

Attitude of Young Adult Women towards Social Freedom

¹Sowjanya. P & ²Dr. K. S. Roopa

¹Research Scholar, Department of Human Development and Research Centre, Smt. VHD. Central Institute of Home Science (Autonomous), Seshadri Road, Bangalore, Karnataka (India)

²Guide, Associate Professor and HOD, Department of Human Development and Research Centre, Smt. VHD. Central Institute of Home Science (Autonomous), Seshadri Road, Bangalore, Karnataka (India)

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Corresponding Author

Email: [sowjanyapawar0309\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:sowjanyapawar0309[at]gmail.com)

ABSTRACT

Today the role of women in the society is changing and the change in their traditional role is great demand of time. They have equal rights to enjoy freedom in terms of social, personal and professional life. Now women have got good status because of the female empowering in society. The main objective of the study was to assess and compare the attitude of unmarried, married working and married non-working women towards social freedom. The study was carried out in Narapally and Singapoor township of Vijayapuri residency at Hyderabad city. The sample consisted of 120 young adult women, of which 40 were unmarried, 40 married working and 40 married non-working women between the age group of 21-27 years. The samples were drawn from the engineering colleges and Software Companies. A standardized questionnaire developed by the Dr. L. I. Bhusan was used for the purpose of studying attitude of young adult women towards social freedom with respect to four dimensions. The analysis was carried out for different variables applying percentage, mean, standard deviation, chi-square and F-test. The findings revealed that, majority of respondents belonged to the age group of 23-25 years and they were PUC/Diploma holders. Majority of respondents had below average social freedom level. With reference to different category of respondents the statistical results showed the significant association towards social freedom level. Further the study revealed that there is a positive and significant difference found between unmarried, married working and married non-working respondents with regard to freedom from control or interference of parents and husband, freedom from social taboos, customs and rituals which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls/women, freedom concerning sex & marriage and economic freedom and social equality dimensions of social freedom.

1. Introduction

Women all over the world lack access to opportunities, skill, knowledge, assets and fundamental human rights such as freedom from want and freedom from fear. Women constitute fifty percent of the population, make up thirty percent of official labour force, perform sixty percent of all working hours, receive ten percent of world's income, but own even less than one percent of world property. All political systems regardless of ideology or form, often deny women's formal political status. But today women are smashing into every male stronghold. Political power is the only inaccessible material to Indian women today. So the concept of 'Women Politicization' is provoking the thoughts of thinkers today. No section of society always lies suppressed. When conditions become favorable, they will surely awake and resurrect, as if fresh sprouts emerge from the soil after fresh rains. Clarion is being blown for the renaissance of the marginalized. Once came out, they will never return to their shells. Same is its application on women empowerment and resulting politicization.

There are various magnitudes of women empowerment. 'Personal Empowerment' includes economic freedom, involvement in decision making, gender equality, freedom of action etc. which leads to increase in self reliance and self strength. 'Economic Empowerment' includes increased access

to economic resources through increase in income, access to finance and ability to make decisions regarding the utilization of money. 'Social Empowerment' is attained through mingling with others, participating in collective activities etc. 'Intellectual Empowerment' includes political awareness, possibilities to participate in the public sphere and power to influence the development process etc. 'Psychological Empowerment' includes the sense of power, efficiency and authority, which gives the individual a self confidence to permeate the power in other spheres .

21st century has been a new Dawn for women in terms of progress as they are matching every step with men. They have to always be ahead of the situation within the society. Important junctures in everyone's life (especially women) are birth, marriage, occupation and death. Talking about marriage as an institution, we can say that it changes the life of any individual, especially women, dramatically. They have to go through plenty of changes.

Women after marriage have to carry the burden of dual responsibilities. One is to take care of the biological parents and in addition to that they also have to equally take care of their parents-in-law. Women have to go through a lot of mental struggle in order to be a balancing force and solving all the domestic problems with extreme maturity. Jan (2009) opined

that with the increase in age of marriage in women, their decision-making power had also increased. Urban, educated, working and married women hold more decision-making power than rural, illiterate, non-working and unmarried women. In nuclear family set-up, women held more decision making power than in joint families.

