

Impact of Family Tradition on Women Career / Education

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Abstract

Women are ruled by men on the name of tradition, culture, physique from ancient days. The tradition more or less is more favor of the men, because these traditions were built by dominating men from the beginning through their muscle power. Even in this era of modernization also, whatever we say the advancement of technology, equality in the constituency, equal rights on the paper and the laws but behind the screen, the men is playing. Even by having the best education, background, money and everything else, somewhere the women are discriminating by men in the name of tradition or any other things.

The chief objective of this paper is to analyze the impact of family tradition on woman career and education. This study is also intended to know the psychological impact of family tradition of women and to suggest the alternatives to overcome the barrier of family tradition. The primary data was collected from hundred selected within Tiptur Taluk.

This paper focuses on the impact of family tradition on women's career, education, children etc.,

Keywords: tradition, culture, women discrimination etc.,

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1. Introduction

India represents a picture of contrasts when it comes to education and employment opportunities for girls. Cultural, social and economic factors still prevent girls from getting education opportunities so the question of equality is still a mirage. However, the rural and the urban areas present a contrast.

In the rural areas the girl child is made to perform household and agricultural chores. This is one of the many factors limiting girls' education. Cleaning the house, preparing the food, looking after their siblings, the elderly and the sick, grazing the cattle and collecting firewood are some of the key tasks they have to perform. Households are therefore reluctant to spare them for schooling. The physical safety of the girls, especially when they have to travel a long distance to school and fear of sexual harassment are other reasons that impede girls' education.

For the number of girls and women who have been left out of education and employment opportunities, still far outweighs those who have got them. And what need to change this scenario is not just governmental efforts but a change in societal norms, in cultural and traditional biases and in general mindsets of people. And in this the media, the civil society, and the youth, the women and girls have a lot to contribute.

2. Literature Survey

Indian history and women

Scholars theorize that during the ancient periods of India's history, before 500 BC, women from higher classes may have had equal rights, or at times even being superior to men. Many women lived during this time that are remembered with reverence. During the Vedic age in India it is believed that women held a very important role, and were able to choose their husbands and be educated. The power of women was also reflected in literature and in the Hindu religion. Some examples of powerful Goddesses were Aditi the mother of all the lights of Heaven, and Indrani the queen of the gods.

As the Medieval period in history approached, unfortunately the Indian women started declining in status for a variety of reasons. Important scriptures started promoting the idea that women were inferior to men, and could not be trusted to have their own freedom. Foreign invasions and wars also could have influenced the set back of women through danger, and the influx of new ideas about women's status. Many customs that degraded women, such as Sati and child marriage, started during this time.

In 1948, one year after India was granted their independence, a constitution was written. This constitution largely focused on human rights, and also notably gave women equal rights an opportunity in Articles 14, 15 and 16. The promises of the constitution, however, have had to face cultural traditions that have dramatically different views on how women should be treated.

When looking at the statistics on the ratio of women to men in India there is a clear indicator that something is a miss. For every 1000 men there are 930 women. These numbers may not seem significant, but when looking at a population of more than one billion people in India, there are significantly fewer women than men. There are many possible contributing factors to this discrepancy

The practice of female infanticide could also be partially responsible for the high male to female ratio. Female infanticide and gender selective abortions are tragic practices that are fueled by the long standing traditions which perpetuate the idea that giving birth to a son is superior than giving birth to a daughter. Sons are idolized and celebrated. "**May you be the mother of a hundred sons**" is a common Hindu wedding blessing.

Causes of Gender Discrimination

- Educational backwardness
- Caste, Religious beliefs
- Culture
- On the name of family history
- Customs and beliefs
- Races
- Low income and Unemployment
- Society
- Family situation and Attitudes

Like male or even above them female plays important role in the family and national development. But her contribution is not recognized by the male dominant society.

3. Objectives

- i) To analyze the impact of family tradition on women career and education.
- ii) To understand whether family tradition is a factor that demotivates women from being career oriented.
- iii) To know whether the majority of the women has to sacrifice their educational career because of their family tradition.
- iv) To understand whether family tradition supports or restricts the women's progress.
- v) To understand the psychological impact of family tradition on women.
- vi) To identify the alternatives to overcome traditional barriers.

4. Research methodology

- The Study was carried out to find out whether the family tradition impacts on women career and education.
- Sample: The study involved the collection of data from both primary and the secondary sources.
- The primary data was collected through questionnaire and secondary data was collected from various websites and from various publications.
- Selection of sample: A sample size of hundred were selected for the present study, out of hundred respondents twenty five respondents are students, twenty five are working women, twenty five are entrepreneurs and the remaining twenty five are homemakers.
- Questionnaire construction technique: Questionnaire was constructed on a five point Likert scale.
- Descriptive Research with Structured Questionnaire method.

