

**A Study of the Perceptions of the Muslim Women Towards****Women Education****Dr. Intekhabalam K. Ansari**

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ABSTRACT

Men and women both are very important components of every society. But many times it seems that due importance is not being given to the women education. In this regard investigator was of the opinion that it would prove very useful and interesting to study the perceptions of the Muslim women towards women education and decided to conduct the present research. The main objective of the present research was to study the perceptions of the Muslim women towards the women education. Total 100 Muslim families were selected from the five different areas of Ankleshwar town using random sampling method. Interview technique was applied for the collection of required data and the collected data were analysed qualitatively. The present research could reached to some very important and interesting findings. Such findings would prove very helpful in many respect for the betterment of the status of Muslim women and the whole society in the coming year.

Keywords: Women education, Muslim women.

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Introduction

Men and women both are very important components of every society. Men and women both are equally important for the development of the healthy society. Welfare of any family, society, nation and the world could be possible only through the equal development of men and women simultaneously. We can observed that women are not having as much importance as men having in the society. It would not be in our favour to ignore the importance of women and their education. Prasad and Gautam (2015) noted very important thought of the first Prime minister of independent India that; “If you educate an individual, however, if you educate a women you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered. While Sarkar (2015) has quoted Swami Vivekananda as, “There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing. “Thus, women are very important part of each and every society. However, it is a bitter reality that we could not understand the importance of women education in its due respect. Rao (2011) has observed that, “Women historically have never been given required importance vis a vis man in the entire world be it in the field of politics or economy not to mention education. History is full with stories of exploitation, humiliation and suppression of women across the world. It will be surprising to know that even England, which is known as the ‘Mother’ of parliaments, has enacted equal voting rights through universal franchise for women only in first quarter of the 20Th century.”

As per the above mentioned perspectives education of women becomes very important to improve the situation of the women in the society. Education is the only medium which can play a crucial role to provide proper place and due importance to the women in the society. Deswal and Sahni (2015) has also properly noted that. “There is the only way available to empower the women is women education.” Thus, women education is very essential medium for the empowerment of women. In these perspectives investigator was of the opinion that it

would prove very useful and interesting to study the perceptions of the Muslim women towards women education and investigator decided to conduct the present investigation.

Objectives of the study

Following were the major objectives of the present investigation:

1. To study the perceptions of the Muslim women towards the women education
2. To study the expectations of Muslim women regarding women education.

Population and Sample

In any investigation it becomes unavoidable to define the population of the study. In the present investigation, all the Muslim women living at the Ankleshwar town were included in the population. But because of limitations of time, energy and money it could not become possible for the investigator to conduct research on all the Muslim women covered under the present investigation. Thus, the question of the selection of sample was emerged before the investigator. Investigator selected total 100 Muslim families from five different areas of the Ankleshwar town using random sampling method. Investigator planned to collect necessary data from the main women of the selected family. It means total 100 Muslim women were included in the sample of the present investigation. Here it is to be mentioned that with reference to the women selected under the present investigation other variables like age, education, socio economic status etc. were ignored.

Research Tools

Looking to the objectives and nature of the present investigation Investigator felt no need to apply questionnaire, opinionnaire, check list or rating scale for the collection of required data. Investigator felt it proper to use interview technique for the collection of required data and for that one interview schedule having total ten questions was prepared by the investigator.

Procedure of data collection

In any research the procedure of data collection is having very important place. It may affect to the results of the research if proper care could not be taken during the process of data collection process. Thus, proper care was taken regarding the process of data collection .Investigator visited personally to the families of Muslim women selected under the sample and collected the required data directly. Here, investigator would like to take note that very warm responses and cooperation were received from all the families selected under the sample.

Statistical techniques used

Various statistical techniques are available for the analysis of collected data. i.e. chi square, t–test, F – test, correlation etc. But looking to the nature of the collected data no need was felt to use any specific statistical technique for the analysis of the collected data. Investigator collected qualitative data from the subjects selected under the present investigation and it was carefully recorded by the investigator. However, after the qualitative analysis of such data frequencies and percentages were calculated on the basis of these data.

Major Findings

Following were the major findings of the present investigation:

1. Total 78% Muslim women had accepted that the education must be provided to the women.
2. Out of the total sample 74% women were found understanding the importance of education.
3. Total 28% Muslim women were of the opinion that there is no need to provide much education to the women as mainly they have to perform family responsibilities.
4. Out of the total sample 24% Muslim women said that there is no importance of education as they can not get the job after the completion of education.
5. Education must be provided in the exclusive institutions for the women was the opinion of 40% Muslim women of the sample.
6. Total 22% Muslim women emphasised on religious education.
7. 18% Muslim women opined that women education is not important because educated and working women are being exploited.

Following were the major expectations of the Muslim women selected under the present investigator regarding women education:

1. An opportunity of getting education in exclusive women institutions must be made available.
2. A system must be developed in which women could get education through women teachers Only.
3. More security must be provided to the women in the school, college and other institutions.

4. Efforts must be made for making women self-development through providing job and Professional education.
5. An arrangement must be made in which women could get religious education with school Education.

Conclusion

It could be observed from the above mentioned paragraphs that investigator could reached to some very important findings through the present investigation .These findings are having very important and interesting implications for the society.

Through the present investigation it is found that 78% Muslim women had accepted that education must be provided to the women. While 74% women were found understanding the importance of education. Both these findings reflects a quite positive situation when there is one general opinion prevails that the proportion of education is very low in Muslims. These findings could be considered as very favourable. But it is also to be noted that still 22% Muslim women don't understanding the importance of education and it can be considered as a quite serious scenario. The proportion of such Muslim women is not very less. Thus, it could be suggested that more sincere efforts must be made to make Muslim women more conscious regarding the importance of education.

The ratio of Muslim women having an opinion that there is no need to provide much education to the women as mainly they have to perform family responsibilities was recorded 28% and it can also be considered a very serious matter of concern. Such attitude of Muslim women can be considered as very rigid and complex one. Infact, the education of women is more needed so that women can perform their family responsibilities effectively and successfully. Extra efforts are needed to develop positive attitude in this regard.

Out of the total sample 24% Muslim women linked education with the employment issue and opined that there is no need of education as they cannot get proper jobs after the completion of their education. Such attitude can also be considered as very rigid attitude. Efforts must be made to make awareness among the Muslim women that education is not only meant for getting employment but for suggesting a way for living better life. However, one very important implication emerged through the present investigation that all the concern people and party must try to make education more and more job oriented as far as possible. Moreover, the expectations expressed by the subjects are also very clear and thought provoking. It can also be said that enough attempts must be made in these regard.

Epilogue

Though the present research is undertaken with very limited objectives and on very small scale the investigator would like to conclude with the only feelings that the present research would prove very useful in many respects for the betterment of the status of Muslim women and the whole society in the coming future.

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