

Gender Inequality: A social evil for developing society like Pakistan

Muhammad Faisal Hashami

Department of Health, Basic Health Unit, Bhainwala, Sheikhpura, Punjab, Pakistan

Abstract

This study was designed to find out the status of women and also crop up the effect of gender discrimination in Pakistani society. In this scenario, women's education plays a great role in the development of the nation because the women have an active participation in all those fields of life, which greatly contribute in the family income and the country's economy. Without proper training, women can't bring change in the society. So, they need proper training and brought up for the well-being of coming generations. The present study was conducted in three villages. (Namely: Phoolnagar No. 1, Phoolnagar No. 2, Phoolnagar No. 3) of Tehsil: Pattoki, District Kasur-Pakistan. Fifty respondents were selected by multi-stage sampling technique. The data was collected through pre-test and validated interview schedules and was analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to draw conclusions and to give some suggestions through which we can control that social problem. The results of present study showed that our society is a male dominate society and woman is follower. Secondly, women education at rural areas is very meager. Thirdly, if someone hardly successful to get a job then she faces so many hurdles (like low salary, extra work, non-cooperation of the society members etc.) in the way to continue it. So, in this situation, no one continue it.

Keywords: gender, inequality and its circumstances, social evil

Introduction

Gender inequality refers to the gap indicated by differential preferences between men and women in any field of life. It is considered a social crime. Our beloved country Pakistan is facing this problem from its independence, where women have no facilities (i.e. social, mental, educational, and professional) as compare to men have. Its worst examples have been seen in rural areas of Pakistan, where mostly women are bound to live miserable lives. Due to this problem, Pakistan stands in the line of the second worst country all over the world.

Now, Pakistan's total population is more than 201 million. Among these one and half are women. Women are the important aspect of life. They played an important role to develop the nation. Without their participation, no society can get progress in any field. As it is highlighted by Arshad (2012)^[1] that Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah said that "No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you". We should educate and empower our women to bring positive change in the society so that they give an educated generation. Kofi Annan (2005 Feb 28)^[2] elaborated the same point of view that "There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women" (in UN News Centre, 2005). As Pramanik (2014)^[3] quoted that Brigham Young said that "You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation". It is a fact that an educated woman educate to the whole family through which the whole society can be benefitted and if a man is educated, only he can be benefitted. In Pakistan, the literacy rate is very low due to poor administration, contraction and non-serious attitude. Memon (2007)^[4] explained the same point of view that "Pakistan has one of the lowest rates of literacy in the world". Government of Pakistan is allocated only 2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for education, which is quiet insufficient to meet the demand of education in present scenario. Saqib and Ahmad (2014)^[5] said that "The allocation of budget for education is

extremely low (2.1% of GDP) as compared to the other countries of the world". For getting the sustainable development in all the fields, we should emphasis to the education of the women. Without their education no society can get progress in all the fields of life. Ozturk (2001)^[6] has elaborated the same point that "No country can achieve sustainable economic development without substantial investment in human capital especially on women".

It is a fact that if a woman has higher education in our society then she has no opportunity to get a good job easily with reasonable salary because our society is male dominant society and women can't get their rights as the men have. So male occupy on all the powerful positions of the country. Aslam (2002)^[7] said that "Men typically occupy positions of power within the job economy". No progress is possible in the country especially in economic field until educated women play its role. So for this, we should give them education and then opportunity as per their qualification so that they can play their role in the society.

Objective

The main objective of the study was to study the perception of rural female students of bachelor degree holder regarding gender inequality and also suggest some points through which we can eliminate / minimize this social evil from our society.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in rural areas of Tehsil: Pattoki, District: Kasur-Pakistan. Fifty respondents were selected through purposive sampling technique among three villages (Namely Phoolnagar No. 01, Phoolnagar No. 02, Phoolnagar No. 03) of Tehsil: Pattoki, District: Kasur-Pakistan. The respondents were selected randomly for interview and the questionnaire consisted on ten questions. Before launching the questionnaire the author pretest it on five respondents. After pretesting, the author made some

necessary amendments in the questionnaire and then data was collected through interview schedules and was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to draw conclusions and to give some curable suggestion for removing this social illness form the society.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated for the study;

- Only bachelor degree holder respondents were interviewed.
- Fifty respondents are interviewed among these twenty five each are male and female.