5. Analysis and interpretation.

1. Family tradition restricts women / girl from being educated.

Table-1

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	50	50%
Agree	30	30%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	0	0%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly disagree	10	10%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that family tradition restricts women / girl from being educated.

2. Family tradition restricts girls from participating in co-curricular activities.

Table-2

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	50	50%
Agree	20	20%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	0	0%
Disagree	20	20%
Strongly disagree	10	10%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that family tradition restricts girls from participating in co-curricular activities.

3. Women cannot go to distant places for higher education because of family tradition.

Table-3

	Responses	Percentage
Always	20	20%
Often	50	50%
Sometimes	0	0%
Rarely	30	30%
Never	0	0%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents feels that Women cannot go to distant places for higher education because of family tradition.

4. Women cannot avail better career opportunities because of family tradition.

Table-4

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	50	50%
Agree	20	20%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	0	0%
Disagree	20	20%
Strongly disagree	10	10%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that Women cannot avail better career opportunities because of family tradition.

5. Family tradition expects women to be a homemaker rather than being professional.

Table-5

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	45	45%
Agree	25	25%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	0	0%
Disagree	20	20%
Strongly disagree	10	10%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents strongly agrees that Family tradition expects women to be a homemaker rather than being professional.

6. Women give up their career because of family tradition.

Table-6

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	22	22%
Agree	48	48%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	03	03%
Disagree	22	22%
Strongly disagree	05	5%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that Women give up their career because of family tradition.

7. Family tradition does not give importance for the woman's assertion.

Table-7

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	20	20%
Agree	50	50%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	0	0%
Disagree	15	15%
Strongly disagree	15	15%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that Family tradition does not give importance for the woman's assertion.

8. Family traditions are imposed on women.

Table-8

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	10	10%
Agree	50	50%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	10	10%
Disagree	15	15%
Strongly disagree	15	15%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that Family traditions are imposed on women.

9. Women cannot take rational decisions because of family tradition.

Table-9

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	60	60%
Agree	15	15%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	05	5%
Disagree	20	20%
Strongly disagree	00	0%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that Women cannot take rational decisions because of family tradition.

10. Women are expected to give priority to family traditions rather than her capabilities.

Table-10

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	40	40%
Agree	15	15%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	05	5%
Disagree	30	30%
Strongly disagree	10	10%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that Women are expected to give priority to family traditions rather than her capabilities.

11. Lack of autonomy has restricted women from demonstrating her potentialities.

Table-11

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	18	18%
Agree	22	22%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	05	5%
Disagree	32	32%
Strongly disagree	23	23%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents disagrees that Lack of autonomy has restricted women from demonstrating her potentialities.

12. Family tradition does not give importance to woman's individuality.

Table-12

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	18	18%
Agree	42	42%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	02	2%
Disagree	28	28%
Strongly disagree	10	10%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that Family tradition does not give importance to woman's individuality.

13. Tradition is the root cause for gender discrimination that exists in our society.

Table-13

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	00	00%
Agree	35	35%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	02	2%
Disagree	52	52%
Strongly disagree	11	11%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents disagrees that Tradition is the root cause of gender discrimination that exists in our society.

14. Women progress has always been backed up with family tradition.

Table-14

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	11	11%
Agree	40	40%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	05	5%
Disagree	24	24%
Strongly disagree	20	20%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

Some of the respondents agree that Women progress has always been backed up with family tradition.

15. A woman has to confine herself only to family affairs.

Table-15

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	10	10%
Agree	20	20%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	04	4%
Disagree	40	40%
Strongly disagree	26	26%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents disagrees that Woman has to confine herself only to family affairs.

16. The imposing family tradition of women will reduce her confidence level.

Table-16

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	42	42%
Agree	22	22%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	01	1%
Disagree	20	20%
Strongly disagree	15	15%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents strongly agrees that imposing family tradition on women will reduce her confidence level.

17. Women opinion is not considered while decision making.

Table-17

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	12	12%
Agree	28	28%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	04	4%
Disagree	33	33%
Strongly disagree	23	23%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

Some of the respondents disagree that Women opinion is not considered while decision making.

18. Imposition of family tradition on women leads to stress / depression.

Table-18

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	50	50%
Agree	11	11%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	03	3%
Disagree	23	23%
Strongly disagree	13	13%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents strongly agrees that Imposition of family tradition on women leads to stress / depression.

19. Still now in Indian tradition girl is treated as sin & boy as pride.

Table-19

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	12	12%
Agree	45	45%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	03	3%
Disagree	28	28%
Strongly disagree	12	12%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents strongly agrees that still now in Indian tradition girl is treated as sin & boy as pride.

