

Impact of Education on Self Perception of Women

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Abstract: The present study titled “Impact of Education on Self Perception of Women” was conducted with following objectives: to find out how education of women helps in her development, to compare the decision making power of educated and uneducated women and to compare the self-perception of educated and uneducated women. The core group comprised of women falling in the age group of 30 years and above. The sample comprised of 30 educated and 30 uneducated women who were selected from Srinagar city. Purposive Random sampling technique was used to select the sample and self-designed questionnaire was used to collect the data. The study revealed that overall majority of the respondents believed that education is the important and fundamental right of women. They believed that education is the tool to improve women status in the society and is the key to enhance their overall development. Maximum number of the respondents believed that education helps women to become independent and enhance their financial emancipation. Majority of the respondents believed that education helps to reduce poverty and provides employment opportunities. Respondents believed that higher education of girls enhances overall development and decreases the rate of female foeticide and infanticide. They also believe that education helps women to enjoy equal status with men. Results also revealed that educated women had more power to take decisions as compared to uneducated women. Overall majority of the respondents take decisions and educated women were supported by their husbands as compared to uneducated women. It was also found that educated women had positive self-perception while as uneducated have low self-perception because of their educational qualification. Results showed that there is a significant differences in self-perception of educated and uneducated women.

Keywords: Women, literacy, illiteracy, self-concept, self-perception

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I. INTRODUCTION

Women, The first educator(s) of the child, constitute about one of the world’s population. The condition of the Women, the extent of their social consciousness, the status they enjoy at home and in public life all these are the nations development. In order to upgrade the status and develop self-perception of women, education plays a vital role.

II. IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON SELF PERCEPTION OF WOMEN

Self-perception is the key to the personality development. It is the process of identify formation which is commonly known as self-concept. Our self-perception allows us to understand actions, feelings, and behavior. Educational environment of an individual is instrument in developing self-perception in an individual. The development of self-perception and enhancement of self-esteem are now considered to be a major outcome of an education. Education enables women to acquire basic skills, abilities and fosters a value system, which is conductive to changing their status in society. Education of women is primarily perceived as means for improving her skills to play this role; the educational process would be based on total respect for women’s existence, knowledge, experience and skills. Education has brought many changes in lives of women, for example, they have gained knowledge, skills, and economic independence. The development of self-perception and enhancement of self-esteem are now considered as the major outcome of education. Education has also been found to positively influence on an individual’s attitude, which has social benefits in the longer terms. For women, it widens their social networks, creates new reference groups and more role models, it also fosters innovations, all of which improves women’s wellbeing and those of their families. Education improves self-perception, increases their self confidence level, as well as thought and judgment, social mobility and broader outlook on life. Through education women had changed in every spheres of life. Through education and empowerment women are able to take decisions and influence community change. Changes in societies have

given opportunities for women to work outside and home and pursue career, receive higher education, and make women able to contribute to create income for household, role that were traditionally performed by husbands (Quells). Researchers suggest that with education, women can make the quality of life better, can take better care of family and children, and can become more socialized. Education develops positive self-perception, self-concept, and positive attitude of women.

Education is the key to solve the various problems. It helps an individual to become civilized, refined and cultured. Education develops positive self-perception and Self-confidence among women. Increasing education helps women to take decisions regarding home and family. Women education had improved from decades. Today's women are leading figures then men; women are treated more equal as men. Women education had changed the life of women in rural as well as in urban Kashmir. The present research i.e. Impact of Education on Self Perception of Women, will specifically find out how education of women helps in her development, to compare the decision making power of educated and uneducated women, and to compare the self-perception of educated and uneducated women.

III. OBJECTIVES

The present study will be carried out with the following objectives.

1. To find out how education of women helps in her development.
2. To compare the decision making power of educated and uneducated women.
3. To compare the self-perception of educated and uneducated women.

IV. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Chatterjee (1970) revealed that children of working mothers are more talented than the children of non-working mothers. Results also revealed that employment of mothers make their children more alert, more aware and more observant than the children of unemployed mothers.

