

Attitude of urban and rural would be parents towards girl child

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ABSTRACT : A study was conducted in Bikaner Panchayat Samiti. For selection of samples, from each village or ward 20 male and 20 female would be parents were selected randomly. 5 male and 5 female parents and 5 male and 5 female grandparents were selected purposely to getting total sample size of 240. The study revealed that majority of respondents had most favourable, attitude towards education, decision making, health and nutrition and mobility. In case of decision making, media exposure and mobility female respondents had most favourable attitude as compared to male respondents. Mass media exposure was positively and significantly rated with attitude of both urban and rural respondents. It also concluded from study that attitude of both urban and rural would be parents is affected from educational qualification, mass media exposure, family income, age and family type.

KEY WORDS : Panchayat Samiti, Respondents, Urban, Rural

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INTRODUCTION

'Gender bias' or 'son preference' has received wide attention in the literature (Deaton, 1989 and Pitt *et al.*, 1990). A large and growing body of literature in economics provides evidence from many countries consistent with son preference or gender bias.

Females are more likely to be unbiased than males; among biased parents, neither male nor female is systematically biased for/against any particular gender of a child.

Generally women and girls in rural areas have a

poor quality of life. The lack of basic services affects them the most. They have to spend considerable time collecting potable water and getting rid of wastewater. Looking after children who are frequently sick, husbands who do not earn adequately and can be drunk and trying to ensure that the family gets a meal every day. Girls have to look after younger siblings when both parents go to work. Combined with a traditional bias against educating girls they are often not sent to school or drop out at an early stage Gender inequality is still a major contemporary social problem and is not an individual matter, therefore, it is deeply ingrained in the structure

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of societies. Girls are often treated as inferior and are socialized to put themselves last, thus, undermining their self-esteem and it initiates a lifelong downward spiral of deprivation and exclusion from the social mainstream.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Bikaner district. Descriptive research design was used for conducting the present study, keeping in mind purpose of the study interview schedule (attitude scale) developed by Singh (2013) was used for data collection. Chi-square test was used to find out the factors associated with the attitude of urban and rural would be parents towards girl child.

Also, a general rising of the status and standing of women in social perception can have a significant impact on the way female children are viewed and treated. Keeping above in view the present paper has assessed the intergenerational attitude towards girl child in Bikaner district. The present study was designed with the following specific objectives :

- To assess the attitude of would be parents towards girl child,
- To find out factors associated with the attitude of urban and rural would be parents towards girl child.

Six Panchayat Samities in Bikaner district. Out of which one Panchayat Samiti viz., Kolayat Panchayat Samiti was selected randomly. One ward from each zone i.e. east and west zone of Bikaner city was selected. For this selection of rural respondents Kolayat Panchayat Samiti was selected randomly. Out of 229 villages of Kolayat Panchayat Samiti, two villages Chandasar and Kotra were also selected randomly by chit method. Thus, total two villages were selected for the present investigation.

For selection of urban respondents Bikaner city was selected. Bikaner city was divided into four zones like East, West, North and South. Two zones east and west was selected randomly. From selected zone one ward selected by chit method. Ward number 52 from east zone and ward number 16 from west zone were included. Thus, two wards were selected from Bikaner city. For the selection of rural and urban respondents a comprehensive list of respondents was taken from anganwadi/help of ward member. From each village/ward 20 male and 20 female would be parents selected randomly. In most of the families parents and grandparents live together in a family, so 5 male and 5 female parents and 5 male and 5 female grandparents

were selected purposely from same families to get reliable information at a time, hence, total sixty respondents from each village /ward were selected randomly by using chit method. Thus, total 240 respondents were selected for present investigation (120 rural and 120 urban respondents). Interview method was used to collect data from the respondents. For this rapport was first established by informal discussion with the respondents. Respondents were interviewed individually at their homes. After collection of the data from 240 respondents, coding was done and then data were compiled and tabulated for analysis and interpretation in light of the objectives of study and interpretation in light of the objectives of study.

OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT

The results obtained from the present investigation are summarized below :

Attitude of urban and rural would be parents towards girl child :

Data presented in Table 1 clearly reveals that majority of the would be parents had most favourable attitude towards girls education (61.25% male and 57.50% female), decision making (73.75% male and 82.50% female), health and nutrition (67.50% male and 63.75% female) and mobility (51.25% male and 61.25% female) followed by favourable and unfavourable attitude.

Table also indicates that majority of the would be parents had favourable attitude towards career (65.00% male and 63.75% female), household responsibilities (72.50% male and 56.25% female) and social obligation (68.75% male and 66.25% female) followed by most favourable and unfavourable.

