

College-going late adolescent's Attitude towards women

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Abstract: India being a patriarchal society since time immemorial, though from the past few years drastic positive changes have occurred, which has lifted them from their dreadful condition. However we must also be aware that these women are only a small population and cannot be considered to tell the entire reality. Because still there are women who are bound by strict rules which oppresses them in ways unimaginable. Adolescence is a period where attitudes are fixed at this age and it will be carried in the future. They are more close towards their peers and very directly exposed to the society at this transition period of forming Self-Identity, that's why even the generally outspoken attitude about women, how people in their surrounding hold a view towards women makes a lot of differences in their opinion about women as well. The current study was undertaken to understand the Attitude towards women among college going late adolescents. The total sample consisted of 60 participants (30 male and female late adolescents each) between the ages of 16-18 years. Purposive sampling method was used and the sample was drawn from the state of Karnataka. Short version of 'The Attitude towards women' Scale by Spence, Helmrich and Stapp (1978) was used to assess the Attitude towards women. The data was analysed using independent samples t –test and it shows that there is a significant difference among college going late adolescents in their attitude towards women and that female participants showed higher egalitarian attitude towards women compared to male participants.

Keywords: Gender inequality, Attitude towards women, late adolescents, Egalitarian

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I. INTRODUCTION

India being a patriarchal society since time immemorial, though from the past few years drastic positive changes have occurred, which has lifted them from their dreadful condition.

How can we see their condition improve? Examples of few women in different fields.

However we must also be aware that these women are only a small population and cannot be considered to tell the entire reality. Because still there are women who are bound by strict rules which oppresses them in ways unimaginable, and this is seen since the inception when she is still in the womb, where she is slaughtered by the pathetic parochial views of the father. And the oppression is also seen when the mother is blamed to bear a female child and is brutalised by her "better-half" for giving rise to such sin. In a state where we hear such stories the thought of safety of women in later life is preposterous. And numbers also compel this manoeuvre when we see 60.60% of literacy rate of women where as men has a literacy rate of 81.3% according to 2015 estimation. (India demographics profile, 2018)

The worrying Hippocratic's is that if we look into the history of India, women's were worshiped as goddess, even now many Indian family do worship them in the form of, Laxmi, Saraswati, Parvati, Kali etc. But in reality what exactly is happening, in some part of the country women's are not allowed to take up higher education, the abuse which they are facing at home in the name of religion, tradition, early marriage, dowry, domestic violence, forced marriages and even at work place were they are paid comparatively less than male workers, treated as a sexual object or rape and much more are still being persisted in many places. No doubt India is a developing country, technology is on raise, but this has brought no change in the type of mind set people still holds towards women. (Kishwar desai, 2013)

Every nation's future is determined by its younger generation and where India is considered as having the world's largest youth population as per UN report despite having the smaller population compared to china (The Hindu, 2014). According to the highlights from census 2011, every fifth person in India is an adolescent (10-19 years) and every third- a young person (10-24 years). If we look at the age distribution from 2007- 2017, one half of the population is younger. Gender inequality still persists in India, even though the people residing in India believes that the quality of life is about equal for both the genders in the country. India is patriarchal and ladies still usually face forced marriages, domestic violence, dowry killing or rape. As of late, Republic of India has come back to be thought of one amongst the smallest amount of safe places for females worldwide.

Adding to that, infantile and selective abortion of girl fetuses attribute to the differences of women in Asian nation. It is believed that this has crystal rectifier to the very fact that the overwhelming

majority of Indian kids aged zero to six years are male.(India:Age distribution form 2007-2017). What type of education and values are being taught to adolescents, how they are treating and will treat the opposite gender need to be considered seriously because this will tell as to how again the stereotypes against gender inequality will be carried ahead.

If we take the concepts in psychology about how children's learn, according to one of the theory's Alfred Bandura who talks about social learning theory and majorly observation learning says that people learn by observing the surrounding, what is happening in their environment, what people are doing, how and what behaviour children's are exposed to plays a very important role in learning. Talking about few examples, Girls are not supposed to sit spreading their legs, should not laugh out loud whereas boys can, boys are not allowed to cry, they are not so very expressive in terms of their emotions, which makes them to suppress their emotions and which comes out in the form of aggression and frustration. May be this is one of the reasons they displace their anger towards female by dominating them. (Dr. G Krishna, 2017). In many north Indian family's females are not supposed to go in front of their elders, if they are in any case, they should cover their face.

