

Parent's Attitude towards Girl's Higher Education in District Dera Bugti, Balochistan

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Abstract

Education is a complete process by which a person obtains knowledge and abilities to make him/her to be able to help and support completely towards the consequential growth related to the society. Educational obtainment is a major constituent related to the success of female adults in several specialties which include such as labor promotion, maintain health of their own and the future of their children and later on. This article was written after a comprehensive research on the attitude of the parents that how they perceive the education for their daughters and how they react when the daughters want to pursue higher education. The factors that affect this attitude of the parents are also examined in this article. Along the descriptive analysis, the quantitative method of analysis is also applied for this research. Four tables with 150 respondents were also devised for this research and the recommendations were given keeping in view the results of the tables.

Keywords

Dera Bugti, Higher Education, Parents, Girls, Schools and Colleges, Early Marriage, Development, Insurgency, Literacy Rate, Poverty.

Introduction

Without any modicum of doubt, education is the insight that leads the humans toward development and success. Here development is meant by the attainment of all the facilities for a smooth and prosperous life. Education upgrades the living standards of the people and uplifts the intellectual insight of the people. To attain education in the best possible manner to is be able to discern between the good and evil and either exploit others or get exploited. Female are the torchbearers of the uplifting of the entire generation, their needs and rights cannot be and ought not to be ignored (Akram, 2018).

However, this not the case with the female of Dera Bugti who are suffering from abysmal female illiteracy and the dropout of the girls is incredibly higher as compared to any other district as they move toward higher secondary schools. This study examines the mindset of the parents and gauges their attitude toward the higher education of their girls. However, the tables which are given below show that the parents do have the will to help their daughters continue their studies and pursue higher studies, but there are also factors that push the parents to the tight corner making them choose between the girls' education and other societal challenges (Alam, 2015).

There exist various social discrimination, customs and standards that restrict women to access education and particularly higher education. The older beliefs and traditions like isolation of women, veiling as well as separation of women from men. Women ultimately get married and uselessness investment towards their education are the most important aspects

related to the attitude of parents, more specifically uneducated parents to women education.

(Farooq, 1994)

Besides this the unequal social as well as economic intensity of development and communal stratification badly influence women position. False progress leads towards poverty as well illiteracy. The region of Dera Bugti is the worst in terms of education and the condition of the female education is even more appalling. Dera Bugti can by no means compete with other districts of Baluchistan in any field pertaining to education. The schools are dilapidated and the male dominated tribal society is averse to encourage female education (Ibrahim, 2015).

Issues that affect the attitude of the parents toward educating their daughters

There is no denying the fact that Dera Bugti is one of the most backward areas of Balochistan, in fact, of entire country. It has been the epicenter of the insurgency from the very outset of the partition and it has remained an insecure and unstable region for the people to work on development or to engage in other relevant activities (Ibrahim, 2015).

The tribal system has been dominant in this region for hundreds of years and in spite of the rapid pace of modernization, Dera Bugti has not benefited much from the given pace of modernization. Education is the key to success and the cornerstone of modernization and development, yet the literacy rate of Dera Bugti is one of the lowest in entire Balochistan. In addition to that, the situation of this area has remained the center of a low intensity insurgency since 2005 which was escalated to its peak during 2006 when Nawab Akbar Bugti was killed in a clash with the then president and retired General Parvez Musharraf. As a matter of fact, due to insurgency, this region has not received much focus of the politicians

and much attention for development and due to lack of security, the NGOs as well as the people from the civil society have not come here either to oversee some developmental activities (Saleem, 2014).

Therefore, the educational sector has been affected the most. On the other hand, the mindset of the people is still quite comprehensively tribal and it inclines toward a male dominated society where the male children are preferred over the girls in every aspect of life which also includes the attainment of education.

First of all, the parents are not quite rich enough to provide enough financial facilities to all of their children to attain education. If they can provide certain facilities to their children, then their preference will be the male children. Therefore, it can be considered that the poverty is one of the key points which mold the attitude of the parents toward their children when it comes to educating them (Nawab, 2011).

