

THE ATTITUDE OF COMMUNITY TOWARD FEMALES' EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Education is the development of skills, growth of abilities and acquisition of knowledge in an individual. In a society educated families and individuals are respected. Therefore parents should meet their responsibility of getting their children educated. In traditional societies there exists prejudice with respect to roles of gender. Males enjoy superiority as compared with other genders. Education could not be spared from such biases. Female members of the community are often deprived of getting even basic education. However socio-economic pressures, growing urbanization, work opportunities and particularly awareness through media have led to the increase in the demand of female education. This research in tribal Punjab investigates the determinants for rising women's education. The research found that parental income and education affect children's education. Higher parental education boosts female education. Higher parental income means more children in school. Simple random sampling method was used and questionnaire was used to collect data. It was revealed that public opinion towards female education were stimulating. The attitude they showed was encouraging and they felt proud with the concept of educated female child. Moreover they were found to be accepting the status of educated women in society. Results also revealed that educated women adds to the respect of the family; parents, husband and children. Majority of the respondents did not feel any *embarrassment* while sending their daughters to educational institute. The study suggests that it is the responsibility of the government to make education free and compulsory for girls. While taking it as a basic human right government should facilitate the access to the education.

KEY WORDS

Education, Empowerment, Gender, Attitude, Girls education.

INTRODUCTION

One of the fundamental human rights is access to educational opportunities. It is major source of socializing. Education not only adds to the respect of the individual but also complements to the whole society. Educated members of the community promote positive social structure. Educated individuals manage to serve the whole family single handedly (Weil, 2009).

Social structure and related circumstances outline the function of education. It is highly accepted view that education has significant part to play in social development. It influences not only individual, family but also whole society. Therefore responsibility lies on government and the educational institutes to produce educated people. National development depends upon community development which is impossible to achieve without education. Therefore education serve to be most important institution for the development of the country. Schools are significant structures to provide productive social members to the society that ensure social as well as economic development. Educated members are able to identify and resolve social issues in more suitable way. Education serves to prevent social as well as economic degradation within the society. Therefore communities that desire to progress should be more investing in education sector. Education also helps to improve living standard (Türkkahraman, 2012).

A study showed on the scope of girl's education in Nigeria revealed that, being aware of the importance of education, Nigerian government set girls education as the initial goal for sustainable national development. Though the mindset has been changed now, few years ago there prevailed anti women education stance among Nigerian people. Nigerian government helps female education by setting up some strategies and eradicating the restrictions for females. Nigerian Government is creating awareness using different tools and too ensures job opportunities for educated females (Umoh & Atakpa, 2014).

Tribal people form conventional form of communities to live. They have their own culture and believes. Despite their traditional norm and values they have all basic needs of life as other human being. They are more likely to put harsh restrictions on women. However they also have ascribed distinct position to their women in society. Some of the tribe also favorable attitude towards education. For example Khanda tribe is sending their children to schools in considerable number including girls as well. Some parents also have no objection to permit their girls for a job. It is well evident that a change has occurred in the attitude of tribal people (Nayak, 2014).

With rapid industrialization and modernization need of better education for all has also increased. There has been rise in global awareness about the importance women education in nation building. The percentage of Pakistani women who attend school is remained low but in recent past such campaign were launched that the percentage is changing. The number of women receiving degrees from institutions of higher education has skyrocketed in recent years. Higher education enables women to manage the challenges they face in life and is beneficial to them in a variety of different ways. Higher education gives a woman more agency and self-assurance in her decision-making, which are both essential to gender equality (Murtaza, 2012).

Heath (2016) detected patterns in third-world female education and work. Currently, gender discrimination in the job and school enrolment is low. Both events have changed society's structure. Strengthening women's education has encouraged more to join the workforce and find jobs.

Tribal people are concerned about female education. They realize that their life objectives are unachievable without getting their daughters educated. They are facing a lot of troubles in this regard, e.g. insufficient schools and colleges for girls in all over the tribal region. It is adding to their worries for daughter's education. Therefore it has led to numbers

of people to migrate to urban areas. Inadequate measures have been taken to develop the necessary infrastructure in the tribal communities. According to the findings of the study, the attitudes of parents did not pose any significant barriers to the education of girls (Ayoub & Ali, 2011).

