

Patriarchy and Women's Right in Islam: - A Micro Study in Bolpur Town With Reference To Educational Sociology

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Abstract

It is significant to study the patriarchy and woman's right in Islam Society. Patriarchy is generally used to mean social system based on the authoritarian out look of males of the house. A number of instances of patriarchal domination in Muslim society are depicted by many in sociological documentation. Although Islam law has clearly explained the woman's rights, but mostly they are exploited and neglected in our patriarchal society. This study has tried to explain the relation between Patriarchy and women's right in Islam. In order to do that a field survey based on interview in some selected questionnaires over Bolpur Town is made. And upon the study it is found that the problem lies on the execution of woman's right in patriarchal society. However, the lack of education, illiteracy, social barriers, unconsciousness are other allied factors that are the hindrances for execution of woman's right in the Islam society. So the relation between two is closely associated with.

KEYWORDS:- patriarchy, woman, right, Islam, Society, Bolpur Town, education .

INTRODUCTION:

The existence of the dominance of Patriarchy is a most primitive form of the Islamic society by which man overpowers almost everything in the households resulting which the rights of woman are tampered leading to a hindrance in the process of socialization through education. Man tries to opt and maintains patriarchy as best he can for his own vested interest so as make woman serve as compliant tool. And if the Islamic literature is properly imbibed, this should not be the scenario as is reflected of the woman's right being trampled in the Islamic society even now- a- days .Rather Islam has shown the light to the woman to come out from an area of darkness through education with the help of which woman can establish her own entity in the society as because Islam has provided some special rights to the woman through the provision of personal law. But the execution of the woman's right remains a far cry on account of the influence of patriarchy in the Islamic society.

OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this study is to explain the relationship between patriarchy and rights of woman in Islam. The main concept of this research paper is patriarchy and woman's rights from religious aspect in Muslim Community in the city of Bolpur. Patriarchy is historically the first structure of domination and submission and it continues as the most pervasive and enduring system of inequality which is no doubt the basic societal model of domination. Although participation in patriarchy exposes how to hold others under control by domination. Patriarchy creates guilt and oppression, sadism and masochism,

manipulation and deception all of which drive men and women to other forms of tyranny. Patriarchy is least noticed and yet the most significant forms of social inequality.

PROBLEM OF THE RESEARCH:

Patriarchy and religion both are important concept here in my study. So, the hypothesis may be drawn

- i) There is a positive correlation between the woman's right and execution of it
- ii) Muslim women do not or even it be they can't execute their rights on account of their unconsciousness and lack of education.

METHODOLOGY :

Here the sampling social survey method is used. The samples are chosen at random and data are collected from sample by open ended interview method. The unit of sampling was Muslim women and men of the age group 18-40 years in the city of Bolpur. Methodological instrument was questionnaire consisting of general information concerning socio-cultural characteristics of the respondent and two scales, one for religious rights of woman in Islam and another for patriarchy power. Here, observation method also is included.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS :

While field survey, it is found that total population of Bolpur town so approximately one lack out of which 12% of the population is Muslim. Interview is taken among 60 people classified as i) Educated women (EW) ii) Educated men (EM) iii) Non Educated women (NEW) iv) Non Educated Men (NEM). A questionnaire is used to conduct the process. The questions are open ended because the respondents' free opinion is necessary and researcher observes the respondents' understanding whether they answer with hesitation or not since the respondents get freedom answering , the researcher gets more and varied information based on the respondents' logic and thought .The purpose of the questionnaires is to find out relation between patriarchy and woman's right is Islam. Though patriarchy is not well known concept so the effort is extended in search of this relationship by some questions. Out of the selected questionnaires, some other questions are placed to the interviewees according to the situation to achieve the exact goal of the researcher.

QUESTIONNAIRES SET:

Here the Questionnaires are given below :

- Q1. Whether interviewees have the basic ideas on Women's Rights in Islam or not?
- Q2. If interviewee has idea on Women's Rights in Islam, how do they have this information?
- Q3. About which Women's Rights in Islam they have clear idea?

