

INVESTIGATION OF VARIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY PARENTS REGARDING GIRLS' HIGHER EDUCATION AT RAWALPINDI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to highlight the problems of the parents of female students at higher education level. In the progress of human capital and overall economic and socio cultural development, higher education of women plays significant part. The first objective of the study was to identify the problems that parents face regarding their girl's education at higher education level. To find out the intensity of problems that parents have to face regarding their girls higher education was the second objective of the study. The third objective of the study was to analyze the problems that parents have to face regarding their daughter's higher education. To suggest guidelines to solve these problems and minimize their impact was the fourth objective of the study. The design of the study was descriptive. Population of the study comprised of all the parents of female students at higher education level of district Rawalpindi. Sample of the study was selected on two stages. At first stage, 100 parents of institute were selected randomly. Data were collected by using simple randomized sampling technique through proportional allocation method using questionnaire. Instrument for data collection was self-report questionnaire that was consisted social problems, female education, and parent's problems regarding their daughter's education. In order to achieve the objective of the study, a self-administered and well-structured questionnaire was developed. The questionnaire was finalized after conducted a pilot study. A self-developed five point Likert scale questionnaire was used to data collection by the researcher. Chi –square, standard deviation, mean and percentage statistical test were applied to analyze data. Results of the study indicated social problems, religious misconceptions and law and order issues were identified as major problems of parents. Recommendations were made for administration, parents and also for students to overcome the social problems of female students.

Keyword: Parents, Female Students, Higher Education, Rawalpindi District, Pakistan

INTROCUCTION:

The concept of University is derived from Ancient Greek inspired by the atmosphere created by the Aristotle and Plato in which they did philosophical negotiations with their students without any religious and political pressure (Orates, 2004). Universities as the

highest research and educational institutes are serving to the humanity and international scales were any kind of problem (spiritual and material) analyzed and examined at higher level and received results are conveyed again through publications and teaching (Orates, 2002).

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For the higher education, universities are the fundamental source and their development is notable in recent past. By realizing the essential role of higher education to improve in the field of research and development in the field of economic, the Pakistan Government established Higher Education Commission (HEC) in the year 2002 and dissolved the University Grant Commission (UGC). By focusing on its main aim of strengthening the higher education by giving special to research and its application in science and technology field with in Pakistan (Khattak et al., 2012). There are 139 Universities in Pakistan including 79 public, 60 private universities. Total number of students in these universities 33% of them is female students (Pakistan UNESCO Country Programming Document 2013-2017). It is also compulsory for the progress of the individual as well as for societies and country. It is helpful to make the fruitful and productive future. When it is ensured that all the children without gender discrimination have access to the education at every level, we generate a ripple of opportunity that influence to come. According to the global Competitiveness Index, in the field of health and education performance of Pakistan is very low and weak as compare to other countries of its region like China, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (Pakistan UNESCO Country Programming Document 2013-2017). More than 68% Pakistan's population is consisted of youth. Thirty two percent of that youth is uneducated. They have no life skills. Women education and skills to contribute their part in the development of country as an active and equal pillar. It is also need for the development of country to allow women to stand at their right place not only in family and community but also at state level women (Pakistan UNESCO Country Programme

Document 2013-2017. Objectives of the study are:

- 1- To identify the problems that parents of the female students face at their higher education level.
- 2- To find out the intensity of problems that parents have to face regarding their girls education.
- 3- To analyze the problems that parents have to face regarding their daughter's higher education.
- 4- To suggest guidelines to solve these problems and minimize their impact.

REVIEW OF THE RELEVANT LITERATURE:

Draz, (2012) stated that population of the World is consisted almost half of the women but they are being discriminated in different areas of life and face more problems in every field as compare to men just because of gender and cultural structure.

Social Problems:

Stephen (1993) stated that there are many factors that affect women rural area. These can be education parents especially of father's education, social status, income level, family system, old traditional values, caste system, and wrongly interpreted religious knowledge which deny the female education. Duzdar and Ali (2011) stated that another major reason which hinders the education for girls is marriage. Most parents are concerns about their marriage and most parents are conscious about their marriage and want to get them married as soon as they attain puberty. Girls get married at a young age and don't get time and chance to get higher education. Pakistan has one of the lowest literacy rates in the World. The picture of educational conditions

is grim in Pakistan. More than 40% of girls never enroll in school. Khan (2007) stands that more specifically in KPK and Baluchistan women are severely bound by cultural constraints and prejudices. They are involved in productive and reproductive and community work for 14-18 hours, in these areas the female literacy rate stands between 15 percent. A day as well as northern tribal areas the education of the girls is strictly prohibited on religious grounds. Those girls who go school their attendance rate in primary, secondary and post-secondary schools are lower than boys'. This is a gross misinterpretation of Islam.

