

Impact of Education and Women's Employment on Changing Socio-Economic Status of Women: A Sociological Study of Rural Haryana

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Abstract : *The present paper is an attempt to know the changing socio-economic status of women in rural Haryana in relation to education and women's employment. The present study was carried out in village Barsi of Bawani Khera Tehsil of district Bhiwani in Haryana State on random sampling method. The sample of 60 respondents in which 30 are daughter-in-law and 30 are mother-in-law was also selected on random sampling method. In the present study, two age groups were taken of the same number. First age group of the respondents (daughter-in-laws) belonged to the age group of 18-40 years and other group (mother-in-laws) belonged to age group of above 40 years. In the present study, it was found that daughter-in-laws were moderately and highly educated while mother-in-laws were less or moderately educated. In the present study, it was found that majority of the daughter-in-laws belonged to housewife followed by working in private sectors, while majority of mother-in-laws, working in government sector followed by housewives and helping in fields. Regarding role of education and women's employment, a large majority of the respondents were of the view that both education and employment play a significant role in changing socio-economic status of women.*

Key words: Women empowerment, socio-economic status, education, employment

INTRODUCTION : The status of women in any society is a significant pointer to the level of development of that society. With the change in role and status of women, social change comes through. Such changes can be noticed by noting the changes that have taken place in the status of women in a society. The women population comprises fifty percent of the population on the globe and still women were not given equal status with men. The subjugation of the female of the species is probably a world phenomenon and must have started with the history of mankind itself. Social conditioning which would have its roots in the hunter gatherer stage of human civilization, gave the power of being the provider in the man's hands and the man must have learnt without wasting too much time, about his apparent superiority of physical strength. The result is an unbalanced power equation between men and women, resulting in physical, mental and emotional abuse of the women. In India, the society is generally male dominated and patriarchy is strong despite several movements for upliftment of women launched by women's organizations in the pre-independence and post-independence period. Male-superiority emanates from castes, class, patriarchy and sexuality of the male. In fact, we may say that the reason for women's poor condition largely depends on India's social and cultural heritage and strong tradition of patriarchy and male-domination. In Indian society the status of women has been many up and downs. Majority of women are burdened with the dual gaps of gender bias and resource deprivations, gender stereotypes, marginalization, alienation and deprivation are created by the prevailing social order.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment was the buzzword of the nineties. However, there is little consensus on definition and use of the term. Empowerment is about social transformation, it is about radical social transformation, and it is about the ordinary people, common people, rather than politicians, experts and other socially or culturally advantaged persons. It is an active, multi-dimensions process which should enable women to realise their full identity and powers in all spheres of life. It would consist a greater access to knowledge and resource, greater autonomy in decision making, greater ability to plan their lives, have greater control over the circumstances that influences their lives and free them from shackles of serfdom imposed on them by customs, belief and practice. Generally, development with justice is expected to generate the forces that lead to empowerment of various sections of population in a country and to raise their status. Although, the concept of power contained in it is generally left unspecified. Empowerment is both a means to an end and an end in itself. The idea of empowerment may be invoked in virtually any context: in speaking about human rights, basic needs, economic security, capacity building, skill formation or the conditions of a dignified social existence. According to Agarwal empowerment is a process that enhances the ability of disadvantaged (powerless) individual and group of challenge and change existing power relationships that place them in subordinate economic, social and political position (Agarwal 1994: 22). Thus it can be said that the empowerment is about power and the distribution of power is not a separate or detachable part of society but permeates every type of arrangement in it.

Changing Socio-Economic Status of Women

Social change has been defined by sociologist Wilbert Moore as a significant alternation in structure over time in behaviour patterns and culture, including norms and values. A change in the status of women is a phenomenon that depends on a host of factor including her own efforts, value system of a society as well as state sponsored polices. Its nature and pace of direction depends on a number of complex interlinked and interwoven conditions based on economic, political, social educational and cultural factors etc. The constitution of India provides a comprehensive framework for the socio-economic development of women. With the state initiatives and with the efforts from various social service agencies and of course with their own involvement, the things are relatively changing with the passage of time. The decade of 1990s has remained a watershed in India's history – a time of transition e.g. liberalization of economy, globalization, privatization of economy.