Today the role of women in the society is changing and the change in their traditional role is great demand of time. The transition in women's role has rapidly gained momentum since the government of India has declared the year 2001 as 'Women Empowerment Year'. It is a great challenge for the women of 21st century to face the resistance shown by conservative people of closed society of India. Women have equal rights to enjoy freedom in terms of social, personal and professional life. Now women have got good status because of the female empowering in society. From higher education to scientific research can be done by women. Today they do their duty very well in every field whether police system, judicial system, political system or in army. Women's lack of empowerment is believed to be an important factor for this situation and hence they require social and economic protection. Therefore, they need to be empowered economically, socially and politically. The women empowerment is a critical determinant of economic well-being, social status and political power.

Like men, women have been created free and desire to live without the intrusion of others. Man and women are two typical terms representing two particular human forms, based on organic differences. Nature created these differences for the progress of the society. Both the sexes were made harmonizing to have a progeny and thus made equally accountable for carrying out nature's domination. Women's lesser physical strength could have relegated her to the background. Her involvement as a partner, mother, housewife, social organizer, preserver of traditions and cultural patterns and above all as a stabilizer of society. Every individual should respect woman's identity, feelings and emotions, their roles and requirements.

All human beings are born with equal rights. Equality between men and women means healthier, safer and just societies. We work to promote and protect equal rights for women. While men and women are born equal, gender inequality still persists in every society. The deep-rooted belief that women do not deserve equal treatment underpins violence against women and is used to deny girls and women fair access to education, health, employment, property and influence.

The term 'Social Freedom' refers to women's desire to be free from social taboos, conventions, rituals and roles which provide them with lower status in society. In order to pinpoint the specific behavior, roles and taboos, of which the women want to get rid of four dimensions of women's social freedom, were identified for the study.

In the light of the above discussion an attempt was made to study the attitude of young adult women towards social freedom.

2. Methodology

Objectives:

1. To study the attitude of young adult women towards social freedom.
2. To assess and compare the attitude of unmarried, married working and non-working women towards social freedom.
3. To assess and compare the attitude of unmarried, married working and non-working women with respect to 4 dimensions of social freedom.
 - Control or interference of parents and husband.
 - Social taboos, customs and rituals which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls/women.
 - Concerning sex and marriage.
 - Economic freedom and social equality.

Hypothesis:

1. There is an average favourable attitude of young adult women towards social freedom.
2. There is a significant different between the attitude of unmarried, married working and non-working women on social freedom.
3. There is a significant difference between unmarried, married working and non-working women attitude towards social freedom with regard to 4 dimensions classified for the study.

Selection of sample and sampling technique:

Purposive random sample technique was adopted for the present study. A total number of 120 young adult women between the age group of 21 to 27 years of which 40 were unmarried, 40 were married working and 40 were married non-working constituted the total sample of the study. The samples were drawn from Narapally and Singapoor township of Vijayapuri residency by visiting engineering colleges and software companies at Hyderabad city.

Tool:

A standardized scale developed by Dr. L.I. Bhusan on "Women Social Freedom scale" (WSFS-BL) was used for the purpose of studying attitude of adult women towards social freedom with respect to 4 dimensions viz., freedom from control or interference of parents and husband, freedom from social taboos, customs and rituals which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls/women, freedom concerning sex & marriage and economic freedom & social equality.

The questionnaire consisted of two parts Part-A and Part-B. Part-A consisted of basic data formulated by the investigator based on the need of study with regard to demographic details like age, educational qualification, occupation, marital status, number of children, religion, type of family, number of family members, family income, educational qualification of parents, occupational status of parents. Part-B related to specific data related to women social freedom scale comprising 24 statements out of which 16 items are positive and 8 items are negative with 3 point rating scale.

Procedure:

The investigator surveyed various engineering colleges and software companies at Narapally and Singapoor township of Vijayapuri residency at Hyderabad city. The samples were identified for each category of young adult women explaining the nature of the investigation for the collection of data. As per the convenient date and time the questionnaire was administered and the clear instruction was given to avoid ambiguity. The dually filled questionnaires were collected on the same day.

3. Results and Discussion

The data was tabulated and analyzed by applying percentage, mean, standard deviation, Chi-square and F test. Figure – 1 shows the classification of respondents by age group.

