

Parental Attitude Towards Girl's Education

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ABSTRACT

The present investigators aim to study the contribution of the areas related to the Parental Attitudes Towards Girl's Education. This paper attempts to make a thorough, comprehensive and analytical study by exploring the educational background of the parents, different parental income, different occupation of the parents, lack of education and cultural lag of parents and the effect it has on the education of girls. From the result of the research the urban, it is observed that parents have more understanding about the necessity of education and its impact on being a good citizen than the rural parents. They know that educated girls have more understanding about their rights and duties towards the nation which is not so in case of the uneducated girls. And also uneducated parents create problems in their own lives as well as for the society as a whole.

Keywords: Education, Girl's Education, Parental Attitude

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1. Introduction

Education is the right of every girl everywhere and also the key to transforming both the life of girl and the life of her community. Girls without education are denied the opportunity to develop their full potential and to play a productive and equal role in their families, their societies, their country and their world at large. Girls' education has been viewed as a primary predictor for a number of development indicators including national fertility rates, infant mortality, family income and productivity. World Bank economists have recognized girls' education as single development intervention with the greatest individual and social returns. It is not only important as a social indicator or an engine for economic development leading to a greater level of health, economy, security, liberty and participation in social and political activity, but can possibly yield higher rate of return than any other investment available in developing world [3]. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has clearly identified girl's education as an urgent development priority for the entire UN system where he is reported to have said that: Parents' attitude towards their child's education is important in determining his/her attendance and academic achievement of the child. Favourable and optimistic attitude towards education enhances parental involvement in their child's present and future studies. Low socio-economic status of the parent's affects their attitude towards their children's.

Education is one of the most important and powerful instruments which help in the formation and development of the overall personality of human beings in general and that of women in particular. It is impossible to build a healthy society without providing proper education to women. Women as an individual mother play the most important role in shaping the family and the society. Educated mother can provide better education to their children. The real progress of any community is possible only when all its members, especially the women, where education is ignored in certain sections of the society are brought under the umbrella of universal education. Education makes women fully aware of their rights and duties. Parent's positive attitude towards child's

education is important in determining school attendance and academic achievement of the child. Favorable attitude towards schooling and education enhance parental involvement in children's present and future studies. Parent's attitude towards their children's education is affected adversely by low socio-economic status. It is expected that the attitude of parents of tribal children will be unfavorable towards education. Parent's attitude is a measure or an index of parental involvement. A child, brought up with affection and care in the least restrictive environment would be able to cope up better with the sighted world. Therefore, the family shapes the social integration of the child more than formal school.

2. Need of the Study

The world cannot exist without women. They have every right as men but the traditional society has been blinded by a false notion by considering women as being beneath the men in all the sphere of life. As a result, it has become very important to remove this particular notion and assigned the women her rightful position i.e. on the same platform as men. This can only be achieved when girls are educated and they realized their true position. Therefore, educations of girls have become very important. "Education of boys is education of one person, but education of a girl is the education of the entire family," said Jawaharlal Nehru, while underlying the importance of girls' education. Therefore, in order to bring upliftment of the society and development education of girls is the priority step to be taken up. The present study on the attitude of the parents towards the education of girls will throw light as to their viewpoint. As such necessary step can be taken up to further the cause of education.

3. Objectives of the Study

- To find out the attitude of the parents of different educational level towards education of girls.
- To find out the attitude of parents towards the education of girls with different level of income.
- To find out the attitude of parents towards the education of girls with different occupation.
- To find out the attitude of the parents from rural and urban areas towards the education of girls.
- To find out whether the lack of education of parents has influence towards the education of girls.

4. Hypotheses

- There is no significant difference in the attitude of the parents of different education level towards the education of girls.
- There is no significant difference in the attitude of the parents of different income level towards the education of girls.
- There is no significant difference in the attitude of the parents of different occupations towards the education of girls.
- There is no significant difference in the attitude of the parents from rural and urban areas towards the education of girls.
- There is no significant difference in the lack of education of the parents over the education of girls.

