

ATTITUDE OF LOW INCOME GROUP PARENTS OF KASHMIR TOWARDS GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATIONAL PARTICIPATION

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to explore the Attitude of low income group parents of Kashmir towards gender discrimination in educational participation. The sample of this study included 200 parents. The self developed questionnaire was used by the investigator to access Attitude of low income group parents of Kashmir towards gender discrimination in educational participation. The results supported that there is significant difference in the attitude of low income group parents of Kashmir towards gender discrimination in educational participation.

Key words: Attitude, Gender Discrimination, Educational Participation.

Introduction

Sociologically the word gender refers to the socio-cultural definition of man and woman, the way societies distinguish men and women and assign them social roles. The distinction between sex and gender was introduced to deal with the general tendency to attribute women's subordination to their anatomy. For ages it was believed that the different characteristics, roles and status accorded to women and men in society are determined by sex, that they are natural and therefore not changeable (Theresa, 2008). Gender is seen closely related to the roles and behaviour assigned to women and men based on their sexual differences. As soon as a child is born families and society begins the process of gendering. The birth of the son is celebrated, the birth of a daughter filled with pain; sons are showered with love, respect, better food and proper health care. Boys are encouraged to be tough and outgoing; girls are encouraged to be home bound and shy. All these differences are gender differences and they are created by society. Gender inequality is therefore a form of inequality which is distinct from other forms of economic and social inequalities. It dwells not only outside the household but also centrally within it. It stems not only from pre-existing differences in economic endowments between women and men but also from pre-existing gendered social norms and social perceptions. Gender inequality has an adverse impact on development goals as reduces economic growth. It hampers the overall well being because blocking women from participation in social, political and economic activities can adversely affect the whole society (Beyer, 2008). Many developing countries including India have displayed gender inequality in education, employment and health. It is common to find girls and women suffering from high mortality rates. There are vast differences in education level of two sexes. India has witnessed gender inequality from its early history due to its socioeconomic and religious practices that resulted in a wide gap between the position of men and women in the society.

Gender inequality of girls in relation to education

The socialization of gender within our schools assures that girls are made aware that they are unequal to boys. Every time students are seated or lined up by gender, teachers are affirming that girls and boys should be treated differently. When an administrator ignores an act of sexual harassment, he or she is allowing the degradation of girls. When different behaviours are tolerated for boys than for girls because

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'boys will be boys', schools are perpetuating the oppression of females. There is some evidence that girls are becoming more academically successful than boys, however examination of the classroom shows that girls and boys continue to be socialized in ways that work against gender equity (Bigler, 2007). Girls are often treated as inferior to boys, both within the home and society at large. Our constitution has guaranteed equal right to women but how this can be implemented is a big question mark, because girls need courage to demand and defend their rights, which is not given to the girl. Today we are stepping into new century, where education is very necessary and plays a positive role in the improvement of girl's status. It helps to create an environment for girls to seek knowledge and information. In most of families, especially in poor families or rural area families, we can see that birth of a girl is considered a curse. Parents always prefer boys to send in schools, but not the girls.

Significance of the Problem

Interest in higher education has greatly increased all over the world in the last fifty years. For the developing countries, higher education is the most important means of scientific, technological and industrial progress and for removal of poverty. It is also seen as an instrument for modernizing the societies and for producing highly efficient human resource. Higher education among girls is an unique positive force with a wide ranging impact on society and on human development. The most urgent priority is to ensure access and to improve the quality of education of girls and to remove every obstacle which hampers their active participation.

While few studies have already been conducted relating to the various aspects of girls education, but area pertaining to attitude of parents towards higher education of girls has not been explore till now thoroughly and especially in comparative nature. The studies which have been conducted on girl's education shows gaps in the knowledge and the present study is an effort to fill up gap. Higher education among woman enhances woman's capacities which enable them to play a more prominent role in the development of nation. But the parent's attitude towards education of girls plays very important role in determining the level of girl's education Besides finding out the importance of higher education among girls, it is very important to find out if parents belong to low income group, then how this thing affects achievement level among girls. As many countries are being deprived of talent, energy and creativity that these million of girls can bring to the development of the nation. By keeping in view all the above facts and studies which have already been done, the investigator decides it find out how the gender discriminating attitude of low income group of parents affect the educational participation of girls.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the attitude of low income group parents towards education of girl child.
2. To study the attitude of low income group parents towards gender discrimination.

Hypotheses

1. There exists a significant difference in the attitude of low income parents towards gender discrimination in relation to education of girls.
2. There exists a significant difference in the attitude of urban fathers and rural fathers towards gender discrimination in relation to education of girls.
3. There exists a significant difference in the attitude of urban mothers and rural mothers towards gender discrimination in relation to education of girls.
4. There exists a significant difference in the attitude of urban parents towards gender discrimination in relation to education of girls.

5. There exists a significant difference in the attitude of rural parents towards gender discrimination in relation to education of girls.

Sample

The investigation was conducted in Srinagar and Anantnag districts of Jammu and Kashmir, Random Stratified sampling technique was used by the investigator and took a sample size of 200 parents (50 urban fathers & 50 urban mothers, and 50 rural fathers & 50 rural mothers). For this Descriptive survey method was used.

