

Modernity and Attitude Towards Changing Status of Women

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Abstract

Indian Women have traveled with the time for centuries and have proved to the world that the hand that rocks cradle can rule the world too. The role of women in the various spheres of life has contributed in the evolution of values which can be considered as all-round progress. Indian society has from the very beginning been a dynamic society and has seldom refused spontaneous changes from outside. It is however generally accepted that a change in the status of women is a good indicator of the pattern and direction of social change. If the direction of that change is towards a more egalitarian distribution of roles between men and women in tune with the constitutional directives the direction of change is wholesome. The proposed research work is an attempt to unfold the various aspects of Modernity and Attitude towards changing status of women.

Keywords: Working women, Modernity, Society, Social Changes, Constitutional Values etc.

Introduction:

Women's movement in India has grown out of Male Reformists efforts in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. New Woman' is an outcome of feminist movement from the West which concentrates on the freedom of woman from the clutches of the male. She is not "life contracted unpaid workers" as Germaine Greer has observed and she is always conscious for her rights and identity as a woman. In India It was bourgeoisie feminist movement involving middle class women who campaigned for extension of educational opportunities and voting rights and later property rights. The reformists of the last century infused in their women relatives their favourite ideologies and encouraged them to participate in public life through forming association and holding conferences, the idea was to project a progressive image to impress Britain in order to win more political power. The Gandhian era and the decades after Independence have seen tremendous functional changes in the status and position of Hindu Women in Indian Society.

The emergence of Modern Indian Womanhood in an era of significant change in the position of Women is specially marked in the beginning of the 20th century. When social change through western education and the movement of progress and Modernization begin to cast their direct impact on Indian Society. Process of Industrialization, Urbanization and to some extent Westernization also seems to working in Society more rapidly after Independence to Produce their desirable influences.

The constitution has laid down as a fundamental right the equality of the sexes, but the change from a position of utter degradation of women in the 19th century to a position of equality in the middle of the 20th century is not a simple case of progress of women in the modern era. The position of women in Indian society is very complicated. In fact it would not be an exaggeration

to say that the recent changes in the status of women in India is not a sign of Progress but is really a recapturing of the position that they have held in the early Vedic Period.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To know whether Women would like to adopt western Culture or Traditional Indian Culture
2. To know the impact of Modernization on Women participation in Politics.
3. To know whether Modernization has brought any attitudinal changing in family life Style.

Sampling Procedure:

Different kind of sampling techniques were used at different stages of the survey. Jehanabad district was selected through purposive sampling for the reason that it best suited the need of selecting a poor and backward district. At the very outset the working women were requested to participate sincerely in the present study which was expected to reveal many important points concerning their status, problem socio economic background and other social aspects related to them. To make the samples fairly representative, the samples were categorized in various quotas on prior judgment. 200 samples were taken to conduct the study. The samples were drawn by the use of purposive sampling method. An interview schedule was prepared to collect the information from the respondents. The respondents were selected from working women of different Mohalla residing in Jehanabad town. The interview schedule consisted many questions of a closed nature and a few were open ended. Schedule were filled up by a personal interview of the subjects.

Limitations:

Due to limited number of samples the results of research might not be replicable in other districts. Results may not be generalized for other districts due to many other constraints like Geography, Time Period, Budget and Human Resources.

Methodology

After collecting the data, the data each schedule was checked for consistency and completeness the responses were categorized and coded. The codes were transferred to the matter sheet. It was tabulated and used for analysis of the data. It is exploratory and descriptive in nature.

Literature Review

There are various studies that have aimed to examine the impact of Modernization on the status and role of working women. Some studies related to modernization and social-psychological factors have been done in western countries as well as in our country also.

Achi Reddy (1990) discussed the socio-economic factors on working conditions of women construction labourers in Hyderabad. Wage discriminations and sexual exploitation are said to be the constant cry of these women.

Rajendra Prasad Jaiswal (1993) was reported workingwomen have achieved a position of authority and recognition with regard to salary spending.

Sanjay Kethan Jana (1993) studied “Working women and modernization” based on the assumption that urbanization, education and employment have brought about significant changes in attitude and behaviour of working women in respect of family.

Yadava (1995) has studied the relationship between women’s status and fertility. He observed statistically significant association between women’s status and caste, socio-economic status of household, educational and occupational status of husband.

Park, Juhee, (1997) observed that most of the women professors perceive that husband and families have positive attitudes towards their roles.

Deepali singh, (1999) found the effect of stress factor on men and women are not different. Coping strategies are clear in both the cases but approaches are different.

Analysis and Findings

The following are the major findings from the research study

- Nearly 80 percent of respondents agreed that they have a different attitude regarding their life style. It was observed that the attitude of working women were different from their sisters and Sisters-in law who are not working and engaged in only household activities.

Response if any differences	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	160	80.00
No	40	20.00
Total	200	100.00

Table : Difference of Attitude among working and non- working women

- Nearly 60 percent working women have given their opinion in favor of traditional Culture and 35 percent wanted to adopt the good points to both the cultures.

Response	Respondents	Percentage
Western	10	5
Traditional	120	60
Mixed	70	35
Total	200	100

Table : whether to adopt western Culture or Traditional Culture

- About 55 percent respondents agreed that Modernization has motivated them to have interest in Politics, nearly 45 percent said that in spirit of Modernization they are not keen to show interest in Politics.

Response	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	110	55
No	90	45
Total	200	100

Table : Modernization motivation in Working Women

- About 40 percent respondents have changed their life style as a result of Modernization. While sixty percent remains the same.

Response	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	79	40
No	121	60
Total	200	100

Table : Attitudinal change due to modernization

Conclusions and suggestions

On the basis of the present study from the perspectives of gender and sociology, the following suggestions can be made.

As co-existence of both men and women at workplace is almost going to be an irreversible reality for generations to come, gender sensitization in every profession is urgent and necessary for men and women separately as well as in groups.

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