With the increase in the literacy rate and level of education, the importance of educated women's role and status in the society has changed during the past few decades. It is no longer a question of what women are capable of doing physically and mentally. Marriage and work for educated women are of great social interest and importance in the present day society. The changes in the institution of family and marriage have been set in motion by the educated women. The pattern of social relationship with in the family is changing. These changes in turn contribute to the changes in social structure. The emergence of educated and empowered women is an indication of the significant socio-economic changes taking place in the society.

With the attainment of independence in 1947, the socio-economic transformation in Indian societies has brought about a train of perceptible change, which also touched the women's status. It has specifically effected the status, role, outlook, worldview and attitudes of the women to a great extent. The status of rural women has been changing in different fields – education, occupation, family, marriage and in the decision making. To know its extent and direction is a matter of concern to the researchers.

Due to technical advancement and social development the structure of the family organization is changing, these substantial changes have created new challenging roles and status for women all over the world especially Indian women. Among the women fraternity middle class and lower class women are the worst sufferers. As the member of the family she has to perform certain roles apart from taking an active part in economic, health and educational activities

The impact of education, constitutional provisions, state policies, legal rights, globalization etc. changed women's role and status in the society during the past few decades. It is no longer a question of what women are capable of doing physically and mentally. Women have proved themselves fit for much wider range of activities than the traditional role of housewife. Marriage and work for educated women are of great social interest and importance in the present day societies in India.

Women working outside their homes are not a new phenomenon because women in India have always been working for a living in the fields along with their men. Taking up of employment by the educated middle class and upper class women is comparatively a recent phenomenon. Even the married women are coming out of four walls of their home seeking gainful employment. The degree of freedom given to women to more about in society and to take part in public life gives a good idea of the nature of her changing role and status in the society.

Women today enjoy better health and they are better health and hygienic conscious because of the progress in the national health programmes including family planning. Changes in the social attitudes of women themselves as well as those of men have been observed due to widespread use of radio, cinema and television and with the spread of books and newspapers. The status of women in India has been affected significantly by the different provisions in the laws till the year 1954. Indian women did not enjoy a very favourable position in the eyes of law, through the constitution of the Republic of India guaranteed equality to everyone. It was only in 1955-56, when the Parliament passed statutes reforming the Hindu law relating to marriage and divorce, succession, adoption, minority and guardianship, that Indian women attained a status equal to that of men.

Educational improvement also makes change possible into the socio-economic status of women. Sustained efforts to extend education among women have been made from the first five year plan period. Further through the various programmes and policies increase the enrolment of girls in education.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Singh, Singh and Suman (2009) show certain factors as inhibitors (e.g. harmful traditional practices, conflicting situations, gender discrimination etc.). The implication of the findings in providing directions to policy makers, social scientists, and health practitioners towards rural areas regarding adolescent girls has been discussed. Singh, Sharma, and

Henry (2010) showed that SHGs had a significant influence in changing socio-economic status of the beneficiaries. The additional monthly income of the beneficiaries also increased significantly as a result of enterprises taken in SHGs

Thangaraju (2011) revealed that the major problem was not availability of finance but repayment of it. The repayments are difficult due to low paying capacity, which is affected by lack of education, poor skills, and certain problems related to marketing, viz., lack of mobility, biased attitude towards women and caste to which they belong and poor infrastructural support. Das (2013) conducted a study to examine the status of women in the North Eastern Region in comparison with all India average. It is found from the analysis that the status of women in the region is comparatively better than the rest of the country only in some selected indicators. The indicators reveal that women have a very low degree of freedom of movement and low level of control over themselves in North Eastern Region. Chanchan (2013) identified and analyzed the pull and push factors associated with the development of women entrepreneurs in Manipur and found that irrespective of education level and income group, the financial constraints are the main reasons for women taking up entrepreneurship. Shaik (2015) found that majority of respondents are between the age group of 30-45 years with 43%, 38% of the respondents were between the age of 45-55 years, and only 19% were age of above 56 years. Majority of respondents are illiterate with 70% and literates comprised of 30%. Most of them are engaged in agriculture for their livelihood constituting of about 64% and remaining 30% are wage labours, 5% are working in private jobs and 1% are engaged in government jobs.

