

SOCIO-CULTURAL PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING REGARDING FAMILY AFFAIRS OF DISTRICT MULTAN

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Abstracts

In almost every society the position of women is very unique and no society can develop without women. As we know that we live in a patriarchal society. So due to male dominant society women don't have any power to make decision regarding their life, their education, job and marriage. So the purpose of this study was to asses' societal and cultural problems faced by women in making decision regarding family matters of district Multan. This study was conducted in Multan District. 200 women who were living in District Multan were selected using convenient sampling. Women above the age 20 were selected as targeted population. Through face to face interview data was collected. 5 point lickert scale was used by the researcher which was categorized as strongly agree, agree, neither, disagree and strongly disagree. By using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) collected data were examined. Different methods like simple frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviation d were examined. About 39 (19.5%) of the respondent have facing problem to make decision about their personal appearance. About 38 (19.0%) of the respondent strongly agree that due to male dominant society they feel lack of confidence. About 119 (59.5%) of the respondent agree that there duty performance also affect due to patriarchal society. On the other hand 31 (15.5%) of the respondent says that they don't feel any problem due to male dominancy. About 91 (45.5%) of the respondent says that they cannot face any problem to do job where they want. About 109 (54.5%) of the respondent says that they don't have any power to make decision regarding their job. About 67 (33.5%) of the respondent says that they faced gender discrimination in pursuing their education. About 73 (36.5%) of the respondent says that they don't have power to make decision about their marriage. The results of the present research signify that Socio-Cultural problems exist and are create hindrance in women empowerment. By empowering women through education, jobs and giving them decision making power we can improve the condition of women. Government should take steps to improve the status of women in the society by opening employment opportunities for women. On the other hand different program should be started by the government in the different fields for the empowerment of female so that they can use their productive capabilities.

Keywords: Decision-making power, Empowerment, Education, Discrimination, District Multan

Introduction

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Decision making is power to make a right choice and your expression and thoughts and power of the person.. Women in most of the society were considered as inferior creature. Due to this, women decision making power is very low in almost every domain of life. In all over the world women face a lot of problems. In Ethiopia women face many difficulties like cross cutting and interconnected issues. These types of issues created hindrance in the life of Ethiopian women's to obtain productive resources, proper health services and employment and education al opportunities (Sosena & Tsehai, 2008). Socio-economic status of women in almost every

society is very weak. They were considered as marginalized creature. In employment sector women are underrepresented. Central Statistical Authority (CSA, 2004) conducted a survey showed that women account for less than half (43%) of the total employees in the country. The research showed that 78% of the women involved in domestic work and 59.3% of the women were involved in unpaid activities. Less than 35% of the women were involved in formal employment (Government and Private Sector). On the other hand political participation of women also play a very important role in their empowerment. In Nigeria participation of women in politics seems to be very rare. Women in Nigeria faced a lot of obstacles to take part in politics. To support the above reasons (Haque and Harrop (2001) says that one of the reasons women still have lesser political resources is due to their lack of interest in politics. Due to some socio-cultural and religious constraints women were not allowed to take part in politics. In most of the culture activities associated with women were childbearing and domestic work. On the other hand due to lack of confidence most of the women cannot take part in politics (Gaeren and Burya, 2011). However, decision making power is also associated with level of education (Muzamil, 2008). In Bangladesh, head of the family is considered to be male and have greatest authority and power (Schuler *et al.*, 1996; Sultana, 2010). A study conducted by Amnesty International School women education and their enrolment in the school is very low. According to Women's Organization Group the ratio of the girls who are going to primary school are only 28% on the other hand only 11% of the girls go to high school. Most of the women were associated with domestic work or to take care of their children. The dropout rate from the school is very high and most of the women were kept at home when family faces financial or other domestic problems. Female literacy rate is only 24% when compared with 49% of the male. According to Women's organization group the estimated rate of female who can read or write is only 12%-15% (Hirway and Mahadevia, 1996). In Pakistan the status of women is also very low. Kishwar and Akhtar (1982) stated that restrictions on women's mobility, restriction on their jobs and education are the major issues due to which women's role in the society is decreased. In Pakistan women face discrimination since the day she was born. The birth of the baby girl is considered as grief, sorrow and disappointment and the mother was considered as blameworthiness on the birth of a baby girl. Girl child provided with less food, less access to education and provide less health care facilities compared with male child. As a result women