According to the educational census in Pakistan, the basic level of education is the major focus of government policy. The majority of students, after they have completed their elementary school, are unable to continue their education because of financial constraints or a shortage of educational facilities. Government is not ensuring any assistance in this regard. The primary education do not put much pressure on the students as the higher education does. Government of Pakistan needs to facilitate students at every level of education to ensure smooth availability of education for all. In Pakistan generally, people are more interested in private sectors as it is believed to be providing quality education however private sector education is more likely to be available in rural areas (Lynd, 2007).

The attitude of the public towards girl education has changed. Gender discrimination in education has transformed. Now parents encourage their daughters to get education. Social or parental attitude is no more the reason of not sending girls to the school. Rather there are other barriers like school distance and economic pressures. However some issues are still relevant to serve as barrier towards women education. A family who has a working woman as earning source has a negative impression in society so there is no need to educate them. People fear that educated women will ask for the right of inheritance this perception is also an obstacle for girl's education. Parents who send their daughters to schools have a contrasting opinion. They believe that women are also active members of the society so they must be educated to strengthen social and economic system. Ladies should be given equal opportunities to work with men so that they can contribute towards the development of the country (Amin, Rashid and Ahmad, 2019).

These days, women are among of the most active members of society, and they are excelling in practically every sphere of human endeavor. The history of each nation and region, as well as the sociopolitical setting of that area, include discussions about the role of women. The term "community development" refers to the process through which individuals, both male and female, organize themselves for the purpose of fostering social progress via collaborative efforts. The world's lowest rankings are reserved for those nations that do not make it a priority to secure the equal involvement of women at all stages of the development process (Tantiwiranond, 2004).

Parents are more inclined toward higher education as it is a tool to get into some profession and to be able to support family members. A highly educated woman is of great support for society as she comprehend social issue in more mature way and can handle economic imbalance smoothly. She is able to bring up her children in a better way and make them a responsible and productive citizen. Education constructs more aware social members to overcome the consequences of life in better way (Khattak, 2011).

It was pointed out in the article titled "Theories of Schooling and Society" that the functionalist paradigm views contemporary society as "meritocratic," which means that talent and effort are utilized to legitimize a person's social status. Merit was formerly obtained by "ascribed status," however now days it is obtained through "achieved status"

instead. In the past, merit was earned through "ascribed status." Children who come from families with a poor socioeconomic status are increasingly earning attention for their qualities and skills in today's society. In our culture, sending one's daughter to school is not an innate tendency but rather a taught one. It is a rehearsed reaction due to the fact that competing public ideals are often linked to one another. According to the functionalist point of view, modern society is marked by increased levels of democracy and liberalism as compared to previous eras. People are free to think for themselves and choose what they want to do. Education paves the way for this kind of free will. It is essential to the preservation of social order and value, as well as the transmission of societal norms and ethics. On the other side, the conflict paradigm maintains that school and society are intertwined, but it also believes that the purpose of education is to cater to the needs of capitalists and to provide labour for the market (Hurn, 1993).

Talcott Parsons, an American sociologist, proposed the idea that school is a gathering place for both the family and society, and that it is this gathering that prepares students for their roles in society. In addition to this, he highlights the fact that the primary agency for socialization in a society is the home, while the role of the school is that of a secondary socializing agency (Parsons, 1961).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Education has got significance in society. It is the source of diffusion for culture, norms, values and it also provides recognition for the role of man in society as an agent of change. The role of education in each and every field of life is vital. It incorporates the individuals with the community. An educated person is able to comprehend activities of life in better way and can plan a better and safe future. Education helps to handle poverty as provide people with awareness and skills to cope with the problem of daily life (Steven, 2012).

