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Separate University for women!

The literacy rate in our country has been traditionally very low both among the men and women. But the volume of women illiteracy is far more horrible. This state of affairs is the ultimate result of the combination of so many socio-economic factors among which the absence of proper atmosphere for girl's education is, perhaps very important. Not only in vast rural areas the adequate facilities for girl's education are extremely lacking but in towns and cities too the girls can hardly get the needed environment for carrying out their studies smoothly.

Moreover, an overall deterioration in social and cultural situation of the country is likely to hamper the advancement of girl's education further.

The guardians and the girls themselves are equally frightened to witness this ever deteriorating situation in spite of the fact that the government is now giving much stress on the progress of

female education. But we are in doubt if considerable progress in respect of female education could at all be made under the present social condition where the girls as well as their guardians are suffering from a fear of insecurity along with some other disturbing factors — economic, political etc.

Teasing and kidnapping of school, college or university girls have reached an alarming stage. No guardian is perhaps free from tension so long his or her ward (wards) remains (remain) in the class. In addition to ever growing number of road hazards the guardians nowadays are frightened more about the so-called street romances than anything else regarding their girls. Moreover it is not always possible for all the guardians to apprehend when a political (specially of the students) situation will take an alarming turn in this or that institution thereby to put their wards in danger.

Many guardians are heard to suggest that an exclusive university for women only can minimise this tension of the guardians (for their girl

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students) to a great extent as the boys of university are the main organisers of the student politics in our country. But this can hardly be a real solution of the problem. Main problem of socio-cultural insecurity and politico-economic tension can never be solved by separate university for women only. If this logic is accepted then we must also admit that our schools and colleges going girls, who generally read in the institutions exclusively meant for the girls have no problem whatsoever social, cultural, economic and political. But that is not true.

Residential institutions (school, college or university) may of course minimise some but not all of the problems of girls.

If this is so we must demand residential schools for girls instead of university. But in this regard our condi-

tion is very much discouraging. Though very few girls colleges with far lesser scope of residential accommodation are there in the country schools with even such meagre facility are more inadequate in number. Why should we not try to make at least some of the existing girls schools as residential ones to provide some sort of security to the students, teaching there?

The girls reading in the university at least are grown up and matured to some extent to be able to tackle an unwanted situation with some amount of courage and intelligence which cannot be expected from the girls reading in the schools.

I, therefore, think that a separate university for girls women is not a very practical idea. Though the demands of universities are now being heard from so many quarters we all must perhaps re-

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member that a university is not an institution like school or college that can and should be established anywhere at any time. Moreover, university can not solve all our educational ills or problems.

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