Goldstein's (1972) revealed that women feel that they can contribute to the society through employment outside home. It was also found that higher education has enabled women to consider career as alternative to marriage.

Kaur(1983) revealed in his study "**Education and economic independence**" that the employment in case of educated women leads to economic independence, it is therefore expected to provide women the power of decision making. Results also revealed that employment raises the status of educated women in family and society as well.

Gulati et al. (1990) revealed in their study "**Leading factors for higher education**" that economic independence and higher social position are two major motivational factors for the women, to go for gainful employment in our society today.

Reddy M.S.N, Subha I. (2000) "**Department of women studies**" revealed the paper emphasized the need for women's education for their empowerment. It has been found that education is an effective means to achieve economic and social development among women.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a way to systematically investigate the research problem. It plays an important role in carrying out the research in more objective and successful way.

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

1. **Sample group:** - The sample for the present study comprised of women between the age group of 30-50 years.
2. **Sample size:** - the sample comprised of 60 women out of which 30 were educated and 30 uneducated.
3. **Sample locale:** - The sample was taken from Srinagar City.
4. **Sample criteria**
 - ❖ The sample group comprised of women only.
 - ❖ Both educated and uneducated women formed part of the study.
 - ❖ The location selected for the present study was Srinagar City only.
5. **Sampling technique:** - Purposive Random Sampling technique was used to select the sample for the study.
6. **Tool used for the study:** - The tool used for the collection of data was questionnaire.
7. **Data Analysis:** - After the required information was gathered it was analyzed and interpreted using percentages.

VI. ESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Importance of education

Education is a fundamental right of a women?	Number					Percentage
	Edu	%	Unedu	%	Total	%
Yes	30	100.00	29	96.67	59	98.33
No	-	-	1	3.33	1	1.67
Total	30	100	30	100	30	100.00
If No why?						
I. Not necessary	-	-	1	3.33	1	1.67
II. Wastage of time	-	-	-	-	-	-
III. Women is meant for bearing and rearing of children	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV. Women is not bread earner	-	-	-	-	-	-
V. Any other, specify	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	1	3.33	1	1.67
Lack of education put women at risk of trafficking and exploitation?						
Yes	30	100.00	29	96.67	59	98.33
No	-	-	1	3.33	1	1.67
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If yes how?						
I. Because of unawareness	24	80.00	25	83.33	49	81.66
II. Because they are physically weak	1	3.33	3	10.00	4	6.66
III. Because of poverty	5	16.67	1	3.33	6	10.00
IV. Any other, specify	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	30	100	29	96.67	59	98.33
Investing in girls education is an effective way to make them independent						
Yes	29	96.67	26	86.67	55	91.67
No	1	3.33	4	13.33	5	8.33
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If yes how?						
I. Increases employment opportunities	14	46.67	16	53.33	30	50.00
II. Provides opportunities to play dual roles	4	13.33	1	3.33	5	8.33
III. Helps women to compete with men	10	33.33	9	30.00	19	31.67
IV. All of the above	1	3.33	-	-	1	1.67
Total	29	96.67	26	86.67	55	91.67
Is Higher education important for girls?						
Yes	28	93.33	26	86.66	54	90.00
No	2	6.67	4	13.34	6	10.00
Total	30		30		60	100.00
If yes why?						
I. It enhances overall development	21	70.00	22	73.33	43	71.67
II. Build confidence						

from early years	3	10.00	1	3.33	4	6.67
III. It enhances knowledge	-	-	2	6.67	2	3.33
IV. It enhances skills	3	10.00	1	3.33	4	6.67
V. All of the above	1	3.33	-	-	1	1.66
Total	28	93.33	26	86.66	54	90.00
Education of women decreases female foeticide and infanticide						
Yes	29	96.67	27	90.00	56	93.33
No	1	3.33	3	10.00	4	6.67
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If yes how?						
I. Awareness about law	8	26.67	5	16.67	13	21.67
II. Awareness about own health	3	10.00	5	16.67	8	13.33
III. Awareness about importance of girl child	17	56.66	17	56.66	34	56.67
IV. All of the above	1	3.33	-	-	1	1.66
Total	29	96.66	27	90.00	56	93.33