There are matriarchal family as well, but in that too the main functioning of the family head is the male. Not only females but even males are being discriminated many a times but comparatively the rate of discrimination is higher in females.

The culture, parents role, home environment too plays a very important role while bringing up the child no matter it's a boy child or a girl child. In a family where father dominates mother, doesn't allow her to take up her own decisions, the message which they are giving to their children is the male dominance over females, the child observes it learns the same, later on the child continue the same thing when they grow old or even during childhood itself. Parents or even the society on the basis of the biology of the child determines their acts accordingly to the gender schema, as to boys are allowed to go out, on the other hands girls are not, girls need to engage in behaviour such as nurturing, care taking, cooking, drawing rangoli etc. Doing so it is clear that the male dominance is carried through the family.

Adolescence is a period where attitudes are fixed at this age and it will be carried in the future, according to Erik Erikson's stages of Psychosocial development, the age range in which self-identity forms is between 12-18 years, so they are the ones who are in an urge to form a self-identity and therefore are exposed to the public and society very directly. They are more close towards their peers at this transition period, that's why even the generally outspoken attitude about women, how people in their surrounding hold a view towards women makes a lot of differences in their opinion about women as well. Not just the nature factor but the nurture factor to can influence their behaviour, How father treats mother, how sisters are being treated at home, naturally carries that attitude to influence them.

Their personal experiences or self-experiences also changes their attitude towards women. Change might have come in a particular section for e.g. ifboth the parents are working but suppose father is an engineer, but women is a teacher then discrimination may happen. Women are respected only when she is highly capable and not just capable. In a study conducted by Tracie L. Stewart et. al. in (2000) indicate that the female college going students of state university and liberal arts college showed more egalitarian attitude towards women than male participants. A study on Attitude towards women among college students in urban India, done by Shobha A. Menon, indicates that there is a gender difference in attitude towards women and that female college students showed more egalitarian attitude towards women than compared to male college going students.

II. METHOD

Rationale for Present study

The rationale of the study was to assess the Attitude towards women among college going Late Adolescents, because as we are observing change in the current generation students and in the society, so to assess how much it has happened, considering the gender factor and secondly, the researches which exists suggests that female's shows more progressive attitude towards women compared to males.

Research Question

What is the level of Attitude towards women among college-goinglate adolescents?

Hypothesis

There is no significant gender difference among college-going late adolescents in their Attitude towards women.

Variables

Independent Variable: Gender (Male and Female)

Dependent Variable: Attitude towards women

Participants

Purposive sampling method was used for data collection. Sample for the study consisted of 60 participants (30 Female and Male late adolescent each) belonging to the age range of 16-18 years, who could communicate in English.

Tool

The study used the short version of the Attitudes Towards Women Scale developed by Spence, Helmrich and Stapp (1978). The scale has 25 items each to be rated on a four point scale ranging from 1-Agree Strongly to 4-Disagree Strongly. Of the 25 items 12 are reverse scored.

A high score indicates progressive egalitarian attitude towards women while a low score indicates a traditional, conservative attitude.

Personal Data Sheet

The personal datasheet was prepared by the researcher. The data sheet contains Socio-demographic details like Name, Age, Sex, Education, Marital status, Birth Order etc.

Research Design

Research is Exploratory in nature and the Sample Survey Research Design is adopted.

Procedure

Written Consent was taken from the Participants. The Purpose of the study was explained to the participants. The participants who fulfilled the criteria were met personally by the researcher. The participant's willingness to participate in the study was ascertained after the establishment of rapport. The socio-demographic details were collected. The participants were briefed about the inventory and was provided with clear instructions. After the completion of administration of Attitude towards Women Scale, the inventory was collected and was checked for any kind of omissions. After completion of all the assessments the researcher spent some time with the participants and they were thanked for their participation and cooperation. Then the scoring was done for the responses obtained and interpretation were made.

Ethical Issues

Written consent was obtained from the participants of the research. The obtained data has been used only for the purpose of the research. The participants were assured about the confidentiality of the information provided by them. Participants were permitted to withdraw from the research any time.

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics: Mean and Standard Deviation

Inferential Statistics: Independent Samples t-test

III. RESULTS

The results obtained were analysed using independent samples t-test, to understand the significant difference in the level of Egalitarian attitude towards women among Females and Males. The results are discussed with references to the hypothesis mentioned.