Q4. Are they facing any social obstructions to enjoy Women’s Rights in Islam?

Q5. If they have to face social obstructions in enjoying Women’s Rights in Islam, what is their follow up step?

Q6. What are basic causes behind social obstructions in enjoying Women’s Rights in Islam by women?

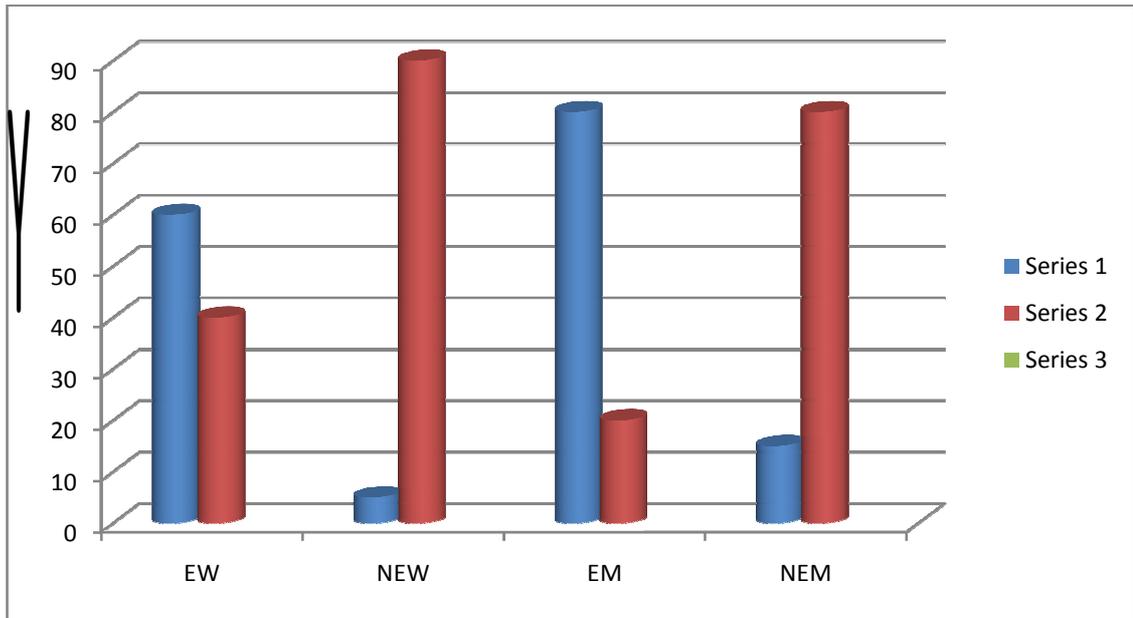
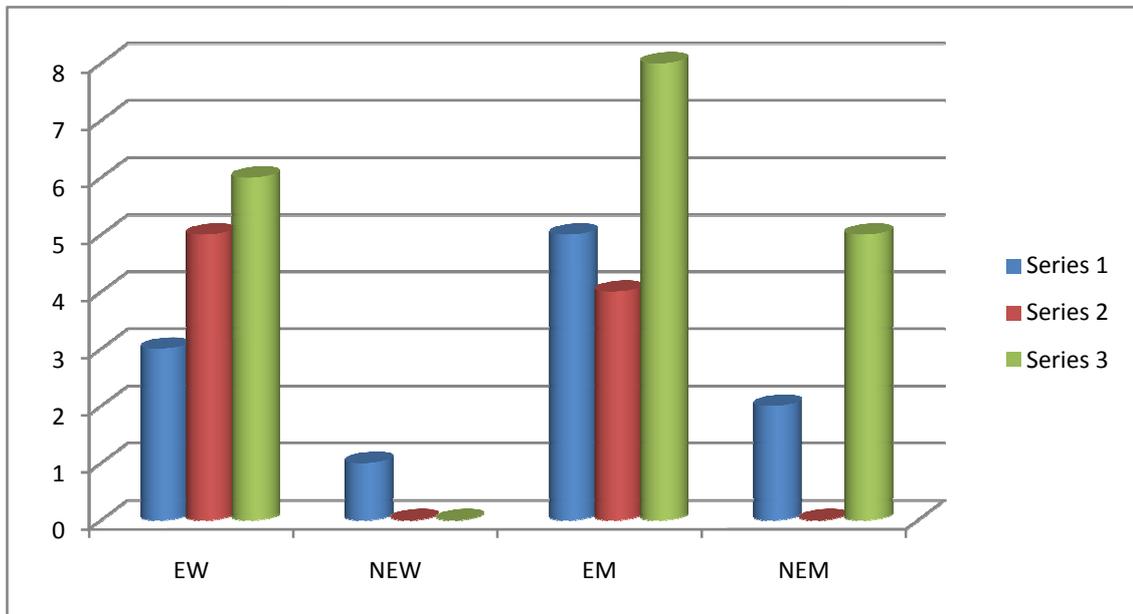


