



Perception of Men on Women Autonomy: A Study Among Slum Dwellers in AP

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Perception of males on women autonomy is one of the crucial determinations of the reproductive health and child health. Generally, males among the slum dwellers have negative or low perception on women autonomy which results in poor RTI status among females. Hence the present study focused to understand and the level of perception of males on women autonomy and how this reflect on R.H status of their wife's.

STUDY AREA

The study was carried out in all the three regions of Andhra Pradesh, to make the findings applicable for the entire state. Since, it is difficult to cover the entire state due to paucity of time and funds, one city from each of the regions viz, Tirupati from Rayalaseema, Vijayawada from Coastal Andhra and Hyderabad from Telangana region, were purposively selected for the study.

SAMPLE FRAME AND SIZE

The sampling unit for the study was the couples in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years having one or more conceptions. For the selection of sample from the slums in three cities, cluster sampling was followed.

All the notified slums in each of the selected three cities were listed based on this information collected from the Municipalities/Corporations. In each city, slums were classified into three categories based on the number of households viz, small, medium and big. From each city a sample of 225 households were selected randomly giving due representation to the above stated three categories of slums. In case of more than one couple in any given household, the youngest couple was considered. Thus the total sample for the study was 675 couples from the three cities covering 225 from each.

The respondents here were the males among the couple.

Attitude of men towards women empowerment

1. Importance given to wife in various family matters

In order to assess the importance given to wife in the family, men were asked whether they consult their wife on various family matters. The results are presented in Table-1.

Table-1: Percentage distribution of men according to importance given wife in various family matters

Family Matters	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225	Total N=675
Important Household decisions				
Frequently	60.9	51.1	54.7	55.6
Rarely	39.1	48.9	45.3	44.4
Not at all	---	---	---	---
Number of children				
Frequently	55.1	36.9	43.1	45.0
Rarely	43.1	57.8	56.0	52.3
Not at all	1.8	5.3	.9	2.7

Number of children

It is observed that only 45 per cent of men used to discuss with wife on the number of children they would like to have and 52.3 per cent discuss with wife rarely. The region wise comparison showed that comparatively higher proportion of men in Tirupati (55.1 per cent) used to discuss with wife frequently than their counterparts in Hyderabad (43.1 per cent) and in Vijayawada (36.9 per cent).

Use of contraceptives

Only 24.1 per cent of men reported to have discussed with wife frequently on the use of contraceptives and 36 per cent discussed rarely. It is also observed that 39.9 per cent never consulted their wives on the use of contraception. The proportion of men discussing with wife on the use of contraception more frequently was not varying much among men in the three regions.

Education of children

Fifty-two percent of men used to have frequent discussion with wife regarding the education of children, 31 per cent discussed with wife rarely and 14.8 per cent never discussed with wife. Proportion of men having frequent discussion with wife was higher in Tirupati (63.1 per cent) than in Hyderabad (60.4 per cent) and in Vijayawada (39.1 per cent).

Allowing wife to go for shopping

In all, half of the men reported to have allowed their wives to go for shopping frequently, 34.1 per cent allowed rarely and 15.9 per cent never allowed. Substantially higher proportion of men in Vijayawada (59.6 per cent) allowed their wives to go for shopping frequently compared to 47.1 per cent in Tirupati and 43.6 percent in Vijayawada.

Important household decisions

It is observed from the table that a little over half of the men (55.6 per cent) had the habit of consulting wife frequently for taking any important decision in the family and 44.4 percent did so rarely. It is also observed that a higher proportion of men in Tirupati (60.9 per cent) used to consult wife frequently compared to their counterparts in Hyderabad (54.7 per cent) and Vijayawada (51.1 percent).