are more vulnerable and more likely to die of diseases (Population Census, 1991). Literacy rate is also very low in Pakistan as compared with other South Asian Countries. Women literacy rate in Pakistan is 35.2% which decreases to 25% in villages. Girls enrolment in the school is also decreases from 55%- 25% (Amna 2009). According to Department of Gender, Women and Health, World Health Organization, Geneva in the health sector women are facing more difficulties due to low level of education, poverty and low level of economic status. Women all over the world face physical as well as sexual violence by their intimate partner and this ratio is going increases day by day. About 15-71% of the women faced physical and sexual violence and this condition is getting worse with the passage of time. Most of the researches show that before the age of 15 1 in 5 women reports being sexually abused (Garcia-Moreno, Jansen, Ellsberg, Heise, & Watts, 2005; Gracia & Merlo, 2016; WHO, 2009). Since 1970s, various international organizations worked for the betterment of women's status and focus on their economical empowerment but their participation in the economical sphere is still very low (Kochhar, JainChandra, & Newiak, 2016). According to World Economic Forum, progress of women in attaining education, health sector, political sector is still insufficient (WEF, 2018). Most of the researches showed that to empower women education and employment are the key indicators (Abrar-ul-haq et al., 2016), In Pakistan in rural areas women don't have adequate educational and paid job opportunities. Female literacy rate is very low as compared to men. In Pakistan, women educational status is very low as compared to their male counterpart (Yasmeen & Karim, 2014). Due to low level of education and rigid socio-cultural patterns in rural areas women in Pakistan are not able to start their own business (Abrar ul Haq, Razani, & Gazi, 2017). So, we can say that education increases the status of women and empower them.

Many studies reports that education and working status has a positive impact on women empowerment (Nowak, Dahal, & Hossain, 2016). In developing-patriarchal countries of South Asia, women have been backward in education from centuries, so there is need to examine the role of education on women's empowerment in Pakistan.

Methodology:

This study was conducted during 2016-2018 in District Multan. The major aim of this research is to identify the socio-cultural problems faced by women in decision making regarding family

matters of District Multan. The main objective of this study is to examine the socio-cultural problems and also discover the major factors that cause constraints regarding decision making about job, marriage, education and other family affairs. About 200 respondents were approached through convenient sampling. Data was collected through face to face interview. The researcher used 5 point lickert scale which was categorized as strongly agree, agree, neither, disagree and strongly disagree. Initially, to check the authenticity and accuracy of tool pretesting interview schedule was done and twenty respondents were interviewed. After pretesting the researcher became aware that which questions were suitable and which were unsuitable for this research. Than researcher make changes in order to maintain the sequence. The procedure of coding was made for the statistical purpose. Responses were coded in a different way by the numerical numbers so the association of variables statistically checked. The collected data were examined by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). By calculating simple frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviation data were examined.

Results:

About 3(1.5%) out of 200 respondents were passed primary. About 8(4.0%) of the respondents were completed middle, 24 (12.0%) of the respondents were passed metric. Respondents who were completed their undergraduate is about 37(18.5%), respondents who were graduate are about 84(42.0%). Whereas 34 (17.0%) of the respondents were completed their masters. Whereas 10 (5.0%) of the respondents were completed other such type of education.

Head of the family of the respondent	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
You	8	4.0	4.0	4.0
Father	80	40.0	40.0	44.0
Mother	4	2.0	2.0	46.0
Father in law	14	7.0	7.0	53.0
Mother in law	4	2.0	2.0	55.0
Husband	90	45.0	45.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	
Lack of confidence due to male dominancy	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	38	19.0	19.0	19.0
Agree	119	59.5	59.5	78.5

Neither	31	15.5	15.5	94.0
Disagree	8	4.0	4.0	98.0
Strongly Disagree	4	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	
Is there gender biasness in the society	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	62	31.0	31.0	31.0
Agree	110	55.0	55.0	86.0
Neither	24	12.0	12.0	98.0
Disagree	4	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	
Did your family prefer baby boy	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	48	24.0	24.0	24.0
Agree	99	49.5	49.5	73.5
Neither	51	25.5	25.5	99.0
Disagree	2	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	
Economic decision maker of the family	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
You	9	4.5	4.5	4.5
Father	79	39.5	39.5	44.0
Mother	9	4.5	4.5	48.5
Father in law	9	4.5	4.5	53.0
Mother in law	4	2.0	2.0	55.0
Husband	90	45.0	45.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	
In which area there is gender biasness	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Education	67	33.5	33.5	33.5
Marriage	73	36.5	36.5	70.0
Vote	7	3.5	3.5	73.5
Politics	18	9.0	9.0	82.5
Job	31	15.5	15.5	98.0
Expression of thought	4	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