Demographic Variables

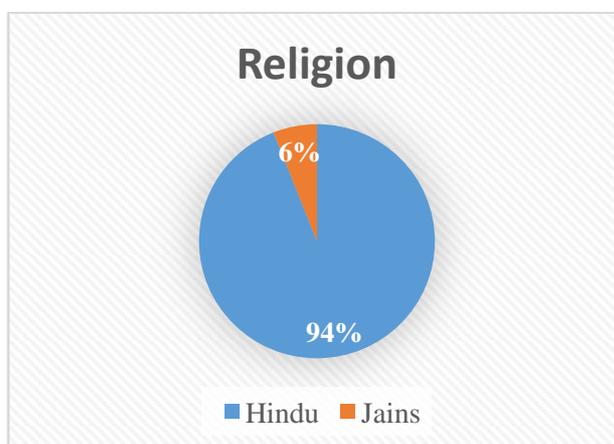


Figure 1: Shows the Religion of Female Participants, indicating that 94% are Hindu and 6% are Jains.

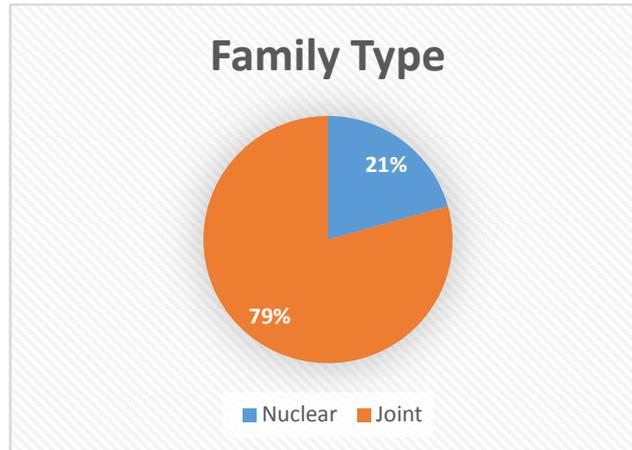


Figure 2: Shows the Family Type of Female Participants, indicating that 79% lives with Nuclear Family 21% lives with Joint Family.

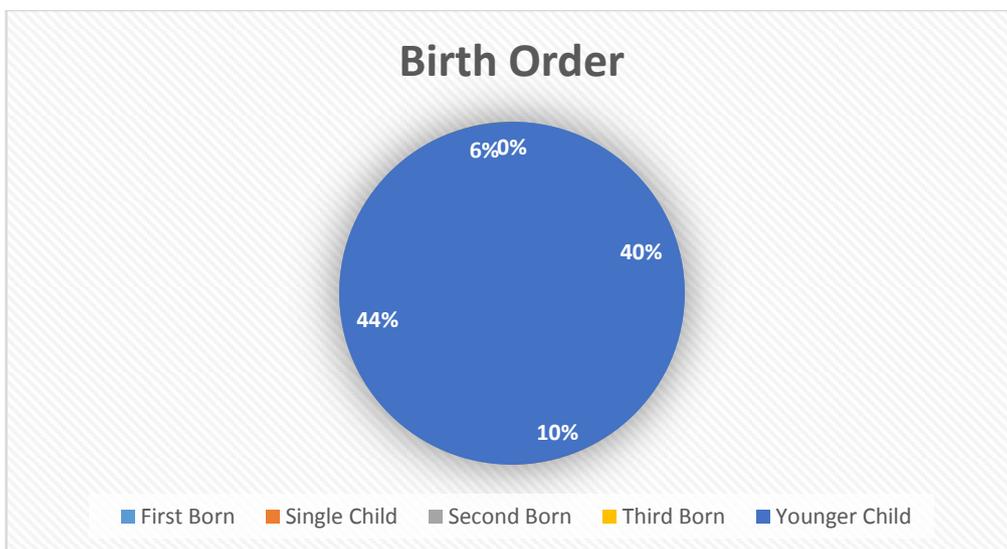


Figure 3: Shows the Birth Order of Female Participants, indicating that the percentage of First born, Single child, Second born, Third Born and Younger child are 40%, 10%, 44%, 6% and 0% respectively.