It further depicted that female respondents had most favourable attitude towards the personality development (51.25%), saving and deposit (66.25%), media exposure (61.25%), whereas male respondents had favourable attitude to most favourable attitude.

It can be concluded from the table that majority of respondents had most favourable, attitude towards education, decision making, health and nutrition and mobility. In case of decision making, media exposure and mobility female respondents had most favourable attitude as compared to male respondents. The finding are in concordance with the findings of Singh (2013) who indicated that majority of would be parents had most

Table 1 : Distribution of would be parents on the basis of their attitude towards girl child		(n = 160)					
Sr. No.	Categories	Urban		Rural		Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1.	Education						
	Unfavourable	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (5.00)	1 (2.50)	2 (2.50)	1 (1.25)
	Favourable	12 (30.00)	13 (32.50)	17 (42.50)	20 (50.00)	29 (36.25)	33 (41.25)
	Most favourable	28 (70.00)	27 (67.50)	21 (52.50)	19 (47.50)	49 (61.25)	46 (57.50)
2.	Career						
	Unfavourable	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (2.50)	1 (2.50)	1 (1.25)	1 (1.25)
	Favourable	27 (67.50)	23 (57.50)	25 (62.50)	28 (70.00)	52 (65.00)	51 (63.75)
	Most favourable	13 (32.50)	17 (42.50)	14 (35.00)	11 (27.50)	27 (33.75)	28 (35.00)
3.	Household responsibilities						
	Unfavourable	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	7 (17.50)	3 (7.50)	7 (8.75)	3 (3.75)
	Favourable	30 (75.00)	21 (52.50)	28 (70.00)	24 (60.00)	58 (72.50)	45 (56.25)
	Most favourable	10 (25.00)	19 (47.50)	5 (12.50)	13 (32.50)	15 (18.75)	32 (40.00)
4.	Decision making						
	Unfavourable	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (5.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (2.50)
	Favourable	8 (20.00)	5 (12.50)	13 (32.50)	7 (17.50)	21 (26.25)	12 (15.00)
	Most favourable	32 (80.00)	35 (87.50)	27 (67.50)	31 (77.50)	59 (73.75)	66 (82.50)
5.	Health and nutrition						
	Unfavourable	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (2.50)	0 (0.00)	1 (1.25)	0 (0.00)
	Favourable	11 (27.50)	10 (25.00)	14 (35.00)	19 (47.50)	25 (31.25)	29 (36.25)
	Most favourable	29 (72.50)	30 (75.00)	25 (62.50)	21 (52.50)	54 (67.50)	51 (63.75)
6.	Personality development						
	Unfavourable	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (2.50)	0 (0.00)	1 (1.25)	0 (0.00)
	Favourable	25 (62.50)	13 (32.50)	31 (77.50)	26 (65.00)	56 (70.00)	39 (48.75)
	Most favourable	15 (37.50)	27 (67.50)	8 (20.00)	14 (35.00)	23 (28.75)	41 (51.25)
7.	Social obligation						
	Unfavourable	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	3 (7.50)	1 (2.50)	3 (3.75)	1 (1.25)
	Favourable	23 (57.50)	26 (65.00)	32 (80.00)	27 (67.50)	55 (68.75)	53 (66.25)
	Most favourable	17 (42.50)	14 (35.00)	5 (12.50)	12 (30.00)	22 (27.50)	26 (32.50)
8.	Saving and deposit						
	Unfavourable	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	4 (10.00)	3 (7.50)	4 (5.00)	3 (3.75)
	Favourable	26 (65.00)	10 (25.00)	21 (52.50)	14 (35.00)	47 (58.75)	24 (30.00)
	Most favourable	14 (35.00)	30 (75.00)	15 (37.50)	23 (57.50)	29 (36.25)	53 (66.25)
9.	Media exposure						
	Unfavourable	2 (5.00)	1 (2.50)	0 (0.00)	3 (7.50)	2 (2.50)	4 (5.00)
	Favourable	22 (55.00)	12 (30.00)	23 (57.50)	15 (37.50)	45 (56.25)	27 (33.75)
	Most favourable	16 (40.00)	27 (67.50)	17 (42.50)	22 (55.00)	33 (41.25)	49 (61.25)
10.	Sex preference						
	Unfavourable	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (5.00)	3 (7.50)	2 (2.50)	3 (3.75)
	Favourable	30 (75.00)	24 (60.00)	34 (85.00)	30 (75.00)	64 (80.00)	54 (67.50)
	Most favourable	10 (25.00)	16 (40.00)	4 (10.00)	7 (17.50)	14 (17.50)	23 (28.75)
11.	Mobility						
	Unfavourable	0 (0.00)	1 (2.50)	2 (5.00)	1 (2.50)	2 (2.50)	2 (2.50)
	Favourable	19 (47.50)	16 (40.00)	18 (45.00)	13 (32.50)	37 (46.25)	29 (36.25)
	Most favourable	21 (52.50)	23 (57.50)	20 (50.00)	26 (65.00)	41 (51.25)	49 (61.25)

