

Changing the Status of Women in Society

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ABSTRACT: *Every society consists of men and of women. Woman is the leader planner of the family. Women are consistently made conscious of their importance in creating a flourishing society slowly. They are able to successfully juggle their personal and work lives. Women today handle their household responsibilities and tasks, manage a career outside the home, care for their children, and strike a balance between their personal and professional life. Women have every opportunity in the society to succeed, grow, and realize their full prospective. According to Sentinel (2020)², things have been gradually improving for women in recent years. In all key fields, women are steadily making progress. In order to build their own identities outside of the home and beyond only taking care of their families and cooking, modern women must step outside of their comfort zones. The study were utilized both primary and secondary sources which was gathered by questionnaire surveys using simple random methods. The sample size for these study was 1375 respondents. According to the study findings 91.4 percent of women reached up to graduate level and 95.7 percent of women educated up to post graduate level Respectively living apart from only the 78.6 percent of women still found to be illiterate among the studied respondents. Moreover, the Pearson X² test at the 0.000 level also strongly suggests that there is a positive correlation between an independent variable, such as the educational level of women respondents, and their self-belief in an independent variable, such as the current Government policies and its impact on changing the status of household women as such.*

Keywords: Women, Household Work, changing, social status,

INTRODUCTION

During the 20th century, significant changes in women's standing occurred all around the world. The first phase involved the fight for fundamental civil rights at the polls and on the job. The expansion of women's property, employment, and other civic rights marked the start of the second stage around 1945. The third stage, which is still in progress, started in the 1970s with the emergence of feminism and women's groups in various spheres of society. Not all nations experienced the changes simultaneously or in a logical way. So 1975 was designated as International Women's Year to promote women's education and raise their standing. Women are gradually and firmly informed of their importance in creating a successful community. They are awake and actively moving. Nothing that the women haven't conquered, they say. They are slowly assuming the top positions in every field. It's crucial to express thanks for the advancement of women's standing over time. Women are able to successfully juggle their personal and work

lives.

Indian women have held numerous high-ranking positions, including the President Mrs. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Speaker of the Lok Sabha Mrs. Meera Kumar, First Female IAS Mrs. Isha Basant Joshi, First Female IPS Mrs. Kiran Bedi, and many other high-ranking positions have been held by Indian women. Social control, norms, conventions, folkways, traditions, and civilizations all have the ability to influence social systems, as do nearly all government policies and programmes. The ever changing ambitions and ideas of people are reflected in this dynamic framework. The governments of India and Karnataka developed a range of welfare-oriented programmes to address women's concerns in a changing society. Fairness, equality, and improving women's status in society are always good for the social order and promote human growth.

A global strategy for the social and economic advancement of women is promoted by the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Women. The entire development process comprises empowering women through education, increasing public awareness, and emphasizing vocational training so they may have an equal role in society progress. Over a five-year strategy, the focus alternated between development and welfare. In the most recent five-year plans, a multidisciplinary approach was used to emphasise employment and health education. The seventh plan continued development programmes for women with the goal of raising their socioeconomic status through beneficiary-focused activities that gave them immediate advantages.

METHODOLOGY

Sample Design: When a researcher uses a strategy or approach to select some sampling units from a population, they are referring to the systematic random sample design, where researcher carefully selected twenty-five homes from each ward in the city of Gulbarga.

Sampling Method: To achieve the goals of this study, field surveys were utilized to collect primary data, and researcher used Systematic random sampling method to technique gathering data by 1375 respondents.

Analysis of The Data: Data were analysed by using the SPSS programme, the collected data was coded, verified, and processed by using SPSS package. Each of the social and economic variables was cross tabulated with the dependent variable. An analysis of data was performed to understand the effect of each independent variable on the dependent variables.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

According to Sultanpur and Khan (2021), the positions and roles that a person occupies in the social, political, and economic realms of life can be used to gauge how the status of women is changing. From the prehistoric era to the current era, the condition and status of women in India have changed in the modern era. In order to conduct a thorough analysis, the current study incorporates current information rather than both primary and secondary data. With the study's

goals and research topics in mind, the interview schedule was developed. The data were coded, and frequency and chi-square analysis were used to determine how women saw the changing position of women in India. Bivariate analysis of the study's findings revealed that, in contrast to the beliefs of the women respondents who either belong to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, or the other backward castes, those who fall under the general category of forward caste women strongly believe that their societal status in a family and society environment has improved. which translates to 91.6 percent, 89.5 percent, and 85.1 percent, respectively. The Pearson X² test value at the 0.000 level strongly suggests that a positive linear relationship between the independent variable, such as the respondent's degree of schooling, and the level of thinking in their belief, appears to be statistically significant. In conclusion, it can be said that education is a factor with the capacity to have a good influence on every individual and any society.