Nisha, Lekhraj and Kumar (2015) indicated that there are large disparities showed in sex ratio, literacy rate and work participation comparison to male in Haryana. High level of literacy and educational achievement leads to equal status of male and female and this make the women economic empowered. Samria (2015) revealed that the socio-economic status of the women were less significant as compared to the men respondents. Rani, and Sinha (2016) revealed that lack of family support, non-cooperation of male counterparts, weak bargaining position, psychological barriers, lack of experience, lack of knowledge, lack of society support, harassment, difficulties in getting loans to set up a business, lack of awareness about credit facilities for women, lack of infrastructure facilities, strict regulations and policies, attracting customers, lack of marketing skills and unfavorable market behaviors were the major problems faced by the women entrepreneurs.

Ahmad, Sherwani, and Jamshed (2017) showed an encouraging result and identifies significant changes in rural women entrepreneurship through these arrangements. Bairwa, Bairwa, Bairwa, and Bairwa (2017) concluded that the nutritional knowledge of the participant was very low and maximum lactating women were found non-vegetarian. Most of the deliveries were in the hospital and there were some bad practices consumed such as bidi, zarda, gutka

Need and Importance of the Present Study

The Review of the literature presented in the preceding chapter reveals that there is a fairly long tradition of study and research of the status of women embodied in a very wide range of disciplines including sociology, economics, history, political science and other. The researchers did this from their own discipline perspectives. Mostly the social researchers had tried to focus upon the socio-economic problems and other government plans for the upliftment and betterment of status of women in different parts of India. It is observed that there is a scarcity of studies, which aims at studying the changing socio-economic status of women, the factors which brings change and the impact of change. So there is an ample scope for further studies.

Therefore, intensive studies of the rural women are necessary so as to gain a clear and comprehensive understanding of the changing and prospects of women socio-economic status. Keeping in view the above facts, the present study of changing socio-economic status of women has been attempted in village Barsi, Bawani Khera Tehsil of district Bhiwani in Haryana State.

Research Methodology

This research has been designed in exploratory method and comparative so it tries to explore the changing socio-economic status of women of the study area. The main purpose of the study is to explore the changing women status in terms of social and economic. To understand this phenomenon, we have formulated the following objectives.

Objectives of the Study

1. To know the socio-economic status of the respondents.
2. To study the factors, which brings change into the socio-economic status of the respondents. **FIELD OF THE**

STUDY

The present study was carried out in village Barsi of Bawani Khera Tehsil of district Bhiwani in Haryana State on random sampling method.

SAMPLE

The sample of 60 respondents in which 30 are daughter-in-law and 30 are mother-in-law was also selected on random sampling method.

TOOLS OF THE DATA COLLECTIONS

In the present study due emphasis is placed on collection of in-depth information. In order to do this, primary data is collected with the help of structured interview schedule.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

Percentage method was used to analyze the data.