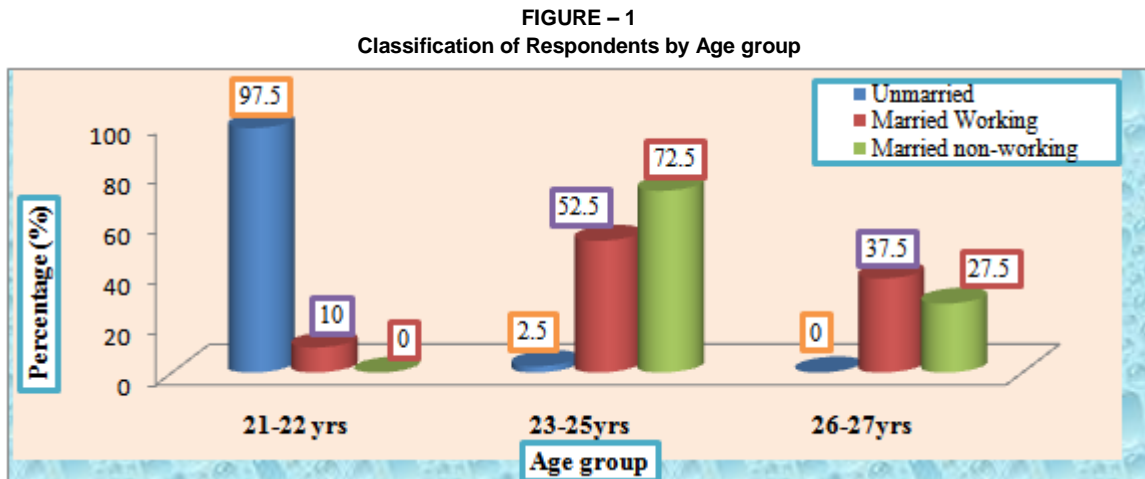


Figure-1 shows the classification of respondents by age group. It is inferred that majority of respondents (97.5%) belongs to unmarried category were from between the age group of 21-22 years only 2.5 percent of them were from between the age group of 23-25 and none of them were in the age group 26-27. With regard to married working category 52.5 percent of respondents were from 23-25 age group followed by 37.5 percent of them were from 26-27 age group and only 10 percent of them were from age group 21-22. In case of married

non-working category a high percentage of them (72.5%) were from 23-25 age group, 27.5 percent of them were from 26-27 age group and none of them from 21-22 age group category.

Figure-2 shows the classification of respondents by educational qualification. A higher percentage (78.4%) of respondents completed their PUC/Diploma, followed by equal percentage (8.3%) of them were SSLC and degree holders and only 5 percent of them were below SSLC category.

