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A STUDY OF WOMEN ATTITUDES TOWARDS THEIR SOCIOECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

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Abstract

Women's empowerment enables them to be valued and recognized for who they are and what they do. Women are empowered by their abilities to fearlessly confront the personal and social realities of their current situations, not so much by the feminism philosophy. The goal of current study is to find out the level of women participation in socioeconomic activities and see the attitude of women towards empowerment. This study was done in the district Gilgit Pakistan with the objective, to find out the level of women participation in socioeconomic activities and see the attitude of women towards empowerment. Quantitative research methodology was used for Knowledge, attitude and practice analysis of women empowerment in different areas of district Gilgit. In the present study researcher used simple random sampling technique to select the target population because the list of the population is available and equal chance will be provided to participate in research through simple random sampling. The designed study was implemented only to those women's who are registered. There are 388 registered women in agriculture and livestock management in district Gilgit. According to Rao soft sample size calculator, the estimated sample size is 194. The presents research results concluded that in District Gilgit most of the females are actively participated in social activities that makes women enable to take decisions about their household activities and also the result shows that women

education is a main factor to cause positive impact on women's attitudes towards their socioeconomic empowerment.

KEY WORDS: Empowerment, feminism, knowledge, attitude, household.

INTRODUCTION

Women's economic empowerment includes the ability of women to participate equally in the markets that already exist, their access to and control over productive resources, their ability to find decent employment, their ability to manage their own time, lives, and bodies, and their increased agency, voice, and meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels from the home to international institutions are all examples of women's economic empowerment. In order to fully include women in the economy and achieve global sustainable growth, women's empowerment is a crucial goal. One way to empower women is to give them access to basic amenities.

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE

"Knowledge, attitude, practice" (KAP), is commonly used in the field of public health and social sciences to assess individuals' behaviors and responses to a particular issue or intervention.

Knowledge: Refers to the information, understanding, and awareness an individual possesses about a specific topic. It involves having factual knowledge, awareness of risks and benefits, and an understanding of the relevant concepts and principles.

Attitude: Relates to the individual's feelings, beliefs, values, and opinions towards a particular subject. Attitudes can influence how a person perceives and interprets information, as well as their willingness to engage in certain behaviors.

Practice: Refers to the actual behaviors, actions, and habits exhibited by individuals in relation to a specific issue. It involves applying knowledge and attitudes in practical situations and making choices that align with one's beliefs and values. [1]

The KAP model recognizes that knowledge alone is not sufficient to drive behavior change. Attitudes play a crucial role in shaping individuals' motivations, intentions, and decision-making processes, which ultimately influence their practices and behaviors. [2]

KAP ANALYSIS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women's empowerment can be thought of as a series of various interconnected and mutually reinforcing elements. Empowerment is a dynamic, multifaceted process that empowers women

to reach the full potential of their identities in all areas of life. Women's empowerment enables them to be valued and recognized for who they are and what they do. Women are empowered by their abilities to fearlessly confront the personal and social realities of their current situations, not so much by the feminism philosophy.

The goal of current study is to find out the level of women participation in socioeconomic activities and see the attitude of women towards empowerment. This research will contribute a lot for the betterment of society. This research will be fruitful for those women who are undervalued and considered as a house worker. This research will be helpful for policy making regarding women empowerment practices. Also, this study reveals the importance of women participation in different field of society.

Firstly, assessing knowledge about women empowerment involves examining the understanding of concepts, laws, and rights related to gender equality and women's empowerment. This includes knowledge about laws protecting women's rights, access to education and healthcare, economic opportunities, and the importance of gender equality in society. Surveys or interviews can be conducted to gauge individuals' knowledge levels.

Secondly, understanding attitudes towards women empowerment involves exploring individuals' beliefs, values, and opinions about gender roles, women's rights, and gender equality. This includes attitudes towards women's leadership, decision-making power, economic independence, and their right to equal opportunities. Attitude scales or qualitative interviews can be used to capture individuals' perspectives and attitudes.

Thirdly, assessing practices related to women empowerment focuses on observing actual behaviors and actions that support or hinder women's empowerment. This includes examining the participation of women in various sectors, such as education, employment, politics, and decision-making roles. It also involves examining practices related to gender-based violence, discriminatory practices, and access to resources and services. Surveys, observations, or case studies can provide insights into current practices.

Practice evaluation: Identifying barriers and obstacles that prevent women from fully participating in various domains. This can help develop strategies to overcome these barriers, such as policy changes, empowerment programs, or capacity-building initiatives.

