

SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND ITS POSITIVE EFFECTS ON FAMILY PLANNING PRACTICES: A CASE STUDY OF DISTRICT SHIKARPUR, SINDH.

Sociology

Santosh Kumar^{††††} & Kehar Khan Khoso^{††††}

ABSTRACT

Women empowerment has been prime need of hour especially in those countries where socio-economic stability of any state is at stakes. To turn blind eyes towards the prosperity of women is equal to ignoring the half of population of Pakistan. Hence, women empowerment has significant relationship with family planning practices. This research paper tries to explore the effects of women empowerment in family family planning practices and its ultimate effect on the growing population. The universe of the study is the district Shikarpur. The data was collected through purposive sampling selecting 384 respondents for the research work. The SPSS was applied to analyze the statistical data. The obtained results showed that calculated chi-square value is greater than the tabulated values with p-value of 0.000 which shows that the women empowerment greatly affect the family planning practices in rural areas of Pakistan especially sindh. Due to lack of women empowerment people in rural areas avoid to use the modern methods of the family planning thereby adding fuel to the fire in population explosion.

Key Words

Women empowerment, Rural areas, Over Population and Family Planning.

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Women empowerment has been crucial issue these days especially in those areas where women are treated with jaundice eyes. The biased and prejudicial attitude towards the women has resulted in utter despair which has affected our

^{††††} Lecturer Department of Sociology, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur

^{††††} Deputy Director HR, University of Balochistan, Quetta.

new generation in every walk of life. Nipolean was right in his statement when he proclaimed, "Give me the empowered mother, I will give you the empowered nation"

In the light of the above statement, it is concluded that empowered mother can wisely handle the home as well as outside state of affairs. It is a matter of very sorrowness that in our society women have been kept as down trodden where the concept for women has been weak and meek. Women in rural areas are not in the position to take their own decisions for the betterment of the family but they have to be in the subordinate state.

Not only women have been tortured to low status but they have been discriminated in family works also. This less privileged state of affair has greatly hindered the family planning practices as the result the population of our country is hanging like the sword of Damocles over the head of the nation.

Our population of Pakistan is nearly half of the women population. To ignore the half population and treating them with secondary status can only result in colossal catastrophe in social as well as in economic sector. Infact; it is due to this dilemma that under developing countries are not in the position to keep their space at par with the devolving nations who have been prioritizing women in every walk of life. Thus, for the suitable suitability of family unit, women have to be treated at par with men so that there may not be feelings of inferiority complex on the part of women. It has been proved in the research that those women who are empowered, they bring their family up on sound footing and the prosperity of the family has been very fate of those families where women are empowered.

1.3 Problem Statement

The down trodden state of women in our society has brought social as well economic decadences which have resulted into destabilization of family structure. The women who stand on their feet and who take their decisions at their disposal can render the services of family more smoothly rather than down trodden women. Moreover, empowered women encourage their partners to use the family planning for the better suitability of family unit.

1.3 Significance of the study

This study is very important in domain of women studies because it provides knowledge to the researchers that empowered mother in family can better handle the family affairs than less empowered women. Women on their own footings can bring the destiny of house provided that she is not treated with jaundice eyes. This research will intimate the scholars that due attention to women is prime need of the

hour if and if socio-economic stability of the family is desired for the ultimate betterment of family.

1.4 Research Objective

- To examine effect of women empowerment in family planning
- To detect the secondary position of women in our society.
- To investigate the wrong philosophies of people regarding womenempoverment.
- To explore the barriers in s women empowerment..

1.5 Research Methodology

1.5.1 Research Design:

In this research, we have applied both techniques i.e. qualitative and quantitative. The primary data was collected from district Shikarpur, Sindh where as secondary data was accumulated from newspapers, research journals and internet.

1.5.2 Population

The population of the research is married couples of the District Shikarpur containing four talukas 1.Shikarpur city 2.Garhi Yasin 3.Lakhi 4.Khanpur.Total married couples in the District Shikarpur are 159337 which is as per 1998 census of District Shikarpur.

1.5.3 Sample size

The sample size was calculated in scientific way by applying the statistical formula for sample size calculation which as as under:

$$N = \frac{t^2 \times p(1-p)}{m^2}$$

Description:

n=Required sample size.

t=Confidence level at 95% (stander value is 1.96).

p=Approximated prevalence rate of family planning.

m =Margin of error at 5 % (standard value is 0.05).

The sample size through this formula comes to 384.

1.5.4 Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling in this research was used because for family planning we have to only contact with the married couples who use family planning methods where as unmarried couples were ignored in the research.

1.5.5 Tools for Analysis

In order to analyze the data quantitively (SPSS 17 version and Microsoft Excel) was used.Chai-square test, likilehood ration and p-value were detected through these software.

2.0 Literature Review.

Morrison (1995) intimated that working status and lack of decision powers will greatly affect the family planning practices. Women with good qualification, sound financial conditions and due share in decision powers are supposed to be the more frequent adoption of family planning practices rather than women with low qualification and less sound footings. Women with higher education have been found requesting their husbands more frequently to use family planning methods.

