

Socio-Cultural Constraints Faced by Working Women in Decision Making Regarding Family Affairs

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Abstract

The present research dealt with socio-cultural constraints faced by working women in decision making regarding family affairs. The main objective of the study was to examine the impact of age, family type, and profession on decision making, mobility and traditional culture. Researcher selected the sample of 100 respondents from the universe of Multan city. Through the purposive sampling only married working women from different professions were selected. The findings of present study were respondent of different age groups differ significantly in terms of their average scores on the measures of decision making, mobility, and traditional values. Respondent in nuclear and joint families differ significantly in terms of their average scores on the measures of decision making, mobility, and traditional culture, Respondent of different occupations differ significantly in terms of their average scores on the measures of decision making, mobility, and traditional values. Rationality is the sign of enlightened thoughts about the reasoning of phenomena which reflects level of abated tradition for personal concerns, and let them to express their potential to prove them as "Human" because they are being perceived as "Domestic Animals" for house work beneficiaries and accomplishments of sexual satisfaction.

Keywords: Patriarchy, Decision Making, Mobility, Traditional Culture and Constraints.

Introduction

When we think about the women, the picture of vulnerability, dependency and defenselessness emerge in the canvas of the society. Pakistani society, the unequal gender power relations exist due to which women face inequality and discrimination within the household and outside the domestic sphere. The household is considered the world of the women but women have no right to express their desire in their own world of the house (Rizvi, 1980).

In Pakistan the extended family is the basic functional unit. A wife is always expected to submit to her husband's authority. The husband is traditionally less concerned with the social companionship of his wife. However, orthodoxy in Pakistan usually invokes religious injunctions rather than cultural norms to affect the status of women (Hakim and Aziz 1999).

When a woman want to make decisions as regards to the households, health expanse, health care, at every step she needs help and support of her husband and mother in law to proceeds the transactions. Woman frequently face challenges to achieve the power to that will allow her to make decisions independently. There was a lot of biasness by the gender (Batoool, 2002).

It is hypothesized that women living in nuclear families are relatively free in decision-making and actions; as cultural pressures and influences particularly of in-laws are less

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pronounced. By acquiring education, women are exposed to the outside world, thus improving their perspectives and attitudes (Ali and Sultan 1999).

The control of women's mobility and their exclusion from public space is perhaps the most salient feature of purdah in Pakistani society. However, gender hierarchies interact closely with those of socio economic class, resulting in diverse behaviors among different sub-groups of Pakistani women (Mumtaz and Salway 2005).

Objectives of the Study

The Objectives of the present study are to examine

- The Impact of age on decision making, mobility and traditional culture.
- The Impact of family type on decision making, mobility and traditional culture.
- The Impact of profession on decision making, mobility and traditional culture.

Hypothesis of the Study

The hypothesis of the present study were

- Respondent of different age groups will differ significantly in terms of their average scores on the measures of decision making, mobility, and traditional values. .
- Respondent in nuclear and joint families will differ significantly in terms of their average scores on the measures of decision making, mobility, and traditional culture.
- Respondent of different occupations will differ significantly in terms of their average scores on the measures of decision making, mobility, and traditional values.

Review of Literature

Bhutta and Haider (2013) have undertaken to make the women responsive for their power on the social order, state and reach their adequate rank inside the family sphere. Rights ought to be specified to women to making decision concerning a range of characteristics within the society and family.

Kiani (2012) stated that making decision was the most important approach in women empowerment. In recent years, women roles and duties changed to some extent. The shifts in women roles enhance the females schooling and enhance their participation in workforce were significant means for making decision in family matters.

Jalal-ud-Din and Khan (2008) has stated that in underdeveloped world, the strength requiring activities, presumably a male trait, are not strictly apportioned to males. In fact, activities such as burden bearing and water carrying are done more by female than by males. In most societies of the world, particularly in developing countries, household is the world of women, and the public and politics are the world of men.

Sirajunisa and Panchanatham (2004) argued the multiple roles had negative repercussion for women but not for men. The man was the provider at the same time as the woman was the homemaker. Throughout the last five decades there had been a radical change in the role status of the Women. However, there had been no or just an unimportant transform in the role of the male and his donations to the domestic chores even if he had a working spouse, was at the best only ritualistic.

Naqvi and Shahnaz, (2002) argued that the age of female certainly manipulated by taking part in such economic decisions. Wedded condition of female was one more issue that manipulate the decision making power of the woman. The divorced status enhances the chance of female to take part in decision making. The females those some get education and female headed household can only make decision on their own otherwise who get lower education and belong to larger and poor family cannot able to make decisions to their own will. They only make decisions with the consultation of head of the family.

Blay (1985) has stated that the working class saw its living standards fall as a result of the crumple of trade unions, frequent state intercession in workers organizations, wage squeezes on lower-income groups, and policies favoring the middle classes. Thus rundown of formal channels of conciliation unions, parties, and political associations and feeling the brunt of falling living standards, women took to the streets to demand political and economic changes. Many women who had remained in the background and whose participation was limited have now begun to play a public role.