Use of contraceptives	24.4	23.6	24.4	24.1
Frequently	38.7	43.6	25.8	36.0
Rarely	36.9	32.9	49.8	39.9
Not at all				
Education of children	63.1	39.1	60.4	54.2
Frequently	24.0	41.3	27.6	31.0
Rarely	12.9	19.6	12.0	14.8
Not at all				
Allowing wife to go for shopping alone	47.1	43.6	59.6	50.1
Frequently	36.4	33.3	32.4	34.1
Rarely	16.4	23.1	8.0	15.9
Not at all				

2. Level of education proposed to provide to sons and daughters

The per cent distribution of men according to their thinking about their sons and daughters education presented in Table 2 and 2.1 revealed that slightly higher proportion of men were willing to provide higher education to sons rather than education to their daughters, 34.2 per cent were thinking of providing professional course and only 16.0 per cent were thinking of providing education up to school level. In the case of daughters, 48.4 per cent were thinking of providing college education, 25.3 per cent were thinking of providing professional courses and 20.1 per cent were thinking of providing up to school level. Proportion of men thinking of providing higher level of education (college and above) to their sons was higher in Hyderabad (90.2 per cent) than in Tirupati (82.7 per cent) and Vijayawada (79.1 per cent). The proportion of men thinking of providing higher education to daughters was also higher in Hyderabad (81.3 percent) than in Vijayawada (80.4 per cent) and Tirupati (77.8 per cent).

Table- 2: Percent distribution of men by level of education proposed to provide to sons

Education	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225	Total N=675
School final College	17.3	20.9	9.8	16.0
Professional course	48.0	37.3	44.9	43.4
Others	34.7	37.3	30.7	34.2
	---	4.4	14.7	6.4

Table- 2.1: Percent distribution of men by levels of education proposed to provide to daughters

Education	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225	Total N=675
School final College	22.2	19.6	18.7	20.1
Professional course	49.3	51.1	44.9	48.4
Others	28.4	24.9	22.7	25.3
	0.0	4.4	13.8	6.1

3. Preference to live with children after retirement / old age

The percent distribution of men according to their preference to live with after retirement/old age presented in Table-3 revealed that most of the men (more than 70 per cent) in all regions preferred to live with their sons after retirement /old age. Only 6.2 per cent preferred to live with their daughters. This shows the importance given to male children in the family.

Table-3: Percent distribution of men by preference to live with after retirement/old age

Education	Tirupati N=225	N=225	Hyderabad N=225	Total N=675
With son	72.9	82.2	78.7	77.9
With daughter	4.9	8.9	4.9	6.2
With other relatives	5.3	2.7	0.0	2.7
Uncertain	6.9	6.2	16.4	13.2

4. Opinion on provision of old age security and family size

Men were asked whether they agreed to the suggestion that people will limit family size if Government provides old age security. The results presented in Table-4 revealed that about two-thirds of men (66.8 per cent) agreed to the suggestions while 24.1 per cent disagreed and 9.0 per cent were uncertain. The proportion agreed to the suggestion was highest at 71.6 per cent in Tirupati compared to 65.8 per cent in Vijayawada and 63.1 per cent in Hyderabad.

Table- 4: Percent distribution of men according to opinion on provision of old age security to limit family size

Opinion	Tirupati	Vijayawada	Hyderabad	All
Agree	71.6	65.8	63.1	66.8
Disagree	19.1	25.8	27.6	24.1
Uncertain	8.4	9.3	9.3	9.0

5. Men's perception on role of women

The perception of men on various roles played by women in the society is presented in Table-5. In respect of girls going for higher studies, a majority of men (55.6 per cent) reported that the girls should go for higher studies as long as they can study. The proportion of men encouraging higher studies for women was highest at 70.2 per cent in Hyderabad, 55.6 per cent in Tirupati and 40.9 per cent in Vijayawada.

In respect of women working with men in Offices, only 49 per cent of men had approved it while 31 per cent had disapproved it. The region wise comparison revealed that higher proportion of men in Tirupati (61.8 per cent) approved the act of women working with the men in offices compared to only 48 per cent in Vijayawada and 37.3 per cent in Hyderabad.

