

Family vs career aspiration among female agricultural graduates

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Industrialization and socio-educational advancement has created opportunities for women to work while raising a family and thereby contributing to Indian economy. The study was undertaken under AGRESCO project, in seven colleges of Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University of Gujarat state; to seek answer that whether the female students prefer career or/and family in modern society. A pre-structured interview scheduled and a standardized tool was used to measure independent variables and dependent variable (career and family values scale), respectively. Frequency, percentage, range, correlation coefficient and CRD were used to tabulate the data. The findings revealed that 57.33 per cent of the agricultural university graduates (female) had medium career value and majority (74.67 %) of the respondents had higher family values. Only 21.33 per cent of respondents were willing to seek job or any entrepreneurial venture and that too after completion of post graduation. Among seven colleges, College of Dairy Science and Food Technology ranked first in career value. No significant difference for the family value among girl students of various colleges was obtained. Career value and family value of the respondents was not correlated. Programme of study and father occupation and education showed positive and significant association with career values of the respondents.

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In present world the role of women in society is changing rapidly because of multi-dimensional forces of industrialization and socio-educational advancement. Though the social role expectations for female are not clearly defined, yet the evolving nature of our culture and economy has created opportunities for women to work while raising a family. Despite this fact, many experience conflict between home and career whether they choose only to work, only to marry or to

do both. Valdez and Gutek (1987) found that having a career posed challenges for women due to their family responsibilities and also found that simultaneous demand in work and family, there was a significant impact on women's careers. Within such system of values, women suffer from severe structural stain. According to Heins *et al.* (1982) some women experienced feelings of guilt or selfishness if they put their career interests first found that because of thus the present study aims at predicting

career and family values of college females to find meaning the educated women attach to their work and family life in modern society in which they have to play dual role of careerist and housewife simultaneously. Thus the present study is conducted with following objectives:

- To study selected personal and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents
- To assess career and family values of respondents
- To determine association between basic profile, career and family values of respondents

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The study was undertaken in seven colleges *i.e.*, Agriculture, Horticulture, Home Science and Nutrition, Basic Science and Humanities, Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Renewable Energy and Environment Engineering and Dairy Science and Food Technology of Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University of Gujarat State during April 2014 to February 2015. Three stages random sampling procedure was followed to collect the data. A representative sample of 75 girl students pursuing under-graduate degree was selected.

Personal characters such as: Marital Status, Programme of study; socio-economic characters such as: caste category, family type, family size, family income, family occupation, family education, place of living; and communicational characteristics (contact to various mass medias) of the respondents were taken as independent variables. Career and Family Values of respondents were taken as dependent variable.

A pre-structured interview scheduled was developed to collect the data for measurement of independent variables. For measuring career and family values of respondents, a standardized tool on “Career and Family values scale” by Tanwar and Singh (2000) was used. The collected data were classified and tabulated keeping in view the objectives of the study and were analyzed by applying following statistical tools (Sahu, 2010).

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing the data related to personal and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, the following results were obtained.

Table 1 indicates that large majority of respondents

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to personal, socio-economic and communicational characteristics (n=75)

Variables	Girls
	Frequency (%)
Personal	
Marital status	
Married	03 (04.0)
Unmarried	72 (96.0)
Programme of study	
Agriculture	17(22.6)
Horticulture	06 (08.0)
Home Science and Nutrition	22 (29.3)
Basic Science and Humanities	10 (13.3)
Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry	10 (13.3)
Renewable Energy and Environment Engineering	03 (04.0)
Dairy Science and Food Technology	07 (09.3)
Socio-economic characteristics	
Caste category	
General	39 (52.0)
OBC	22 (29.33)
SC/ST	14 (18.66)
Type of family	
Joint family	42 (56.00)
Nuclear family	33 (44.00)
Family size	
Small (3 members)	05 (06.66)
Medium (4-6 members)	31 (41.33)
Large (more than 6 members)	39 (52.00)
Family income	
Low (<1,50,000)	13 (17.33)
Medium(1,50,001- 3,00,000)	49 (65.33)
High (>3,00,001)	13 (17.33)
Family occupation (Father)	
Farming Animal Husbandry	35 (46.66)
Government Job	05 (06.66)
Business	07 (09.33)
Private Job	28 (37.33)
Family occupation (Mother)	
Homemaking	67 (89.33)
Gov/private job	08 (10.66)
Place of living	
Rural	52 (69.33)
Urban	23 (30.66)
Mass media exposure	
Low (5-12)	07 (09.33)
Medium (13-19)	57 (76.00)
High (20-27)	11 (14.66)

are unmarried. Proportionate number of respondents was randomly selected from eight different programme of study of the university.