Mor & Sethia (2015) suggest that the concept of education has taken a new turn and has extended across the country. Currently public have become more aware of female education. The child learns affection and positivity in school. While surveying different schools it was found that the majority of students were females. Moreover their parents had no issues for their girls getting education, they were happy and appreciating government plans and program put forward to improve the standards of education in the country. The actions taken by the government were met with favourable responses from all sectors of society and encouraged more individuals to pursue educational opportunities. There was a period when people considered education to be a waste of time, but today people value education more, despite the fact that they may not have access to sufficient resources.

It was found in a study that rate of female education is increasing and its ratio is rising more than male education. Consequently rate of female employment and contribution in the labor market is also on the rise. Better educational infrastructure e.g. school building etc. government aid for girl's education is also one of the major reason for improving the statistics of girls in schools. In many countries government facilitates financially to the families, provide bicycles to handle distance issues so that girls can be avoided to be deprived of schools. Other social welfare programmes for women, such as land inheritance, bans on child marriage, decreases in fertility, the availability of free books, and fee exemptions in primary level education have been implemented in developing countries in

order to entice the people there to keep their girls in school (Jayachandran & Heath, 2016).

A study conducted in Africa shows that during last decade visible change has occurred towards female education. There has been number of incentives for this development. The role of parents, community as a whole, administration and classroom environment has attracted girls towards education. This development has led to positive change in the attitude of parents and girls. It is evident that gender discrimination has decreased to some extent. The role of NGOs and UN have also been exceptional. It is suggested that the government needs to provide loan for the underprivileged people so that they can teach their girls without having any financial burden. Information campaign should run to encourage the people for girl's education (Peter & Adetunde, 2008).

Sangeeta & Kumar (2013) observed that education is an important source to bring a positive change in society. Schools can do more in this regard. Education determines the future of not only of an individual, society but whole country. Research reveals that positive attitude is developed and learned through education. Early education transmits habits, attitude, behavior where a child can learn to be productive towards the society. Women are treated as marginalized individuals of the society. But the responsibilities of a woman often exceed that of a man she is the caretaker of home, wife of a husband and mother of children. Thus, education adds to the abilities of a woman so that she can perform all her responsibilities effectively.

People's perspectives on the value of women receiving an education have shifted in response to the fast acceleration of industrialization and modernization. The low literacy rate of Pakistan's female population is a direct result of people's lack of support for female education in recent history; however, that situation is fast changing as the literacy rate continues to rise. The percentage of women enrolling in post-secondary programmes has skyrocketed in recent decades. The acquisition of an education is proving to be a vehicle for the advancement of women. In addition to this, it teaches women their rights within the society in which they live. Higher education equips women with the tools they need to overcome the challenges they face in life and work toward making the world a better place to live (Murtaza, 2012).

According to Eldred (2013), an educated woman tends to have a smaller family size than an uneducated woman does. It has also been shown that women without an education are more likely to suffer from a variety of ailments than educated women. In third world countries literacy rate of women is very lower than in developing countries. However recent reports show that governments are doing a lot in this regard. To bring a community change policies are being propagated to handle the suppression of women. They are putting efforts and bringing women towards development.

The approach and values developed during early childhood years play very important part in the personality development of the children. These values are suggestive to groom personality of an individual. The values he learns are used in decision making and guide men how to deal with the challenges of life. The early childhood education is also significant in character building. In this way, educating a girl is very important so that whole family can be brought up positively (Didonet, 2008).

Khalid & Noreen (2012) found that education has changed the lives of women to greater extend. It helps them to pursue a career or decide about their life plans in proper

way. The educated women become self-confident, they can think clearly with a power decision. Women who are educated and gainful employed are in a better position than women who are neither educated nor gainful employed. Women who have completed their education have a greater chance of achieving gender equality in society, of fighting against exploitation, and of speaking out for disadvantaged women in that society. At the national level, women's empowerment may be achieved via the establishment of women's empowerment groups, the admission of female students to higher educational institutions, the creation of employment possibilities, and the provision of social services for abused women.

Parent's education needs favorable effects on child education. The children of educated parent differ than children of uneducated parent. Due to patriarchal social system, father's education has a stronger impact on the education of children. Investing in children education increases the chance of achievement. Investment is not confined to financial investment but spending in time and values to socialize children for getting better education (Ermisch & Pronzato, 2010).