Overall, a KAP analysis of women empowerment provides a comprehensive understanding of the knowledge, attitudes, and practices surrounding this issue. It can inform the development of strategies, policies, and interventions aimed at promoting gender equality and empowering women in all aspects of life. [3]

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Researcher examines the extent of women's empowerment in Punjab, Pakistan and its divisions, along with rural and urban regions. The findings indicate that 34.91% of women in Punjab are considered empowered overall, with the highest dimensional contribution being independence and the lowest being asset ownership. In cities, women have 31.43% more influence. According to the data, Dera Ghazi Khan has the lowest percentage of empowered women, while Islamabad has a substantially higher percentage. To evaluate the specific effects of various demographic and socioeconomic factors on women's empowerment. [4]

Empowerment of the economy for single mothers. The knowledge, attitude, and practices hypothesis, or KAP theory as it is more commonly known, is modified in the current study to examine their economic empowerment. This study will specifically identify the indicators and variables that were covered in earlier research in order to build the model's framework. According to this report, the most important factors in the study of women's economic empowerment are knowledge, financial attitude and practice, and socioeconomic characteristics (income and age). Thus, the study's contribution is the creation of a testable model based on KAP theory that promotes the economic empowerment of single mothers. [5]

The main objective is to empower and train rural women in Kerala. The study's goal is to examine the degree of awareness that rural women have regarding women's rights and related concerns. Measurements for awareness include knowledge, attitude, and practice. And then they provide training program for females "Training for Women's Groups in Rural Areas" The study's findings show that trained women had a higher level of knowledge, a more upbeat attitude, and a larger capacity for responding to concerns and rights related to women. [6]

Gender equality and women's empowerment are among the topics that have been brought to the forefront by the increasing social awareness around the world. The strongest freeing force is education, and as educational levels rise, which supports a progressive outlook, as well as the onset of industrialization and modernization, have caused a profound shift in the way people

think and behave. The Empowerment is not solely political; in fact, without economic empowerment, political empowerment will fail. The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)'s higher education program in Gilgit-Baltistan has helped women gain genuine economic power and significantly lessen their reliance on men. This has aided in the empowerment of women and the development of their self-confidence. [7]

This study investigated that, are women putting in effort to get power? Although the case for women's empowerment has been made for many years, it is concerning that its effects are still not being felt in a meaningful way in the modern world. Thus, I investigated the topic from a sociological perspective. The aim of the research is to investigate if women hold positive opinions regarding their political and socioeconomic empowerment. We also want to know whether women are prepared for their socioeconomic and political empowerment and whether the idea of women's empowerment is becoming more popular among women themselves. The study determines that how well women are doing in the major areas we are researching and to what degree they are prepared for empowerment. [8]

This study aims to evaluate women's empowerment in Oman by determining their capacity for making decisions in the home and evaluating their ability to make economic decisions.

capabilities of women and assess their freedom of movement in order to provide advice and ideas to advance women's empowerment in Oman. The conclusion is that Oman's women make better decisions for their homes and economies than they do for societal emancipation. Additionally, we have used perception analysis to address many legal and political challenges. The outcome demonstrates that most of women in the Sohar region are conscious of their responsibilities and rights. [9]

This study has extensively covered the difficulties faced by female educational administrators in Tanzanian schools and has supported the idea that despite progress being made towards gender equality thanks to feminist theories, affirmative action policies, and international initiatives on despite the achievement of gender parity, myths and biases persist that portray leadership as a man's domain. The results of this study have demonstrated that unfavorable male perceptions, cultural perceptions, organizational perceptions, and occasionally negative self-perceptions continuously have an impact on women leaders and, in some cases, impede their ability to lead. [10]

In recent decades, research on women in educational leadership has drawn attention on a global scale. Making sense of how women actually enter and experience leadership roles has, however, never been clear-cut in Pakistan. This life history study, which examined the lived experience of the career growth of female secondary school head teachers, was conducted in a remote area of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. The research highlights how six female head teachers' paths to assuming leadership positions were influenced by their families, societies, and organizations. There are important ramifications for educational leadership in the isolated and undeserved areas as a result. Traditional views of women's roles in the home and community, societal socioeconomic realities and other factors. [11]

The current study investigated the perspectives of local women and working staff, as well as the influence of Local Supportive Organization services on women's empowerment. The study's focus has been on women empowerment through expanding women's access to financial resources, and these LSOs' understanding of women were optimal techniques to enhance household income and had favorably benefited women empowerment. The influence of these LSO services has enabled women to be financially stable, thereby empowering them to make decisions about their children's education, marriage, political independence, and expression of interest. [12]

About half of Bangladesh's population is female, still their social status, particularly in rural regions, the study's goal is to further describe a strategic framework for strengthening the empowerment of rural women. The study comes to the conclusion that women's empowerment may rise as a result of exposure to information media, education, and training. In order to promote gender equality and development at all levels in Bangladesh's rural community, effective measures by the involved authorities could improve women's education, skill acquisition training, and access to information, hence enhancing women's empowerment. [13]

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in different areas of district Gilgit to find the Women Attitudes towards their Socioeconomic Empowerment.