Tool Used

An Attitude scale was used by the investigator as a result tool in the present study. This scale contains 34 questions. These questions are about attitude of parents of low income group of parents toward gender discrimination. Every question has two options, yes or no. The questionnaire has 34 items which describe the attitude of parents towards gender discrimination.

Results and Interpretation

Hypothesis 01: There Exists a Significant Difference in the Attitude of Parents towards Gender Discrimination in relation to Education of Girls.

Table 01						
Sample Group	N	Mean	S.D	df	t-value	Result
Fathers	100	32.28	0.60	198	0.2064	Significant
Mothers	100	32.18	1.05			

Interpretation

The result shows the significance of difference of means of attitude of low income parents towards gender discrimination. The mean score of the father’s attitude is 32.28 and the mean score of mother’s attitude is 32.18. The critical ratio comes out to be 0.2064 which is insignificant at 0.05 level of significance. This means the tabulated value of ‘t’ is greater than the calculated value of ‘t’. Therefore the tentative hypothesis is accepted this means the there is a significant difference in the attitude of low income parents towards gender discrimination in relation to education of girls.

Hypothesis 02: There Exists a Significant Difference in the Attitude of Urban Fathers and Rural Fathers towards Gender Discrimination in relation to Education of Girls.

Table 02						
Sample Group	N	Mean	S.D	df	t-value	Result
Urban Fathers	50	32.4	0.6060	98	0.018	Significant
Rural Fathers	50	31.98	1.339			

Interpretation

The result shows the significance of difference of means of attitude of urban and rural fathers towards gender discrimination. The mean score of the urban father attitude is 32.4 and the mean score of rural fathers attitude is 31.98. The critical ratio comes out to be 0.018 which is insignificant at 0.05 level of significance. This means the tabulated value of ‘t’ is greater than the calculated value of ‘t’. So hypothesis is accepted this means the there is a significant difference in the attitude of urban fathers and rural fathers towards gender discrimination in relation of education of girls.

Hypothesis 03: There Exists a Significant Difference in the Attitude of Urban and Rural Mothers towards Gender Discrimination in relation to Education of Girls.

Table 03						
Sample Group	N	Mean	S.D	df	t-value	Result
Urban Mothers	50	32.32	0.625	98	0.2554	Significant
Rural Mothers	50	32.24	0.591			

Interpretation

The result shows the significance of difference of means of attitude of urban and rural mothers towards gender discrimination. The mean score of the urban mother's attitude is 32.32 and the mean score of rural mothers attitude is 32.24. The critical ratio comes out to be 0.2554 which is insignificant at 0.05 level of significance. This means the tabulated value of t' is greater than the calculated value of t' . So hypothesis is accepted this means the there is a significant difference in the attitude of urban mothers and rural mothers towards gender discrimination in relation of education of girls.

Hypothesis 04: There Exists a Significant Difference in the Attitude of Urban Parents towards Gender Discrimination in relation of Education of Girls.

Table 4						
Sample Group	N	Mean	S.D	df	t-value	Result
Urban Fathers	50	31.96	0.606	98	0.262	Significant
Urban Mothers	50	32.32	0.625			

Interpretation

The result shows the significance of difference of means of attitude of urban parents towards gender discrimination. The mean score of the urban father's attitude is 31.96 and the mean score of urban mothers attitude is 32.32. The critical ratio comes out to be 0.262 which is insignificant at 0.05 level of significance. This means the tabulated value of t' is greater than the calculated value of t' . So the tentative hypothesis is accepted this means the there is a significant difference in the attitude of urban parents towards gender discrimination in relation of education of girls.

Hypothesis 05: There Exists a Significant Difference in the Attitude of Rural Parents towards Gender Discrimination in relation of Education of Girls.

Table 5						
Sample Group	N	Mean	S.D	df	t-value	Result
Rural Fathers	50	32.04	1.33	98	0.090	Significant
Rural Mothers	50	32.24	0.59			

Interpretation

The result shows the significance of difference of means of attitude of rural parents towards gender discrimination. The mean score of the urban father's attitude is 32.04 and the mean score of rural mothers attitude is 32.24. The critical ratio comes out to be 0.090 which is insignificant at 0.05 level of significance. This means the tabulated value of t' is greater than the calculated value of t' . So hypothesis is accepted this means the there is significant difference in the attitude of rural parents towards gender discrimination in relation of education of girls.

Conclusions

In present life, education is very necessary for each and every person equally it is important to girls. Education helps to create an environment for girls to seek knowledge and information. In most of families, especially in poor families in rural areas we say that birth of girl considered curse. Even if there is a choice to send the school then parents always prefer boys to send in schools than girls. There is a great deal of imbalance in the education of men and women. But it should not be there. That educational opportunities and educational strategies will be developed in such a manner which are helpful to motivate the parents to send their daughter to schools. It is recommended that parents should have the positive attitude towards the education of girls and parents should not make any discrimination between boys and girl

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