Sentinel (2020) notes that the situation for women has been steadily improving in recent years. In all key fields, women are steadily making progress. Today's women need to step outside their comfort zones to build their own identities that go beyond just taking care of their families and cooking. Women have achieved significant strides in many areas of life, and as a result, society's perspective on women has abruptly changed. Despite the fact that men are more respectful to the women in their life nowadays, harassment of women still occurs frequently. Women nowadays have completely changed from being only homemakers to the multitasking, daring modern women. This development has been especially pronounced among metropolitan women. She had confronted the world with assurance. Women today balance their personal and professional lives while managing household duties and chores, pursuing employment outside the home, caring for their children, and managing household responsibilities. Today, this is how most urban households are arranged. Today's women are independent, brave in their decisions, stand up for their rights and choose the high rout. Success has been attained by numerous women, including Kalpana Chawla, Indra Nooyi, Susma Swaraj, Aishwarya Rai, and Susmita Sen.

Srivastava (2019) asserts that women's standing has always been a difficult subject of debate. Maternal health, women's economic development, and women's responsibilities in the home, community, and political arenas are just a few of the urgent concerns it addresses. According to a UN poll two thirds of the world's illiterate people are women. Another survey found that 80 percent of all refugees worldwide are women. Additionally, just 10% of global revenue is generated by women, who also hold only 1% of the world's resources. The performance of any civilisation must be assessed in light of how women are regarded in the community. Manu, a well-known legal scholar said of Indian culture that is where women are honoured, the Gods dwell. In Hinduism, a man needs his wife's assistance to participate completely in any significant rite. There are still certain unwritten restrictions even though women have taken on a variety of professions and achieved significant strides in economic and social life. Even in the twenty-first century, men have traditionally held the majority of the roles that women play. Men still dictate how women should act in the twenty-first century. But there are many other variations in women's status, which change depending on the cultural setting, family structure, caste, class, and property rights.

Sehgal (2012) examined the place of women in Indian society is the goal of this study. An Indian woman is aware that having children gives her a purpose and identity that nothing else in her

society can, regardless of the family's income or poverty, class or location, caste, age, or the number of preceding pregnancies and infants. A woman from India does not exist in a vacuum while tradition is in place; rather, her identity is totally shaped by the connections she makes with other people. Indian women are an exception to the general rule that women define themselves in reference to and in connection with other people. Despite having access to educational resources, women nevertheless struggle to maintain a respectable place in society. They are still viewed as being less clever and having a lower status than men. A woman is thought to be in charge of looking after the family. She administers the family and works outside, but because of social restrictions, which keep her within the house, she is viewed as a second-class citizen. Despite rising to positions of leadership in politics, women still struggle to find a place for themselves in society, and their status is unchangeable. Sons are sometimes chosen above daughters in some Indian homes. He is regarded as the family's inheritor and caretaker. In which a daughter is viewed as a financial burden by the parents.

FINDINGS AND RESULTS

There are numerous perspectives on how women's status in society is changing. In order to assess women, we look at the common demographic variables that provide a broad picture of women's status. Therefore, Researcher used background character for find out the changes status of household women.