In the farthest north of Pakistan, there is an autonomous territory known as Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). It is bordered to the northwest by Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor, to the northeast by China's Xinjiang area, to the southeast by Jammu and Kashmir, which is controlled by India, and to the

southwest by Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The economy of Gilgit Baltistan id based on agriculture and majority populations are linked with these agricultural activities. Like in many other places, women in Gilgit-Baltistan contribute significantly to the social, cultural, and economic structure of the society. [14]

Quantitative research methodology was used for KAP analysis of women empowerment in different areas of district Gilgit. In the present study researcher used simple random sampling technique to select the target population because the list of the population is available and equal chance will be provided to participate in research through simple random sampling. The designed study was implemented only to those women’s who are registered. There are 388 registered women in agriculture and livestock management in district Gilgit. According to Rao soft sample size calculator, the estimated sample size is 194. At the time of data collection few participants were sick, few were not ready to give data and few were not present. So, data was collected from 138 women. The data analysis in SPSS was performed in current study. [15]

RESULTS

Among the 138 participants, 87% of the respondents were married, and 50.7% reported spending six to ten hours caring for cattle. According to the findings, 79.0% of the job pertaining to livestock management is done by women.

Table 1: Frequency Distribution of Respondents Education

Education		
	Frequency	Percentage
Literate	66	47.8
Illiterate	72	52.2
Total	138	100.0

As shown the above table, present frequency distribution of respondent education level, after taking analysis in SPSS, results were taken. That the majority of respondents were illiterate as they were 52.2% and 47.8 were literate.

Table 2: Frequency Distribution of Female Participate in Social Activities

Activity 5: Participate in Social Activities		
	Frequency	Percentage
Often	45	32.6
Sometime	37	26.8
Never	56	40.6
Total	138	100.0

As the above table the results shows that majority 40.6% females were sometimes participate in social activities 32.6% respondents are often participate and 26.8% females never participate such type of activities.

Table 3: Frequency Distribution Regarding the Purpose of Female Participating in Livestock Management

Purpose 1: To Support Family		
	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	122	88.4
To some extent	14	10.1
Not at all	2	1.4
Total	138	100.0

In the above table showing that 88.4% respondent purpose of participating in livestock is to support family, 10.1% women select the option of to some extend and 1.4% the minimum frequency distribution selected not at all.

Table 4.16.1: Frequency Distribution of Participants Opinions Regarding Gender Equality

Opinion 1: Opinion Regarding Gender Equality		
	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	3	2.2

Partially disagree	3	2.2
Partially agree	44	31.9
Strongly agree	88	63.8
Total	138	100.0

The present frequency distribution of respondent’s opinion regarding gender equality 63.8% were strongly agree and only 2.2% females are strongly disagreeing with this statement.

Table 4.16.3: Frequency Distribution of Participant Opinions Regarding Women Rights

Opinion 3: Women Rights		
	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	22	15.9
Partially disagree	29	21.0
Partially agree	41	29.7
Strongly agree	46	33.3
Total	138	100.0

In the present frequency distribution majority respondents were strongly agreeing 33.3% opinion about marriage importance more than education, 29.7% were partially agreeing, 21.0% shows partially disagree and 15.9% were strongly disagree.

DISCUSSION

In the present research the results support the hypothesis it is found that there is significant association between women's attitudes towards their socioeconomic empowerment and various factors such as educational attainment, employment status, cultural influences, and access to resources. It is hypothesized that women who have higher levels of education, active employment, positive cultural support, and increased access to resources will exhibit more favorable attitudes towards their socioeconomic empowerment. The selected respondents were female the majority 40.6% females were some time participate in social activities 32.6% respondents are often participate and 26.8% females never participate such type of activities.

present frequency distribution of respondent education level, after taking analysis in SPSS, results were taken. That the majority of respondents were illiterate as they were 52.2% and 47.8 were literate. The frequency distribution of respondent's opinion regarding gender equality 63.8% were strongly agree and only 2.2% females are strongly disagreeing with this statement.

CONCLUSION

The presents research results concluded that in District Gilgit most of the females are actively participated in social activities that makes women enable to take decisions about their household activities and also the result shows that women education is a main factor to cause positive impact on women's attitudes towards their socioeconomic empowerment.

The result also revealed that majority females are involved in livestock activities and decision making which enhance women self-confidence and also enhanced individual capability to take decision if family need legal actions. Those females who participate in livestock activities, higher levels of education, active employment, positive cultural support, they confidently and feel safe to walk alone in Gilgit village. According to the results researcher concluded that the women were in the favor of the girl's education rather than marriage.

After getting results and findings of the research, the research indicated some problems and barriers due to the lack of opportunities and infrastructure majority females are limited for homebased jobs they are not able to move cities for jobs which make them strong in socioeconomically empowering.

The second most important source of revenue for a household, after women, comes from livestock. As a result, the livestock division needs a lot of chances for rural women to manage it and provide a living. Management and nongovernmental foundation financial support could help the livestock industry reach its full potential inside the study area.

Conflict of Interest

On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is no conflict of interest.

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