Table 1: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ view regarding having knowledge about gender inequality:

Having knowledge about gender inequity	F	%
Yes	50	100
No	--	--
Total	50	100

Table 2: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ view regarding where from they heard about gender inequality:

Heard about gender inequality	f	%
From parents	36	72
From relatives	10	20
From friends	04	08
Any others (From society)	--	--
Total	50	100

Table 3: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ view regarding the knowledge about the existence of gender inequality in our society

Existence of Gender inequality in our society	F	%
Yes	50	100
No	--	--
Total	50	100

Table 4: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ view regarding the selection of their spouses:

Whom one select their spouses	F	%
Their Parents	44	88
Their Relatives	04	08
Own self	02	04
Total	50	100

Table 5: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ view regarding the recognized with whom one’s name after the marriage:

After marriage a woman should recognized with whom one’s name	F	%
with the name of their husband	50	100
with the name of their parents	--	--
Total	50	100

Table 6: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ view regarding their view that whom ones is mostly faced gender inequality

whom ones are mostly faced gender inequality	F	%
Working women	50	100
Household women	--	--
Anyone among both of them	--	--
Total	50	100

Table 7: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ view regarding the types of problems, which a working woman is faced

Type of problems faced	F	%
Sexually harassed	46	92
Mentally torturer	04	08
Total	50	100

Table 8: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ view regarding getting job

Getting jobs	F	%
Men can get job easily	25	50
women can get job easily	08	16
Both have equal chance	17	34
Total	50	100

Table 9: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ view regarding their monthly salary at the same position:

Women’s salary	F	%
Women are more paid	08	16
Men are more paid	17	34
Both earn equally	25	50
Total	50	100

Table 10: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ view regarding who one should be at the executive post:

On Executive Post	F	%
Men	27	54
Women	07	14
Anyone among both of them	16	32
Total	50	100

Table 11: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ views regarding the men have top position at their working place

Reasons for top position	F	%
Men are good administrator	20	74
Men are handworker	07	26
Total	27	100

Table 12: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ views regarding the women have top position at their working place

Reasons for top position	F	%
Hard working	02	33
Extra qualification	01	17
Extra efficiency (like polite & sympathy)	03	50
Total	06	100

Table 13: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ views regarding the cause of gender inequality:

Cause of gender discrimination	f	%
Religious beliefs	04	08
Cultural Difference	36	72
Ignorance / fears	10	20
Total	50	100

Table 14: Demographic analysis of the respondents’ suggestion regarding the solution of this social evil:

Solve gender inequality through	f	%
create awareness among masses	25	50
Through Media campaign	08	16
Give decision making power to women	17	34
Total	50	100