Data revealed that overall 98.33% of the respondents were of the view that education is the fundamental right of women while as only 1.67% of the uneducated respondents said that education is not important. 98.33% of the respondents were of the view that lack of education put women at risk of trafficking and exploitation. Further overall 91.67% of the respondents believed that investing in girl's education is the effective way to make them independent. Amongst them 96.67% were educated and 86.67% were uneducated. The reasons given for girl's education were that education increases employment opportunities and education even helps women to compete with men. Results also indicate that overall 90% of the sample group was in favor of higher education for girls. Majority of the respondents i.e. 71.67% were of the view that it enhances overall development of women. Data also revealed that education also decreases female foeticide and infanticide.

Table 2: Factors responsible for women's suppression

Uneducated women are dominated by men	Number					Percentage
	Edu	%	Unedu	%	Total	(%)
Yes	25	83.33	22	73.33	52	78.33
No	5	16.67	8	26.67	8	21.67
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100.00
If No why?						
I. Because we live in a male dominant society	4	13.33	4	13.33	8	13.33
II. Men think women are inferior	4	13.33	6	20.00	10	16.67
III. Financial dependence on men	15	50.00	11	36.67	26	43.33
IV. Un awareness	2	6.67	1	3.33	3	5.00
Total	25	83.33	22	73.33	47	78.33
Uneducated women are humiliated by her husband						
Yes	19	63.33	23	76.67	42	70.00
No	11	36.67	7	23.33	18	30.00
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If yes how?						
I. Financial dependence on husband	12	40.00	17	56.67	29	48.33
II. Lack of awareness about women rights	6	20.00	4	13.33	10	16.66

III. Comparison between uneducated and uneducated women on part of husband	1	3.33	2	6.66	3	5.00
Total	19	63.33	23	76.76	42	70.00
Women suffer from gender discrimination?						
Yes	26	86.67	23	76.67	49	81.67
No	4	13.33	7	23.33	11	18.33
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If yes how?						
I. Parental attitude towards girl child	7	23.33	6	20	13	21.67
II. Family illiteracy	7	23.33	3	10.00	10	16.66
III. Societal attitude	12	40.00	14	46.67	26	43.33
Total	26	86.67	23	76.67	49	81.67
Education of women decreases male dominance?						
Yes	27	90.00	27	90.00	54	90.00
No	3	10.00	3	10.00	6	10.00
Total	30	100	30		60	100.00
If yes why?						
I. Because of equal opportunities	17	56.66	17	56.66	34	56.66
II. Economic independence	9	30.00	5	16.66	14	23.33
III. Early employment choices	-	-	3	10.00	3	6.67
IV. All of the above	1	3.33	2	6.66	3	3.33
Total	27	90.00	27	90.00	54	90.00
Education of women helps to reduce conflicts between couples?						
Yes	26	86.67	23	76.67	49	81.67
No	1	13.33	7	23.33	11	18.33
Total	27	90.00	30	100	60	100
If yes how?						
I. Better understanding	22	73.33	21	70.00	43	71.67
II. Respect each other	1	3.33	2	6.66	3	5.00
III. Divergent thinking	2	6.66	-	-	2	3.33
IV. All of the above	1	3.33	-	-	1	1.67
Total	26	86.67	23	76.67	49	81.67
Financial dependence on husband?						
I. Yes	15	50.00	26	86.67	41	68.33
II. No	10	33.34	2	6.67	12	20.00
III. Sometimes	4	13.33	1	3.33	5	8.34
IV. No not at all	1	3.33	1	3.33	2	3.33
V. Any other, specify	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100

It was revealed that overall 78.33% of the respondents believed that uneducated women are always dominated by men. Amongst them 83.33% were educated and 73.33% were uneducated. 50% of the educated respondents believed that uneducated women are dominated by their husbands because of financial dependence on them.

