

## **PARENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIGHER EDUCATION OF THEIR GIRL CHILD:**

### **AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF KALIGANJ OF KARIMGANJ DISTRICT, ASSAM**

Dr. Sanjay Sinha

**Abstract:** *Abstract: Education is an indispensable tool in the hands of the women to increase her participation in economic activities and also to gains significance in decision making roles. The present study aims to draw an attention how the parents act towards higher education of their girl's child. The data uses in this study are mainly primary data collected through structured questionnaire. Simple descriptive statistics has been used to analyze the data. It is found that almost all the parents advocated the need of higher education of their girl's child though few have mentioned their financial constraints.*

**Key words:** *Higher education, girl's child, Decisions, Financial Constraints*

*Dr. Sanjay Sinha, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Patharkandi College, Patharkandi, email: [sanjaydmc84@gmail.com](mailto:sanjaydmc84@gmail.com)*

#### **Introduction**

Education is an indispensable tool in the hands of woman to increase her participation in economic activities and also to gain significance in decision making roles. The attitude of parents towards the higher education of girls has evolved significantly over the years. In the past, it was believed that educating girls was not necessary, and their primary role was to get married, have children, and take care of the household

The purpose of the study is to examine the attitude of parent's towards girl's higher education. In this topic we cover educational issue namely academic subjects for girl, scholarships policies for girls, parent education. Investing in girl's education transforms communities, countries and the entire world. Girls who receive education are less likely to marry young and more likely to lead healthy lives. They earn higher income, participate in the decision that affect them most and builds better future for themselves and their family. One of the main reasons for this shift in attitude is the increasing awareness about the benefits of educating girls. Educated women are better equipped to handle life's challenges and have more opportunities for employment, which helps them, become financially independent. Parents understand that educating their daughters not only benefits them but also contributes to the overall progress of society. Girl's education strengthens economy and reduces inequality. It contributes to more stable, resilient societies that give all individuals including boys and

men the opportunity to fulfil their potential. But education for girls is about more than an access to school. It's also about girls feeling safe in their classrooms and supports the subjects and careers they chose to pursue including those in which they are underrepresented.

Higher level of woman education is usually lead to raise national growth rates child marriage rates decline, child mortality, rates fall, maternal mortality rates fall etc. In this way, if every woman is educated she will expose to employment fields. The girl child of India is tomorrow's woman, if tomorrow's woman is to become equal partner with men there is a great need to accord the girl child her rightful shear of dignity and opportunity. Society can't progress with educated men and uneducated woman. No society can develop materially and morally where the bulk of its female member remains illiterate and devoid of education. Educated mother become more knowledgeable and can bring up children in a more fruitful way. It is pointed out that there is a strong positive correlation between female literacy rate and life expectancy. It is impossible to build a healthy society without providing proper educative environment to woman education makes woman fully aware of their right and duties.

However, with the advancement of time and the change in societal norms, parents have started to realize the importance of educating their daughters and have become more supportive of their higher education. The attitude of parents towards the higher education of girls has changed significantly over the years. Traditionally, girls were expected to focus on marriage and raising a family, rather than pursuing an education. However, as societies have become more progressive, parents have come to recognize the importance of higher education for their daughters. Today, most parents believe that their daughters should have access to the same educational opportunities as their sons. They recognize that education is a key factor in empowering girls and women, and that it can lead to better career prospects and greater economic independence. In many parts of the world, parents still face obstacles in providing higher education for their daughters. For example, in some countries, cultural norms or economic constraints prevent girls from accessing education beyond primary school. In other cases, parents may prioritize the education of their sons over their daughters due to gender bias.