Poverty is so overriding that the parents consider their daughters as some sort of burden and want to get rid of them as soon as they reach puberty. Therefore, the custom of early age marriages is also quite in vogue in Dera Bugti where the girls are married at the age of 13 to 15 years mostly. Only few of the girls whose parents are well off get higher education and those who get higher education, they also get the chance to work and seek employment and they also get the chance to marry at a later age after teen period (Shawani, 2011).

However, certain families are few and far between in Dera Bugti as most of the families live hand to mouth. To further make it precise, another factor that molds the attitude of the parents is the tribal mindset.

The structure of the society is designed so that the male are considered physically and mentally much superior as compared to women and the former are allowed to rule and dictate them. In this tribal mindset, male is the superior force in the family and the female are at their mercy. Though, this mindset has softened over the years, it is still in vogue in the far flung areas.

Dera Bugti is not a highly urbanized society and the population is still scattered in different large chunks of rural settlements that mostly are at par with each other. The tribal fights if ignited once continue to consume the tribes' energy and forces for decades. The structure of the society is such that the female are not encouraged to attain higher education (Waseem, 2013).

They perceive the female education, especially higher education, as a sort of modernization which will no longer bring them under control and the female would then demand more freedom and space and would resist their dictation. For the very reason, they are not encouraged to attain higher education. It is against their tribal customs to allow a female to dictate their policies and question their traditions (Hoodbhoy, 2009).

Another factor that molds the attitude of the parents is the provision of the facilities on the part of the government. For years this region has been ignored in every aspect of life and this oblivious attitude of the successive governments has further alienated the people and further the people have become disenchanted with the ruling elite (Dorn, 2006).

The performance of Dera Bugti on the chart of Human Development Index is quite poor which is to a greater extent the fault of the successive regimes ruling the province. The local politicians too have not contributed much to the prosperity of the local population. This

lack of facilitation also includes the infrastructure of the schools and colleges which is also another reason behind molding the attitude and behavior of the parents toward educating their children, more specifically, their daughters.

With the lack of facilities, the schools and colleges are mostly in shabby conditions and the dilapidated school building can anytime cause an obnoxious accident. Furthermore, the schools and colleges are mostly boys' schools and colleges and the girls are completed to study along them which the tribal customs do not permit (Willing, 2000).

For the very reason, the girls dropout of the schools and colleges as soon as they pass the middle or matric. There is another issue that the schools and colleges are not available in every town. The students have to in some extreme cases walk miles to reach the schools and colleges. If the girls are small, they can travel in groups to reach the schools and colleges, but as soon as they come of age, they are discouraged by their parents to go out to travel such long distances.

Thus, it is proven that the parents in Dera Bugti are not mostly in favor of the higher education of girls as they are heavily under the influence of the tribal customs and the tribal structure of the society does force them to drop their daughters out of schools and colleges as they come of age (Khan, 2013).

Given this prevalent of mindset, the majority of the female in this region are not quite literate and most of the girls quit their education as they pass their middle or matric and very few of them reach the college level. It is quite ironical that several governments have come, but they did not realize the fact that to end this insurgency the best tool was to introduce some sort of development starting with greater facilities of education.

The local educational authorities are equally responsible for the backwardness of Dera Bugti whereas the other districts have registered tremendous improvement in the Human Development Index which is only possible through a healthy educational structure (Malik, 1992).

The towns where the schools are available, they are mostly ghost schools as the teachers are not regularly present there. Many teachers have moved to other parts of Baluchistan due to insurgency, but they continue to receive their salaries and the students continue to face teachers' absentee which further pushes the towns toward illiteracy. The result of the ghost teachers is the massive scale of dropout of the children from the schools.

In this regard, the teachers are responsible and the educational authorities at the district level are responsible because they tend to behave in an oblivious manner and their negligent attitude hardens the attitude of the parents to discourage their daughters from attaining higher education (Mengal, 2015).

Table 1

These tables were distributed among 150 respondents who were hailing from Dera Bugti. These 150 parents were informed and their consent was taken to take their views about their perceptions of female education. Also the problems that affect their attitude were discussed with them. The questions were then put through the SPSS and then their views were analyzed.