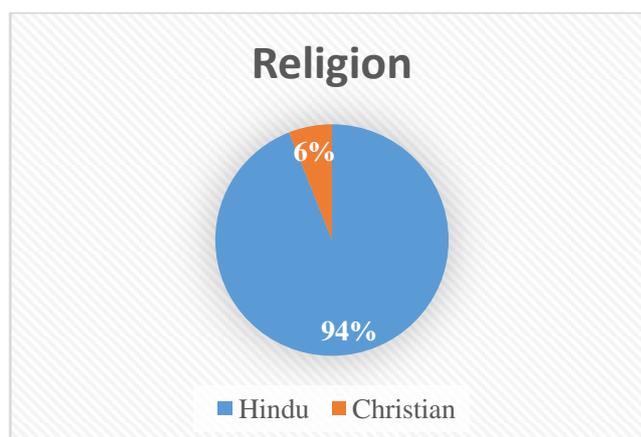


Figure 4: Shows the Religion of Male participants, indicating that 94% are Hindu and 6% are Christian.

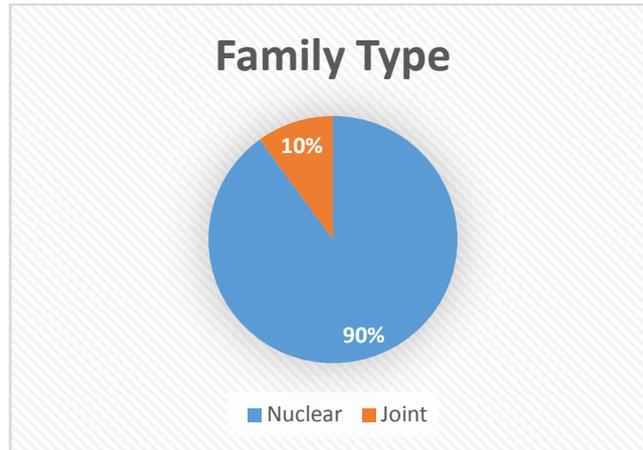


Figure 5: Shows the Family Type of the Male participants, indicating that 90% lives in a Nuclear family and 10% lives in a joint family.

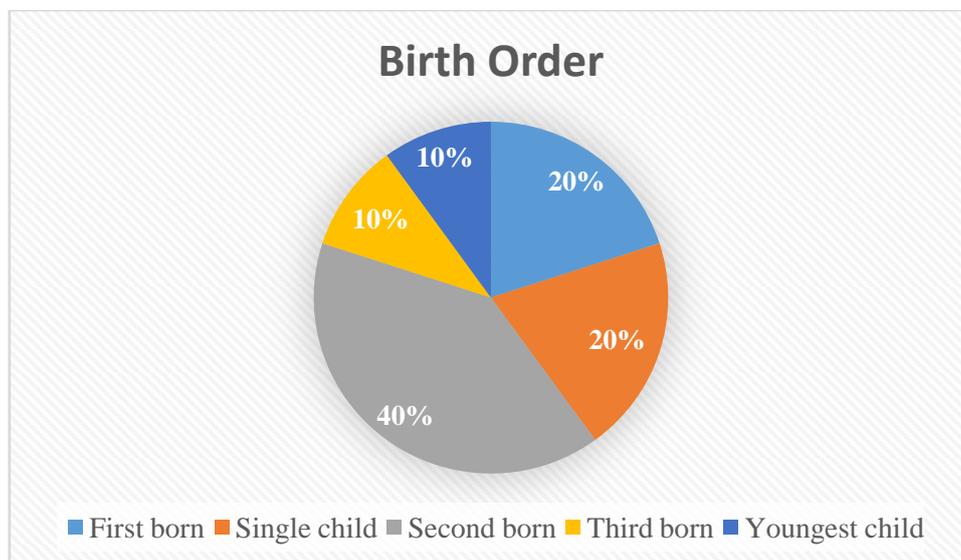


Figure 6: Shows the Birth order of male participants, indicating that the percentage of First born, Single child, Second born, Third Born and Younger child are 20%, 20%, 40%, 10% and 10% respectively.

Main Analysis

Independent Samples t-test

Table 1: Summary of Mean, Standard Deviation and t value for Attitude towards women among Late Adolescents.