Data revealed that overall 70% of the respondents believed that uneducated women are humiliated by their husbands. Amongst them 63.33% were educated and 76.67% were uneducated. The reasons given by the respondents were financial dependence on men and lack of awareness about women rights. Data also revealed

that over 81.67 of the respondents believed that women suffered from gender discrimination. Amongst them 86.67 were educated and 76.67% were uneducated. Overall 46.67% of the respondents were in the opinion that women is suffering from gender discrimination because of societal attitude and family traditions.

Further the results showed that majority i.e. 90% of the respondents believed that education of women decreases male dominance. While as only 10% of the respondents did not agree. Overall 81.67 of the respondents believed that education of women reduces conflicts between couples as it develops better understanding. Majority i.e. 68.34% of the respondents were financially dependent on their husband.

Table 3: Role of women in decision making

Are you allowed to take decisions?	Number				Percentage	
	Edu	%	Unedu	%	Total	(%)
Yes	25	83.33	23	76.67	48	80.00
No	5	16.67	7	23.33	12	20.00
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100.00
If No why?						
I. Because of illiteracy	-	-	-	-	-	-
II. Male dominance	1	3.33	3	10.00	4	16.67
III. Women's decisions are not valuable	4	13.33	4	13.33	8	13.33
Total	5	16.67	7	23.33	12	20.00
Financial independence decreases women's decision making						
Yes	28	93.33	26	86.67	54	90.00
No	2	6.67	4	13.33	6	10.00
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If yes how?						
I. Financial emancipation	21	70.00	22	73.33	43	71.67
	3	10.00	3	10.00	6	10.00
II. Empowerment	4	13.33	1	3.33	5	8.33
III. Self confidence						
Total	30	93.33	26	86.67	54	90.00
Do you take decisions?						
Yes	28	93.33	23	76.67	51	85.00
No	2	6.67	7	23.33	9	15.00
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If yes regarding what?						
I. Children education	22	73.33	13	43.33	35	58.33
II. Budget	4	13.33	4	13.33	8	13.33
III. Resources	1	3.33	2	6.66	3	5.00
IV. All of the above	1	3.33	4	13.33	5	8.33
Total	28	93.33	23	76.67	51	84.99
Husband supports your decision?						
Yes	24	80.00	22	73.33	46	76.67
No	-	-	7	23.33	7	11.67
Sometimes	5	16.67	1	3.33	6	10.00
No, not at all	1	3.33	-	-	1	1.66
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100.00
Who takes major decisions?						
a) Head of the family	4	13.33	3	10.00	7	11.67
b) Mother in law	4	13.33	-	-	4	6.67
c) You husband	18	60.00	25	83.33	43	71.67
d) You, yourself	4	13.33	2	6.67	6	10.00

Total	30	100	30	100	60	100.00

Result depicts that overall 80% of the respondents are allowed to take decisions regarding family and life. Amongst them 83.33% were educated and 76.67% were uneducated. It was found that overall 90% of the respondents believed that financial independence influences decision making. Amongst them 93.33% were educated and 86.67 were uneducated. Further, the data also revealed that overall 85% of the respondents took decisions regarding home and family. Amongst them 93.33% were educated and 76.67% were uneducated. In majority of educated respondents the decisions were taken regarding their children education. Also 76.67% of the respondents agreed that their husband's support their decisions. Amongst them 80% were educated and 73.33% were uneducated. Majority of the respondents i.e. 71.67% said that major decisions were taken by their husbands while as only 11.67% of the respondents said that head of the family takes major decisions in their families.