Sr.	Statements.	Yes		No	
		F	%	F	%
1.	Is your girl child getting higher education?	120	80.0	30	20.0
2.	Are you in favor of girl's education?	110	73.3	40	26.7
3.	Are you in favor of providing higher education for girls?	90	60.0	60	40.0
4.	Have you provided equal opportunities to your all children regarding higher education?	40	26.7	110	73.3

All the questions and their responses given in the above given table show that the objective of the article has been proven. The above given questions demonstrate the attitude of the parents toward their children on the part of educating them, especially, their daughters. 120 of them were saying yes their girls were getting higher education and 30 of them were saying no. the percentage of the table was the following. 80 percent was yes and 20 percent was no. 110 of them were saying yes they are in favor of girl's education and 40 of them were saying no. the percentage of the table was the following. 73.3 percent was yes and 26.7 percent was no. Most of the respondents were of the view that they are in favor of girls' education and in favor of providing equal opportunities to their daughters which are given to their sons. Most of the respondents were of the view that the parents are in favor of providing higher education to the girls on equal footing with that of the boys among whom 90 persons said yes and 60

persons said responded in a negative manner. All these questions were endorsing the objective of the article which is 'To examine the attitude of parents about higher education of girls in Dera Bugti'. The objective is proven; it is true that in Dera Bugti, the attitude of the parents is highly fluctuating when it comes to the higher education or even education of the female children.

Table 2

The frequency and percentage of question regarding our traditional norms and girls marriage are barriers for getting higher education.

Sr. Statements	Strongly agree		Agree		undecided		Disagree		Strongly disagree	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1. <i>Our traditional norms are10</i>	6.7	110	73.3	2	1.3	18	12.0	10	6.7	
<i>against getting higher education</i>										
<i>for girls?</i>										
2. <i>Parents consider that girl's</i>	29	19.3	80	53.3	11	7.3	22	14.7	8	5.3
<i>marriage is more important</i>										
<i>than education?</i>										

Most of the respondents were of the view that the cultural mindset has been designed in a certain pattern which curtails the female education. in addition to that, most of the

respondents were of the view that the middle class families do prefer the marriage of the girls over higher education. Both these questions again endorse the objective of the article which is to reveal the attitude of the parents toward the education of their daughters. As far as their attitude is concerned, their attitude and perceptions have been molded by the customs, traditions and tribal norms imposed on them. Thus, the attitude of the parents is affected by them. The objective was to establish a relationship between the attitude of the parents and the education of the female children and the given tables prove that.

Discussion

It has become obvious that the parents do want a bright future for their children irrespective of their gender differences, but the tribal customs and the tribal structure added by the lack of facilities and poverty paralyze their thinking.

Early marriage is a custom in Dera Bugti which is not in vogue because the parents are pleased with this malicious practice; in fact, they are compelled by poverty to decide otherwise. Poverty is such a burden that they cannot bear the expenses of the girls as they come of age; therefore, the parents are compelled to get them married at early ages.

In accordance with the constitution of Pakistan and its article 25A, all the children irrespective of their language, religion, cast and color be enrolled at schools and it is the responsibility of the government to provide them all the assistance required to complete their primary education. Then it is the shared responsibility of the parents and the government to ascertain that the children get higher education.

As a matter of fact, the government has failed to establish this article in reality in Dera Bugti as the overwhelming majority of the children are still out of schools. About 89 percent

of the children at Dera Bugti are not enrolled at all which, much to our chagrin, is the highest in Baluchistan. There is no other place in Baluchistan where such a large number of students are out of the schools. It is quite appalling, but the government has no remorse over it.

The people of Dera Bugti by all means are backward citizens and they must be treated accordingly so they can get justice. The National Commission on Human Development must comply with the constitution of Pakistan and must oblige by its article 22 (4) which says that the backward citizens must be provided with all the necessary facilities which will steer them to the equal status and competition with the other advanced citizens of the country.

