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## Motivation of Early Married Women Towards Higher Education: A Study Based on Narayanpur Area



\* Latika Hazarika Boruah

\* Asst. Prof, Dept. of Philosophy, Madhabdev College, Narayanpur, Lakhimpur, Assam,

### A B S T R A C T

*In Indian society, men enjoy a superior status than that of women. In the field of education also, men get more chance of education than women. From her early childhood a girl is taught to consider the house hold works as the primary duty. After marriage and childbirth it becomes more difficult for them to continue their higher education. This paper tries to find out the motivation of early married women towards higher education, because motivation is a key factor of education.*

**Key Words:** women, higher education, duty, motivation, early marriage, society

#### 1. Introduction

Indian society is basically patriarchal society. Here men enjoy a superior status in the family as well as in any socio-cultural, religious, political or economic affairs in comparison to women. In majority of the families, father, son or any male member is considered as the head and the decision maker. Most of the women feel that the only career for them is marriage and their predominant roles are that of a wife and mother. They therefore, do not feel much inclined towards education. As a result, majority of women, after marriage do not want to receive higher education. Another common problem faced by most of the married women is that their husband and in-laws do not support them to study because they think that if the daughter-in-law engage herself in studies then who would do the household tasks. All these questions are interlinked to the problem of motivation.

#### 2. Motivation And Higher Education Of Women

Motivation is the key factor of education. Human learning is influenced by motives. Motivation is a desire to achieve a goal, combined with the energy towards that goal. But it has been often seen that most of the married women lacks motivation towards higher education. In Indian society, girl children usually get married in an early age due to various socio-cultural norms. After marriage men may manage time to continue their study, but women cannot manage time to continue their study because women have to look after the household affairs and their children. Therefore, their ambition of higher education is easily destroyed and a large number of women drop-out is found in the field of higher education.

#### 3. Objectives

The main objectives of this paper are to know the motivation of early married women towards higher

education and also to find out the main obstacles of their pursuing higher education. The study area was confined only to Narayanpur area of Lakhimpur District of Assam.

#### 4. Methodology

The study was survey based. In this study primary data were collected from Narayanpur area of Lakhimpur District of Assam. Total 20 randomly selected early married women of age group 18 to 30 who stopped study at undergraduate level were considered to be eligible for the study. Secondary data were collected from books, journal and internet. The primary data required for the study were collected with the help of questionnaires and personally interviewed with the target respondents.

#### 5. Analysis And Findings

Out of 20 respondents only 8 respondents i.e., 40 per cent early married women think that higher education is necessary for women. They feel that higher education is necessary for gathering knowledge, economic empowerment, to protest exploitation as well as to perform the duties of mother and wife in a better way. They think that higher education give them better status in society. On the other hand, out of 20 respondent 12 respondents i.e. 60 per cent early married women feel that higher education is not necessary for women, because nowadays it is not always sure that higher education will open job opportunities. Another reason is that higher education is not affordable for them. They think higher education is need not necessary for their domestic work. They are happy with their family without higher education. Before marriage, a girl is inspired by her mother and her family to look after their domestic works and their children. After marriage, she is inspired by her parents in laws and husband to do the same. All of them get married at an early age because due to poor economic

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condition, their parents think that they are the burden of family and they think if they do not married early there is a less chance of getting a good husband so they want to get rid of their daughter by giving married them early.

Out of 20 respondents, only 4 respondents i.e., 20 per cent women want to take higher education if they get a chance. Most of them say that their husbands as well as their parents-in-laws never encourage them to take higher education. Only a few husbands encourage his wife to take higher education for economic purpose. But parents-in-laws, especially mother-in-laws do not encourage them to pursue higher education.

### **6. Conclusion and Suggestions**

From the above analysis, it can be summarized that early married women have lack of motivation towards higher education and they have faced various problems in pursuing higher education. It is seen that from the very early age, the women (daughter) of the poor families are never motivated by their family members to have higher education. Due to the poor economic condition they cannot afford the cost of higher education and therefore, somehow they take the minimum education and prepare themselves to get married. Their parents also want to get rid of their responsibilities by getting married their daughters away as soon as possible. Those girl children have never seriously taught about the necessity of higher education in their life. So they have never made their mind to take it before or after marriage. They develop such a mentality that, they prefer domestic life to higher education. It is bitter truth that women are never free from domestic responsibilities and lack of motivation has made the women education even

tougher. If there is a motivation, a woman can acquire her education even after married. From the above data, majority of the parents-in-laws' and their husbands' attitude towards higher education is negative. Some suggestions are put forwarded to overcome those problems-

1. Motivation is essential for education. A woman should be motivated from her early childhood to pursue higher education at any cost.
2. No discrimination should be made between a girl child and a boy child of the family, and violation of it should be made legally punishable.
3. Women should be made aware of necessity of higher education in their life, and should be made convinced that it can make their life more secure before or after marriage. It makes a woman independent and strong.
4. Parent, parents-in-laws and husbands should encourage early married women to take higher education.
5. A favorable atmosphere should be created to encourage girl child to take education from the very childhood.
6. All women, including the early married women should be made aware of different government policies, which are especially made for supporting women higher education.
7. The traditional work division of our society should not be encouraged in all cases. Instead, the household works should be divided on the basis of convenience.
8. Instead of considering it as a burden, higher education should be considered as a way to socio-economic empowerment.
9. Above all, early marriage of a girl should always be prevented.

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