

Women disempowerment in Baloch and Pashtoon culture of Baluchistan; causes and constraints

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Abstract:

In terms of area, Balochistan constitute the largest province of Pakistan: however, it has the lowest population density in the country. It is considered a backward province that lacks industrialization and infrastructure. Inhabitants are traditional in their culture and rites. Hence, women are marginalized and deprived of their basic right and opportunities. The purpose of the current study is to examine the women empowerment which was constraints by the number of factor. Women of Balochistan have the potential to participate in every sphere of life. However, they are constraints to domestic chores rather than to serve the society beyond the boundaries of home with respect and dignity. This disempowerment is due to socio-cultural restrictions, which causes financial and economic difficulty for women in the province. Lack of self-confidence, conservative family background, and lack of support from the government are the few factors which cause disempowerment of women. Women are supposed to be remained within the boundaries of house. Generally, they have no such permission to access the outside without the consent of their male member. As a matter of fact, they are not permitted to contribute in the earning of household by approaching outside the home side. In many cases, women are allowed for selective job opportunities which entirely depend on the male member mental approach. The willingness of women to choose their life partner is almost impossible or/and considered taboo. Early marriages are also rampant in rural areas of the province. Women are constraints to get education. Most of areas in Balochistan, girls are marginalize from schooling. Lack of self-belief and confidence, financial difficulties, unawareness of laws are the few other causes which disempowered the women in the Baloch-Pashtoon cultural province. This paper is an attempt to measure the causes of disempowerment in the Baloch-Pashtoon cultural society of Balochistan. Due to remote and long distances and constraints of fund, convenience sampling technique was used to collect the data using five scale Likert scale self-constructed questionnaire with proper steps taken to ensure reliability and validity of measurement. Hypotheses were tested using correlation and hierarchical moderated regression analysis. Results indicated that there is a constraint for women for her economic growth and development, causing disempowerment for women.

Key words: Pashtoon Baloch culture, women empowerment, causes, constraints.