Table-1: Distribution of Respondents Thinks Because Of Govt. Policies the Status of Women Was Changed

Place of Home		Yes	No	Total
New city Area	No of respondents	275	53	328
	%	83.8%	16.2%	100.0%
Old City Area	No of respondents	905	142	1047
	%	86.4%	13.6%	100.0%
Total	No of respondents	1180	195	1375
	%	85.8%	14.2%	100.0%

$X^2 = .139$

The first table above attempts to demonstrate how government welfare programmes have impacted women's standing in general. And it was observed from the above presented cross verification analysis that out of 1375 total respondents more than the majority of them that is 85.8 percent outrightly stated that yes whatever the changes in women status to be seen these days it has taken place because of the execution of Government welfare scheme towards the upliftment of women folk. While, remaining 14.2 percent of respondent disagree with the statement given by their own group people. Further, it was discovered that 86.4 percent of the women respondents who lived in an older part of the city agreed, compared to their counterparts

who lived in a newly expanded portion of the city, when researchers tried to identify the women respondents who had agreed and who had not. However, the Pearson X² test at the level of 0.139 suggests that there is an interaction between these two analytical variables, such as the respondents' home areas and the impact of government policies relating to their changing status. The women who lived in the old city region believed that their slightly improved standing in their various families was the consequence of efforts made by the succeeding governments rather than their own self-thought efforts, according to the discussion above.

Table-2: Distribution of Respondents Thinks Because Of Govt. Policies The Status of Women Was Changed By Ownership of Home

Type of home ownership		Yes	No	Total
Own household	No of respondents	660	92	752
	%	87.8%	12.2%	100.0%
Rented household	No of respondents	520	103	623
	%	83.5%	16.5%	100.0%
Total	No of respondents	1180	195	1375
	%	85.8%	14.2%	100.0%

$$X^2 = .014$$

The above table number two taken up discussion about the assets owned by the individual respondents in terms of immovable property and its impact on their changing social status when a question was asked among the women respondents about their wealth status and its impact on their social status it was noticed from the two way bivariate analysis that 85.8 percent of the total women respondents did agree that yes it is because of the proper implementation of Government policies they could see a sea change in their societal status. Whereas, remaining 14.2 percent of the women respondents disagreed with this statement. However, when researcher try to find out the difference if at all existing among the statement given by the respondents than it was observed that more than the bulk of the respondents i.e., 87.8 percent who have their own house got to have a high status within the family as well as society too, than that of those women respondents i.e., 83.5 percent who were staying in the rented houses. Additionally, the Pearson X² value at 0.14 levels shows that the independent and dependent variables stated above have a positive association as a whole.

Table-3: Distribution of Respondents Who Thinks Because Of Govt. Policies the Status of Women Was Changed

Respondents Religion		Yes	No	Total
Hindu	No of respondents	899	130	1029
	%	87.4%	12.6%	100.0%
Muslim	No of respondents	175	37	212
	%	82.5%	17.5%	100.0%
Others	No of respondents	106	28	134
	%	79.1%	20.9%	100.0%
Total	No of respondents	1180	195	1375
	%	85.8%	14.2%	100.0%

$$X^2 = .012$$

As we all know that religion plays a very decisive role in all aspects of Indians life keeping this motto in mind. The researcher made an effort to study government policies and programmes relating to the advancement of women in terms of their increased status on par with males by looking past the influence of religion. Therefore, it was observed from the bivariate cross verification analysis as far as impact of Government policies on uplifting the status of women in their day today life is concerned it seems that the majority of the women respondents who belong to Hindu religion i.e., 87.4 percent clearly agreed in comparison to their counterparts i.e., 82.5 percent and 79.1 percent who follows Islam as Christianity their religion respectively and as a matter of concerned all of them believe that it is because of the proper implementation of upcoming Government policies recently turn towards their favour to increase the status in family as well as society too. Further, glancing through the column percentage distribution one can conclude that there found to be steady increase as well as slightly marginal variation existing between the practitionary of major religions of India. However, the excessively high Pearson X2 value indicates that there is a correlation between the two analytical independent and dependent variables as such.

Table-4: Distribution Of Respondents Thinks Because Of Govt. Policies The Status of Women Was Changed

Respondents Caste		Yes	No	Total
Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe	No of respondents	299	55	354
	%	84.5%	15.5%	100.0%
Other Backward Caste	No of respondents	237	44	281
	%	84.3%	15.7%	100.0%
General caste	No of respondents	644	96	740
	%	87.0%	13.0%	100.0%
Total	No of respondents	1180	195	1375
	%	85.8%	14.2%	100.0%

