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Educated Women

"Educate the women and you educate a nation" is a well known maxim. Any effort to eradicate illiteracy within our country must take this aspect into consideration if we want to do this quickly. Women in the rural areas are becoming painfully aware of the widening gap between themselves and their children now achieving an education of sorts and feel the need to do something about it before it is too late and the gap alienates their children from them for all time.

National programmes for the eradication of illiteracy could well benefit from this natural outcome of growing awareness among the poor women intent on educating their children and well designed programmes to suit their needs should be undertaken without delay so that the nation can benefit from this upsurge. Educated women by their very nature will impart their new found knowledge to their children and statistics show the prevalence of wasting and stunting of children declines with the standard of education of the mothers; the better the standard of education the lower the rate of stunting and wasting.

Throughout time it has been seen that behind every successful man there is a woman and this fact we can no longer afford to ignore in our efforts to build a nation. Let us therefore concentrate on female oriented programmes for national uplift just as has been seen that loans given for rural uplift were better utilised by the women, and of most importance, repaid in time. An educated female population will benefit the nation fourfold. Let us not miss the opportunity to invest where it is best utilised.