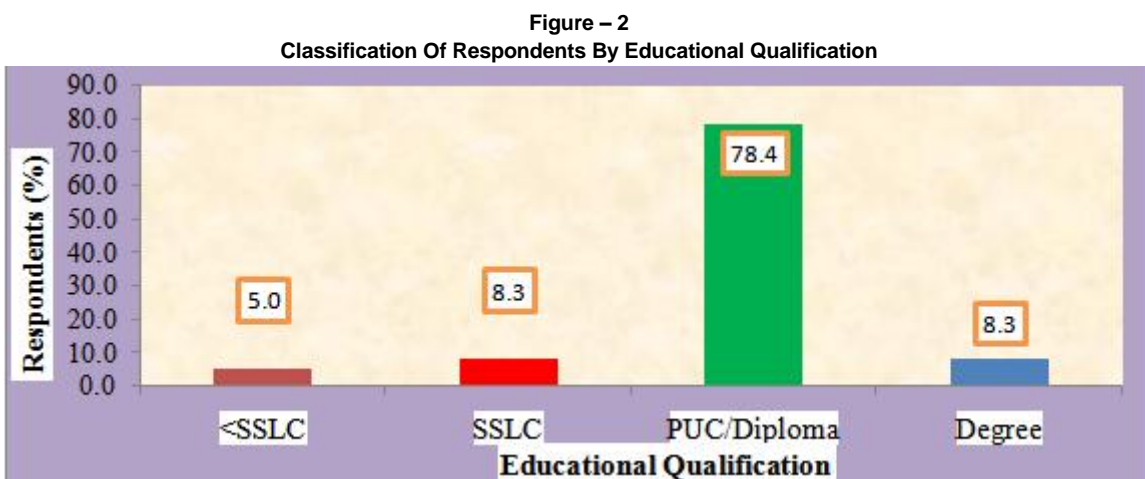
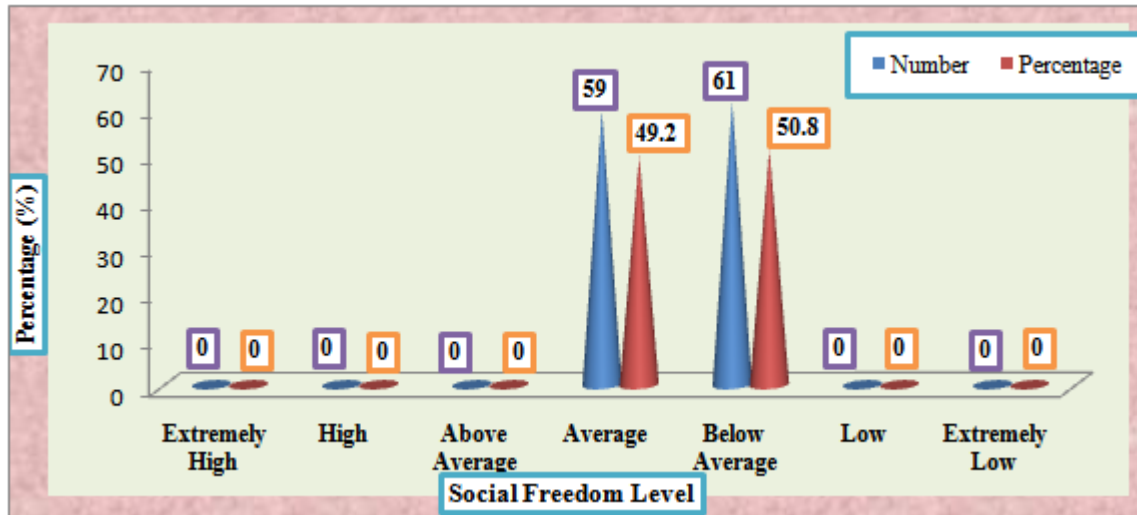


Figure-3 indicates the respondents level towards social freedom. The scores on social freedom were classified into seven levels. The score range obtained above 47 considered as extremely high. The range between 40 to 46 considered high. The score range between 34 to 39 is considered as above average. Score 26 to 33 range is considered as average. The score range between 20 to 25 considered as below average. The range between 13 to 19 considered as low and score range

between 0 to 12 considered as extremely low towards social freedom level.

It is observed that under social freedom category majority of respondents (50.8%) had below average level followed by 49.2 percent of them had average level of social freedom, none of them had extremely high, high, above average, low and extremely low level of women social freedom.

Figure-3
Respondents level towards Social freedom



The able-1 depicts the level of social freedom under three different categories of young adult women.

TABLE – 1
Classification of Respondents by Social freedom level

Social freedom level	Respondents					
	Unmarried		Married working		Married non-working	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Below average	17	42.50	31	77.50	13	32.50
Average	23	57.50	09	22.50	27	67.50
Total	40	100.0	40	100.0	40	100.0
χ^2 Test	17.87*					

* Significant at 5% level, $\chi^2 (0.05, 2df) = 5.991$

With regard to unmarried respondents, 57.50 percent of them had average social freedom followed by 42.50 percent of them had below average level and none of them had extremely high, high, above average, low and extremely low social freedom level.

Majority of married working respondents (77.50%) had below average of social freedom level whereas 22.50 percent of them showed average social freedom level and none of them

had extremely high, high, above average low and extremely low social freedom level even in this category.

A higher percentage of married non-working respondents (67.50%) had average social freedom level followed by, 32.50 percent of them showed below average social freedom level and none of them had extremely high, high, above average, low and extremely low social freedom level by accepting the hypothesis postulated for the study.