Gintis and Bowles (1976) viewed that a school provides foundation for learning. It is a place where younger people are skilled for their future occupation. In school students are also trained professionally. They learn scientific methods which help them to acquire skills and discipline. People who have no skills face difficulties for economic stability.

Research carried out in Ghana uncovered a significant connection between a family's financial standing and the level of schooling their children received. In addition, the Pearson correlation revealed a favourable association between the two variables that were being analysed. The study also came to the conclusion that the educational level of a child's father is important, especially for the child's basic schooling. Despite the fact that secondary and higher education need participation from both parents (Ani-Asamoah Marbuah, 2016).

The concept known as "technical function theory" elucidates the value of education in further detail. Furthermore, it highlights the need of a competence for the job. In today's contemporary culture, those with more skills have a better chance of finding work, and those with less skills are more likely to be unemployed. Education in its many forms is the means through which one acquires expertise. Education opens up more doors in terms of employment opportunities (Randall Collins, 1971).

Adzido et al. (2016) conducted a research in Ghana. 480 students were exposed to questionnaire designed assessment selected through stratified quota sampling method. Study investigated impact of family income on academic performance of students. The study found that students who come from families with high incomes are highly motivated, and their academic performance was higher. However, some respondents said that income does not have an effect on students' performance, despite the fact that the study found that such students had better academic performance. Students with lower income background can also perform well in their education. The findings of the research showed that income has strong effects on education, stronger income is more likely to improve students' performance.

People are investing more money in girls' education as a direct result of the growing number of employment opportunities available to women in all spheres of life. This is one

of the many reasons why the percentage of women enrolling in educational institutions is growing at a faster rate than that of men. There are a variety of reasons why the capabilities of women may perhaps contribute to increased advancement. As the economy shifts away from "brawn-based" employment toward "brain-based" work, female labourers are getting a fair advantage in the job divide (Pitt, Rosenzweig, and Hassan, 2012).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher has planned and organized this research in systematic and scientific way. The current research was based on quantitative research method. The purpose of this research was to analyse rising tendencies in female education among the populace of district Dera Ghazi Khan in Tehsil Tribal Area.

The study's target population was the tribal area of district Dera Ghazi Khan (union councils including U/C Fazla Katch, U/C Theeker, U/C Barthi, and U/C Movarki). Population here refers to "the group of people the researcher used to get the results of the study" (Leedy & Ormrod, 2005). While keeping in view the objectives and nature of research, a Simple Random Sampling Technique was used. The information was obtained via the use of a questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha was used to check the reliability of data. It was found that the data was highly reliable. To check the relationship between variables, a chi-square test was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1
A Breakdown, by Percentage, of the Responses to Certain
Questions on how Respondents feel about Female Education

Opinion	Agree		Strongly Agree		Uncertain		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Percentage	
		%		%		%		%		%		%
The happiness of a family, society and a state depend upon the women education	79	49.4	15	9.4	23	14.3	14	8.8	29	18.1	160	100
Education enables woman for a safe future	81	50.6	12	7.5	13	8.1	43	26.9	11	6.8	160	100
Education reduce poverty	61	38.1	43	26.9	23	14.4	24	15.0	9	5.6	160	100
Public appreciation of government plan and program	71	44.4	41	25.6	20	12.5	16	10.0	12	7.5	160	100
Educated woman is a support for family and society	56	35.0	65	40.6	12	7.5	20	12.5	7	4.4	160	100
More jobs opportunities for women	75	46.9	29	18.1	31	19.3	14	8.8	11	6.9	160	100
Role of media in spreading awareness about female education	71	44.4	42	26.2	19	11.9	07	4.4	21	13.1	160	100

The values given in above table show that the majority of the respondents 49.4% responded that happiness of a family and society depend upon women education. Respondents also appreciated plans and programs set by government regarding women education. 44% of the respondents were happy with the new plan and programs of government. Majority of the respondents agreed that women have number of job opportunities. Majority of the respondents also agreed that educated and employed women support the family financially. Role of media is also significant, the majority of the respondents (44%) agree media has important role in creating awareness about women education.

