism Archive.
- Aims to connect the content and usage of archive material to the general knowledge of women's educational access issues.
- Provide students with a general understanding of women's educational access issues.
- Primary focus is for students to connect personal experience with women's educational access issues in general (e.g. demonstrate that women's barriers to educational access affects everyone).

## **Facilitation Guide**

- Pre-class assignment
  - Familiarize yourself with the South Asian feminist Activism Archive.
- At the beginning of class, form small groups of 4~5 students each.
- Students will be asked questions from the PowerPoint presentation, and they should be given 2-3 minutes per questions to discuss their answers in the small groups.
- Introduce homework assignment and take questions.

## **Content**

- Women's experiences with India's educational systems have varied from pre-colonial India, to British rule, to national movements, and in response to political and economic forces throughout those time periods.
- India's contemporary government has shown a commitment to women's education, iterated through the constitutional promise of "free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14."
- Despite large improvements in India's educational system, gender gaps in literacy still exist. As of 2001, the average literacy rate for the whole country was 75.96% for males and 54.28% for females (Nelasco 38).
- Also, there is a significant disparity between rural and urban literacy rates, with rural women being the most illiterate.
- Women's grassroots movements have attempted to address educational access issues including literacy, both regionally and nationally.
- Women's education is important as illiterate women are more likely to have higher infant and maternal mortality rates, poor nutrition, higher risk of violence, and decreased autonomy in the household (Valkoff).
- Because of the work of the women's movement, in states like Gujarat, girls have increased educational access and tuition fees are waived from primary school, all the way to college.