Fig:-1 Graphical representation of processed data.



Rig :- 2 Study on information receiving methods about women’s rights

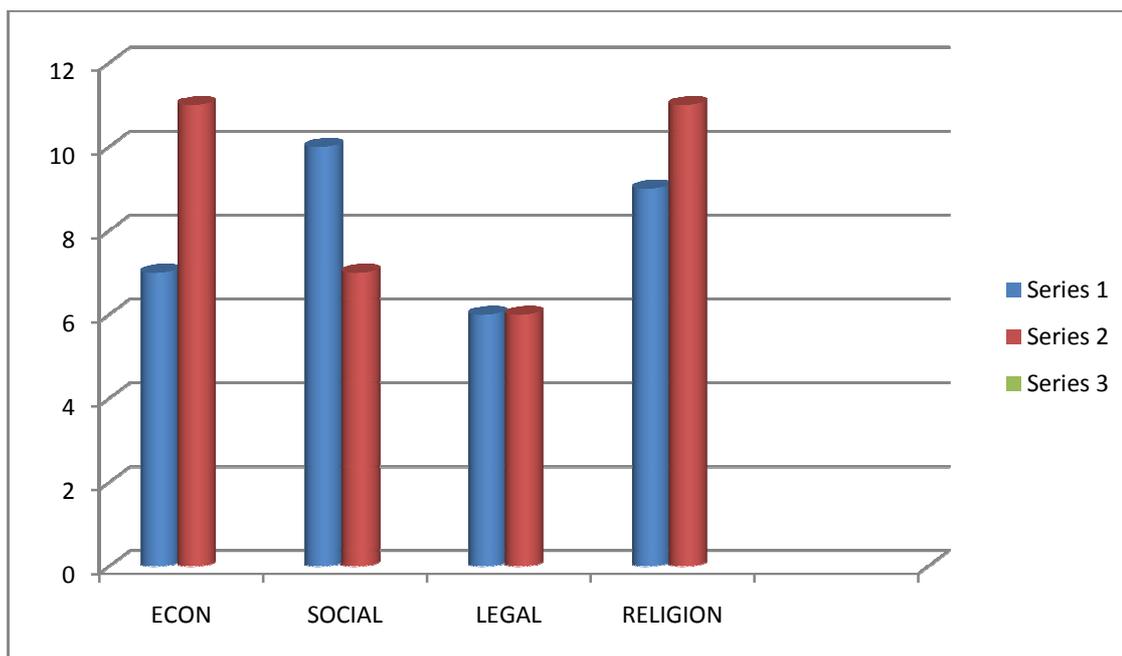


Fig :- 3 Study about idea on different women's rights

ANALYSIS OF THE RESULT:

The answer of all the four categories is analyzed in the following manner as illustrated below.