TABLE -2
Dimension wise overall mean score of respondents on women social freedom level

Dimensions	Statements	Max. Score	Scores			
			Mean	SD	Mean (%)	SD (%)
Control or interference of parents and husband	02	04	2.13	1.39	53.10	34.8
freedom from social taboos, customs and rituals	11	22	12.65	2.24	57.50	10.2
Freedom concerning Sex and marriage	05	10	5.73	1.48	57.30	14.8
Economic freedom and social equality	06	12	4.92	1.51	41.00	12.6
Total	24	48	25.43	2.60	53.00	5.4
'F' – test	83.90*					

The table-2 depicts the dimension wise overall mean score and standards deviation of respondents on social freedom level. Almost equal percentage of respondents (57.50% & 57.30%) had higher mean score percentage on freedom from social taboos, customs and rituals and freedom concerning sex and

marriage dimensions. Followed by 53.10 mean percent of the respondents had mean score towards control or interference of parents and husband aspect followed by 41.00 percent of them had mean score on economic freedom and social equality dimension respectively.

The overall mean percentage score found to be 53.00 which showed favorable response towards social freedom level among young adult women respondents with the 'F' test value

being 83.90, therefore the hypothesis set for the study is accepted.

TABLE-3
Overall mean score of respondents towards social freedom

Categories of Respondents	Sample (n)	Scores				'F' Test
		Mean	SD	Mean (%)	SD (%)	
Unmarried	40	25.83	2.88	53.80	6.0	6.26*
Married working	40	24.30	2.08	50.60	4.3	
Married non-working	40	26.15	2.47	54.50	5.1	

* Significant at 5% Level, Statements = 24 Max. Score = 48

The table-3 describes the overall mean score of respondents towards social freedom. It is evident from the above table that, majority of married non-working respondents had higher mean score (26.15) with 54.50 percent as compared to the unmarried women respondents mean score (25.83) with 53.80 percent and married working respondents scored the moderate mean score (24.30) with 50.60 percent as compared to married working and married non-working respondents towards social freedom level.

The results clearly imply that compared to unmarried and married working women's, married non-working respondents showed more positive attitude towards social freedom by accepting the hypothesis postulated for the study. The findings of the present study is also supported by the research work carried by Singh,S., (2013) which concludes that there is a significant difference between working and non-working married women with regard to their social freedom. The 'F' test value found to be 6.26 significant at 5% level.

TABLE -3
Mean score of respondents on control or interference of parents and husband dimension

Categories of Respondents	Sample (n)	Scores				'F' Test
		Mean	SD	Mean (%)	SD (%)	
Unmarried	40	1.43	1.06	35.60	26.5	70.36**
Married working	40	1.38	0.93	34.40	23.1	
Married non-working	40	3.58	0.84	89.40	21.1	

* Significant at 5% Level, Statements = 2 Max. Score = 4

The above table-3 shows the respondents mean score and a 'F' test value on control or interference of parents and husband dimension. It is evident from the above table that, majority of married non-working respondents 89.40 percent showed higher mean score followed by unmarried women with 35.60 percent and married working women 34.40 percent on control or interference of parents and husband dimension.

different categories of respondents in this area there by hypothesis set for the study is accepted. The F-test value found to be 70.36 significant at 5% level.

On statistical analysis 'F' value was found that the attitude of respondents with regard to control or interference of parents and husband had positive and significant difference with

With regards to the aspect freedom from social control or interference of parents and husband majority of the respondents under each categories disagree to the statement that if wife wants to do job then they don't like their husbands interference which they think is totally wrong and they agreed that interference of husband will bring misunderstandings in their relationships.

TABLE -4
Mean score of respondents on freedom from social taboos, customs and rituals which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls/women

Categories of Respondents	Sample (n)	Scores				'F' Test
		Mean	SD	Mean (%)	SD (%)	
Unmarried	40	13.23	2.80	60.10	12.7	5.62*
Married working	40	11.73	1.95	53.30	8.9	
Married non-working	40	13.00	1.54	59.10	7.0	

* Significant at 5% Level, Statements = 11 Max. Score = 22

Table-4 portrays data with regard to respondents' freedom from social taboos, customs and rituals which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls/women aspects. It

revealed that unmarried women showed higher mean percentage score (60.10%) followed by 59.10 percent and

53.30 percent married non-working, married working adult women.

