

A study of socio-economic status and self-esteem in relation to career and family values

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ABSTRACT

The present study has been conducted with the aim to know the relationship of socio-economic status and self-esteem with career and family values among college female students. Total samples of 100 college female students in the age range of 20 to 23 years were selected from four streams of post graduates courses. Socio-economic status and career and family values were measured through standardised psychological tools. The data were analysed by percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-values and Karl Pearson 'r'. The analysis revealed that the socio-economic status affected the career and family values.

KEY WORDS : Self-esteem, Socio-economic status, Career values and Family values

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INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic status would be a ranking of an individual by the society he/she live in, in terms of his/her material belongings and cultural procession along with the degree of respect, power and influence he/she yields. Socio-economic status influences values, differences in home management, family life, self-esteem and career orientation.

Self-esteem has been recognized as a predictor of social problems in the researches of psychological and social development. Self-esteem has been found to have a direct relationship with families, school, career, socio-economic status, education, values, age, socio-cultural practices and sex role.

Change in socio-economic and political conditions in India, like many of the third world countries; have brought about a change in attitudes, beliefs and values system of the women. There have been alterations in the entire fabric of the society. The women folk, especially with higher levels of education are in dilemma to choose between traditionally female roles *i.e.* wife and mother within home and non-traditional roles, *i.e.* career person outside home. In case of later, the role of former still goes and hence the duality of the role for career women.

In other words, modern tradition has not been accepted fully and a great confusion in moral and social norms is still there. The techno-economic changes do not swap the traditional social structure absolutely. There remains a zone of indifference in the realm of which traditional and modern values co-exist.

Certain studies indicate that high self-esteem is linked to better performance but others found no difference as well as occupational success leads to high self-esteem.

Faver 1981 rightly observes that female vary in their values they assign to attainment through family or career activity. Female who plan to delay having a family because of career commitment are likely to see their career as play significant role in their psychological fulfilment (Greenglass and Dervins, 1982). Arnold (1993) found by the end of collage many of the woman had altered their career plans or lowered their aspirations to accommodate a hypothetical family. Tanwar and Sethi (1987) explored the relationship of sex-role orientation, self-esteem and socio-economic background to career and family values among collage females, and found collage females with a more positive self-image and having androgynous and masculine sex-role orientation are more career oriented while maintaining their family orientation, both at high and

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