



CHETANA
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF EDUCATION (CIJE)

Peer Reviewed/Refereed Journal

(ISSN: 2455-8729 (E) / 2231-3613 (P))

Impact Factor
SJIF 2023 - 7.286



Prof. A.P. Sharma
Founder Editor, CIJE
(25.12.1932 - 09.01.2019)

Higher Education and Career Pursuance for Village Girls: Challenges and Solutions

Dr. MANJU SHIVRAN
Assistant Professor (English)
Govt. Arts College, Sikar, Rajasthan
Email: manjushivran88@gmail.com, Mob.- 9549666690

First draft received: 12.11.2023, Reviewed: 18.11.2023, Accepted: 26.11.2023, Final proof received: 30.11.2023

Abstract

Education is the first stepping stone in the way to empowerment of woman. Woman has been given the opportunities for education. Governments of all states are providing education to girls and they are getting changed life. We see new pictures of society. But when we see in the depth of their struggle we find that getting higher education and making career are very challenging for a woman of village. They face innumerable problems such as gender discrimination, financial problems, mental stress, problems related to household workload, social attitude towards girls higher education and career. In this paper I explore such problems. This paper explores these issues with special reference to village girls and woman of Sikar and Jhunjhunu districts of Rajasthan. The objective of this paper is to acquaint with reasons and constraints faced by the rural woman in pursuance of higher education and career. And I try to give some practical suggestions to minimize and overcome the problem.

Keywords: woman and girls, higher education, career, problems, challenges and solutions etc.

Introduction

There are number of benefits that woman should get higher education and make their career. They may enhance self-image and may improve self-esteem. They feel content as a person and have opportunities to better life. Woman contended in life may decide new purpose and goals for life. These benefits are significant for women who are willing to pursue college education. Along with this higher education enables woman to discover their actual caliber and to explore employment opportunities in diverse areas. Holding a higher education degree and diploma can make women eligible for number of job opportunities. Women with higher education can work well toward achieving career goals. Women who get college education are more likely to make a healthy and productive atmosphere for their families and society. They are able to earn higher incomes and to participate in the decision making for better future for themselves

and for their families. Providing higher education to girls strengthens economies and reduces inequality.

In the present century rural girls and woman are also getting education and to some extent we see a changed picture of today's village. Even girls from villages are getting education. The literacy rate in rural India is around 73.5 %. This includes 81% male and 65% female literacy in rural section of India. Woman are getting job in government and private sectors. It seems woman has started to become financially independent in villages also. Yes, it is true, but how is it taking place and what percent does it make of the woman population of village. Broadly speaking its very low. Very less percent of woman population of village has become financially independent. In spite of the reforms there still remains a huge difference in the magnitude of educational levels between men and women in rural are of the country. After completing school education the majority of the parents in villages seek to marry off their daughters. So what happens, majority of the girls

have to drop out of the education and get married and start to lead a traditional life that does not have any scope of development. Some get admission in college education. Some of these college going girls have to get married. Even after getting married they continue their studies. Married girls are taking degrees and diplomas in professional courses such as nursing courses, B. Ed., and others. They are appearing in competitive exams for government job. Some of them join private institutes and firms. This paper presents the observation of circumstances of such girls in villages of Sikar, Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan. It is very common for almost two decades married woman even having children are preparing for job. These women have to struggle a lot. For preparation for job exams they have to be away their children young children and it is very painful for a mother. During the entire period of preparation a woman suffers mental agony because of multiple distractions. She feels emotionally sick. She faces financial problem, family problems and problems from society. She cannot focus on her being mentally free. Challenges do not stop here. After a woman gets job she has to face another kind of problems. She has to manage multiple issues like taking care of children, domestic chores, and social formalities, issues of workplace and performance of job. After seeing all aforementioned problems we may realize the status of woman from villages who seek higher education and career opportunities. Life is not smooth for these girls. Other issues that attract our attention are that in Sikar and Jhunjhunu district villages there are number of girls and women who are devoting their time and hard work for government job but even then they may not be succeeded in getting their job. They are compromising a lot for their career. Being away from baby affects psychological and emotional health of mother and baby adversely. This should not have any alternative. It is necessary for mother and baby's health. Strictly speaking this is a big challenge before our society that a working woman of every status could not take required care and pay attention to her young children. A child who grows up under the emotional care of his mother becomes a healthy and strong adult and better citizen. So this is a big challenge before our society. Woman preparing for job exams may not enjoy their daily life for a considerable time of period. Therefore we may say that these women lose a great portion of their life, a phase of their life. In other words they start their life later than they may. Maretens, A. (2013) conducted a study by applying a unique set of data that he gathered by doing research in three villages in semi-deserted India. He examined the part of the comprehended returns to education and social factors with regard to the perfect age of marriage in the educational programs. He exhibited the perfect age of marriage importantly compel the education that parents strive to give their daughters, but not their sons. Adding on, ambitions of pursuing higher education are appreciated in boys, but not in the case of girls.