20. Women do not get the opportunity to work because of the belief that they lack physical strength.

Table-20

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	10	10%
Agree	60	60%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	03	3%
Disagree	19	19%
Strongly disagree	08	08%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that Women do not get the opportunity to work because of the belief that they lack physical strength.

21. Family tradition treats that women lack assertiveness.

Table-21

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	13	13%
Agree	20	20%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	07	7%
Disagree	55	55%
Strongly disagree	05	05%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents disagrees that Family traditional treats that women lack assertiveness.

22. Women are happily following the family tradition.

Table-22

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	12	12%
Agree	13	13%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	03	3%
Disagree	17	17%
Strongly disagree	55	55%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents strongly disagrees that Women are happily following the family tradition.

23. Women want that family tradition to be carried by their next generation.

Table-23

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	13	13%
Agree	13	13%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	02	2%
Disagree	18	18%
Strongly disagree	54	54%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents strongly disagrees that Women want that family tradition to be carried by their next generation.

24. The restrictions posed by family tradition have made women to lack self efficacy.

Table-24

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	40	40%
Agree	23	23%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	02	2%
Disagree	20	20%
Strongly disagree	15	15%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that the restrictions posed by family tradition have made women to lack self efficacy.

25. Self awareness of women potentiality is masked by family traditions.

Table-25

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	45	45%
Agree	25	25%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	00	0%
Disagree	17	17%
Strongly disagree	13	13%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that self awareness of women potentiality is masked by family traditions.

26. Elders in the family should become aware about the impact of family tradition on girls/women.

Table-26

	Responses	Percentage
Strongly agree	35	35%
Agree	45	45%
Neither agree/ Nor disagree	00	0%
Disagree	05	05%
Strongly disagree	15	15%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that elders in the family should become aware about the impact of family tradition on girls/women.

27. Alternatives that would help to reduce the drawbacks of family tradition are.

Table-27

	Responses	Percentage
Providing better education	13	13%
Autonomy in decision making	05	05%
Fair treatment	22	22%
Providing importance to woman's individuality	02	02%
All the above	58	58%
Total No of respondents	100	100%

The majority of the respondents agrees that all the above mentioned alternatives that would help to reduce the drawbacks of family tradition.

6. Findings

From the above analysis it is evident that

- 1) Family tradition restricts women / girl from being educated.
- 2) Family tradition restricts girls from participating in co-curricular activities & because of restrictions Women cannot go to distant places for higher education.
- 3) Family tradition expects women to be a homemaker rather than being professional and most of the Women give up their career because of family tradition.
- 4) Family traditions are imposed on women, because of this they lack self efficacy and also leads to stress / depression.
- 5) Women are expected to give priority to family traditions rather than their capabilities & lack of autonomy has restricted women from demonstrating their potentialities
- 6) Family tradition is one of the causes of gender discrimination that exists in our society.
- 7) Women progress has always been backed up with family tradition so they are not happy following the family tradition.
- 8) The restrictions posed by family tradition reduce the confidence level of women/girl.
- 9) Still now in Indian tradition girl is treated as sin & boy as pride.
- 10) Women do not get the opportunity to work because of the belief that they lack physical strength.
- 11) Most of the respondents do not want their next generation to follow the existing family tradition.
- 12) Elders in the family should become aware about the impact of family tradition on girls/women.

7. Suggestions

- 1) The primary step to reduce the impact of family tradition is to provide better educational opportunities.
- 2) Women career should be given importance rather than restricting them to be a homemaker.
- 3) Women should be given autonomy to follow family tradition rather than imposing.
- 4) Women should not be discriminated & have to be fairly treated by their family.
- 5) Still now in Indian tradition girl is treated as sin & boy as pride, this mindset has to be changed because even a girl is equally competent to a boy.
- 6) Whether to follow family tradition or not has to be left to their discretion.
- 7) Elders in the family should become aware about the impact of family tradition on girls/women.
- 8) Women individuality has to be respected while taking any decision concerning them

8. Conclusion:

Even in this advanced era family tradition is affecting women's progress. Women are not following the family tradition by their will but it imposes on them. Even at this juncture in Indian tradition girl is being treated as sin & boy as pride. Still now autonomy is less for women while taking decisions which make them to give up their individuality.

Due to the restrictions imposed by the family tradition, the women don't want these traditions to be carried by their next generation. It is very important to change the mindset of the people towards following the family tradition & awareness has to be created about the impact of family tradition on women.

Empowerment of women against the impact of family tradition can be done by providing better education , providing autonomy in decision making, fair treatment & giving importance for woman's individuality.

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