Parent's positive attitude toward Childs education is important in determining school attendance and academic achievement of the child. Favourable attitude toward schooling and education enhance parental involvement in children's present and future studies. Parent's attitude toward their children education is affected adversely by low socio-economy status. It is expected that the attitude of parent of tribal

children will be unfavourable toward education. It is a measure or an index of parental involvement. A Child brought up with affection and care in the least restrictive environment would be able to cope up better with the sighted world. Therefore the family shapes the social integration of the child more than formal school. The role of parents in the education of their children needs no emphasis. The educational level of parent, greater the involvement of the parents in the education of their children, greater is the degree of achievement in the academic career of their children. Woman are self essential in bring the fundamental institution family, society and school together to achieve a relevant lifelong education for all. Cultural identity and family values are largely passed on to new generation by woman. Many parents today recognize the potential of their daughters and want them to achieve their full potential. The parents are understand that education is an essential tool for personal and professional growth and want their daughters to have access to the same opportunities as Moreover, their sons.

However, despite this change in attitude, there are still some parents who hold conservative views and are not supportive of their daughters' higher education. Some parents believe that education will take their daughters away from their primary responsibilities, such as taking care of the household and getting married. They feel that higher education may lead to delayed marriages, which is not desirable in their eyes.

Furthermore, financial constraints also play a significant role in determining parents' attitude towards their daughters' higher education. Many families are unable to afford higher education for their daughters and prioritize their sons' education due to societal and financial pressures. In such cases, parents may view higher education for girls as an unnecessary expense and may discourage them from pursuing it. In addition to financial constraints, social and cultural factors also influence parents' attitude towards their daughters' higher education. In some cultures, educating girls is still viewed as a luxury and not a necessity. Some parents feel that girls should only receive basic education, and higher education should be reserved for boys. However, the trend towards the higher education of girls is changing, and parents are starting to recognize the importance of educating their daughters. Many parents are willing to make sacrifices to ensure their daughters receive quality education, even if it means taking out loans or cutting back on expenses.

The attitude of parents towards the higher education of girls has evolved over the years. While there are still some parents who hold conservative views, many parents now recognize the potential of their daughters and are supportive of their higher education. Educating girls not only benefits them but also

contributes to the overall progress of society. Financial constraints and cultural factors still play a significant role in determining parents' attitude towards their daughters' education. However, the trend towards higher education for girls is changing, and more and more parents are willing to make sacrifices to ensure their daughters receive quality education.

### **Review of literature**

Uzma Eram (2017):- His article titled "Attitude of present towards girl's education". The objective of the study was to attitude of parents to their girl child education and analysis literacy level of girl child. Researcher adopted document survey method and taken only secondary data. The researcher found that overall the attitude of the respondent was found to be moderately favourable towards education of their children. Recruitment of more woman teachers should be done who can serve as role model for girls and may make girl's parents feel more comfortable.

Chintan, Tamba (2017):- studied on "parental attitude towards girls education" . The objectives of the study were to find out the attitude of the parents of different educational level towards education of girls. This study was descriptive survey method. Researcher found that education of the parents highly influence on their attitude towards girls education.

Rana sohel, halder .k.u.(2015) :- studied on parental Attitude towards education and academic achievements of students of class viii . The objective of the study was to explore the pattern of parental Attitude towards education between the total sample and subsample based on the background variable

The study revealed that Parents attitude towards their education has a positive.

Samal (2012) :- Studied on " Parents Attitude towards schooling and education of children ". The objective of the study was to examine the attitude of parents towards schooling and education of their children. The researcher found that parent's attitude towards schooling and education was not highly favourable.

Arti yadav ( may 2016) :- The overall positive attitude among the parents of the adopted villages of Central University of Haryana towards their girls higher education is indicative of change in the perceptions of parents and society towards girls. Haryana is among the states with lowest density of female population and it is also cited that one of the main causes of gender bias is inadequate education. The positive results of the study provides a reason to cherish as the study concludes that the parents in the adopted villages of CUH are confident of their girl's academic achievements and so they prefer their daughters to take up subjects such as sciences, mathematics and technology as they think that these

subjects will get them good jobs and can help girls in becoming canonically independent. However the factors such as marriage, caste system and low economic status pose as barrier in some cases. The Community Development Cell and other cells and clubs operating in Central University of Haryana can take note of the issues and conduct awareness programs regarding choice of subjects, scholarship schemes, earn while you learn scheme among the villagers and it can further spread awareness to curb social problems like preference of marriage over education for girls, caste issues, considering girls as a liability than asset.