Nearly fifty two per cent of the respondents belonged to general caste category. Majority (56 %) of the respondents belong to joint family type with fifty two per cent of the respondents had large family size. Majority (65.33 %) of respondents belong to medium family income. The major occupation of the parents was found to be farming and animal husbandry. About seventy per cent of the respondents were living in rural area and majority (76 %) of respondents were having medium mass media exposure

Career value of the respondents:

It can be concluded from Table 2 that 57 per cent of the respondents have medium career value, followed by 32 per cent with high and only 10.67 per cent of the respondent had low career value. Further, it was found that only 21.33 per cent of respondents were willing to seek job or any entrepreneurial venture and that too after completion of post graduation. The findings reaffirmed with the findings of Francis (2002); Mendez and Crawford (2002) and Wahl and Blackhurst (2000) that revealed that females showed an interest in a greater number of careers and exhibited more gender-role flexibility in their career aspirations than males.

Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to career values of girls of SDAU (n=75)

Career	Frequency	Percentage
Low (61-73)	08	10.67
Medium (74-85)	43	57.33
High (86-97)	24	32.00
Mean: 82.43	SD: 8.279204	

Difference among the career values of girl-students of various colleges of SDAU:

The analysis given in Table 3 shows that the test was found to be significant and indicates that there was a significant difference among the career value of girl students of various colleges of SDAU, S.K. Nagar. Thus

Table 3 : ANOVA for critical difference in career value of girls of various colleges

Sources of variation	Degree of freedom	Sum of square	Mean square	Calculated 'F'	Table at 1 % level
Treatments (between the treatment)	6	2042.879	340.480		
Error (with in treatment)	68	3029.468	44.551	7.642	**
Total	74	34120.55			

**indicates significance of value at P=0.05

to find the answer to the question that which college girls were more inclined towards career, ranking were found and interpreted in Table 4.

Ranking of career values of girl-students of various colleges of SDAU:

It can be revealed from Table 4 that College of Dairy Science and Food Technology ranks first in career values among seven colleges followed by College of Renewable Energy and Environment Engineering and College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry. The reason could be that the students graduating from the above colleges have considerably more job openings at private and government sector or their programme of study provide them with ample of opportunity to create their own enterprise by opening their clinic, pursue private practice, open pet hospital or clinic, open laboratory or start dairy food product business (Joshi, 2012).

It can be concluded from Table 5 that majority (74.67 %) of the respondents have higher family values. ANOVA for critical difference in family value of girls of various colleges was calculated and the test was found to be non-significant which indicates that there was no significant difference for the family value among girl students of various colleges of SDAU, S.K. Nagar.

No correlation was found between career value and Family value of the respondents. This means that neither of the values *i.e.* career and family is found to be related with each other. The findings were in contrast with the findings of Watson *et al.* (2002) noted that adolescent females were more conflicted between their future careers and commitment to marriage and family (Table 6).

Researchers agree that socio-economic status influences career choice; Gottfredson (1981); Sellers *et al.* (1999); Bansal *et al.* (2016) and Mau and Bikos (2000) cited previous findings showing a positive association between a family's socio-economic status and aspirations. Youth from higher socio-economic statuses were more likely to be knowledgeable of and choose professional occupations (Sellers *et al.*, 1999).

In contrast, Brown and Barbosa (2001) found career aspirations of young females who came from low-income families were confined to experiences of their relatives and friends.