favourable attitude towards girls education, decision making, saving and deposit and favourable attitude towards career, household responsibilities and social obligations.

Association between the attitude of urban and rural would be parents with selected independent variables :

It could be observed from Table 2 that almost all the selected independent variables were significantly associated with attitude of urban and rural would be parents.

In urban area all the selected independent variables age, respondent's education, family type, family income and mass media exposure were significantly associated with attitude towards girls education, career, health and nutrition, personality development, savings and deposit, media exposure and mobility. It is also clear from results that no association was observed in case of age with attitude parameter decision making, respondent's

education with social obligation, family type with decision making, mass media exposure with household responsibilities, social obligations and sex preference. Family income was also not significantly associated with attitude parameter decision making.

In rural area all the selected independent variables age, respondent's education, family type, family income and mass media exposure were significantly associated with almost all the attitude parameters like education, career household responsibilities, health and nutrition, personality development, social obligation, saving and deposit and media exposure. It is also depicted in Table 2 that no association was found in case of family income with decision making attitude parameter, mass media exposure with sex preference and family income with mobility.

Mass media exposure was positively and significantly rated with attitude of both urban and rural respondents. This might be due to the fact that women would have utilized more number of mass media source

Table 2 : Association of independent factors of the would be parents with attitude towards girl child

Particulars	URBAN				
	Age	Education respondents	Family type	Mass media	Family income
Education	15.76**	20.31**	7.21**	9.63**	16.41**
Career	36.14**	6.49*	22.69**	4.37**	29.57**
Household respondents	36.17**	8.19**	18.28**	3.29	36.19**
Decision making	2.83	14.93**	1.32	22.48**	3.66
Health and nutrition	8.62**	31.31**	4.60*	14.65**	13.33**
Personality development	13.18**	9.31**	8.22**	6.42*	19.26**
Social obligation	26.32**	2.69	31.66**	1.36	21.54**
Saving deposit	8.62**	6.01*	4.60*	14.65**	10.80**
Media exposure	14.86**	15.73**	6.64*	8.09**	18.25**
Sex preference	32.59**	5.74*	25.30**	2.03	26.67**
Mobility	23.25**	9.09**	11.14**	4.61*	25.18**
			RURAL		
Education	15.51**	9.49**	40.00**	15.20**	8.58**
Career	4.68*	24.51**	10.66**	4.89*	22.01**
Household respondents	4.39*	21.59**	14.24**	6.27*	17.10**
Decision making	7.00**	5.06*	12.82**	22.97**	1.51
Health and nutrition	18.95**	21.71**	32.68**	19.91**	6.82*
Personality development	7.16**	35.90**	15.92**	7.22*	15.17**
Social obligation	5.45*	24.89**	12.67**	4.95*	19.35**
Saving deposit	23.19**	17.74**	40.00**	23.25**	5.38*
Media exposure	20.95**	19.64**	36.14**	21.21**	6.07*
Sex preference	8.48**	9.60**	4.34*	2.11	28.15**
Mobility	27.89**	12.92**	29.14**	27.93**	3.63

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

which might have resulted high level of attitude towards girls education, **health and nutrition, saving and deposit and media exposure.

The findings are supported with the findings of Kaur (2014) showed that low level of literacy, big family size, poverty and lack interest in education was significantly associated with attitude. Similarly Singh and Dhanda (2008) and Kanwar *et al.* (2008) studied on gender discrimination of girl child and status of girl child in Punjab, respectively.

Conclusion :

It can be concluded from the tables that majority of respondents had most favourable, attitude towards education, decision making, health and nutrition and mobility. Almost all the selected independent variables were significantly associated with attitude of urban and rural would be parents. In both urban and rural area all the selected independent variables age, respondent's education, family type, family income and mass media exposure were significantly associated with almost all the attitude parameters like education, career household responsibilities, health and nutrition. It also concluded from above findings that attitude of both urban and rural would be parents is affected from educational qualification, mass media exposure, family income, age and family type.

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