Miss shamaas gul khattak ( 2017):-This study aimed at exploring the attitude of parents towards contemporary women higher education. The population for the study was the students' parents of four colleges of Peshawar, capital city of KPK, although the original study did not included the parents. Twelve Parents (mother and father) of each college were selected randomly as a sample of the study. Thus the sample consisted of 48 individuals. The respondents confessed the domination of the paternalistic culture in KPK society that majority of parents make decisions about their daughters' future life. The respondents viewed that higher education is the right of women and it is helpful in developing their personality and administrative capabilities and they can easily find the solution of the problem by differentiating between right and wrong along with the skilful hand in domestic jobs. A highly educated girl is more social and obedient to her parents and her husband due to the understanding of worldly affairs and those social values, which are part and parcel of higher education. Most of the respondents viewed that the highly educated girl is more intelligent and develops mutual understanding with her husband and other members of the family effectively. Most of the respondents viewed that it is

necessary to impart higher education to females without any class difference because the highly educated girl of low income family is a big support in eradication of poverty of that family by using her faculties. The results showed that keeping girls away from higher education is injustice and the whole family would be lagging behind and the consequence is less ratio of development of the society as well as country, for both male and female are part of the same society and society develops more with the education of the both. Separate institutes for female higher education were helpful in enhancing .the number of female students for higher studies as most of the parents were against the current co - education system due to their adherence with the culture but the sample were misunderstanding religious and culture discourses . Higher education is considered as a precious thing and parents could include it as a dowry for their daughters and it is good to equip them with higher education in the current difficult

situation for safe future of their children and society. They viewed that highly educated girl maintains her respect in society by paying equal attention to the responsibilities of upbringing of children along with the jobs for economic development of the family as well as the country.

Dr. Tomba Chingtham (2017):- Abstract: The present investigators aims to study the contribution of the areas related to the Parental Attitudes towards Girl's Education. This paper attempts to make a thorough, comprehensive and analytical study by exploring the educational background of the parents, different parental income, different occupation of the parents, lack of education and cultural lag of parents and the effect it has on the education of girl we can conclude that education of the parents highly influence on their attitude towards girl's education. Those parents from urban who have attained better education have more understanding towards the necessity of girl's education and have more positive attitude towards the education of girls than those parents from rural who are less educated. The economic backgrounds and occupational levels of the parents have influence on their attitude towards girls' education. And on the other hand no matter how developed and educated the people are, their cultural lag still prevents them from broadening their mindset towards girls and girl's education. And the discrimination of gender prevails in the society, though it still exists in different forms and in different degrees. Both the parents from rural and urban show some level of discrimination as they prefer their sons than their daughters in every angle. Therefore though education of the parents give positive attitude, cultural lag of the parents on the other hand give negative attitude towards the girl's education. Mr safi ur rohoman ( 2018 ) :- the present study aim to research the Analysis of Parents Attitude towards Females Higher Education in Remote Areas .Females are essential and undeniable part of human population as they form half of the human society. Pakistan is considered amongst those countries where female literacy rate is low. Majority of the parents were in favour to educate their daughters in order to make them active member of society. The overall percentage of parents in favour of female education

Was 88% that was contradicting to the researchers conducted earlier in ruler areas of Punjab Province. Resisting factors for female education were found poverty, lack of awareness, traditional and cultural constraints, lack of conveniences and illiteracy among parents. Efforts should be made to provide physical facilities such as building of school, transportation and presence of female staff to make parents more contented towards female education after the analysis of the data it was concluded that many parents (88%) were in the favour of female education that was contradicting to research conducted by