The occupational status and educational level of females' parents have had a significant impact on their career aspirations and career choice (Burlin, 1976). Wahl and Blackhurst (2000) indicated children's career

aspirations were more closely related to parental occupations. Table 7 shows that programme of study and father occupation showed positive and highly significant association between career values of the respondents. Family size and family income showed negative and significant association with career value. It means that with increase in family members and income the career values of respondents decreases.

Table 4 : Ranking of career values of girl-students of various colleges (n=75)

Sr. No.	Name of college	Treatment of career	Rank of treatment
1.	Agriculture	80.47 ^{BCD}	5
2.	Horticulture	78.33 ^{CD}	7
3.	Home Science	78.91 ^D	6
4.	Basic Science and Humanities	81.20 ^{BCD}	4
5.	Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry	85.70 ^B	3
6.	Renewable Energy and Environment Engineering	87.67 ^{ABC}	2
7.	Dairy Science and Food Technology	96.57 ^A	1
General Mean=82.43		CV%=8.10	

Table 5 : Distribution of respondents according to family values (n=75)

Family value	Frequency	Percentage
Low (37-52)	04	05.33
Medium (53-69)	15	20.00
High (70-86)	56	74.67
Mean: 71.64	SD: 10.52364	

Table 6 : Correlation between career values and family values (n=75)

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Dependent variable	
		Co-efficient of co-relation 'r' value (Family value) Y ¹	
1.	Career value (X ₁)	-0.06475	

Table 7 : Correlation between personal, socio-economic and communicational characteristics with career values (Y¹) and family values (Y²)

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Dependent variable	
		Co-efficient of co-relation 'r' value	
		(Career value) Y ¹	(Family value) Y ²
1.	Marital status (X ₁)	0.1595168 ^{NS}	-0.00703 ^{NS}
2.	Programme of study (X ₂)	0.5344422 ^{**}	-0.22419 ^{NS}
3.	Caste category (X ₅)	-0.0575041 ^{NS}	-0.10545 ^{NS}
4.	Family type (X ₆)	-0.0087449 ^{NS}	0.171716 ^{NS}
5.	Family size (X ₇)	-0.2326811 [*]	-0.15651 ^{NS}
6.	Family income (X ₈)	-0.2713169 [*]	-0.06009 ^{NS}
7.	Father education (X ₉)	0.2707934 [*]	0.126726 ^{NS}
8.	Mother education (X ₁₀)	0.1995403 ^{NS}	0.061191 ^{NS}
9.	Father occupation (X ₁₁)	0.303459 ^{**}	0.086105 ^{NS}
10.	Mother occupation (X ₁₂)	-0.0302953 ^{NS}	0.156426 ^{NS}
11.	Place of living (X ₁₃)	0.1365883 ^{NS}	-0.00633 ^{NS}
12.	Mass media exposure (X ₁₄)	-0.0012745 ^{NS}	-0.07612 ^{NS}

* and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

NS=Non-significant

Father education showed positive and significant association with career value of the respondents. The findings reaffirm with the findings of Mau and Bikos (2000) who found that parents' educational level has been positively related to aspirations of youth. Further, Burlin (1976) stated that both parents' education level wielded a strong influence on career choices of their daughters.

Table 7 shows that mother education and occupation had no significant association with girls, career and family values. The findings are in contrast to the findings of Signer and Saldana (2001) who noted the positive relationship between adolescent females' career aspirations and their mothers' educational achievement. Among adolescent females in particular, career choice was strongly influenced by the mother's occupation (Burlin, 1976 and Wahl and Blackhurst, 2000). The mother's occupation was credited with impacting children's aspirations because children often attended work with their mothers and were more likely to know what their mothers did for a living. Likewise, The researchers attributed this finding to the fact that mothers exhibit a greater presence in many homes.

Conclusion :

The above study reveals that the female students of SDAU have medium career value and high family values. Family values were not influencing the career values of the female students. Father's occupation and education was found to be highly influencing career values of the female students. Traditional impact on girls still continues but young girls need to understand that to cope up with present competitive world they need to focus on career also. So, there is need for counseling for developing their career and bringing female in main stream for economic independence.

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