

PARENTAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS GIRL'S EDUCATION IN HILLY DISTRICT OF MANIPUR

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Abstract

Status of girl's education has been a positive impact on their outlook and helps them in the society. The world cannot exist without women. They have every right as men but the traditional society has been blinded by the false notion by considering women as beneath the men in all the sphere of life. As a result, it has become very important to remove this particular notion and assigned the women her rightful position i.e. on the same platform as men. This can only be achieved when girls are educated and they realized their true position. Therefore, education of girls have become very important. The other way of removing these atrocities is by erasing the traditional attitude of parents towards education of the girls into a favorable and supportive attitude. It has particularly important in hill districts since it has the lowest girls literacy rate. It is important for the parents to truly and honestly develop a favorable attitude towards the education of girls. In terms of literacy, Manipur (79.21%) is higher than All India (72.99%) average. Among the North Eastern States of India, Mizoram ranks first and Manipur fifth as per 2011 census. As recorded in 2011 census, Imphal West District ranked first among the districts of Manipur with 86.08 percent literates which are followed by Churachandpur District with 82.7 % and Chandel with 70.05% Dept of Education as of least literate district in Manipur. Thus, education is a powerful weapon we can use to change the world. As such necessary step can be taken up to further cause of education. The area of hilly districts in the whole of Manipur is the most backward in the area of women's education.

Keywords: Girl education, parental attitude, education

Education is very important for every child whether boys or girls. It is sad that some communities still discriminate against the education of the girl child. Women and girls in the developing country are often denied opportunities for education. Lack of education limits prospects, decrease family income, reduce health, put women and girls at risk of trafficking and exploitation and limit the economic advancement of the entire countries. About two century back, education was merely informative. The child was considered as a pitcher into which the teacher poured "gallon of empirical facts/' The child was made to remain quiet and receptive. But today the world is passing through rapid changes. For a country which has accepted the goal of democratic egalitarian society, promotion and development of women's education is foregone commitment. Indeed in the overall development of a country, women's education is greatly needed and it is also the key to unlock the door to modernization. World education believes that education for girls and women is the single most effective way to improve the lives of individual families as well as to bring economic development to poor communities worldwide. The girl child of today is tomorrow's woman. If tomorrow's woman is to become equal partner with man, there is a great need to accord the girl child her rightful share of dignity and opportunity. The system of that of Urban is 13.77%. Average literary rate of Chandel were 70.1%, out of which male and female literacy were 76.7%and 63.7% respectively.

Justification of the Study

Girl's education has a positive impact on their outlook which helps them to improve their status. Education spread their outlook in different sectors and their outlook broadened. They become thriftilly independent and thus elevate their standard of living. Home is the

first school and mother is the first teacher. And therefore a society cannot function effectively when the women are uneducated and ignorant. Thus women's education is very important and essential for the development of the society or the nation. A common view that spending money on girls is useless or that it's an extravagant things to educate them as they will be married off to another family hinders their education. Though other areas are important, girls getting education through schools is the single most effective way of tackling poverty. It increases life expectancy, reduces family size, improved child survival, raises productivity and enable women to demand a voice in both private and public life. "Education of boys is education of one person, but education of a girl is the education of the entire family," said Jawaharlal Nehru, while underlying the importance of girls' education. Therefore in order to bring upliftment of the society and development education of girls is the priority step to be taken up. In term of literacy, Manipur (79.21%) is higher than the All-India (72.99%) average. Among the North Eastern States of India, Mizoram ranks first and Manipur fifth as per 2011 census. As recorded in 2011 census, Imphal West District ranked first among the districts of Manipur with 86.08 percent literates which are followed by Churachandpur District with 82.78 percent and Chandel with 70.05 percent as the least literate district in Manipur. Table-1 presents the districts wise literacy rate of Manipur. If the overall development of a country is to be sought for, the first step is education. In a progressing country like India, it is important to have educated people. The present study on the attitude of the parents towards the education of girls will throw light as to their viewpoint. As such necessary step can be taken up to further the cause of education. The area of Chandel has been

taken up as it is the most backward district in the whole of Manipur in the area of women's education.