In respect of girls going outside district/state for jobs/education, only 39.9 per cent of men approved it. Proportion of women approved the act of girls going out of district/state for jobs/education was highest at 59.1 per cent in Tirupati, 41.8 per cent in Vijayawada and just 18.7 per cent in Hyderabad.

With regard to widow remarriage only 29.5 per cent of men approve it. It is also noticed that a substantially higher proportion of men (42.4 per cent) had disapproved it while 28.1 per cent were uncertain about it. The proportion of men approving widow remarriage was highest in Tirupati (40.9 per cent) compared to only 32.9 per cent in Vijayawada and 14.7 per cent in Hyderabad.

In respect of women's participation in political activities, a little over one-third of men (36.4 per cent) had agreed to it and 33.0 per cent disagreed to it. It is also to be noted that a substantial proportion of men (30.5 per cent) were uncertain about it. The proportion of men agreed to the participation of women in political activities was highest at 49.3 per cent

in Tirupati compared to 32.0 per cent in Vijayawada and 28 percent in Hyderabad.

In all it is observed that men in Tirupati slum areas were liberal to women with a higher proportion of men agreeing to the women's emancipation in social and political field.

Table-5: Percent distribution of men according to their attitude towards women's empowerment on various aspects

Family Matters	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225	Total N=675
Opinion on girls going for higher Studies/professional courses				
Better stop with primary level	11.2(25)	9.3(21)	9.8(22)	10.1(68)
Better stop with school final level	36.4(82)	49.8(112)	23.1(52)	36.5(246)
As long as she can study	52.4(118)	40.9(92)	66.1(151)	53.4(361)
Opinion on marital women work With men in office				
Approve	61.8	48.0	37.3	46(311)
Uncertain	21.8	10.7	27.6	18(121)
disapprove	16.4	41.3	35.1	36(243)
Opinion on women going out of District/state for education/job				
Approve				
Uncertain	59.1	41.8	18.7	37.8(255)
disapprove	24.9	22.2	35.6	25.6(173)
	16.0	36.0	45.8	36.6(247)
Opinion on remarriage of young widows				
Approve				
Uncertain	40.9	32.9	14.7	27.5(186)
disapprove	32.9	21.8	29.8	25.1(169)
	26.2	45.3	55.6	47.4(320)
Opinion on women's participation in politics				
Approve	49.3	32.0	28.0	34.4(232)
Uncertain	33.3	32.0	26.2	28.5(192)
Disapprove	17.3	36.0	45.8	37.1(251)

6. Treatment of wife at home

The per cent distribution of men according to their wife beating behavior is presented in Table 6A & 6B. It is observed from the table that only 23.3 per cent of men in the slum areas had the habit of beating their wives mainly due to not behaving well with husband and family members (45.2 per cent). The proportion of men having the habit of beating wife was lowest at 21.3 per cent in Tirupati compared to 22.2 per cent in Vijayawada and 26.2 per cent in Hyderabad.

The percent distribution of men according to their behavior of scolding wife is presented in Table 11.19c and 11.19d. The proportion of couple having the habit of scolding each other was only 29.6 per cent. The main reasons for scolding the wife was not behaving well with husband and family members which was followed by not doing household work properly and not taking care of children properly. The proportion of couple having the habit of scolding each other was highest at 40.4 per cent in Tirupati, 28.9 per cent in Hyderabad and 19.6 per cent in Vijayawada.

Table-6A Percent distribution of men by their wife beating behavior

Wife beating	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225	All N=675
Yes	21.3	22.2	26.2	21 (142)
No	78.7	77.8	69.3	71.5(482)
Can't say	0.0	0.0	4.4	4.5(51)

Table-6B, Percent distribution of men by reasons for beating their wife

Reasons	Tirupati	Vijayawada	Hyderabad	All
Not behaving well with husband And family members	56.3	38.0	42.4	45.2
Not doing household work properly	20.8	34.0	33.9	29.9
Not taking care of children properly	22.9	28.0	23.7	24.8

Table-6C Percent distribution of men according to their behavior of scolding wife

