

A Study to Investigate the Attitude of People Towards Female Employment in Faisalabad City

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Abstract: Female employment means when a woman is regularly engaged in an occupational activity where she is paid for her services. The main objective of our study is the socio-economic character of employed women. The other main objective is to investigate the public opinion towards working women and female employment and also investigate the factors which affect public opinion. The study was conducted in Faisalabad City and our total respondents were 120. We use interviewing schedule for collecting the data. Different statistical techniques i.e. percentage and chi-square were used for the analysis purpose. The results showed that most of the women joined their services to shoulder the economic responsibility of the family for rising their living standard. They faced a lot of problems such as attitude of society members, prejudices and unrecognition which the working women encounter with regard to their status and their role in the economic life. Majority (55.8%) respondents thought that job affects the family relations positively. While (19.2%) gave opinion against the statement.

Keywords: Female Employment, Occupational Activity and Socio-economic Activity

Introduction

Society is a system of social relationships and through which we live. Different individuals possess different positions in a society which claim for certain rights and duties. These positions may vary on culturally based notions of differences. Sex status is one of the basic causes of such differences in roles to be performed by males and females separately. Pakistani society is also following this universal pattern of differentiated sex-roles and statuses. The underlying concept of this is the superiority of man as compared to woman. The motivation to be a housewife and to do housework is developed as an integrated personality function (Aslam, 1981). History of the universe unfolds that there were the days when women were considered as child-generating cells devoid of feelings incapable of thinking, having no capacity to decide or act. However, increase in population, changes in national economy with the advancement of science and technology, expansion of urban population, education etc. are considered as means of revolution to the women world. Economic crisis enhanced the sense of taking part in income-generating activities to the women along with men. These activities are not only related to home-made crafts but also to outdoor activities. Now the woman of today can be seen in every field and every walk of practical life and contributing in economics and social well-being of the country. Now they can be introduced as doctors, lawyers, judges, police and military officers, business executives, ministers and even prime ministers in certain countries, but their participation is still limited. Men and women are two pillars of society, without their equal participation in all spheres of life, no society can progress properly. A woman having a job is not only disapproved but strongly discouraged. She has to face a conservative attitude of the dominant sex of her desires and their fulfillment. She is seen with suspicious eyes in public meetings and gatherings and is criticized by self-made guardians of traditions. She has a high level of adjustment problems.

In short, Pakistani career women are fighting the tough battle of her life at the crucial juncture of this economic

turmoil for producing a comfortable and harmonious mode of living for her family. Unfortunately, her talent, potentialities both inherent and acquired are not always properly rewarded (Akhtar, 1992). No doubt, working women are financially independent; support their families and bring a positive change in the social status, but they are still kept snubbed.

Objectives:

- To study the socio-economic character of employed women.
- To investigate the public opinion towards female employment and working women.
- To investigate the factors affecting public opinion towards working women.

Materials and Methods

Methodological techniques and ways of analyzing the observations are imperative for sociological pursuit. The present study was an attempt to find out the attitude of people towards female employment in Faisalabad City. 120 respondents, both male and female, were selected from different areas of Faisalabad City through convenient sampling. Interview survey conducted through personal interviews. For the purpose of making comparison, we used percentage. Chi-square was applied to judge the significance of results. The age, education, level, occupation, income, family type and caste were categories.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of the Respondents According to the Opinion about the Obstacles for a Woman in Job

Obstacles in job	Frequency	Percentage
Attitude of people	84	70.0
Purdah	13	10.0
Religious implications	15	12.5
Any other	18	6.7
Total	120	100.0

According to Table 1, a majority (70.0) percent of the respondents gave opinion that the attitude of people is the

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biggest hurdle for a woman in job. About 13 percent of them thought that religious implications were the biggest hurdle for a woman in job. Ten percent claimed purdah was a biggest hurdle. About 7 percent claim all (attitude of people, purdah, religious implications).

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of the Respondents According to the Opinion If the Job Effects the Family Relations Positively

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	67	55.8
Disagree	23	19.2
No opinion	30	25.0
Total	120	100.0

Table 2 shows that a majority (55.8) percent of the respondents agreed with the opinion that the woman with a job did affect the family relation positively. Twenty five percent of them gave no opinion. Whereas 19.2 percent of the respondents disagreed with the opinion that woman with job affected the family relations positively.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of the Respondents According to the Opinion That Economic Conditions Can Be Much Better If a Woman Works

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	100	8.3
No	20	16.6
Total	120	100.0

Table 3 shows that a large majority (83.3) percent of the respondents agreed that economic conditions could be much better if a woman worked. While 16.6 percent of them disagreed with the statement that economic conditions could much better if a woman worked.

Table 4: Percentage Distribution of the Respondents According to the Opinion Given about Attitude People Should Adopt Towards Working Women

Attitude	Frequency	Percentage
Cooperative behavior	36	30.0
Respectable behavior	42	35.0
Both above	34	28.3
No opinion	8	6.7
Total	120	100.0

The Table 4 shows that 35 percent of the respondents gave opinion that people should adopt respectable behaviour towards working women, whereas 30.0 percent of them thought that cooperative behaviour should be adopted towards working women. Some 28.3 percent of them thought that both cooperative and respectable behaviour should be adopted towards working women. About 7 percent of them gave no opinion.

Cross Table

Table 5: Association Between Education and the Opinion about Female Employment

Education	Opinion		Total percent
	Yes	No	
Illiterate	18 (64.3)	10 (35.7)	28 (23.3)
Middle	41 (67.2)	20 (32.8)	61 (50.8)
FA, BA. and	21 (67.7)	10 (32.3)	31 (25.8)
Above	80 (66.7)	40 (33.8)	120 (100.0)

Chi square D.F. Significance
0.9575 2 0.9533

(Higher the education more favourable will be the attitude of respondent towards female employment. Lower the education less favourable will be the attitude). Table states the extent of co-variation between education and the opinion about female employment. The value of chi-square shows a non-significant association between two variables. Thus the hypothesis that "there is an association between education and the opinion about female education" is falsified. The value of Gamma reveals a negative relation between education and the opinion about female employment.

Conclusion

- It was concluded that large majority 99.2 percent of the respondents that education effects the thinking approach of woman.
- It was found that attitude of people was the biggest hurdle for a woman in her job. Purdah and religious implications are also some other factors.
- Majority 55.8 percent respondents thought that job effects the family relations positively. While 19.2 percent gave opinion against the statement.
- It was concluded that majority 75.0 percent respondents thought that working woman has higher status as 25.0 non-working woman where as 25.0 percent gave positive opinion.

References

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