In spite of forceful interventions of female privilege, feminist critics, constitutional guarantees, protecting laws and sincere efforts by the state governments and central governments through various schemes and programmes over the last six decades and above all, the

United Nation's enormous pressure with regard to the uplift of woman in terms higher education is still in the state of an enigma in Indian villages for several reasons.

Higher education status and socio-economic conditions of rural woman residing in the village of shekhawati region of Rajasthan have not been researched ever. Not only study was not conducted on the struggle and pain of these women unfortunately there is not any kind of survey report or data that may provide the literature on their educational and social status. There is not any kind of survey and report that may reveal and expose the problems faced by female pursuant for higher education and career at home and society level.

Equal opportunities and status are two dimensions of empowerment which define challenge and overcome barriers of life with which one's ability to shape up life. Gender discrimination is not new to Indian society. It is a big hurdle in career opportunities to woman in India. A majority of the parents think that girls are burden on family so they do not much on girl's education. Parents are of the view that household chores are primary responsibility of girls. This is a prevailing attitude of parents towards girls. "Gender discrimination is major issue in our society. Gender discrimination means to do biased or discriminate with girls by their parents or other persons only because of their sex. This issue is existing in every strata of society it may be poor or rich." (Gandhi Kingdom, 2002) Studies show that gender discrimination is still prevailing but changes are also taking place. Girls are getting aware of their rights. Girls think that education is important for them as it for boys. In a study 66% girl respondents are willing to continue their study further, whereas only 28% parents are ready to send their daughters for higher education. It shows the girl children are still prompting very less for higher studies.

Discrimination in terms of education against woman was found maximum among families of low socio-economic conditions than in middle and high socio-economic status families. The universe of the study comprises of women of villages of Sikar and Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan (India). The study is primarily descriptive and analytical in nature and based upon primary observation on rural woman residing in the villages of Sikar and Jhunjhunu districts. These women are part of the universe that is selected to examine the problems and hurdles faced by rural woman accessing higher education and pursuing career in rural areas. The paper presents primary observation as well as secondary observation. In first hand observation questionnaire relating to the challenges faced by rural woman for accessing higher education are used. A well-constructed validated questionnaire was used as a research tool for this study. Second hand observation has been received with the help of relatives, known persons, local gossips, persons at workplace and social media. The study took place on the age group of 20-40 years. The findings of the study reveal that getting higher education and making career is very challenging for women in villages. Results indicate the sex biases as major problem for maximum girls at home and society followed by early age marriage and financial problem, which was found as significantly affecting factors for

girl education. Study reveals that not only the woman who is suffering and struggling but their children and family members are also experiencing the same fate. Some common factors that affect their work are preference to son, negative parental attitude, financial problems, dependent on the male counterparts of the family, social attitude, decision makers, conveyance problem, reluctance for higher education, unavailability of college in villages and family responsibility.

The female students have a primary challenge to balance their multiple roles with the student role. They have great number of characters such as mothers, spouse/partners, employees and community members. Hence such students have to lead a stressful life style. The responsibilities of various roles, lack of required confidence, and lack of proper support from family and society for such students give rise to intense stress and anxiety. Such women need to build self-confidence and external support. Adult learners are educated through their life experiences, which in turn bring values to their study and learning. Nandita Singh (2008) has worked on women's higher education in India and found that gender inequality in education across the socio-economic spectrum of India. She felt a need to develop female student specific pedagogy and flexibility in the system of education, which would prepare them to face a world of opportunities and challenges.

I want to suggest possible remedies to annihilate prevailing problems. Proper counseling should be given to youth and women. Government should employ or appoint psychological counselors and career counselor on a certain percent of population in villages. It will take time but we should redefine the family and society and social dogmas. Parents should be aware of the importance of girls' education. There is need to implement policy and educational development program of woman through government initiatives and schemes. Various measures must be taken by government. The existing problems could be resolved by changing the perception of family members towards importance of higher education and career pursuance for girls. Stringent action must be taken by the authorities. Sen (1999) viewed that education has the potential to contribute to alternative socialization, challenging conventional gender ideologies, leveling the playing field between males and females in relation to skills, credentials and qualification and allowing woman the use of knowledge to empower themselves in diverse ways.

References

- G. Gandhi Kingdom (2002) The Gender Gap in Educational Attainment in India: How Much Can be Explained? The Journal of Development Studies, 39:2, 25-53.
- Jangir, H & Azeez, E.P. (2017) Parental attitude and Children's Perception on Gender Discrimination: A Study of Rural Rajasthan. Indian Journal of Sustainable Development. 3(1).
- Selvan, A. (2017). Problems of Rural Girl Students in Higher Educational Institutions. Scholarly Journal for

Humanity Science and English Language, Volume-4/23.

Maretens, A. (2013) Social norms and aspirations: Age of Marriage and Education in Rural India. World Development, Volume- 47, P. 1-15