Nevtaj and Naimatullah (2014) who found 52% parents to be in favour of boys' schooling as compared with that of girls. According to the results 60.5% of the respondents agreed with the statement that higher education teaches girls good manners that leads to make girls good house wives and also good mothers in future, however, it was overall 24% reported earlier by Shabbir et al. (2003). 51.5% respondents strongly agreed with the statement that educating female means educating family and it teaches good manners so females must pursue the education and this statements was not in accordance with findings in which education was considered to be a reason of bad practices for girls to which more than one-fifth of fathers (22.9%) agreed (Nevtaj and Naimatullah, 2014). The study showed that 39% of parents were in favours to allow their daughters to do job while 61% strongly disagreed with the statement.

### **Study Area**

The present study has been conducted in Kaliganj Block of Karimganj District, Assam. A Total of 30 households has been surveyed and collected data through a structured questionnaire.

**Objective:** The main objectives of the study are-

1. To find out the member of the parents who wants higher education for the girls child
2. To examine the impact of girls higher education on society
3. To examine the different problem faced the parent for the higher education of the girls child

### **Methodology:**

1. Coverage; the analytical part of the present study is based on primary data. The unit of the study is Kaliganj Bazaar, since this study is focused on the parent's opinion about the higher education of the girls' child. To examine what are the different problems faced by the parent for the higher education of their girls' child.
2. Sample size; A purposive sampling technique has been applied to collect samples. The total population of the study is 60 households/families. The study is a primary data based study which was conducted in Kaliganj Bazar, Karimganj. Out of the 60 families 30 families having girls' child have been visited for collecting data
3. Data is collected through a pre-tested structured schedule by the adopting interview method .the schedule contains a wide range of information about the parents qualification, occupation, how many member are in their family, number of the girls child, academic qualification of their girls child, what are the different problem they have face for the higher education of their girls child, what are the opinion about the higher education of the girls child etc.
4. Data analysis; data analysis part is carried out by applying statistical table, diagram etc

**Results and Discussions:**

This section comprises the tabular and diagrammatic presentation of the data collected for the study.

TABLE NO.1 OCCUPATION OF THE RESPONDENT

Parents	Business	Job
Male	23	7
Female	0	0
Total	23	7

Source: - field work

Table-1 shows the occupation of the respondent. Out of the 30 household 23 male parents are engaged in business and 7 males parents are doing job. In the above table it is seen that no female parent are earning.

TABLE NO.2 ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENT

Qualification	Number of the member
5+	2
8+	7
10+/HSLC	6
H.S	3
B.A	6
B.COM	2
B.SC	3
M.A	1
Total	30

Source: - field work

Above table shows that academic qualification of the respondent. Out of the 30 member 2 members was 5 passed, 7 member was 8 passed, 6 member was 10 passed, 3 member was H.S passed, 6 member was B.A passed, 2 members was B.COM passed, 3 member was B.SC passed and 1 was M.A passed.



TABLE NO. 3 NUMBR OF THE FAMILY MEMBER OF THE RESPONDENT

Family Size	No of the family
1-3	3
3-6	23
6-9	1
9-12	3

Source: - field work

In the above table shows that the family member of the respondent. 3 family have 1-3 member in their family , 23 family have 3-6 member in their family , 1 family have 6-9 members in their family and 3 family have 9-12 member in their family .

TABLE NO 4. EDUCATION QUALIFICATION OF THE GIRLS CHILD

Classes	Student
1-2	6
2-4	2
4-6	3
6-8	2
8-10	11
10-12	7
B.A	3
M.A	1
LLB	1

Source :- field work

Above table shows the qualification of girl's child. 6 student was 1-2 passed, 2 student was 2-4 passed , 3 student was 4-6 passed , 2 student was 6-8 passed , 11 student was 8-10 passed , 7 student was 10-12 passed , 3 student was B.A passed , 1 student was M.A passed and 1 student was LLB passed.