Cultural Problems:

Ismail, (2009) found that major problems about female education is that educational institutions are at very distance, problems of separate educational institutions, fear for extremists, fear of loosened power, frequent changes in educational policies. Khattak (2008) investigate that social structure element like traditionalism to purdah is another problem that students have to face. The community people have considered it as the element of integrity of family. They thought that if female go out of their homes, the families, homes would turn out to be on risk. Our community observes purdah as religion and social obligation for female, in which she practices not to expose herself to the stranger/male individuals other than her family members. According to the community members to stay at home by females is a value and value is expected to be practiced by each individual of the society people think that if their females are seen outside their homes, it will be bad. They think that their respect will be at stake and females going out may bring stigmas with them. Qureshi and Rarieya (2007) stated that the feudal system and the

absence of democracy (and democratic attitudes) also promote inequalities by creating powerlessness among the large sections of the people, including women. Feudalism perpetuates an unsafe environment where the disempowered in general, and physical violence which is often socially, and until recently, legally condemned. Such cultural constraints restrict girls to participate in productive concerns causing great hindrance in governing the girl's educational institution in the society.

Financial Problems:

Khalid and Mukhtar (2002) stated that in Pakistan, the future of girls' education experienced that if there is a little fee charged for the schooling of girls, expenses of books, uniform and other requirements all this serves as hurdles in acquiring education. Opportunities of earning increase as boys' kids grow as they become helping hand for their parents. So they go for further education. On the other hand girls dropout rate increase as they grown up because they get involved in domestic work to help their mothers and withdrawn from higher education. Smith (2006) explored that mothers who are more educated and have explored specific level of education have an idea and know the importance of education for women, that is why are expect that educational mothers can use the insight and power for their daughter's and more education as compare to them and should go for a step ahead. Ismail (2009) explored that education is very important not only for an individual but for the society also. Education is directly linked with society and its progress for that reason, without education, a society cannot make any development. Higher education is the potent agent for the progress, this also reflect the broad recognition that it contribute to development.

Education is the basic and fundamental right for every individual in any society. Education necessary for the progress of a society that its men and women should get higher education and play their part of the advancement of the society which can only take place if both men women are essential to the process of development, failing to invest in female education can reduce the potential benefits of all types. Female literacy is the challenge of the day.

Co- Educational Problems

Ahmed (2006) South Asia and Muslims families are against the co-education system. Due to this system are cruel and barriers for females to go for higher education. Such type of system also criticizes parents who educate their daughters. It is also observed that some parents are very for the education of their children. They give prestige to the profession of law, medicine, and pharmacy not for boys but for their daughters also. Thompson (2003) stated that the single sex institutes permits female to get success in areas where they may not to have in the presence of male fellows. The National Association of Single Sex Public Examination. Females who attend separate institutions of education get scares, high level of self-esteem, less out dated role of gender attitude and mostly they are involved in leadership positions. UNESCO (2009) female teachers are not enough so the less provision of female teachers is another major hurdle for girl's higher education. This problem is more alarming for the students of rural areas. Because if institute unable to provide female teachers, parents hesitate to send their daughters must be educated by female teachers. It is also difficult for the female educated teacher go in the rural area.

Gender Discrimination

Mansoor (2012) has also been founded that the representation of females in the leadership positions is very low. It is because of the male dominant society of the country. Women have no or very less opportunities in the management field as well as in academic field. Male dominancy is being practiced almost in every sector. Bond (1997) has stated that women and men are basically equal in competency to perform different responsibilities in any organization. But the fact is that most of the organizations ladies are in very less in strength. Women access to the resources is inadequate and very little power. Karikar (2008) analyzed that in the universities participation of women in the management and academic position is very low. Due to this reason their opinions has not been given any importance and worth.

Religious misconceptions

Abida et al. (2011) has state those teachings of Islam given the lesson of equality. Teaching of Islam cannot keep away from education. According to Islam there is no difference in the right of getting education. Hazrat Ayesha (RA) is the well-known schedule of Islam we cannot accept this thinking that higher education keeps the women away from Islam.