Methodology

The present research will be conducted to explore the socio-cultural constraints faced by woman in decision making regarding family affairs. The major objective of the study is to explore the socio-cultural constraints in decision making and to examine the causes of restriction regarding decision making about education, job, and marriage of females. The chapter highlights the research procedure which the researcher will follow while conducting this study

Target Population

The researcher selected Multan as a universe. All the working women were the target population. The major purpose behind the selection of this target population from different professions that they can better address various barriers they were facing in sectors mentioned below

S.No	Professions	Quantity
1.	Receptionists	20
2.	House Maid	20
3.	Daily Laborer	20
4.	Teachers	20
5.	Doctors	20
	Total	100

Sampling procedure and sampling technique

The researcher selected the sample from the universe. The researcher used purposive sampling technique for this purpose.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Nuclear and joint families differ significantly in terms of their average scores on the measures of decision making, mobility, and traditional culture.

Factors		Family Type		<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
		Nuclear	Joint		
Decision Making	M	12.72	13.08	0.959	0.340
	SD	2.11	1.70		
Mobility	M	11.41	10.85	1.62	0.108
	SD	1.54	1.81		

Traditional Values	M	17.46	16.96	0.91	0.361
	SD	2.34	2.93		

The results of independent sample's *t* tests appearing in table 1 indicate that there is no significant difference in the mean scores of respondents of nuclear and joint family system on their measures of decision making, $t(98) = 0.959$, $p = 0.340$ mobility, $t(98) = 1.62$, $p = 0.108$ and traditional values, $t(98) = 0.91$, $p = 0.361$.

Table 2: Different age groups differ significantly in terms of their average scores on the measures of decision making, mobility, and traditional values.

Age Range						
Factors		18-25	26-30	31-35	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
Decision Making	M	13.42	13.26	11.75	6.93	0.002
	SD	1.83	1.90	1.42		
Mobility	M	10.68	11.21	11.16	0.686	0.506
	SD	1.88	1.83	1.23		
Traditional Values	M	16.42	17.73	16.45	2.934	0.058
	SD	3.00	2.33	3.03		

Table 2 depicts one way ANOVA shows that the respondents with three age groups differ significantly in terms of their mean, decision making scores, $F(2,97) = 6.93$, $p = 0.002$. the post HOC Tukey HSD analysis reveal that respondents in age group 31-35 years differed significantly with those of 18-25 years ($p = 0.008$) and 26-30 years of age ($p = 0.002$).

One way Analysis of Variance also indicated that the mean mobility scores of respondents of different age groups did not differ significantly, $F(2,97) = 3.03$, $p = 0.506$. it also indicated that the three age groups of respondents did not differ significantly in terms of traditional values, $F(2, 97) = 2.93$, $P = 0.058$.

Table 3: Different occupations differ significantly in terms of their average scores on the measures of decision making, mobility, and traditional values.

Occupation								
Factors		H. Maid	Rec.	D.Labrer	Teacher	Doctor	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>
Decision Making	M	13.4	13.75	12.25	12.3	12.95	2.60	0.04
	SD	1.53	2.38	1.61	1.21	2.16		
Mobility	M	11	11	10.95	11.1	11.1	0.155	0.96

	SD	2.29	1.81	1.7	1.41	1.72		
Traditional values	M	16.7	18	17.1	16.86	17.25	0.694	0.59
	SD	2.84	3.59	2.51	5.18	2.17		

Table 3 depicts one way ANOVA shows that the respondents with five occupational groups did not differ significantly in terms of their mean, decision making scores, $F(4,95) = 2.60$, $p = 0.04$. One way ANOVA shows that the respondents with five occupational groups did not differ significantly in terms of their mean, mobility scores, $F(4,95) = 0.155$, $p = .196$. ANOVA shows that the respondents with five occupational groups did not differ significantly in terms of their mean, traditional values, $F(4,95) = 0.694$, $p = 0.59$.

Conclusion

This research shows that the mobility and decision making of women is affected by the factors like age, occupation and family type. In a patriarchal society like Pakistan even if the women are allowed to work yet the equality is a question. A remarkable number of working women are not permitted to take the decisions themselves and are highly dependent over their male partners. The rigid traditional values associated with the male dominant society do not allow a man to treat a woman as an equal human being. This behavior leads toward a less productive society. Such stereotypes of society increase vulnerability of women and make them the passive part of society in spite of active and progressive part. Keeping patriarchal structure in mind males of society consider their wives, daughters and sister as their slaves and they have the authority to adopt any sort of treatment with them.

Women feel insecurity, uncertainty and vulnerability within home and outside home. The state should make some notice of women concerns and make some valuable rules and implement them strictly on the ground. In this regard make law enforcement agencies efficient in implementation of justice as soon as they can.

- Print media and Electronic media is the main source of information in this age. It can also work like a tool; so Govt. encourage and enforce them to play some effective and informative programs for improving the condition of females.
- Family members should treat females as; as they are human too and develop confidence within their personality.
- Families must share the equal share among them regarding the land or any sort of other property. Further take the consent from them prior their marriage because it is their right according to Islam and law.
- Further involve females in decision making and take their views as the considerable.
- Moreover husbands must take the consent of their wife regarding pregnancy and maternal issues.

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