TABLE No. 5. SCHOLARSHIP OF THE GIRLS CHILD

Scholarship	Number of the girls child
CM	8
MLA	4
NSP	6
STS	1

Source: field work

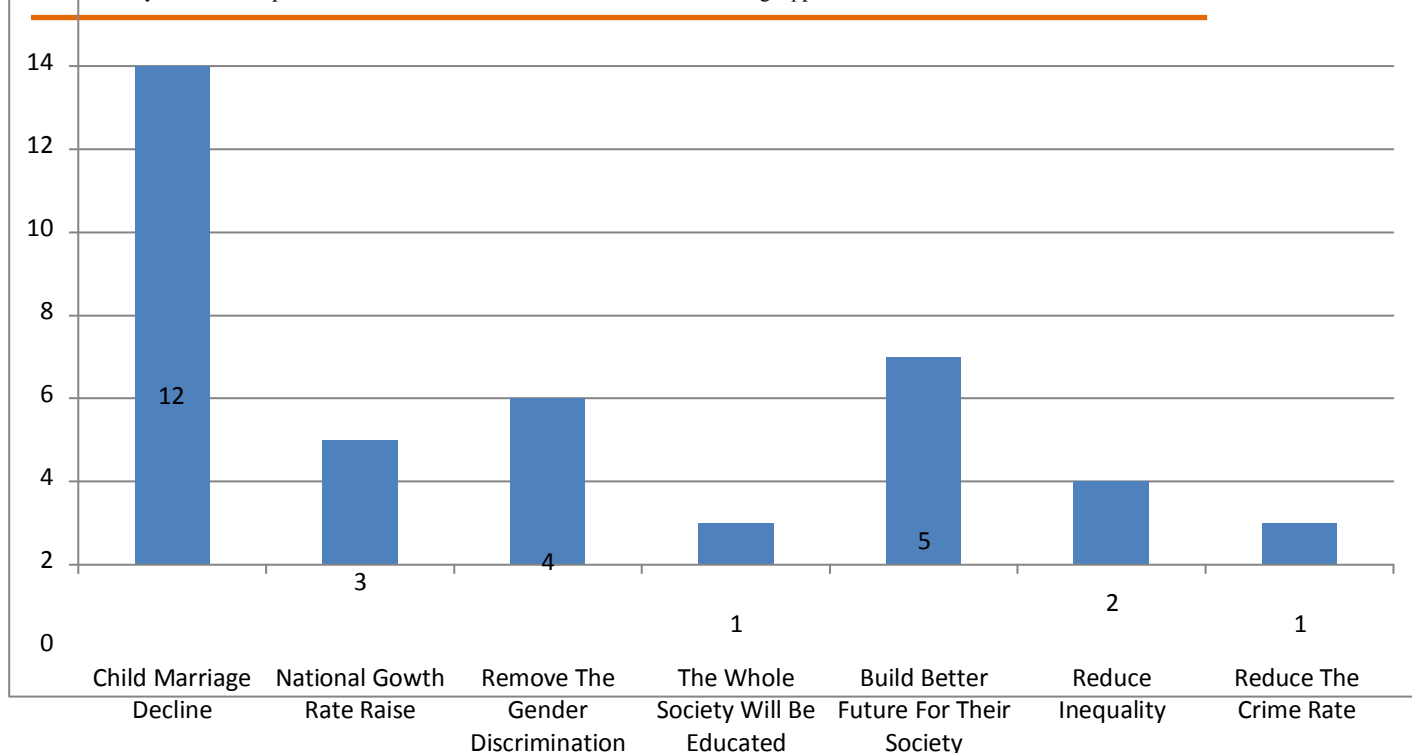
Above table shows the number of the girl's child who have a scholarship. 8 girls student are getting CM scholarship, 4 girls student have got MLA scholarship and 6 students are getting NSP scholarship and 1 student is getting STS scholarship.

