



A study of Attitude towards Women in Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

It is worthwhile to conduct research in the field of the Women in Higher Education. Because new facts can come into light. With this idea the present study was made. The sample was consisted of 100 respondents. The students of PTC and M.Ed. Were taken as respondents, because at their age they have a reliable attitude in comparison with the youth of 14 or 16 years. 40 were males and 60 were females. A specially prepared Attitude Scale of Education was used as a tool. Main results showed that 60% respondents say that the ratio of women in higher education should be raised. 74% say that new subjects to the curriculum should be added to the higher education of women. Very interesting result was about the attitude towards going to foreign country by the women for the further studies. 90% boys say 'no' while only 10% say yes.

Keywords : Higher Education, Student, Women

Introduction

Still today the society is not completely in favour of education for women in the higher field. Though the condition of the women is better from the point view of education, it was not so in the previous days. For example in British Rule, there was ban on education for women even on the high school level, leave alone college education. In the 19th century the condition was not satisfactory. The women were without proper education. The strong attitude towards women education was prevalent. The women were denied their educational rights and attending schools. There was no equality in receiving education between males and females. But after Gandhian Philosophy, there was a remarkable change and after independence the whole scenario of women education took a different look. During last 50 year a change has occurred and now a day's women are having education almost as equal as men. But attitude towards women education is not as liberal as it should be. This is particularly true for the higher education for the women. For example some sections of society believe that the Science Education is not for women. They should stick to the Arts line. In the present study the attempt is done to find out such attitude. The efforts are made to know the present day attitude of the society towards the women in higher education. The researcher task was to locate positive as well as negative attitude and find out reasons behind it.

Statement Of The Problem

The problem of the present study was as under :

'The study of Attitude towards women in Higher Education.'

Thus to examine attitude was at the centre of the study and an attempt was made to get the scientific knowledge about it.

Methodology

Objectives of the study :

1. To find out the positive as well as negative attitude towards the Women in Higher Education.

2. To study the various facets of higher education of today's women.
3. To find out the Sex differences in the attitude.
4. To find out the Age differences in the attitude.

Sample :

The sample was consisted of 100 youths. They were selected randomly from the colleges of Rajkot city. 40 were Males and 60 were Females. To get accurate picture of the attitude, the persons or the respondents more than 15 years of age were taken. Thus students from various colleges of education were selected. The detail is given in the following table :

TABLE-1 Showing the distribution of the sample

No.	Type of the Students	Number
1.	PTC	30
2.	M.Ed.	70
Total		100

Tool :

The specially prepared attitude scale was used to collect the data. In all 14 statements were presented to the respondent. There options were given against each statement and the respondent had to tick mark any one of them. The statements were related to the present condition of women in the higher education. The content of the statements are discussed in the section of Results and Discussion. The statements were firstly presented to the experts and necessary changes were made.

Result And Discussion

To get the proper picture of the attitude each statement should be analyzed and the percentage of respondents should be calculated. Thus, herewith result on the basis of these criteria is given.

If we talk about the ratio of the women in the field of higher education, 18% say that it is sufficient, 22% say that ratio should be raised, while 60% are of the opinion that still the ratio should be raised to a higher limit. Thus we find different attitudes towards the ratio of the women in the higher education.

As to the statement whether the new subjects should be added to the curriculum keeping women in the mind, 74% % yes, While 10 % no and 16% were uncertain.

Whether the women should go for the commerce line, different attitude was discovered in the present study. 25% say that it is not necessary for them to take the commerce line. 62% say they should select the commerce line, while 12% are of the opinion that compulsorily they should go for the commerce line. Thus there are few advocating compulsory commerce education for women looking to the need of the modern times.

The attitude towards the co-education is also show different trends. 14% say that it will do, if women in the higher education are not placed in the co-educational institutions. 48% say that they should be placed and 38% say that they must be placed in the co-educational institutions. Though the respondents believing in this attitude are less in number.

To the statement whether the girls should participate in the activities dominated by the boys, 14% say it will do, 76% says yes and 10% say they must participate. Most of the respondents are in favour and expressed the feeling that women are also equal to men.

Whether girls should take part in sport 14% say the should in a moderate degree, 44% say in a more degree, while 42% say they could take part in the sports completely. Thus again expressing the feeling that women are not behind. Similar views were expressed about the participation of women in the election of the college campus. Most respondents were in the favour.

Very interesting result was about the attitude towards going to forigen country by the women for the further studies. 33% boys say 'no' while only 7% say yes. Those respondents who favour say that women should go to U.K. instead of America and Australia for the studies.

In expressing the attitude which institution is better for the women's education whether government or private 53% say government, 15% private, 32% both.

To the statement whether there is a scope in the improvement of Women in Higher Education 10% there is no scope, 37% there is a scope and 53% say there is a complete scope.

Some results were tested against X2 (chi-square). The results were as follows. To the statement whether the women should go for the science line, following calculations were made :

	Yes	No	
F0	57	43	100
Fe (fo-fe)	50	50	100
	7	-7	

X2=1.96 (significant)
df=1

The significant x2 indicates that 'Yes' and 'No' are not equal and most of the respondents favor that in higher education women should go for the science line.

To the statement whether the women should take the subject of Information Technology, following calculation were made :

	Yes	No	
F0	62	38	100
Fe (fo-fe)	50	50	100
	12	12	

X2=5.76 (significant)
df=1

The significant X2 indicates that 'Yes' and 'No' are not equal and most of the respondents favour that in higher education women should learn about the Information Technology.

Conclusions

Some of the important conclusions are as follows :

1. There are different attitudes towards the ratio of the women in Higher education. 60% say that the limit of the ratio should be raised.
2. As to the statement whether the new subjects should be added to the curriculum keeping women in the mind, 74% say 'yes'.
3. The attitude towards the co-education is also show different trends. Only 48% say that they should be placed in the co-educational institution.
4. Whether girls should take part in sports 14% say they should in a moderate degree, 44% say in amore degree, while 42% say they could take part in the sports completely. Thus expressing the feeling that women are not behind.
5. To the statement whether the women should go for the science line, 28% boys say no, while 35% girls say 'yes'.
6. Very interesting result was about the attitude towards going to forigen country by the women for the further studies. 90% boys say 'no' while only 10% say yes.
7. To the statement whether the women should take the subject of Information Technology, 83% say 'yes'.
8. To the statement whether there is a scope in the improvement of Women in Higher Education 53% say there is a complete scope.

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