$$X^2 = .382$$

Unlike religion the caste system also plays a vital influential determinant factors role as it creates the diversification in India social system. From this point of view the research made an attempt to study the impact of modern Government's welfare schemes how far they got success in enhancing the status of women in a true sense. And It was noticed from the above table were the two way cross classification analysis indicates that the overall a major chunk of women respondents who belong To upper castes i.e.,87.0 percent found to be stated that already they were having the higher status interms of ascribed way in their family and society compared to their counterparts. Either who belong to other i.e., 84.5 percent and 84.3 percent respectively backward class or scheduled castes and scheduled tribe community. but due to the proper execution of women oriented Government policies and programme from the respective Government their social status further got enhanced. Moreover, the X^2 test value at the rate 0.082 levels also emphasis that there stands a positive intercorrelationship between the independent and dependent variables but as far as statistical linear this is concerned it appeared to be insignificant as such.

Table-5: Distribution of Respondents Thinks Because Of Govt. Policies the Status of Women Was Changed

Respondents Education		Yes	No	Total
No education	No of respondents	221	60	281
	%	78.6%	21.4%	100.0%
Up to High School	No of respondents	517	104	621
	%	83.3%	16.7%	100.0%
Under Graduate	No of respondents	222	21	243
	%	91.4%	8.6%	100.0%
Graduate and Above	No of respondents	220	10	230
	%	95.7%	4.3%	100.0%
Total	No of respondents	1180	195	1375
	%	85.8%	14.2%	100.0%

$X^2 = .000$

It is a good positive sign to be notice that these days the Indian society that is traditionally getting more or less closed society but recently it seems it is opened up because irrespective of the caste faith and religion the component of education emerged as the most significant determinant and helping out in changing the social structure of an Indian family or that matter society too. More over one can clearly glance through from the above table number five which shows that as the educational level of women respondents is steadily increases simultaneously their faith and belief on existing Government policies and programs also getting enhanced and motivating towards the development of women also found to be more influential as one can see through the above percentage distribution in the light of their educational background. I.e. 83.3 percent women educated only up to SSLC. while, 91.4 percent of women reached up to graduate level and 95.7 percent of women educated up to post graduate level Respectively living apart from

only the 78.6 percent of women still found to be illiterate among the studied respondents. Additionally, the Pearson X² test at the 0.000 level strongly suggests that there is a positive correlation between an independent variable like the respondents' educational level and their belief in an independent variable like the impact of current government policies on changing the status of household women as such.

Table-5: Odds Ratio Related To Role Played By the Government Policies In Changing the Status of Women by Selected Predictors.

Variable Name	Variable description	Exp(B)
Age of the Respondents	<=25 [®]	
	26-44	.972
	45 & Above	.942
Place of Residence	Extension Area [®]	
	Old City Area	1.084
Type of ownership of house	Own house [®]	
	Rented house	.616
Religion of respondents	Hindu [®]	
	Muslim	.536
	Others	.624
Caste of Respondent	SC/ST [®]	
	OBC	1.649
	General Group	1.195
Type of Family	Joint Family [®]	
	Nuclear Family	1.086
Education of Respondent	Illiterate [®]	
	Up to High School	1.384
	Under Graduate	2.975**
Partner's Occupation	Graduate and Above	6.508**
	Unorganised [®]	
	Govt/Organised Business	.505 .745
Income	<=5000 [®]	
	5001-19999	.887
	>=20000	1.221
Number of Living Children	No Children [®]	
	1 or 2 Children	.751
	3 or More Children	.692
Participation of housewife in decision	Not involved in any decisions [®]	
	Involved in only daily household activities decision	3.462**
	Involved in Major or all Decision making	2.264**
Constant		3.698

Dependent variable; Believe that Govt. policies play role in changing the status of women (0=No, 1=Yes)

** shows that, at a 1% level, the odds ratio is substantial.

* shows that the odds ratio is significant at the 5% level,

® refers to the reference category

The above Table five reveals that four of the eleven explanatory variables used in the analysis

emerged as having significant effect on the attitude of the women respondents in terms they sought formal help in terms of utilizing the women welfare oriented Government Policies to secure and uplift themselves from the ongoing low level family status. However, education of couple, occupation of couple and the caste of women and Respondent's participation in decision making appears to be that most important variable affecting the attitude of women in protesting herself and enhancing herself status within the family as well as in a society. These variables had a positive effect on the attitude of the women respondents as it was observed in the preliminary analysis too. That is the chance that a woman will have taken formal help in terms of utilization of Government women oriented welfare policies is higher if she or her family members belong to (SC/ST) Scheduled caste/scheduled tribe. Controlling effect of all the other independent variables at once period of time. The odds of formal help seeking behavior that is the ratio of women who had utilized formally almost all women welfare oriented Government policies or schemes to those who do not seek the formal help from the Government bodies is 1.6 times higher among the women respondents who belonged to the scheduled caste and scheduled tribal communities, as opposed to the women who did not enjoy the same reservation advantages but instead belonged to the forward caste or other backward caste (OBC).