TABLE NO. 6. IMPACT OF THE GIRLS HIGHE EDUCATION ON THE SOCIETY

Opinion	Number of the parents
Child marriage rate decline	12
National growth rate raise	3
Remove the gender discrimination	4
The whole society will be educated	1
Build better future for their society	5
Reduce inequality	2
Reduce the crime rate.	1
	i

Source: - field work

FIGURE: 1 IMPACT OF THE GIRLS HIGHER EDUCATION ON THE SOCIETY



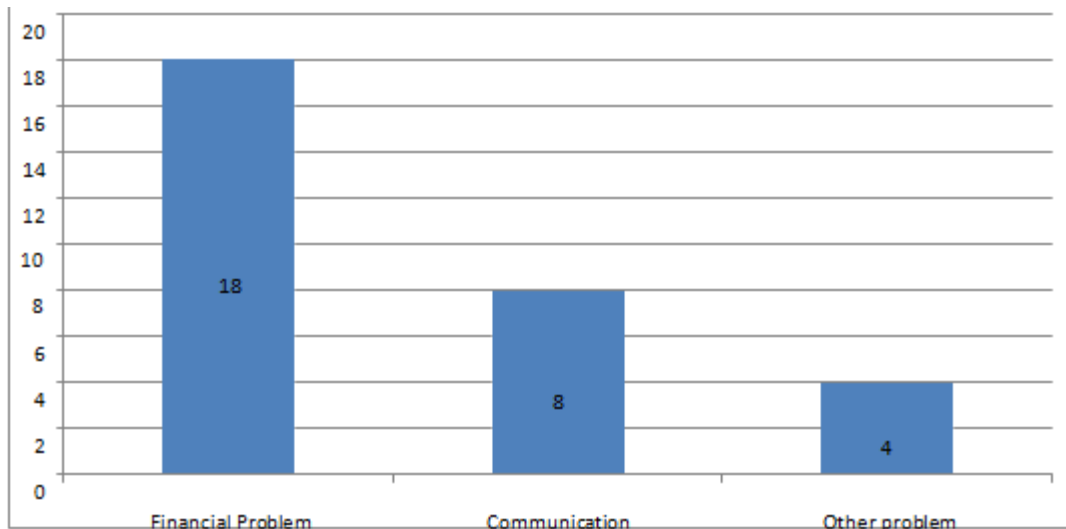
In the above diagram, vertical and horizontal axis represents the number of the parents and the opinion of the parents towards the higher education of the girl's child respectively. Girl's higher education can have several positive impacts on society. Many parents have given many opinions about the impact of higher education of the girl's child on society. Parents has given their opinion in the following way that girls education will lead national growth rate increase , remove the gender discrimination , the whole society will be educated , build better future their child , reduce the inequality and reduce the crime rate . In the past, it was believed that education of girls was not necessary and their primary role was to get married , have children and take care of the household but At that time in the above diagram we can see that maximum parents gave their opinion that girls education and child marriage is negatively related .

TABLE NO.7 DIFFERENT PROBLEM ARE FACED BY PARENT

problems	Number of the parent
Financial problem	18
Communication problem	8
Other problems	4