Variables		Females	Males	N	df	t	P value
Attitude towards women		M-50.97 SD-8.315	M-41.57 SD-5.322	60	58	5.215	0.000

Note: p<.05

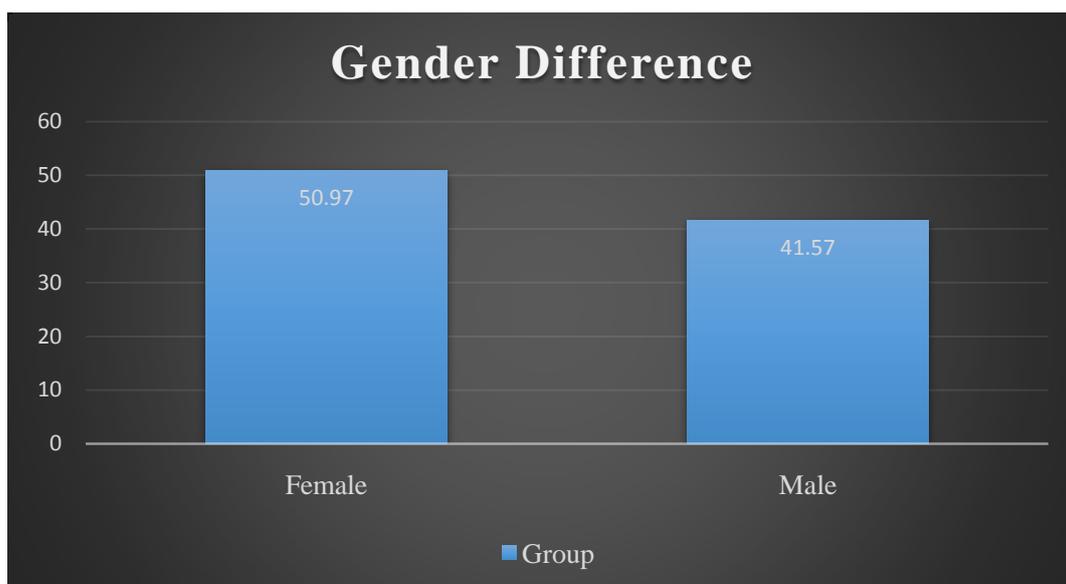


Figure 7: Mean Scores of Attitude towards women among Female and Male Late Adolescents

IV. DISCUSSION

To test the hypothesis stating that there is no significant gender difference in Attitude towards women among college going late adolescents, the mean scores on AWS of both the genders were compared. The higher scores indicates more progressive attitude towards women were as the lower scores indicates more traditional and conservative attitude towards women, the mean AWS score for female and male participants were Ms-50.97 and Ms-41.57 respectively, indicating that the female participants AWS scores were significantly higher than those of the Male Participants.

The Independent samples t- test suggests that the obtained $t = 5.215$, which is significant at 0.05 level, hence the Hypothesis stating that there is no significant gender difference among college going late adolescents in their Attitude towards women is rejected.

The results indicates that female participants have higher egalitarian attitude towards women compared to male participants. Supporting results were found in the study conducted by Tracie L. Stewart et. al. in (2000) and Shobha A. Menon, indicating Females have higher progressive attitude towards women compared to Males.

Though in India it is believed that the quality of life is about treating both the males and females equally, and that so many changes and development have taken place and are taking place yet the results of the study indicates that the gender difference still exists in many part of the country in various fields were females are still suppressed by the males not giving them the equal rights which they hold. Many laws have been formed in protection of women in India against such discrimination which is happening at various place, but the very action plan on those laws will still take a long run, to change the beliefs people hold about women.

Where are we going wrong in changing the views about women? Is it the Parenting style, education system or somewhere else? How can this conservative attitude towards women can be abolished from its root? The answer to these questions still remains, but if a proper study is conducted to find the root cause of this discrimination and that can be eliminated then maybe we will see a different picture of it. If the college going late adolescents who are getting equal education, are showing such a conservative attitude towards women at their developing period itself, then thinking about their adult life, shows a clear picture of how women's will be treated in their near future. The author is of opinion that the blame cannot be put on any one aspect of the system whether it is education system or Parenting style or environmental factor or it's just the individual's person experiences. There may be many other factors which is contributing to such attitude towards women.

V. CONCLUSION

The findings of the study indicates that the late adolescent's female participants showed higher progressive and egalitarian attitude towards women and that the male participants showed more conservative attitude towards women.

Limitations

Though the results obtained are strong and holds good internal validity, there are limitations to this as well, it should be noted that in this present study, the sample comprised of purposive sampling and had limited generalizability. Only questionnaire method was used. Qualitative study is needed and other domains can be

considered like their personal experiences and observation experiences to know the reasons as to why specifically they hold such attitude towards women.

Scope for further study

The study can be extended across the diverse geographical locations and the comparative study between the localities, different age groups and cultures can be initiated.

Implications

Awareness programmes can be conducted on Gender equality and women empowerment for schools and college students of different age groups.

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