LAW and Order

Khattak (2008) explored that issues of safety and security are another social problem that parents have to face about girls' higher education. Long distance travel to universities usually considers daughters for the personal security of females. Incidents of female's sexual abuse and harassment are the reasons to the security of females dominate parents

decisions of that sending daughters, especially when educational institutions are at are long distances.

METHODOLOGY:

Research Design

Methodology and procedure which were used in the study to investigate the research problem. The main purpose of the study was to examine the problems faced by parents about female's university education. Following procedure was adopted for this study. The study was descriptive in nature

POPULATION OF THE STUDY:

Population of the study comprised all the parents of the female students at higher education level of District Rawalpindi.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

The study was delimited to the followings:

- 1- Selected university for data collection, Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agricultural University, Rawalpindi.
- 2- Government post graduate college for women, Rawalpindi.
- 3- Government Degree College for women, Rawalpindi.
- 4- Selected disciplines for each University.
 - 1- Faculty of management sciences.
 - 2- Faculty of social sciences.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY:

For example selection simple random sampling technique was used. Parents of 100 female's students were selected randomly from each university and colleges. The sample

size was comprised 300 parents. The sample of the study was drawn by using random sampling technique from the population. There were two stages from sampling. At first stage 1 university and 2 colleges were randomly select from District Rawalpindi. At the second stage, from the each university and colleges to students were randomly selected as the sample of the study. The sample size was comprised Of 300 parents.

RESEARCH INSTRUMENT OF THE STUDY:

As the study was descriptive in nature, therefore, self-administered questionnaire was used as research instrument to collect data. Research has developed this questionnaire on the basis of literature related to the study.

PILOT TESTING:

To check reliability and validity of questionnaire, a pilot study was conducted. Thirty parents of female students were selected randomly for pilot study. Pilot testing was carried out to diagnose the deficiencies in questionnaire. In the light of results of pilot study, questionnaires for final study.

VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY:

To check the comprehensibility and directness of the questionnaire tern of experts were involved to review them. However to make the questionnaires valid and refined. Repetitions were removed and some items were integrated. The reliability of the self-made tool in present study was found.71. While to check the items, relevancy, accuracy and consistency of the questionnaires developed by the researcher herself the reliability analysis, Cronbach alpha was applied by using SPSS version 16. The

reliability of the final questionnaire was .0.905.

DATA COLLECTION:

In order to get data from respondents through the above mentioned instruments, the researcher visited the sample respondents personally and administered the questionnaire to the sample of female student's parents. Researcher thoroughly briefed about the procedure of the filling the questionnaire.

DATA ANALYSIS

Data were tabulated, analyzed, and interpreted in the light of objectives of the study. The statistical package of the social sciences (SPSS) 16 was employed. By using Chi- square statistical techniques. According the demands of objectives and nature of data mean, percentage, chi-square and standard deviation were used as statistical techniques. Percentage shows the ratio of each statement and its entire theme.

Analysis and findings:

1- The study tells that more than half of the respondents play less than twenty thousand fee for their daughters. And 43 respondents pay fee of forty thousand and above.

2- Study shows that the occupation of the most of fathers was government employ. And twenty percent were running their own business.

3- Study indicates that most of the mothers of university of female students house wives. They are no working women or do any job.

4- Study has shown us that the education of the majority of fathers or graduation lies from Metric to Graduation.

5- Study indicates that the education of the mothers of the university female students is from Metric to Graduation. Their numbers is almost. And very less number of mothers has the education less than metric.

6- Study demonstrates that the parents of the female university students are educated. It is also found that none of the parents were illiterate.

7- Study shows the status of the parents that more than half of the parents live together. Very less number of female students belongs to the families of single parents Study.

8- Study explains that eighty one percent of the females were living in their houses and a very less number of families have residence in rented houses.

9- Study illustrates that location of the respondents were almost equal in rural and urban areas.

10- The findings of the study represents the majority of the respondents (82.4%) have less than 10 family members.

11- Over all study shows that almost sixty nine percent of the families were living in nuclear family system. Very less only two percent families were living in extended system.

12- Study explains the most of the parents were facing social problems that their relatives are against the female higher education. Social group community criticized girl's higher education. They have fears about the future of their daughter in finding perfect match of her. They were also facing the problems that they cut off from their families. Parents have fears that their daughters will be included in bad company.

13- Study illustrate that people are facing financial issues due to the daughter's higher education. Many parents were in the favor of

boys' higher education. Parents manage their daughter's expenses with difficult.