Occupation of Respondents spouse appears to be another important variable which has a positive and significant effect on attitude of the women respondent in terms of formal utilization of Government policies towards women welfare. This supports the finding in the previous section where working spouses of household women had more opportunity to pass on the benefits about the Government policies related to women welfare than the non working spouses of household women. The odds of formal help seeking attitude among household women whose spouse were working in Government. Sectors is about to be double (0.05) of that among the non-working spouse of women respondents. This shows that work participation has greater advantage in bringing about a positive change in the field of changing attitude. It is also true that working spouse of women respondents have ample opportunities to interact with other men colleagues than non working spouse of respondents women who stay at home idle.

Educational level is an important indicator of the wellbeing of women society and emerges as a variable having a positive and significant effect on attitudes of women respondents in terms of formal help they seek from the Government bodies whether it is central or state legislation. The positive attitude was found to be higher among educated household women compared to those who remained illiterate (the reference category) or less educated. However, the extent of formal help seeking behavior in other use of Government welfare schemes was similar found to be between women studies up to pre-University or up to gradual level. The odds of formal help seeking attitude in terms of Government policies utilization is 3.0 times higher among those household women who were upgraded their education compared with those women respondents who were less educated or remained illiterate. So, it can be said that education is one of the best ways to achieve dissemination of individual positive attitude or learned behavior towards the positive direction in studying and understanding the Government. Implemented policies and programmes towards uplifting the women status in Indian society.

Participation of women respondent in family decision making process also has a significant influence on individuals attitudinal changes. This was illustrated in the earlier analysis too. It

can be seen that women who were taking part in almost all family matters whether it is major or minor tend to have an odds of positive attitude towards Government women welfare schemes that is two times (3.4) more compared to their counterparts who were slightly lagging behind in taking part of family decision making process. In India, most of the women become expected mothers or daughter in law still very young and due to lack of proper knowledge or experience about family business or married life they tend to suffer a lot in the hands of in-laws and husband too. So, after going through a lot of rigorous family services experience they try to be more alert and careful in keeping themselves safe and secure without getting furthermore more exploitation in the hands of husband or that matter by in laws.

CONCLUSION

The position of women is an important subject that needs to be studied in every era. because in Ancient Indian civilisation, women's status was, in some ways, at a satisfactory level. The government of India's welfare policies and programmes will help women establish their identities in the social, economic, and political spheres. However, the current situation is not balanced equally across the nation's states. This discussion also looks at how, despite several constitutional protections for women, as society enters the twenty-first century, respect for and status of women is not improving but rather diminishing.

As per primary data multivariate analysis shows that the Odds ratio of utilizing the women welfare oriented Government Policies to secure and uplift themselves from the ongoing low level family status. However, education of couple, occupation of couple and the caste of women and Respondent's participation in decision making appears to be that most important variable affecting the attitude of women in protesting herself and enhancing herself status within the family as well as in a society. These variables had a positive effect on the attitude of the women respondents, as it was observed in the preliminary analysis too.

According to the main findings, modern women are taking on multitasking with confidence in the world, and the standing of women in the home and society as a whole has improved. However, men continue to dominate women in the twenty first century. So, after experiencing even more exploitation at the hands of their husbands, women now have hope for an acceptable transformation in their family situation. Due to the male-dominated nature of society, research has shown that women find it challenging to maintain a respectable standing in society. Despite these obstacles, According to the researcher observation, it is because of the knowledge they have acquired through proper education that modern women are able to manage their household responsibilities and housework, maintain a balance between their personal and professional life while pursuing employment outside the home, looking after their kids, and caring for themselves. The implementation of government legislation will also enable them to participate in family decisions if people's attitudes shift, which will impact their status in society.

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