Actual Impact of Higher Education in Life of Women

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ABSTRACT

Generally it is believed that higher education in one’s life is important for monetary reasons only, but this idea has been changed when women started acquiring higher education. By gaining higher education women’s role at home as well as in society has been changed to a greater extent. In this male dominating world women’s have managed a lot and still managing to find their actual place. Also in this rapidly changing and growing world, higher education is not a nicety but a necessity to survive. To get the view of what is the actual impact of higher education in women’s life a survey was conducted among 100 highly educated women from research as well as engineering fields. The actual impact of Higher education in women’s life is that it has worked like a catalyst in changing their roles at home as well as in society from what it was earlier.

INTRODUCTION

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. Education frequently takes place under the guidance of educators, but learners may also educate themselves [1]. Education can take place in formal or informal settings and any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational. The methodology of teaching is called pedagogy. Education is commonly divided formally into such stages as preschool or kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and then college, university, or apprenticeship.

Higher education, post-secondary education, or third level education is an optional final stage of formal learning that occurs after completion of secondary education. Often delivered at universities, academies, colleges, seminaries, conservatories, and institutes of technology, higher education is also available through certain college-level institutions, including vocational schools, trade schools, and other career colleges that award academic degrees or professional certifications [2]. Tertiary education at non-degree level is sometimes referred to as further education or continuing education as distinct from higher education.

Women education refers to every form of education that aims at improving the knowledge, and skill of women and girls. It includes general education at schools and colleges, vocational and technical education, professional education, health education, etc. Women education encompasses both literary and non-literary education [3].

EXPECTED IMPACT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN WOMEN’S LIFE

After acquiring higher education following are the expected impacts in a life of women [3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8]

✓ Economic (empowerment development and prosperity): Education will empower women to come forward and contribute towards the development and prosperity of the society as well as country.

✓ Indepency: As long as women remain backward and dependent on men, the helpless condition cannot be changed for them. Higher education plays important role in Indepency of women.

✓ Improved life: Education helps a woman to motivate/ guide herself or family to live a good & improved life.

✓ Improved health: Educated girls and women are aware of the importance of health and hygiene. Through education, they are empowered to lead a healthy life-style. Educated mothers can take better care of both herself and her baby.

✓ Dignity and honour: Educated women are now looked upon with dignity and honor. They become a source of inspiration for millions of young girls who make them their role-models.

✓ Justice: Educated women are more informed of their rights & duties for justice. It would eventually lead to decline in instances of violence and injustice against women such as dowry, forced-prostitution, child-marriage, female foeticide, etc.

✓ Choice to choose a profession: Educated women can prove be highly successful in the fields of life.

✓ Alleviate gender inequality & rights to live free: Women education is a pre-requisite to alleviate gender inequality from the society and the nation. Women need to take equal burden of the massive task of the same. Only we (educated women) can do this.

✓ Human Trafficking: Women are most vulnerable to trafficking when they are undereducated and poor.

✓ Safe Sex: A girl who completes primary school is three times less likely to contract HIV. With these statistics in mind, The World Bank calls education a
“window of hope” in preventing the spread of AIDS among today’s children.

**Later Marriage:** As suggested by the United Nations Population Fund, in underdeveloped countries, one in every three girls is married before reaching the age of 18. In a region where a girl receives seven or more years of education, the wedding date is delayed by four years.

**Smaller Families:** Increased participation in school reduces fertility rates over time. In Mali, women with secondary education or higher have an average of three children. Counterparts with no education have an average of seven children.

**ACTUAL IMPACT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN WOMEN’S LIFE**

To get the view of what is the actual impact of higher education in women’s life a survey was conducted among 100 highly educated women from research as well as engineering fields. The survey comprises of a questionnaire of 15 questions among the women of age group 35 years to 50 years and their experiences. The women were asked to write the answers as YES or NO followed by their views about higher education. The result obtained in the survey is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Do you consider yourself to be highly educated?</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Does your higher education enable you to respond to the challenges in your personal as well as professional life?</td>
<td></td>
<td>92</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Do you think that higher education empower women to contribute towards the development and prosperity of the country?</td>
<td></td>
<td>90</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Does higher education make women independent or Economic empower &amp; help to get respect?</td>
<td></td>
<td>66</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Does your higher education help you to be Independent in all sense?</td>
<td></td>
<td>96</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Does education give you awareness to Improve your &amp; yours families health?</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Does your higher education is helping to maintain your dignity and honour at home?</td>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Do you think that highly educated women are more informed of their rights and duties?</td>
<td></td>
<td>97</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Does higher education give you a chance to choose a profession of your own choice?</td>
<td></td>
<td>54</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Did you get married after completing your graduation or post-graduation?</td>
<td></td>
<td>77</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Does higher education give you right of safe sex Or right to say no to unsafe sex?</td>
<td></td>
<td>88</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Do you agree that women are most vulnerable to human trafficking, forced-prostitution, child-marriage, female foeticide, etc. when they are not educated?</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Do you think that higher education of women is responsible for their Smaller Families?</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Do you encourage and inspire other educated women around you?</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Do you think that educated women play important role in Alleviate gender inequality from the society &amp; fight for rights to live free for every woman?</td>
<td></td>
<td>63</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DISCUSSIONS**

Table 1 shows the survey data of 100 highly educated women. From the data it is clear that higher education has helped and encouraged women for their better life. Education has provided lots of encouragement and confidence in women. Higher education has also provided an income source to many women.

In the survey it is found that only 54% of the women get the chance of choosing a carrier of their own choice. The percentage is 54 because women have to deal with the family problems also. Therefore the preference of choosing a carrier is such that the woman gets some relaxation time for her family. Another Reason for this lesser percentage is that woman does not get the family support either before marriage or after marriage. From the table it is seen that only 62% women are able to live their life with dignity and respect. This is because the women are given so many responsibilities that sometimes she is not able to do her some of the jobs properly and on time. So she gives priority to the family work rather than maintaining dignity. The percentage of women earning as per their education is also less i.e. only 63%. The reason for the less percentage is that many a times a woman is required to take leave from her job or else prefer part time job for her earnings because of her responsibilities towards family and children. So she is not able to give her 100% of her for the company or organization which she is working for.

The answer for question “Does higher education make women independent or Economic empower?” is YES only by 66 women only. The reason for NO is that some of the women were not able to continue their work or job after marriage or after their pregnancy.

**CONCLUSION**

The actual impact of Higher education in women’s life is that it has worked like a catalyst in changing their roles at home as well as in society from what it was earlier. This can be proved from the data as the women have started identifying the importance of education and have gained lots of confidence to do new and creative things.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The answer to all the questions can be converted into YES by adopting the following:

1. Family members must consider a woman as a woman only and not as super woman.
2. The responsibilities of a family should be equally distributed among the family members.
REFERENCES