Scolding wife	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225	All N=675
Yes	40.4	19.6	28.9	29.6
No	59.6	80.4	71.1	70.4

Table- 6D, Percent distribution of according to the reasons for scolding wife

Reasons	Tirupati N=91	Vijayawada N=44	Hyderabad N=65	All N=200
Not behaving well with husband And family members	51.6	31.8	40.0	43.5
Not doing household work properly	26.4	47.7	35.4	34.0
Not taking care of children properly	22.0	20.5	24.6	22.5

7. Attitude of men towards women's higher studies

The percent distribution of men by their opinion on girls going for higher studies according to selected background characteristics presented in Table-7 revealed that standard of living was the single most factors having significant effect on the opinion of men towards girl's higher education. It is observed that men with low standard of living were having higher aspiration towards girl's higher education. The proportion of men who had stated that the girls should be allowed to study 'as long as they can' was highest at 60.3 per cent among men from low standard of living compared to 47.1 per cent in medium and 50 per cent in high standard of living. The χ^2 test of significance indicated that the differences were statistically significant.

Table-7 Percent distribution of men by opinion on girls going for higher studies/ professional courses according to selected background characteristics

Family Matters	Tirupati N=225	Vijay- awada N=225	Hydera- bad N=225	Total N=675
Education				
Illiterate	4.5	39.2	56.3	176
Elementary	7.3	34.4	58.3	192
High school	9.5	40.7	49.8	221
College	4.7	32.6	62.8	86
Chi square	8.446	d.f - 6	p<0.207	
Occupation				
Government/ Private Job	6.8	39.1	54.1	133
Business/ self employment	7.3	38.3	54.4	193
Coolly	6.9	36.4	56.7	349
Chi square	0.458	d. f - 4	p<0.977	
Standard of living index				
Low	7.0	32.7	60.3	428
Medium	5.7	47.1	47.1	227
High	20.0	30.0	50.0	20
Chi square	18.652	d.f-4	p<0.001	

8. Attitude of men towards women working in offices with men

The per cent distribution of men by their opinion on women working in offices along with men according to selected background characteristics presented in Table-8 indicated that occupation of men was the single most factors having significant effect on the opinion of men towards women working in offices with men. It is observed that higher proportion of men in Government/Private job approved women working in offices with men compared to males working in other occupational categories. In the case of education and standard of living, the proportion of men's opinion on women working in offices along with men did not vary much and the differences observed were not statistically significant. Thus occupation of men is observed to have significant effect on men's opinion on women working in offices with men.

Table-8 Percent distribution of men by opinion on married women working in offices along with men according to selected background characteristics

Characteristics	Ap- prove	Uncer- tain	Disap- prove	N=675
Education				
Illiterate	45.5	22.7	31.8	176
Elementary	50.5	20.3	29.2	192
High school	49.3	19.0	31.7	221
College	52.3	16.3	31.4	86
Chi square	2.392	d. f - 6	p<0.880	
Occupation				
Government/Private Job	56.4	12.0	31.6	133
Business/ self employment	50.3	23.8	25.9	193
Coolly	45.6	20.9	33.5	349
Chi square	10.525	d. f - 4	p<0.032	

Education				
Illiterate	45.5	22.7	31.8	176
Elementary	50.5	20.3	29.2	192
High school	49.3	19.0	31.7	221
College	52.3	16.3	31.4	86
Chi square	2.392	d. f - 6	p<0.880	
Occupation				
Government/Private Job	56.4	12.0	31.6	133
Business/ self employment	50.3	23.8	25.9	193
Coolly	45.6	20.9	33.5	349
Chi square	10.525	d. f - 4	p<0.032	
Standard of living index				
Low	50.7	20.6	28.7	428
Medium	44.9	19.4	35.7	227
High	60.0	15.0	25.0	20
Chi square	4.419	d.f-4	p<0.352	

9. Opinion of men on girls going outside for job

The opinion of men on girls going outside for job according to selected background characteristics presented in Table- 9 revealed that education is the only background variable having significant effect on the opinion of men towards girls going for job outside the place of residence. It is observed that the proportion of men approved girls going for job outside district /state was lowest at 29.5 per cent among illiterates and highest at 51.2 per cent among those who had studied upto College. The test of significance showed that the differences were statistically significant. In the case of occupation and standard of living, the differences observed in the proportion approving or disapproving girls going for jobs/higher studies outside home were not statistically significant.