Table 2
Percentage Division of the Respondents with
Respect to the views about Female Education

Opinion	Agree		Strongly Agree		Uncertain		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Percentage	
		%		%		%		%		%		%
The attitude of the world changed about the right of women	55	34.3	42	26.3	35	21.9	18	11.3	10	6.2	160	100
Illiterate girls are no more acceptable as a wife.	68	42.5	40	25.0	11	6.9	25	15.6	16	10.0	160	100
Women should perform her duties for entire society	66	41.2	27	16.9	21	13.1	16	10.0	30	18.8	160	100
Educated neighbor are factor of enrollment of your children in school	69	43.1	41	25.6	20	12.5	16	10.0	12	7.5	160	100
Higher income of a family enroll their children greater in number in school other than low income family	64	40.0	19	11.9	33	20.7	21	13.1	23	14.3	160	100
Recruitment of new teachers and construction of new schools attract you to enroll your female children in school	69	57.5	48	30.6	20	12.6	13	8.1	10	6.2	160	100

Values given in Table 2 show that the majority of (55%) of respondents agreed that the attitude of the world is changing about the rights of women. (42%) of the respondents also replied that illiterate female is not acceptable as a wife. Majority of the respondents (41%) agreed that women need to perform responsibility for the whole society. Majority (43%) of the participants also agreed that educated neighbors are motivation for education. (64%) of the respondents agreed that high income level families show high level of enrolment in educational institutes. People are also encouraged to send their daughters to school as a result of government policies for the education of women and the supply of materials for the home. A majority of respondents (69 percent) agreed with the proposition that the building of new schools

and the hiring of new instructors are contributing to an increase in the number of female pupils enrolled in schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- In order to fulfil this obligation, the government must establish a particular quota for the education of women.
- The providing of job opportunities for females can also serve as an incentive to motivate people toward woman education.
- Improved infrastructure is important to attract women toward education.
- The availability of colleges should be ensured so that higher education can be accessible for women.
- The government need to make these kinds of resources available to women so that they may pursue higher education without being hampered in any way.
- A scholarship programme should be established by the government for women, making it easier for them to pursue higher education.

CONCLUSION

Education is the most important element in the development of the country. The evolution of mass media and rapid urbanization has increased the significance of education manifold. While understanding the education gap between Urban and rural areas rural people transform their approach toward education and develop the urge for getting their children education.

In today's era, the thinking of men has changed a lot. Where earlier they did not give any rights to women, today women have gained enough freedom. Now most of the women also get education and after getting education they contribute to the betterment of the society and the development of the country. Women also know how to contribute to the development of the country. It is also a fact that no society can develop properly without women. Women have always proved that they can make a name for themselves in any field of life.

The current survey from the world reveals that the attitude of the community is changing not only towards education but also women education. Third world countries known for worst condition of women have now shown improvement. The oppression and exploitation of women has been decreased. The development of technology, exposure of people to mass media, urbanization and employment opportunities for women have attracted people to enroll their daughters in educational institutes.

Social and economic situation have also required people to get their girls educated. Now it has become public perception that life goals can only be achieved through education. They are educating children without any discrimination. The prevailing behavior of patriarchal social system have always supported their sons over daughter in every filed of life. But now this attitude is changing and there exists an understanding for

the abilities and skills of women. People feel proud of their educated daughters and consider them as an honor for the family.

Findings of the current study also revealed that there has been considerable change among the members of the community towards women education. Traditional anti women approaches have been transformed with the rapidly growing economic trends in the world. Majority of the respondents show that perception of the women's right has changed a lot. Majority of the respondents also agreed that educated women provide financial support for the family. Construction of new schools, intake of new teacher and improved infrastructure are among the major motivation for getting girls into the schools. Respondents also agreed that people with high level of income are more likely to enroll their children into the educational institutes as compared to that of low income level. Availability of job opportunities for women is huge incentive for women education. Majority of the respondents also expressed satisfaction with government plans for promoting women education as well the role of media is playing in creating awareness in this regard.

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