

A Study of the Experiences of Women Teachers with Reference to Gender Bias

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Abstract

Both the sex (Male and Female) received to an individual from the nature on scientific background are having equal importance. But many of the times it is being observed that even well-educated and well settled women become victim of gender bias. In these perspectives investigator conducted a study of the experiences of women working as a teachers in the Government primary schools of Valsad Taluka (GujaratState) with reference to gender bias. The major objectives of the present study were to study the experiences of the women teachers regarding gender bias in their families, child care, economic aspects and distribution of work in the schools. Total 100 women teachers working in the Government primary schools of Valsad taluka were included in the sample using random sampling method. One Questionnaire was prepared for the collection of necessary data. Collected data were analysed qualitatively and frequencies and percentages were calculated. Some very important and interesting findings emerged which would prove very useful to the concern parties.

KEYWORDS: Experiences, women teachers, Gender bias.

Background

Generally, all the human beings are having one gender either male or female except some very few exceptions. To be a male or female of an individual depends purely on the genetics. The birth of an individual as a men or women is only by chance, not by choice. Both the sex received to an individual from the nature on the scientific background are having equal importance. Our Indian constitution rightly gives assurance and guarantee of the absent of sexual and other differences as per the provision of the Article -14,15 and 16.All the rights are given to all the women as per Indian constitution and laws. Not only that all the rights are provided to women regarding marriage, divorce and inheritance as similar to men. As a result of these situation of women has improved a lot and women have recorded progress in various fields. However, all the rights provided to women many of the times it seems that basically an approach and attitude towards the women has yet not changed. Many of the times. Rao (2011) has rightly observed that, “Women historically have never been given required importance vis a vis man in the entire world be it in the field of politics or economy not to mention education. History is full with stories of exploitation, humiliation and suppression of women across the world. It will be surprising to know that even England, which is known as the “mother” of parliaments has enacted equal voting rights through universal franchise for women only in first quarter of the 20th century.”Many of the times it is also being observed that even well-educated and well settled women become victim of the gender bias. In these perspectives investigator

conducted a study of the experiences of women working as a teacher in the Government primary schools with reference to gender bias.

Objectives of the study

Following were the major objectives of the present study:

1. To study the experiences of the women teachers regarding gender bias in their families.
2. To study the experiences of the women teachers regarding gender bias with reference to the child care.
3. To study the experiences of the women teachers regarding gender bias with references to the economic aspects of the family.
4. To study the experiences of women teachers regarding gender bias with reference to the distribution of work in their schools.
5. To study the expectations of women teachers regarding the removal of gender bias.

Population and Sample

In every research it becomes very essential to define its population. In the present research all the women teachers working on permanent basis in the Government primary schools of Valsad Taluka (Gujarat state) were included in the population. But because of limitations of time, energy and money it was not possible for the investigator to collect data from all the subjects covered up under the population. Thus, the question of the selection of sample was emerged before the investigator. Investigator selected total 100 women teachers as a sample of the study from the teachers working in the Government primary schools of Valsad Taluka. Investigator applied random sampling method for the selection of the sample.

Research Tools

After due consideration of the objectives of the present investigation and its nature investigator prepared one questionnaire having six open ended questions. Investigator collected necessary data from the women teachers selected under the sample of the present investigation with the help of such questionnaire having request letter and general information. Here, it is to be mentioned that no extra efforts were made for the determination of the reliability of the questionnaire.

Procedure of the data collection

In any research the procedure of data collection is having very important role. Carelessness in the data collection process may affect to the results of the research. Thus, proper care was taken by the investigator during the data collection process. Investigator visited the primary schools of Valsad Taluka and collected the necessary data from the women teachers personally. Here, it is to be worth noted that investigator could get very warm cooperation from the subjects selected under the present study and investigator could collect the necessary data quickly and accurately.

Statistical technique used

For the analysis of the collected data various statistical techniques are available. Out of which investigator could use appropriate techniques. But looking to

the nature of the collected data no need emerged to use any specific statistical technique. Collected data were analysed qualitatively by the investigator. Off course frequencies and percentages were calculated.

Major Findings

Following were the major findings of the present research :

1. Out of the total sample 86% women teachers confessed that though they were working as a government teachers it was expected from them to do all the house work and perform household duties.
2. Total 80% women teachers accepted that they could not get any support from the male members of the family as they were having mind-set that the household work is the basic responsibility of a women in the family.
3. Out of the total sample 66% women teachers opined that male family members expect the main responsibility of child care is of women only.
4. Total 72% women teachers accepted that they were having no voice in the economic management of their family though they themselves were earning members.
5. 84% women teachers of the sample accepted that they were not having any economic freedom.
6. Out of the sample 42% women teachers said that they were experiencing gender bias regarding work distribution in their schools.
7. Following were the major three expectations expressed by the women teachers covered under the present research regarding the removal of gender bias felt to them:
 1. Enough freedom must be given to them by the family members.
 2. Full trust must be maintained by the male family members.
 3. They must be involved in all the school activities without any differences.

Conclusions

Investigator has reached to some very important and useful findings through the present investigation which are presented I n the preceding paragraphs. The findings of the study are itself having very interesting implications regarding the gender bias felt by the women teachers.

On the basis of the findings of the present investigation it is found to be noted that first of all enough importance must be given to the women in the family. All the family members must develop such an attitude so that the self-respect of women teachers can be maintained in their families. This psychological aspect may contribute a lot regarding the issue of gender bias. Efforts must be made to reduce the responsibilities of household work of the women teachers as far as possible. It is also found to be noted that all male members of the family must give enough cooperation in the responsibility of child care. Moreover, it can also be concluded that enough economic freedom also be given to women teachers so that they can feel self-respect and self-esteem.

After the consideration of the findings of the present study in broad sense it can be said that the attitude towards the female teachers must be changed. Women

teachers must be involved in all the assignments and works of school without any gender bias. The mentality that some works cannot be done by the women must be changed. One another very important implication of the present research is that the things related to the removal of gender bias must be taught to all the boys at the schools and at the families from the very initial stage so that in the long term situation related to gender bias can be improved and different one.

Epilogue

Though the present research is undertaken with very limited objectives and not on a very large scale, the present research would prove very useful to many parties in many respects for the improvement of the status of the women teachers with reference to the gender bias.

References

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