Socio-Economic Status of the Respondents

Table 1
Educational status of the respondents

Sr. No.	Educational Status	No. of Respondents			
		Daughter-in-law	%age	Mother in-law	%age
1	Illiterate	0	0	11	36.67
2	Upto primary	0	0	5	16.67
3	Upto middle	1	3.33	4	13.33
4	Upto Matric	1	3.33	5	16.67
5	Upto 10+2	5	16.67	0	0
6	Graduation	10	33.34	4	13.33
7	Post graduation	10	33.34	1	3.33
8	Others	3	9.99	0	0
	Total	30	100.0	30	100.0

The table 1 shows the educational status of the respondents. It shows that out of 30 daughter-in-laws, 3.33 per cent were educated upto primary, 3.33 per cent were upto matric, 16.67 per cent upto 10+2, 33.34 and 33.34 per cent upto graduation and post-graduation respectively, while 9.99 per cent of them attained other diploma or degree. Whereas out of 30 mother-in-laws, 36.67 per cent were illiterate, 16.67 per cent attained education upto primary, 13.33 per cent upto middle, 16.67 per cent upto matric, 13.33 per cent of them attained education upto graduation and only on respondents was postgraduate. While comparing both the group, daughter-in-laws are highly educated as compared to mother-in-laws.

Table 2
Occupation of the Respondents

Sr. No.	Occupation	No. of Respondents			
		Daughter-in-law	%age	Mother in-law	%age
1	Housewife	10	33.33	5	16.67
2	Housewife farming and livestock	3	10.00	12	40
3	Working in private sector	7	23.34	5	16.67
4	Working in government sector	6	20.00	8	26.66
5	Students	4	13.33	0	0
	Total	30	100.0	30	100.0

The table 2 shows the occupation of the respondents. The data shows that out of 30 daughter-in-laws, 33.33 per cent were housewives, while 10 per cent of them were housewives but works in the fields with their husbands, 23.34 per cent working in private sectors, 20 per cent have government jobs and 13.33 per cent of them were studying. The table further shows that out of 30 mother-in-laws, 16.67 per cent were housewives, while 40 per cent of them were housewives but works in the fields with their husbands or other family members, 16.67 per cent working in private sectors, 26.66 per cent have government jobs. So majority of daughter-in-laws belonged to housewife followed by working in private sectors, while majority of mother-in-laws, working in government sector followed by housewives and helping in fields

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 3
Women's Education influences the status of women ?

Sr. No.	Responses	No. of Respondents			
		Daughter-in-law	%age	Mother in-law	%age
1	Yes	29	96.67	27	90.00
3	No	1	3.33	3	10.00
	Total	30	100.0	30	100.0

When we asked our respondents that education is the factor which brings change in your socio-economic status. A large majority of the respondents (daughter-in-laws) 96.67 per cent and (mother-in-laws) 90 per cent were agree with this view that education is the factor which brings change in their socio-economic status.

Table 4
Women's employment make any change into the status of women ?

Sr. No.	Response	No. of Respondents			
		Daughter-in-law	%age	Mother in-law	%age
1	Yes	30	100.0	28	93.33
3	No	0	0.0	2	6.67
	Total	30	100.0	30	100.0

When we asked our respondents that women's employment is the factor which brings change in socio-economic status. A large majority of the respondents (daughter-in-laws) 100 per cent and (mother-in-laws) 93.33 per cent were agree with this view that women's employment is the major factor which brings change in women's socio-economic status.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

In the present study, two age groups were taken of the same number. First age group of the respondents (daughter-in-laws) belonged to the age group of 18-40 years and other group (mother-in-laws) belonged to age group of above 40 years. Educational status played an important role in socio-economic changes. In the present study, it was found that daughter-in-laws were moderately and highly educated while mother-in-laws were less or moderately educated. Regarding birth place, the respondents of both the groups have born in villages. Occupation/profession of an individual is a significant indicator of one's status in the society. In the present study, it was found that majority of the daughter-in-laws belonged to housewife followed by working in private sectors, while majority of mother-in-laws, working in government sector followed by housewives and helping in fields.

Regarding role of education in socio-economic status, a large majority of the respondents (daughter-in-laws and mother-in-laws) were agree with this view that education is the factor which brings change in their socio-economic status. Women's employment also play an important role in changing socio-economic status, A large majority of the respondents of both groups were agree with this view that women's employment is the major factor which brings change in women's socio-economic status.

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