5. Method of the Study

The methodological framework of this study was descriptive survey method. Descriptive survey method is preferred over other method as it enables to make investigation with, narration of events, comparisons and drawing conclusions based on the information obtained from relatively large and representative sample of the target population. It is an organised attempt to analyse, interpret and report the present status of a social institution, group area.

Population

The population for the present study was confined to the parents of girls' child in the Tiruvallur district of Tamilnadu.

Sampling

Sampling procedures provide generalisation on the basis of a relatively small proportion of the population. The sample for the present study consists of 100 parents, out of which 50 will be urban area and 50 from rural areas of Tiruvallur district of Tamilnadu. The simple random sampling method is applied for the present study.

Tools Used

The major tool used was questionnaire as it was the most flexible tool for collection of both qualitative and quantitative information. For the present study, a questionnaire was constructed by the researchers themselves to fulfil the mission of the study.

Statistical Analysis

Analysis of data for the present study has been made in conformity with the objectives as formulated by the investigators. Statistical techniques like number and percentage were used to analyse the data

6. Results and Discussion

Table -1 Educational Background of the Parents N=100

Sl.no	Qualification	Numbers	Percentage
1.	Illiterates	26	26%
2.	Under matriculate	20	20%
3.	Matriculation	17	17%
4.	+2	23	23%
5.	Graduate	14	14%
	Total	100	100

From the above table it shows that 26% of the parents were illiterate and 20% were under matriculate. Only 17 % were matriculate. It also shows that 23% of the parents were +2 and 14% were graduates. Thus it can be concluded that educational levels of the parents have huge influence on the girl's education. Parents with higher educational qualification have more understanding and awareness towards the education of girls than the parents with less educational qualification.

Table – 2 Economic Background of the Parents N= 100

Sl.no	Income of the parents per month	Numbers	Percentage
1.	Rs.5,000-10,000	35	35%
2.	Rs.10,000- 20,000	25	25%
3.	Rs.20,000-30,000	22	22%
4.	Rs.30,000-40,000	12	12%
5.	Rs.40,000 and above	6	6%
	Total	100	100

The economic background of the parents reveals that majority of the students belong to the lowest two income groups, i.e. 35% were earning between Rs. (5000-10000) and 25% earned between Rs. (10000- 20000). Out of the remaining students, the parents i.e., 22% were earning between Rs. (20000-30000) and 12% of them earned between Rs 30000-40000. Only 6% of the parents were earning Rs.(40000 and above). Thus it can be concluded that parents from the higher income group have more understanding and lower income group have less understanding toward the necessity of girls' education. Therefore, parents with higher income have more awareness towards the education of girls.

Table- 3 Occupational Level of the Parents N=100

Sl.no	Occupation	Numbers	Percentage
1.	Cultivator	45	45%
2.	Business	20	20%
3.	Government employees	15	15%
4.	Private employees	20	20%
	Total	100	100

The above table shows that 45% of the parents were cultivators, 20% were business, and 15% were government employees and 20% works in the private sector. Thus it can be concluded that the occupation of the parents have a great influence on their attitude towards girls education. The cultivator parents constitute the highest percentage of occupation i.e. 45%, therefore it can be

interpreted that occupation also influence on the perception of the parents towards girl's education. Thus, occupation like government employees and businessmen hold more awareness towards girl's education.

Table – 4 Lack of Education N=100

Sl.no	Opinion of Respondents		Rural		Urban	
		Respondents	Numbers	Percentage	Numbers	Percentage
1.	Girls should be educated as an integral part of the social development	Yes	10	20%	40	80%
		No	40	80%	10	20%
2.	Educated girls make a better citizen than an uneducated girl	Yes	15	30%	45	90%
		No	35	70%	5	10%
3.	Parents neglect the education of their daughter so that their son can get education	Yes	43	86%	26	52%
		No	7	14%	24	48%
4.	Girls should give more priority in learning household activities than education	Yes	37	74%	15	30%
		No	23	26%	35	70%
5.	Girls are a burden for their parents as they will be married off to other family	Yes	45	90%	36	72%
		No	5	10%	14	28%
6.	Large number of children in a family makes parent difficult to educate all girls	Yes	48	96%	45	90%
		No	2	4%	5	10%
7.	Parents prefers girls dropping out of school than boys dropping out	Yes	38	76%	10	20%
		No	12	24%	90	80%
8.	Distance of the available schools discourage girl education	Yes	45	90%	20	40%
		No	5	10%	80	60%