Table 4: Self esteem and status of women

Education uplifts status of women	Number					Percentage
	Edu	%	Unedu	%	Total	(%)
Yes	30	100.00	29	96.67	59	98.33
No	5	-	1	3.33	1	1.67
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100.00
If yes how?						
I. Enhances her knowledge	5	16.67	2	6.67	7	11.67
II. Increases her financial status	16	53.33	11	36.67	27	45.00
III. Modify her behavior	6	20.00	15	50.00	21	35.00
IV. All of the above	3	10.00	1	3.33	4	6.66
Total	30	100	29	96.67	59	98.33
Education uplifts self-esteem						
Yes	30	100.00	27	90.00	53	95.00
No	-	-	3	10.00	7	5.00
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If yes how?						
I. Because of economic independence	13	43.33	11	36.67	24	40.00
II. Because of decision making power	5	16.67	12	40.00	17	28.33
III. Positive attitude	11	36.67	4	13.33	15	25.00
IV. All of the above	1	3.33	-	-	1	1.67
Total	30	100	27	90.00	57	95.00
Factors to develop self-confidence?						
a) Education	11	36.67	12	40.00	23	38.33
b) Positive attitude	2	6.67	5	16.67	7	11.67
c) Better understanding	1	3.33	4	13.33	5	8.33
d) All of the above	16	53.33	9	30.00	25	41.67
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
Financial dependence on husband decreases self-esteem of women?						
a) Yes	15	50	23	76.67	38	63.33
b) No	15	50	7	23.33	22	36.67
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
Have you ever faced criticism						
Yes	9	30.00	25	83.33	34	56.66
No	21	70.00	5	16.67	26	43.33
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100.00
If yes why?						

I.	Because you are a women	6	20.00	9	30.00	15	25.00
		1	3.33	16	53.33	17	28.33
II.	Less education	2	6.67	-	-	2	3.33
III.	Low status in society						
Total		9	30	25	83.33	34	56.66
Does it threaten you self-esteem?							
a)	Yes	5	16.67	20	66.67	25	41.67
b)	No	21	70.00	4	13.33	25	41.67
c)	Sometimes	4	13.33	6	20.00	10	16.67
Total		30	100	30	100	60	100.00

Result depicts that majority i.e. 95% of the respondents believed that education uplifts self-esteem of women out of which 40% of the respondents were of the view that economic independence uplifts self-esteem of women, 28.33% of the respondents were of the view that education of women provides opportunity to take decisions which uplifts their self-esteem. Further, 41.67% of the respondents said that education, positive attitude and better understanding between couples are the factors to develop self-confidence among women where as 38.33% of the respondents believed that education is the factor to develop self-confidence. It was found that overall 63.33% of the respondents believed that financial dependence on husband decreases self-esteem of women. Amongst them 76.67% were uneducated and 50% were educated. Data also showed that overall 56.66% of the respondents said that they faced criticism. Amongst them 83.33 were uneducated while as only 30% were educated. 28.33% of the respondents felt it because of less education. Also overall 41.67% of the respondents were of the view that criticism threatens their self-esteem. Amongst them 66.67% were uneducated and 16.67 were educated.

Table 5: Self-perception and status of women

Strive for perfection for everything that you undertake	Number					Percentage	
	Edu	%	Unedu	%	Total	%	
Yes	30	100.00	29	96.67	59	98.33	
No	-	-	1	3.33	1	1.67	
Total	30	100	30	100	30	100.00	
If yes why?							
I.	To get better results	8	26.67	5	16.67	13	21.67
I.	Personal satisfaction	18	60.00	15	50.00	33	55
I.	Get appreciation from in-laws	-	-	-	-	-	-
Y.	To get appreciation form husband	3	10.00	9	30.00	12	20.00
Y.	All of the above	-	3.33	-	-	1	1.67
Total	30	100	29	96.67	59	98.33	
Are you satisfied with your life?							
Yes	30	100.00	26	86.67	56	93.33	
No	-	-	4	13.33	4	6.67	
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100	
If yes how?							
I.	To get better results	8	26.67	5	16.67	13	21.67
I.	Personal satisfaction	18	60.00	15	50.00	33	55.00
I.	Get appreciation from in-laws	-	-	-	-	-	-
Y.	To get appreciation from husband	3	10.00	9	30.00	12	20.00
Y.	All of the above	1	3.33	-	-	1	1.67
Total	30	100	29	96.67	59	98.33	
Are you satisfied with your life							
Yes	30	100	26	86.67	56	93.33	
No	-	-	4	13.33	4	6.67	

Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If no why?						
I. Lack of family support	-	-	-	-	-	-
II. Lack of resources needed	-	-	2	6.66	2	3.33
III. Male dominant family	-	-	2	6.66	2	3.33
Total	-	-	4	13.33	4	6.66
Trust your abilities to seize up any situation						
Yes	30	100	22	73.33	52	86.67
No	-	-	8	26.67	8	13.33
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100.00
If yes how?						
I. Because of literacy	13	43.33	1	3.33	14	23.33
II. Because of self confidence	15	50.00	21	70.00	36	60.00
III. Because of intelligence	2	6.67	-	-	2	3.33
Total	30	100	22	73.33	52	86.67
If no why?						
Yes	29	96.67	27	90.00	56	93.33
No	1	3.33	3	10.00	4	6.67
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If yes how?						
I. Lack of self confidence	-	-	6	20.00	6	10.00
II. Lack of family support	-	-	1	3.33	1	1.67
III. Lack of proper management	-	-	1	3.33	1	1.67
Total	-	-	8	26.67	8	13.33
Met with a situation where you need to give extra performance?						
Yes	29	96.67	28	93.33	57	95.00
No	1	3.33	2	6.67	3	5.00
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If yes when?						
I. During family functions	7	23.33	6	20.00	13	21.67
II. During examination of children	10	33.33	6	20.00	16	26.67
III. During family problems	10	33.33	14	46.67	24	40.00
IV. All of the above	2	6.67	2	6.66	4	6.66
Total	29	96.67	28	93.33	57	95.00
Bothered of fearing being in adequate?						
Yes	5	16.67	26	86.67	31	51.67
No	25	83.33	4	13.33	29	48.33
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100
If yes why?						
I. Because of less education	2	6.67	25	83.33	27	45.00
II. Financial dependence	3	10.00	1	3.33	4	6.67
III. High expectations on husband	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	16.67	26	86.67	31	51.67

Result depicts that all of the educated respondents said that they strived for perfection in everything which they undertake. The reason given by the respondents where: 55% strive to get personal satisfaction and 21.67% said to get better results. Further, it was also revealed that all the educated respondents were satisfied by their life as compared to uneducated group in which only 86.67% of the respondents were satisfied.

Furthermore, the data also showed that overall 86.67% of the respondents believed that they trust their abilities to seize up any situation. The maximum number i.e. 60% of the respondents were of the view that self-confidence helps them to seize up any situation. Amongst them 100% of the respondents were educated and only 73.33% were uneducated.

Overall 95% of the respondents believed that they had met with a situation where they need to give extra ordinary performance. Amongst them 96.67% were educated and 93.33% were uneducated. Data also revealed that overall 51.67% of the respondents believed that they are bothered for being inadequate. Amongst them majority of the respondents were uneducated and minimum number i.e. 1.67% were educated. The reason given by the uneducated group of respondents was less education.

VII. CONCLUSION

From the present study it was concluded that education plays an important role in women's life. It is an important asset for women's development. Education of women makes here independent and develops their behavior in a positive way. It helps the women to develop their self-esteem and helps them to compete with men. Further, it was concluded that educated women are more conscious about their rights and develops positive and better understanding in them. It was also concluded that there is a significant difference in educated and uneducated women. Educated women take decision and are independent while as uneducated women are dependent and are not allowed to take part in important decisions. Results also revealed that education of women decreases rate of female foeticide and infanticide and lack of education put women at humiliation and are dominated by men, as compared to educated women. Furthermore, it was also concluded that educated mothers develop good values and attitude in their children and develops positive relations with their children and family members. Furthermore it was concluded that uneducated women are significantly different in self-perception as compared to educated women.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The sample of the study comprised of only 60 respondents only.
- The locale of the study has been confined to Srinagar city only.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Focus should be on elementary / basic education of girls without any discrimination.
- Female education should be encouraged by their parents as well as society.
- To improve education among females NGO's or educational organizations / institutions should create awareness programmers about importance of female / women education.
- Gender discrimination issues should be completely ignored in terms of education.

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