Table-9 Percent distribution of men by opinion on girls going outside for job according to selected background characteristics

Characteristics	1Ap- prove	Uncertain	Disapprove	All
Education				
Illiterate	29.5			
Elementary	45.8	36.9	33.5	176
High school	38.5	21.4	32.8	192
College	51.2	28.5	33.0	221
Chi square	19.933	19.8	29.1	86
		d.f - 6	p<0.003	
Occupation				
Government/Private Job	48.1	20.3	31.6	133
Business/ self employment	40.9	26.9	32.1	
Coolly	36.1	30.7	33.2	193
Chi square	7.455	d. f - 4	p<0.114	349
Standard of living index				
Low	40.0	28.0	32.0	428
Medium	37.9	27.8	34.4	227
High	60.0	15.0	25.0	20
Chi square	4.058	d.f-4	p<0.398	

10. Opinion on remarriage of young widows

The per cent distribution of men by their opinion on remarriage of young widows according to selected background characteristics presented in Table- 10 indicated that occupation of men was the single most factor having significant effect on the opinion of men towards remarriage of young widows. It is observed that higher proportion of men in Government/ Private jobs (38.3 per cent) approved widow remarriage compared to those in business (29.5 per cent) and coolly (26.1 per cent). The differences observed in the proportion of men's opinion on widow remarriage were found to be statistically significant. In the case of education and standard of living, the differences observed on the opinion of men on widow remarriage were not statistically significant.

Table- 10 Percent distribution of men by opinion on re-marriage of young widows according to selected background characteristics

Characteristics	Ap-prove	Uncer-tain	Disap-prove	All
Education				
Illiterate	24.4	30.7	44.9	176
Elementary	31.8	28.1	40.1	192
High school	27.6	27.6	44.8	221
College	39.5	24.4	36.0	86
Chi square	7.541	d. f - 6	p<0.274	
Occupation				
Government/ Private Job	38.3	21.8	39.8	133
Business/ self employment	29.5	30.1	40.4	193
Coolly	26.1	29.5	44.4	349
Chi square	8.017	d. f – 4	p<0.091	
Standard of living index				
Low	31.3	28.5	40.2	428
Medium	25.1	28.2	46.7	227
High	40.0	20.0	40.0	20
Chi square	4.708	d.f-4	p<0.319	

Table- 11 Percent distribution of men by opinion on women's active participation in politics according to selected background characteristics

Characteristics	Approve	Uncer-tain	Disap-prove	All
Education				
Illiterate	34.7	31.3	34.1	176
Elementary	35.9	29.7	34.4	192
High school	34.4	33.0	32.6	221
College	46.5	24.4	29.1	86
Chi square	4.982	d. f - 6	p<0.546	
Occupation				
Government/ Private Job	42.9	24.8	32.3	133
Business/ self employment	36.8	31.1	32.1	193
Coolly	33.8	32.4	33.8	349
Chi square	4.138	d. f – 4	p<0.388	
Standard of living index				
Low	38.1	29.4	32.5	428
Medium	31.7	33.5	34.8	227
High	55.0	20.0	25.0	20
Chi square	5.783	d.f-4	p<0.216	

11. Opinion of men on women's active participation in political activities

The percent distribution of men by their opinion on women's active participation in political activities according to selected background characteristics presented in Table- 11 revealed that none of the background variable (education, occupation, standard of living) examined were having significant effect on the opinion of men towards the active participation of women in politics. The differences observed in the proportion of men either approving or disapproving women's participation in politics due to their education, occupation or standards of living were not statistically significant.

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