Source: - field work

**FIGURE 2. DEFFRENT PROBLRM ARE FACED BY PARENT**



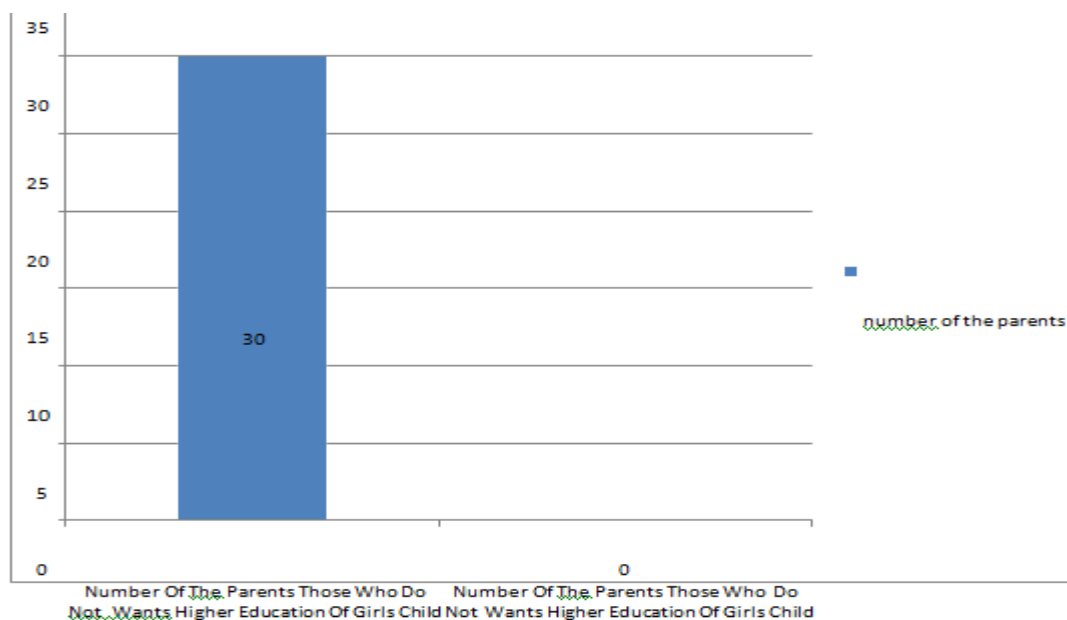
the above diagram, vertical and horizontal axis represents the number of the parents and the different problem they have to face for the higher education of the girls child .In the above diagram we can see that maximum parents i.e., 18 parents are facing financial problem to send their children for higher education. In the rural area maximum people depends on the agriculture sector so they cannot earn more money to spend on their girl's higher education. Some parents 8 parents in this study are facing problems of communication they are not accessing proper communication facility. Rest of the parents are facing various other problems.

TABLE NO.8 NUMBER OF THE PARENTS THOSE WHO WANTS HIGHER EDUCATION OF THEIR GIRLS CHILD

	Number of the parent
Number of the parents those who wants higher education of girls child	30
Name of the parents those who do not wants higher education of girls child	0

Source: - field work

FIGURE 2. NUMBER OF THE PARENTS THOSE WHO WANTS HIGHER EDUCATION OF THEIR GIRLS CHILD



In the above diagram, vertical and horizontal axis represent the number of the parents and the number of the parents those who want higher education of the girls child and those who do not want higher education of the girls child. Out of 60 families (parents) data collected 30 families (parents). 30 parents want their girl child to be educated.

**Important Finding:-**

1. All the 30 parents are want to girls will be higher educated
2. Out of the 30 parents 12 parents gave their opinion that if girls will be highly educated than the society child marriage rate decline
3. Out of the 30 parents 18 parents are facing the financial problems because people are live in rural areas so they cannot spend more money on the higher education of the girls child.

**Recommendation:**

1. On the basis of the economic background and occupation of the girl's parents government should

Provide the sufficient amount of scholarship.

2. Better employment opportunities and income generation plans would go a long way in improving the financial status of the poor rural parents. they can earn more money and interest in education all their children
3. An awareness campaign on the necessity of the girl's education can be organized for the rural parents. It is very much important to make the uneducated parents realized that girls are not a burden but a pride for the parents
4. An awareness campaign regarding the facilities provided by the government for the girls education can be organized for the poor rural parents.

**Conclusion:**

The girl child of India is tomorrow's woman, if tomorrow's woman is to become equal partner with men there is a great need to accord the girl child her rightful share of dignity and opportunity. The present study is an attempt to examine the parent's opinion or attitude about the higher education of their girls child. It is clear for the study that parents give importance to their daughter higher education even in rural area the

stereotyped mind of people about the educational of their daughter has been changed. The study also highlights that parents are also willing to spend money on their daughter education But in the rural area people cannot spend more money for their children education so it is necessary to government provide some facilities like scholarship , income opportunities etc for the higher education of the girls child .

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