The parents must also be counseled over the matter of encouraging their children for higher education and discouraging the early age marriages. The parents are mostly illiterate and they do not have any sort of counseling, therefore, they sometimes under the financial pressure or external pressures cannot decide the best choice for their children in spite of being the well-wishers of their children. Therefore, the government must take this responsibility to counsel the parents on various issues pertaining to higher education of female in Dera Bugti.

Insurgency and the threats of insurgency in Dera Bugti are effecting a larger population and not a minority. The psychological impacts are far more serious and there is need to cope with this issue. Psychological impact is considered to be a serious issue as it affects the overall life style of the population especially female.

Students are the future of every country but when the future is targeted the whole state is at stake. social factors are affecting most of the families as they have made their

perceptions about the schools and colleges that institutions are not safe and they do not let their children study any further, the threat of being killed or injured is always in their minds, lack of self-confidence and self-defense is another factor.

The mindset of the people is now set that these places are no safer for our children but there are majority of people who do not have the courage to fight such issue along with a fear within their hearts.

The target societies and deals with the social psychologies of the coping, anticipating and preparing the psychological aspects of education institutes. Furthermore, the author includes the diversities of responses after the attacks and how it is effecting the enrollment of female population for educational sector in targeted areas.

Without any shadow of doubt, there is seen a huge decrease in the enrollment of female students in the hostile areas and it is a challenge for the academics as well government institutions to overcome people from these traumas. There is huge need to bring about change in the mentality of people and help them overcome the challenges and it can be done through awareness risings, resilient activities and building confidence among people.

To put it plainly, instability is high in the province and in such conditions the educational sector is facing huge problems. The current situation does not only affect the lives of the learners but also families. Most of the families are not in favor of sending their girls at schools and consider this as an act of honor. Education the most important key factor to reach economic development is now being targeted by the development enemies and Pakistan is severely stuck in this issue.

Along with statistics the number and types of attacks on students, teachers, schools and colleges, the insecurity has intensified. They described that these insurgencies and military actions causes families to internal displacement which put a broader impact on the educational sector than ever. This shows the weaknesses and the inadequate protection of the students.

Conclusion

An exhaustive and comprehensive analysis of the attitude of the parents toward educating their girls while taking Dera Bugti as a case study, it was revealed that the parents do want to get their daughters through education, but the problems they face are so comprehensively dominating that they cannot materialize their dreams.

To make it further precise, it is true that the tribal structure and its customs have affected the mindset of the parents which makes them conservative, but it is also true that they want to get their children educated. The primary factors that hinder the literacy rate have preoccupied the parents mindset, thus, their attitude has been molded accordingly.

To sum up, the examination of the attitude of the parents reveals that the mindset of the parents is easily affected by the environment of the society as the overwhelming majority of the parents are illiterate who are not quite acquainted with the importance of education. For the very reason, the students, especially, the female students do not get the opportunity to get enrolled in the colleges and, thus, are deprived of a bright future.

Recommendations

Following are the main recommendations which if implemented will prove instrumental in shifting the mindset of the parents and molding their attitude toward favoring the female to get higher education.

- Since the impediments in the way of female education, especially, the higher education are too many, the government, the civil servants and the local political representatives have to come forward and play their vital role in changing the mindset of the parents and persuade them to encourage their daughters to get higher education.
- The government has to make the initiative of renovating the entire educational infrastructure in Dera Bugti. The already existing schools and colleges need to be refurbished and plans have to be made to build new schools and colleges. The schools and colleges must contain the facilities for female students and the new schools and colleges must be in every possible town. If the government cannot provide schools and colleges to every rural town, then the government must provide buses and other transportation means so that the parents do not feel insecure while sending their children to other towns for higher education. Colleges must be built as well since the numbers of colleges are way too few so that the girls get greater opportunities to study at the colleges.
- The parents do want to get their children educated to the highest possible level, but the real problem they face is poverty. Owing to poverty, the parents cannot get their daughters through higher studies as they cannot bear the expenses and due to this reason, the parents prefer to get their children married at the early ages over education.

If the government really wants to end the custom of early marriages and wants to reduce the poor female literacy rate, then the government must take the initiative of scholarships for

the female students who want to continue their studies to avoid early marriages. Without the financial support from the government, the girls will continue to face this social injustice.

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