Analysis of Study finding

1. The respondents were distributed according to having knowledge about gender inequality. All the respondents (100%) said that they have knowledge about gender inequality. Among those respondents, a huge majority of the respondents (72%) heard about gender inequality from their parents and one fifth (20%) respondents heard from their relative, while a small ratio (08%) said that they heard from their friend. (Table No. 1 and 2)
2. The respondents were distributed according to having knowledge about the existence of gender inequality in our society. All the respondents (100%) said that gender inequality exists in our society. Among those respondents, a huge majority (88%) said that their parents selected their spouses, while a small ratio of the respondents (08%) said that their relatives selected their spouses and only (04%) said that they selected their spouses own self. (Table No. 3 and 4)
3. The respondents were distributed according to the recognized with whom one's name after the marriage. Exactly (100%) said that they should recognize with the name of their husband after their marriages. (Table No. 5)
4. The respondents were distributed according to their view that whom ones are mostly faced gender inequality. All the respondents (100%) said that gender inequality is faced by the working women at working place and among those respondents, a huge majority (92%) respondents claimed that women are sexually harassed, while a small ratio (08%) said that women are mentally tortured during their work. (Table No. 6 and 7)
5. The respondents were distributed according to getting jobs. Exactly one and half (50%) respondents said that men can get job easily. Nearby one third (34%) respondents said that both genders have equal chances for getting job and remaining (16%) said that Women can get job easily. (Table No. 8)
6. The respondents were distributed according to their monthly salary. Exactly one and half (50%) respondents said that both genders earn equally at the same position. Almost one third (34%) respondents said that men are more paid as compare to women and a small ratio (16%) said that women are more paid as compare to men. (Table No. 9)
7. The respondents were distributed according to their views regarding whom one should be at executive post. Almost one and half (54%) respondents said that men should be at the executive post and a small ratio (14%) said that women should be at the executive post. Nearby one third (32%) respondents said that anyone among both of them could be at the executive post. Among the total respondents who have opinion that men should be at the executive post, nearly third fourth (74%) respondents said that men are good administrator and nearly one fourth (26%) said that men are hard worker. Same like this, the respondents who have opinion that women should be at the executive post. Exactly one and half (50%) respondents said that women have extra efficiency (like polite & sympathy). Nearby one third (33%) respondents said that women are hard worker and a small ratio (17%) said that they having extra qualification so that they should be at the executive post. (Table No. 10, 11 and 12)
8. The respondents were distributed regarding the cause of gender inequality. A huge majority of the respondents (72%) said that Cultural Difference is the cause of gender

inequality. Exactly one fifth respondents (20%) and (08%) said that Ignorance / fears and Religious beliefs are its main causes. (Table No. 13)

9. The respondents were distributed regarding to resolve this social evil (gender inequality), exactly one and half (50%) respondents said that we should create awareness among masses, nearly one third (34%) and (16%) respondents said that we can resolve this social issue through giving decision making power to women and through media campaigns. (Table No. 14)

Results and Discussion

In Pakistan, women have no attained equality with men and considered second creation of the society. In the present scenario, our women are getting high education to meet the basic needs of the society, according to the desire. But our society did not give even a single chance to them to show their ability. So in this situation, they lose their temperament and left their effects which bring negative aspects on their life. In the study area, it has been observed that all women have knowledge about gender inequality and said gender inequality is existed in our society. Most of them have gained this knowledge from their parents and their parents also selected their life partner. After getting the marriage they have been recognized by their husband name instead of their parents that is also our social norms. Secondly, it is a stigma of our society that if poor girls get highly qualified with across critical situation then they have no opportunity to get suitable jobs easily as per their qualification. Thirdly and very important point is that if a woman has gained a suitable job then she faces so many hurdles in the way to continue it like low salary, extra work, non-cooperation of the society members etc.. Fourthly and finally in our society a woman can't get executive post easily because of our society is a male dominate society and mostly decision have been made by the men and women are just follower. These things increase gender inequality in our society. For this, our govt. should make easier policies to maintain gender equality in the society. So that women can easily play their role in the development of the country which causes economic growth of the country or nation.

Conclusion

Pakistan is an Islamic country, according to the Islamic laws every human has equal rights. But it is the stigma of our society that only men enjoy the facilities and women deprive from it. After analyzing the data, it is concluded that a disparity exists in targeted area because high qualified women can't get jobs easily as per their qualification in the fields as compared to the men. If someone hardly succeeds to get a job, she faces so many hurdles in the way to continue it like low salary, extra work, non-cooperation of the society members etc. These things make their life full of tension. So, in this situation, no woman can maintain her confidence and this thing loses her temperament. So in this result, she loses her job. In spite of this, our Govt. has also celebrated 'The International Women's Day on 8th March in every year with the theme of "Equality for women is progress for all".

Recommendations

- In the light of findings, some recommendations are mentioned under below through which we can easily removing this social evil from the society.
- Govt. should pay attention to the women's education and

their rights so that they can bring up positive change in the society.

- Government should also give opportunity to the women in all the professions as per their qualification, so that they can play an important role in the economic growth of the country.
- Parents should give importance to the woman's opinions so that they can easily express their opinion about the selection of their spouses.
- Media and other stakeholders should play their role to create awareness among the parents and the community people. So that their behaviour can be changed.

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