14- Study demonstrates that most of the respondents were agreed that co-education is one the causes of involving the students in immoral values. Parents have also fear of their daughter's marriage often higher education. Many parents do not allow their daughter's to go higher education due to co-education or male teacher's.

15- Study reveals that parents also have issues that their girls face gender discrimination. They were also have issues that girls considered being unsafe in co-education system.

16- Study indicates that parents have security issues about the accommodation of their daughter's hostels. Parents have transport issues due to the lack of institutional transport system.

17- Study shows that most of the parents have the view that media is one of the reasons in spreading vulgarity in youth. Media is effecting the university environment. Respondents were agreed that academic performance reduces due to the excessive use of media.

18- Majority of the parents are in fear of the statement that higher education keeps the women away from Islamic values. It is the concept that higher education is a hurdle in the Islamic concept of early marriages.

19- Study reveals that parents have security issues due to the condition of the country. Unexpected holidays due to the terrorism affect their girl's education. Parents have security fears in sending their girls outside.

DISCUSSIONS

Importance of education cannot be denied. Education is the only weapon to change the behavior. Nations got success in the World

that accept the importance of education and have worked on it. And the countries that did not focus on education are still behaved in the battle of development. Education is important for women as it is important for men. Without educating women no family, society and country get progress in the world. Educating a man means educating a person but to educating a woman means educating a family. As a military leader of France once said that give me educated mothers, I will give you educated nation. Pakistan is under developed country. The literacy rate of Pakistan is under developed country. The literacy rate of Pakistan is round about 55 percent. In Pakistan there is less focus given to the education, especially for the education of women. As we all known higher education is the need of today's world. And it is necessary not only for boys but for girls also. Parents who are educating their daughter's especially at higher education level we facing various problems. In this study the study the researcher has tried to investigate at problems that parents have to face regarding their girls higher education. Studies at higher education level come from different backgrounds of education. Some studies have low average and some comes with great academic achievement. Some can adjust easily in new social environment and can manage themselves emotionally and psychologically. While some face difficulties to settle down. Women enrolment and empowerment in higher education institutions is very low from the satisfactory level. Situation is more alarming in the rural areas because there are very less institutes of higher education for women. That is why access of rural area women to the higher education is a big problem for them. In Pakistan, female's access for higher education is very low or limited. Women in higher education often adopt

teaching. Rates of women in the field of management are very low. Cultural and social hurdles preclude females to take part on the position of management. Results of this study match with Maryam (1999) study in development in the economic status of women are very important for their overall progress. If women economically depend on others they stay powerless and unable to get and enjoy their rights also. Results of this study Buzadar and Ali (2011) discussed that scarcity of resources is the serious problem that parents have to face about girl's education. The opponents of general education of girls also supported religious education for girls. The impotent thing in all sceneries to educate their daughter's. The major problems for majority of them are the absence of schools and school related human and physical infrastructure. The problem of transportation, drinking water, electricity, school building and boundaries walls are sever in tribal cum rural areas than settled areas special efforts are recommended to refine girl's schools infrastructure on priority basis. Results of the study Sather et al. (2000) proved that problems regarding girl's security and safety affect their access to the higher education. Long distances and travelling for the higher education and to go to attend institutions of education are considered as a threat due to the personal security concerns of the girls. The incidents of sexual harassment and abuses about girls and importance related to the females personal security is one of the causes of parent's discussion of not willing to send their daughters for higher education. Khattack (2008) studied that issues of safety and security are another social problem that parents have to face about girl's higher education. Long distance travel to universities usually consider dangerous for the personal security of females. Incidents of female's

sexual abuse and harassment are the reason to the security of female dominate parents decisions of not sending daughters especially when educational institutions are at are long distances.

SUMMARY

Importance of education cannot be denied. Education is the study weapon to change the behavior. Nation got success in the world that accept the importance of education and have worked on it. And the countries that did not focus on education that still behind in the battle of development. Education is important for women as it is important for men. Without educating women no family, society and country get progress in the world. Educating a man means educating a person but to educating women means educating a family. As a military leader of France once said that give me educated women, I will give you educated nation. Pakistan is under developed country. The rate in Pakistan is round about 57%. In Pakistan there is less focus given to the education especially for the women of education. As we all known higher education is the need of today's world. And it is necessary not only for boys but for girls also. Parents who are educating their daughter's especially at higher education level are facing various problems. In this study the study the researcher has tried to investigate the problems that parents have to face regarding their girl's higher education. Main objective of the study were to identify the problems that parents face regarding their girl's education at higher education level. To find out the intensity of problems that parents have to face regarding their daughter's higher education. To suggest guidelines to solve these problems and minimize their impact was the fourth objective of the study. The study was descriptive in nature. The population of the