From the above table the first point shows that only 10 i.e. 20% of the rural parents agreed that girls should be educated as an integral part of the social development but 40 i.e. 80% agreed with the statement. Thus, it can be concluded that urban parents have better knowledge on the necessity of girl's education and have more understanding about the education and its impact on social development. In the second point it shows that only 15 i.e. 30% of the rural parents think that educated girls make a better citizen than an uneducated girl while on the other hand 45 i.e. 90% of the urban parents agreed that educated girls make a better citizen than an uneducated girl. Thus, it can be concluded that urban parents have more understanding about the rights and duties of a citizen. In the third point it shows that 43 i.e. 86% of the rural parents neglect their daughter education so that their son can get the education but only 26 i.e. 52% of the urban parents agreed with this statement. Thus, it can be concluded that educated urban parents have less discrimination of gender as compared with the rural parents. In the fourth point it shows that 37 i.e. 74% of the rural parents responded negatively but only 15 i.e. 30% of the urban parents agreed that girls should be given more priority in learning household activities than education. Thus, it can be stated that urban parents have more positive attitude towards girl's education than the rural parents. In the fifth point it shows that 45 i.e. 90% of the rural parents and only 36 i.e. 72% of the urban parents think that girls are a burden to their parents as they should be married off to other family. Thus, it can be concluded that urban parents are more understanding about the responsibility of the girl's education as compared with rural parents. In the sixth point it shows that 48 i.e. 96% of the rural parents and 45 i.e. 90% of the urban parents agreed that large number of children in a family makes parent difficult to educate all girls. Thus, it can be interpreted that both the parents from rural and urban have their own level of discrimination as they prefer to educate their boy's children than their girl's child when they have to make decision on the two, being a large family. In the seventh point it shows that 38 i.e. 76% of the rural parents prefer their daughter to drop out of school than their son dropping out of school but on the other hand only 10 i.e. 20% of the urban parents agreed with the statement. Thus, it can be concluded that rural parents have higher level of discrimination of gender as compared with the urban parents. In the eighth point it shows that 45 i.e. 90% of the rural parents think that distance of the available schools discourages girls' education but only 20 i.e. 40% of the urban parents agreed to the statement. Thus, it can be concluded that rural parents feel more insecure about their daughters as compared with the urban parents.

7. Suggestions

1. State government should take up the responsibility of educating public opinion through mass media and print media in favour of female education.
2. Educational institutions should be set up in all the rural as well as in backward areas
3. Scholarships, free education, free books and uniforms in larger numbers should be given particularly to females belonging to lower socio-economic status.
4. There is a direct need and importance of proper counseling, guidance and motivational campaign towards the spread of female education, especially in rural and backward areas as they are practically neglected so far.
5. The government should provide financial assistance to the poor parents so that they can educate their daughters.
6. Parents should not discriminate against their female children but rather treat all children equally and provide same opportunities for them.
7. Boys and girls should be exposed to the same socialization process so that boys will not feel more superior
8. The government should establish adult education centers to educate the illiterate parents, so that they can change their negative attitude to positive attitude regarding the education of daughters. In short education can bring an overall development of the society as well as the whole nation. Therefore, it is in the national interests and in the interests of society to make provisions for their education

8. Conclusion

In short, we can conclude that education of the parents highly influences on their attitude towards girl's education. Those parents from urban who have attained better education have more understanding towards the necessity of girl's education and have more positive attitude towards the education of girls than those parents from rural who are less educated. The economic backgrounds and occupational levels of the parents have influence on their attitude towards girls' education. And on the other hand, no matter how developed and educated the people are, still prevent them from broadening their mindset towards girls and girl's education. And the discrimination of gender prevails in the society, though it still exists in different forms and in different degrees. Both the parents from rural and urban show some level of discrimination as they prefer their sons than their daughters in every angle. Therefore, though education of the parents gives positive attitude, of the parents on the other hand give negative attitude towards girl's education.

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