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**CHALLENGES TO WOMEN EDUCATION IN JAMMU AND
KASHMIR**

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ABSTRACT

Despite the efforts being made for the education of girls and women in Jammu and Kashmir, there are still many challenges in the area. The gender gap in J & K is also higher than the national average.

Jammu and Kashmir is a Muslim-dominated state which is a conservative and religious society also. Though urban areas have seen significant changes in the education of girls and women in recent years, parents in rural areas still prefer girls to stay at home until they leave for their "own homes" after marriage. The conflict in Jammu and Kashmir has resulted in a breakdown of society. Many families are without any income-generating members. The girls have become orphans, and there is no source of sustenance in their families. This has also prevented them from seeking education. As the economy of Jammu and Kashmir has met with severe setbacks during the past years, parents are not in a position to educate their children. If they have to choose between educating a boy or a girl, they would rather educate a boy.

The former poverty undoubtedly is one of the main reasons for the inability of children to obtain basic education. Hundreds of girls are not able to attend school because their families are not able to provide money for their education.

Keywords: *Women Education, Challenges, Jammu and Kashmir.*