study was comprised of all the parents of female students studying at higher education level in district Rawalpindi. The data was collected from 300 parents of female education. Simple random sampling techniques were used for sampling. At first stage, 1 university and 2 colleges selected randomly. At first stage one hundred parents through the students were selected randomly from each university and college. Self-administered and well structure questionnaire which was consisted of nine different domains social problems, educational problems, gender discrimination, accommodation problems, impact of media, religious misconceptions and law and order was developed for data collection. The questionnaire was finalized after conducted the pilot study at Pir Pehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. Standard deviation, mean, percentage and chi-square were applied accordingly for the analysis of data.

CONCLUSION

1- Most of the parents of female students have to face various social problems regarding their girl's higher education that the relatives of the respondents are not in favor of girl's higher education.

2- Many people think that the environment of the higher education institutions is not according to the Islamic values. This is why parents have face problems regarding their daughter's higher education.

3- Parents who belong to the rural areas have face hurdles from the community and social groups of their daughter's higher education. Parents have fright that their daughter will include in bad company because of the university environment.

4- Parents who are educating their daughters especially higher have fear about

their daughter's future life. They have the fear that they will be unable to find a perfect match for their girl. Parents faced pressure at the time of their daughter's in the university.

5- The researcher has also found that the parents who are educating their daughter's have fear about the future career of the girls.

6- Parents who are living in the joint family system have to face more problems as compare to the parents who are living in nuclear family system is good for girls education but they are reluctant because they will be separated from their family.

7- Mostly parents have issues due to the co-education system in higher educational institutes. They have the opinion that there very less number of separate higher education institutes for girls. Parents have also fear for their girls during sending them to the universities due to the bad condition of the society.

8- People who are educating their daughters are also facing financial problems and due to the unemployment they think that the girl's education is of no use. Parents are facing financial issues due to the higher education of their daughters. So they have the opinion that the boy's higher education is batter in spite of girl's education.

9- Parents think that the co-education is a cause of involving the young generation in immoral values. Parents who belong to the rural area facing problems regarding their daughter's marriage due to the rural areas. Parents have issues of male teachers for their daughter's.

10- Parents have also problems that their daughters have to face gender discrimination by university administration. And gender discrimination is practiced in higher education. Girls do not enjoy equal rights and status as their male colloquies enjoy.

11- In this study it is found that the parents have problems about the residence of their daughter's in living hostels due to the hygienic issue. Parents are reluctant to send their daughter's in living hostels. There were security issues in private accommodation.

12- Majority of the parents do not have personal transport to pick and drop their daughter's to the institutions. Parents have issues to send their daughters to the university through public transport. Higher education institutions do not have personal transport to pick and drop their daughter's to the institutions. Parents have issues to send their daughter's to the university through public transport. Higher education institutions do not have enough transport for their students.

13- Parents are facing many problems due to the social media. They think that the media has more negative effects as compare to its positive effects. Excessive use of social media has reduced the academic performance of the students.

14- People have misconceptions about the religion regarding girl's education.

15- Parents think that due to the high education young generation is violent of the religion.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1- There may be a proper system of guidance and counseling for female students so they can choose their field of interest and excel in future.

2- Misconceptions about religion regarding girls may be removed by giving special tasks to the nominated persons of the society like Major Nazir Hussain Shah.

3- Quota for female students in government and Higher education Commission Scholarships may provide help to parents to decrease their financial problems.

4- Administrations of higher education institutes may provide counseling for students so that they may adjust easily in new environment and can overcome their psychological difficulties.

5- Different councils and clubs and literacy councils may be arranged some programs, so that the students interact with other students. It may be also helpful to improve the attitude of the students who come from different parts of the country.

6- It is difficult for under develop countries to establish separate institutes for females, so morning or evening separate shifts in same institutions for girl's may solve the issues of co-education.

7- Provision of institutes transport and students passes/cards to travel on public transport may helpful for students especially females to travel easily.

8- Old values and traditions of society regarding girl's education may be improve and change through media like short clips and advertisements on TV and radio can play vital role regarding this.

9- Arrangements of programs of technical education for girls by the government may helpful for girls get jobs easily after the completion of their studies.

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