It reveals that respondents who were head of the family were about 8 (4.0%). About 80(40.0%) of the respondents says that their father is their head of the family. About 4(2.0%) of

the respondent says that their head of the family is their mother. Whereas 14 (7.0%) of the respondents says that their father in law is the head of the family. About 4 (2.0%) of the respondent says that their head of the family is their mother in law. About 90 (45.0%) of the respondent says that their head of the family is their husband and deal with all the issues regarding household. Due to male dominance about 38 (19.0%) of the respondent strongly agree that they feel lack of confidence. About 119 (59.5%) of the respondent agree that due to male dominant society they cannot execute their duties well and feel lack of confidence. About 31 (15.5%) of the respondent says that they don't feel any problem and lack of confidence due to male dominance. About 62 (31.0%) of the respondent strongly agree that there is gender biasness in the society. About 110 (55.0%) of the respondent also agree that within the society there is a lot of gender discrimination. About 24 (12.0%) of the respondent says that there is no gender discrimination within the society. It demonstrates that about 48 (24.0%) of the respondent prefer birth of a baby boy as compared to baby girl. About 99 (49.5%) of the respondent also agree that their family preferred baby boy as compared to baby girl. About 51 (25.5%) of the respondent prefer both birth of a baby boy as well as baby girl. They prefer the presence of both. So due to such type of behavior we can say that there is still a prevalence of gender biasness in our society. About 9 (4.5%) of the respondent say that all the decisions regarding their economic household activities deal by themselves. About 79 (39.5%) of the respondent says that all the economic decision were taken by their father. About 9 (4.5%) of the respondent says that all the economic decision were taken by their mother. About 9 (4.5%) of the respondent says that all the economic decision were taken by their father in law. About 4 (2.0%) of the respondent says that all the economic decision were taken by their mother in law. About 90 (45.0%) of the respondents says that all the economic decision were taken by their husband. Last question illustrates that about 67 (33.5%) of the respondent says that in continuing their education they faced gender biasness. About 73 (36.5%) of the respondent says that they have to face problem in continuing their decision about marriage. About 18 (9.0%) of the respondent says that they have to face problem in taking part in politics. About 4 (2.0%) of the respondent says that they have to have to face a lot of problem and gender biasness as they have no power to express their thoughts.

Discussion:

Findings demonstrated that about 111(55.5%) of the respondents agreed that women participation is somehow accepted by the society. The present study when compare with other study conducted by Acharya (2008) reveals that decision making power of women who are highly qualified are more as compared to those women who are not highly qualified. So we can say that education can increases the decision making power of women. About 73(36.5%) of the respondents says that they faced problem in making decision regarding their marriage. These findings similar with another study conducted by *Jalal-ud-Din and Khan (2008)* that 89% of the respondents don't make any type of decision about their marriage by their own will. Majority of the respondents 90(45.0%) reported that decision about the economic household is taken by their husband. They have no power to make any type of decision about economic household activities. Similar study conducted by *Khan (2011)* reveals that 116(58.0%) of the respondents agreed that economic decision making were taken by their husband. The finding also showed that early age marriages were the major constraints for women in completing their education. About 146 (73.0%) respondent castes vote in elections. This study compare with another study where (65.0%) of the respondents were exercised their voting right.

Conclusion:

As we know that our society is male dominant society. So due to this patriarchal structure more power is considered to be in the hand of male and they were considered more powerful and strong. On the other hand women were considered powerless as well as considered as secondary creature and feeble. In the public sphere male were considered more powerful and engaged more in public sphere. Male were considered more socio-economically strong and also considered as a breadwinner of the family. On the other hand less power is considered to be in the hand of female and considered as women were considered as feeble and frail. The sphere associated with male is public sphere on the other hand private sphere is associated with female. Women role is to take care of their household and family so due to this they were not allowed to take part in public sphere and bound within the four walls of their house. This is the reason due to which economic position of women is weak and economically and financially they depend on their male member of the family. In our society women don't have any power to make decision regarding their job, marriage and education. Due to gender biasness in almost all aspects of life

they cannot make any type of decision about their life. Women low level of economic status is due to unavailability of earning skills and low level of education. Due to all these issues like social and cultural constrains women faced a lot of problems. We should make efforts to remove gender discrimination from our society if we want to improve the status of women. Different opportunities like economic and educational opportunities should be open for women so that they can proof themselves in almost all aspect of life.

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