The statistical results showed on the dimension of freedom from social taboos customs and rituals which impose conventional roles and restrictions was significant difference at 5% significant level thereby accepting the hypothesis postulated for the study.

With regards to the aspect freedom from social taboos, customs and rituals which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls/women majority of the respondents of all the category disagreed that women's main duties are in the house and family and not allowing girl's/women to go alone is a conservative thought. It should be given up which they think it's totally wrong and they were of the opinion that wife calling husband by nickname after marriage should be stopped.

TABLE -5
Mean score of respondents on freedom concerning sex and marriage

Categories of Respondents	Sample (n)	Scores				'F' Test
		Mean	SD	Mean (%)	SD (%)	
Unmarried	40	5.58	1.26	55.80	12.6	39.27*
Married working	40	6.95	1.13	69.50	11.3	
Married non-working	40	4.68	1.07	46.80	10.7	

* Significant at 5% Level, Statements = 5 Max. Score =10

The above table-5 depicts the mean score of three categories of respondents on freedom concerning sex and marriage dimension. It is evident from the above table that, married working women showed higher mean score (69.50%) followed by unmarried women with 55.80 percent and 46.80 percent with respect to of married non-working women. The results showed the significant difference between three different categories of adult women.

The calculate f-value 39.27 is greater than the table value and is highly significant. Hence, in this dimension the hypothesis is accepted. The study supports the findings of the

study conducted by Priyanka,T., (2013) revealed that religions in India has their own influence on sexual attitude towards social freedom among women.

With regards to the aspect freedom concerning sex and marriage, majority of the respondents under each categories agreed that marriage and selection of life partner should be done with girl's/women's consent and parents are sensible and experienced, so adult girl should accept the marriage arranged by them, they think its correct and they were undecided with the statement that a women is complete only after becoming a mother.

TABLE -6
Mean score of respondents on economic freedom and social equality
N=120

Categories of Respondents	Sample (n)	Scores				'F' Test
		Mean	SD	Mean (%)	SD (%)	
Unmarried	40	5.60	1.26	46.7	10.5	9.09*
Married working	40	4.25	1.21	35.4	10.1	
Married non-working	40	4.90	1.72	40.8	14.3	

* Significant at 5% Level, Statements = 6 Max. Score = 12

The table-6 describes the mean score of respondents on economic freedom and social equality dimension. On statistical analysis it was found that the attitude of respondents with regard to economic freedom and social equality had positive and significant difference with the three different categories of respondents by accepting the hypothesis. The F-test value being 9.09 which is significant at 5% level.

It revealed that majority of unmarried women showed higher mean percentage score 46.7 followed by married non-working women with 40.8 percent and 35.4 mean percent score for married working women on economic freedom and social equality dimension.

With regard to the aspect of economic freedom and social equality majority of the respondents under each categories disagree to the statement that the women who is financially dependent on her husband, lives a slave's life and they agreed

likewise some developed nations, in our society too women be given freedom to live with her male friend without marriage and women have right to oppose such customs or rules which deprive them of the right of freedom and equality.

4. Conclusion

The findings revealed that, majority of respondents belonged to the age group of 23-25 years and were PUC/Diploma holders. Further, the study revealed that majority of respondents had below average social freedom level and the statistical results showed the significant association among different categories of respondents towards social freedom. There exists a significant difference in social freedom among unmarried, married working and married non-working women respondents on the four dimensions of social freedom. Further the study revealed that there is a positive and significant difference found between unmarried, married working and

married non-working respondents with regard to freedom from control or interference of parents and husband, freedom from social taboos, customs and rituals which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls/women, freedom concerning sex & marriage and economic freedom and social equality dimensions of social freedom.

Women in India are still subjected to discrimination, ill treatment and enjoy lower status as compared with men. As a

result of which there is a growing concern and resentment particularly among educated women and educated working women against all such customs and ritual, which lower down their status in society. Social freedom is desire to be free from social taboos, conventions, rituals and roles, which provide them with lower status in society which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls, women. Women in India carry a strong desire for freedom. Women have been given equal rights in our constitution that should imply in all societies.

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