EDUCATED WOMEN:

All of them have idea about women's rights from religiously knowledgeable person of locality and also through the study of religious or other books. Some of them got idea from their family members . But most of them have no concrete knowledge on it. The application of these right is not thought seriously in most of the situation. The women are habituated with family tradition. In any critical situation what they should do or not, they are not supposed to decide. The male member of the family will take necessary decision on their behalf. All these steps are taken according to Islamic law or not, that is not considered. They are serious about these rights only when they face any marriage related problem. All educated and non-educated women have to go through Qur'an without knowing actual meaning of It. Only 60% educated women have superficial idea on these rights and rest 40% have no idea.

NON-EDUCATED WOMEN:

No such women are comfortable to answer these questions. They have no idea about most of the questions. Only when they got 'Talak' then go to politically influenced person of the locality or very few go to police station with the help of local people. Then, only they come to know about 'Khor-posh' or 'Denmohor'. But how to claim about benefit, they have no idea.

EDUCATED MEN :

Like educated women, they are known about women's rights, but the ideas are not clear to them. Only a Muslim lawyer can say everything about this. The educated men never feel the urge to make conscious their sisters, daughters, mother, wife or other women of the family. Only when any women of their family face problem, then they need advice from a Muslim lawyer.

NON-EDUCATED MEN:

They have some ideas about these rights from Imam of the Mosque or religiously knowledgeable person of the society, but they never say this to their family women. Because they think if family women know this, they have to face lot of problems.

CONCLUSION:

The aim of present study was to find relationship between patriarchy and religious rights of women in Islam. Theoretically, it is true that there was a relationship, mainly in structural form of religion. Like every religion, Islam also has a patriarchal structure in its religious institute, i.e. Mosque. The religious power operates by this institute. Although, Islam gives special women's rights, but in reality this rights cannot be executed by women. Because, every woman in our society lives in a patriarchal family or structure and every social action, values, norms are patriarchal. Father is in-charge of the family economically, socially, religiously and even politically. Like others matters, religious decision is also taken by father of every family. So, what should learn and know and what should not is determined by father. There is hierarchical relationship between family members; father is in the top most position. Naturally, father is in charge of socialization which almost is inclement. The women personality and her role in society is viewed negatively.

In this study, it is clear that also patriarchy plays a vital role. Every person of sample reads Qur'an, but they don't know what is in Qur'an or what the meaning of It is. Everyone got religious education by natural family system. But problem is that they don't understand what should they learn or read. Any person of them can't know properly, what are the rights of women in Islam for this patriarchal structure. Even they don't put question about this. They don't realize whether it is necessary or not. In this study when they are questioned, most of them can't understand this patriarchal politics. Some of them opine that, the cause of it may be patriarchy. All of them think about these rights when they or their family members faced problem. On the other hand who know the right can not execute their right. They think about the interaction of their family members. May be their role, their wishes, their demand will be taken negatively. Here family members mean their husbands, brothers, fathers, and father-in-laws and so on. Also female members of the family think the same because; they are socialized in a same patriarchal structure.

From the above analysis, it may be concluded that Muslims are still behind because of their ignorance. They are educationally very much backward. The uneducated men are very much attached with religion. A major part, they devote in this purpose and exercise

religious activity mechanically. They never think about the traditional education of women. Also they never realize that the women should have proper idea about women rights which provides social protection to them. On the other hand educated women and men have the opportunity to get write information about this. The educated women are not much serious in this matter and they have total negligence to communicate this information among the uneducated women. Also, the educated men are afraid that if all women are well-known about women rights then they cannot dominate them. So they are not also serious about their responsibility to educate the women regarding women rights.

Lastly, it can be said that the main problem of execution of women's rights is patriarchal power. Although, there is other factors like, lack of education, social afraid ness and unconsciousness etc. If it is taken that, the cause of the lack of education is economic and education & economic are interconnected. Since, every Muslim read Qur'an, know about hadith, so it is an invalid excuse of being ignorant about the women's rights. Here the main role is politics of patriarchy.

The study is not properly completed for time-limit. In future there is a wide scope to focus in detail on this topic with help of extensive field work along with larger number of samplings and complete statistical analysis

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