Table 1, District wise literacy rate of Manipur (2011 census)

District	Male	Female	Total
Senapati	80	68.1	74.1
Chandel	76.7	63.7*	70.1*
Churachanpur	87	78.5	82.8
Bishnupur	85.1	66.7	75.9
Thoubal	85	64.1	74.5
Imphal West	92.2	80.2	86.1
Imphal East	88	75.3	81.9
Ukhrul	85.5	76.9	81.4
Chandel	77.8	64	71.1
Manipur	86.1	72.4	79.2

Therefore, it is considered justified to do the study in this particular district. Chandel district has been taken up as the investigator finds it convenient to cover the sampling given the limited time factor of the research. Finding of the present study will be of immense help for policy makers, programs framers and in improving the parental attitude towards girl education. Little research work on the current area of research has been done. The present study also attempt to fill up the gap in this area of research. Since the research is to be conducted within a limited period, the research will be delimited to the following: The present study will be conducted on parental attitude towards girl's education in Chandel district. The present study will be confined in the rural and urban areas parental (mothers and fathers) attitude towards girl's education in Chandel Districts. Since the research is to be conducted within a limited period, the research will be delimited to the following: The present study will be conducted on parental attitude towards girl's education in Chandel district. The present study will be confined in the rural and urban areas parental (mothers and fathers) attitude towards girl's education in Chandel Districts. Kekde P.S-Patil (1988) in his analytical of the present role of educated women as against the role expectations by the protagonist of women's education in the modern period, found that education can not only help women's progress, develop professional ability, skills and mental ability, but it also enables women to become responsible mothers and to rear their children in a scientific way. G.K. Ghosh and Sukla Ghose (1997) in their book entitled "women of Manipur" dealt with women belonging to various groups, sub groups, their joy and sorrow impact of various races, their contribution to the society at large and action plan have to develop from various angle, social, political, economic. The book dealt women and education and working women. It would be useful for planners, social scientists, tourist and various scholars who have interest on the study relating to Manipur and development of all sections of women. Boutros Ghali (1997), the former General Secretary of United Nations remarked, without progress in the situation of women, there could be no true social development. Human rights were not worthy of the name if they excluded the female half of humanity. The struggle for women's equality was part of the struggle for a better world for all human beings and all societies Singh (2012) conducted a study to find out the relationship

between academic achievement and parental involvement among higher secondary school students. The required data was collected from random sample of 400 higher secondary school students (200 male students and 200 female students) taken from Bathinda and Mansa District in Punjab by administering Parental Encouragement Scale. The study revealed a significant positive relationship between academic achievement and parental involvement.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives comprised to find out the attitude of the parents of different educational level towards education of girls; to find out the attitude of parents towards the education of girls with different level of income; to find out the attitude of parents towards the education of girls with different occupation; to find out the attitude of the parents from rural and urban areas towards the education of girls. to find out whether the lack of education of parents has influence towards the education of girls and to find out whether the cultural lag of parents has effect on the education of girls.

Hypotheses

In the light of the objectives of the study- following hypothesis has been found: There is no significant difference in the attitude of the parents of different education level towards the education of girls; there is no significant difference in the attitude of the parents of different income level towards the education of girls; there is no significant difference in the attitude of the parents of different occupations towards the education of girls; there is no significant difference in the attitude of the parents from rural and urban areas towards the education of girls; there is no significant difference in the lack of education of the parents over the education of girls and there is no significant difference in the cultural lag of the parents on the education of girls.

Research Design

For the present research study, "Parental Attitude towards Girl's Education", descriptive or normative survey method was adopted. The population for the present study was confined to the parents of a girl's child in the Chandel District. The samples for the present study consist of 100 parents, out of which 50 will be from urban area and 50 from rural areas of the Chandel District. The Simple Random Sampling method is applied for the present study. For the completion of the present study, the researcher chose to use a self developed questionnaire. For the present study entitled, "A Study on Parental Attitude towards Girls' Education in the Chandel District", the major tool used was a questionnaire as it was thought to be an appropriate tool for collecting the necessary data. For the construction of the questionnaire, the investigator made- 40 questions for the parents of the Chandel District. After considering the questions with the research Supervisor, the investigator selected only 26 questions which are more appropriate for the research. The information for the present study has been collected by the investigator from the responses of the parents in the form of structured questionnaire. The subject were also informed that there were no



right or wrong answers and requested them to be cooperative and to be true to themselves and mark their answers honestly. The time schedule taken up for filling up the questionnaires varies from individual to individual. The literate parents took less time to fill up the questionnaire but in the case of the illiterate parents, the investigator had to write down their responses and as a result, the time consumed for completion of the questionnaire is much more. So, usually parents took 15 to 30 minutes to complete all items prescribed in the questionnaire. For the present research, the investigator has adopted percentages to assess the significant differences in parental attitude towards girl's education.