Ravindran (1993) intimated that lack of decision power in women have been main stumbling bloc in family planning practices due to which there have been long leap in population explosion.

Orbuloye (1997) informed that women having low decision power are not in the position to get due interval in consequents births as compared to women who are privileged with more decision powers. Family planning rate was high in working women and low fertility rate was also main characteristics of empowered women.

Lloyd (1991) has also proved in his research the perfect correlation between women empowerment and family planning practices in Pakistani societies. Women in rural areas are not in the position to take their decisions as the result they have been found to have more children as compared to the urban areas women who are more empowered.

Mahmood (1977) intimated that the speed in fertility can be greatly decreased in Pakistan by inculcating in the minds of people the better understanding of Islamic teachings and family planning education. People are in desperate deed of the family planning awareness and clear interpretation of religious philosophies need to be fused in the minds of people regarding the concept of the family planning.

Manzoor (1991) reported that adoption of the family planning was wrongly influenced by cultural obligations and religious misinterpretations. In the light of the above discussion, it will be fruitful if masses are handled in such a manner that they do not misinterpret the religious philosophies and people should be broad minded enough to use the family planning practices frequently.

2.1 Quantitative Analysis

2.1.1 Verification of Hypothesis

HO= There is no relation in women empowerment and family planning.

H1=Women empowerment is likely related with the family planning.

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Man should discuss the matters of family planning with wife * Family Planning Practices	384	100.0%	0	.0%	384	100.0%

Women empowerment * Family Planning Practices Crosstabulation

Count

	Family Planning Practices			Total
	Frequently	Sometime	Not at all	
Man should discuss matters of family planning with wife	Agree 47	35	40	122
	Disagree 29	81	30	140
	Not at all 35	65	22	122
Total	111	181	92	384

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	392.718	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	411.027	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	248.318	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	384		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 7.79.

Symmetric Measures

	Value	Asymp. Error(a)	Approx. T(b)	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal Contingency Coefficient	.711			.000
Interval by Interval Pearson's R	.805	.016	26.539	.000
Ordinal by Ordinal Spearman Correlation	.808	.019	26.759	.000
N of Valid Cases	384			

- a Not assuming the null hypothesis.
- b Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.
- c Based on normal approximation.

Pearson Chi-Square Value	392.718
Degree of Freedom	4
p- value	.000
Calculated Chi-Square Value	9.49

2.1.2 Interpretation of chi-Square test for verification of hypothesis.

As calculated value of chi-square test is obtained as 392.718 and tabulated value of chi-square is 9.49, it means calculated value is greater than tabulated hence our working hypothesis i.e. H1 is correct. From the above values, we come to conclusion that women empowerment greatly affect the family planning practices. Greater the women empowerment, greater will be the family planning practices where as lesser is women empowerment, the lesser will be the family planning practices. Linear by linear relationship is 248.318 which show that there is strong relationship in women empowerment and family planning practices. Here the degree of freedom is 04 with p-value 0.000 which shows that there is strong relationship between the variables and there is significance attachment among the different variables. The value of significance which we took in the research is 0.05 which indicates that the margin of error is 5% not more than that but we have received the ($p < 0.05$) it means there is no chances of error and our working hypothesis hence is 100% correct.

2.1.3 Interpretation of the Contingency table i.e. Bi-Variate Tabulation

In contingency table, we have bi-variate tabulation which means dependency of one variable on the other variable. This shows what is the influence of women

empowerment on the family planning practices. In the questionnaire, it is asked from the people that men should discuss the matters of family planning with wives. Those respondents who have agreed with this statement, they use the family planning frequently and the frequency of respondents of this category is i.e. frequently= 47, sometime =35 and not at all = 40 respectively. Those who do not agree with this statement, these people do not use the family planning frequently and the frequency of this category of people is i.e. frequently=29, sometime =81 and not at all =30. Those people who say not at all, they are also not using the family planning practices more frequently and the frequency of such people are frequently=35, Sometime=65 and not at all=22.

2.3 Recommendation.

1. Government of Pakistan Should try to pay more attention towards the women literacy rate because education is the only factor which can empower women to stand on their feet.
2. Government should reserve the quota indifferent vacancies especially in competitive examinations so that women can be encouraged to take interest in their education.
3. Religious scholars and ulemas should be taken into confidence by the NGOs to aware allow their women to acquire the higher education because women in rural areas have been found to work within the four walls of their houses..
4. Private as well as Government institutes try to prioritize the women to come out from their families to stand on their feet .This step will morally boost up the women to render their services outside of the home for economic suitability.
5. Media should be encouraged by the Governments and NGOs to launch the positive advertisements regarding women empowerment especially in the field of education.

CONCLUSION

- 1 .From the above interpretation of statistical analysis, it is concluded that those people who are influenced by women empowerment ,they use the family planning practices more frequently, where as those people who are not influenced by the women empowerment, they do not use family planning more frequently.

2. Chi-square value shows that there is relationship between women empowerment and family planning practices.
3. p-value has shown that people are more inclined towards the women empowerment s use the family planning practices more frequently.
4. Those people who are unaware regarding the use of family planning, they also face hindrances in family planning practices.

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