Analysis and Interpretation

Table 2 Educational Background of the Parents

Qualification	Numbers	Percentage
Illiterates	17	17%
Under matriculate	26	26%
Matriculation	16	16%
+2	21	21%
Graduate	20	20%

From the above table it shows that 17% of the parents were illiterate and 26% were under matriculate. Only 16% were matriculate. It also shows that 21% of the parents were +2 and 20% were graduates. Thus it can be concluded that educational levels of the parents have huge influence on the girl's education. Parents with higher educational qualification have more understanding and awareness towards the education of girls than the parents with less educational qualification.

Table 3 Economic Background of the Parents

Income of the parents per month	Number	Percentage
Rs.5,000-10,000	32	32%
Rs. 10,000- 20,000	31	31%
Rs.20,000-30,000	14	14%
Rs.30,000-40,000	15	15%
Rs.40,000 and above	8	8%

The economic background of the parents reveals that majority of the students belong to the lowest two income group i.e. 32% were earning between Rs. (5000-10000) and 31% earned between Rs. (10000-20000). Out of the remaining students parents 14% were earning between Rs. (20000-30000) and 15% of them earned between Rs 30000- 40000. Only 8% of the parents were earning Rs.(40000 and above). Thus it can be concluded that parents from the higher income group have more understanding and lower income group have less understanding toward the necessity of girls' education. Therefore, parents with higher income have more awareness towards the education of girls.

Table 4 Occupational Level of the Parents

Occupation	Numbers	Percentage
Cultivator	45	45%
Business	17	17%
Government employees	27	27%
Private employees	11	11%

The above table shows that 45% of the parents were cultivators, 17% were business doer, and 27% were government employees and 11% works in the private organization. Thus it can be concluded that the occupation of the parents have a great influence on

their attitude towards girls education. The cultivator parents constitute the highest percentage of occupation i.e. 47%, therefore it can be interpreted that occupation also influence on the perception of the parents towards girl's education. Thus, occupation like government employees and businessmen hold more awareness towards girl's education.

Findings

The key findings of the present study include: Rural parents are more insecure about their daughter's life as compared with the urban parents. They like to have all the rights to decide on their daughter life whether it may be education or career, they want to be the sole decision maker and don't want to give these rights to their daughters. Rural parents feel that education makes girls lazy. It prevents them from learning household chores which is the most essential criteria for getting married for a girl. They feel that marriages are more important for girls than education. Rural parents have higher level of discrimination of gender as compared with the urban parents. They feel that girls alone are not capable of doing anything. Girls always need the support of their parents, brothers or husband and that they are the weaker genders who always need somebody to lean on. Urban parents are more responsible when it comes to girl's education. They take their daughter as their pride which is not the case for rural parents. Rural parents feel that girls will one day get married off to another family so knowing how to read and write is enough for them and that it is better to educated sons than daughters. Rural parents even prefer their daughter dropping out of school than their sons dropping out. Urban parents have more knowledge about the necessity of girl's education and have more understanding about the education and its impact on social development. They have an idea that no society can develop when the female gender are uneducated. It is they who are going to be the source of development for the children. So their education is a must if the societies are to develop. Urban parents have more understanding about the necessity of education and its impact on being a good citizen than the rural parents. They knew that educated girls have more understanding about their rights and duties towards the nation which is not so in the case of the uneducated girls. And these uneducated girls with no knowledge of their rights and duties create problems in their own lives as well as for the society as a whole. It is also found that most of the rural parents are either illiterate or less educated as compared with the urban parents. And this educational level of parents have huge influence on the girl's education as parents with higher educational qualification have more understanding and positive attitude towards the education of girls than the parents with less educational qualification. The economic backgrounds of the parents also have huge influence on the education of girls. It is found that parents from higher income level have more understanding towards the necessity of girl's education and they give more freedom to regulate their choice of education and career than the lower income level group of parents. It



is also found during the investigation that occupational levels of the parents have influence on the perception of the parents towards girl's education. Occupation like government employees and businessmen hold more positive attitude towards girl's education. In short, it can be said 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. And on the other hand no matter how develop and educated the peoples are, their cultural lag still prevent them from broadening their mindset towards girls and girls education. And the discrimination of gender prevail in the society, it still exist in different form and in different degree. 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 hand give negative attitude towards girl's education.

Conclusion

This paper is focus on Chandel District in Manipur . Chandel is a small town, district headquarter of Chandel district in the state of Manipur. The town is located in the southern part of the state. A person of Anal & Maring communities dominantly lives in this district. Maring and Anal language is dominantly spoken in and around the district. Chandel lies in the hilltop that descends the Moreh & Neighbouring country Myanmar south & east. The main inhabitant

or main tribes are Anal & Maring. According to 2011 census, Chandel had population of 1.68 lakhs of which male and female were 74,579 and 69,603 respectively. It is about 64 km away from Capital Imphal National Highway No.39 passes through this district.

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