

WOMEN'S DESIRE FOR FREEDOM AND SOCIAL ATTITUDE: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The eminence of women in India has go through various changes down the ages, which has been a matter of momentous concern to the pre-feminist reformers and researchers. The attitude of Indian Women is still not far away from the traditional one, although educated and working women have less traditional social attitudes and acceptance. Even in speedily growing urban areas traditional resources and values relating to women find wide acceptance. Women should have the freedom of everything, they also have equal rights. They also have the same right to live in this world as men but today women are infested with inferiority complex and they are still less honouring in terms of men. Even in today's environment, if women are harassed socially and economically, it is very sad that for the clarity of this fact, I will study it deeply in this paper and also examine the effect it has on social attitude. In another sense, this study of mine will be as a link to women to get their rights and raise their voice. The paper reveals that majority of women have a desire for social freedom. This research paper highlights it clear that the women's for freedom and social attitude is to make them independent in every aspect and to not keep them in the social circle, so that they should also have the opportunity to work for doing well in every field.

Keywords: Women's desire for freedom, Social attitude, Equal rights

INTRODUCTION

In India, women are considered the weakest class and are generally considered second class citizens and are seen as someone to take care of the house and raise children but in fact they are the strongest. Over the past 73 years, the government has been working hard to change and influence the quality practices of more than one lakh women. The government will adopt a basic vision of comprehensive development for the weaker sections of the society which has changed many lives and paved the way for sustainable development. In addition, men and women in the family perform unpaid household chores such as childcare and education, care for the elderly, care for the new-born and the sick, food preparation, laundry, water and Fuel storage etc. This unequal

burden undermines women's participation in the economy. Gender inequality in domestic work is highlighted by a recent domestic survey found in a large section of society. The new century and the rapidly changing global landscape have ushered in a new reality of complex social and economic and cultural challenges for women in society regarding traditional gender roles and beliefs. The current status of women, the parameters of human development, women's legal rights to life, freedom from violence, discrimination, economic and social equality and equality show that much remains to be done. To create this enabling environment, it is important to strengthen the right practices in which women can enjoy their rights as well as their responsibilities.

Every creature loves freedom because freedom is essential for progress and existence. Charles Darwin, in his theory of evolution, predicted that the struggle for existence is the principle of life, and that the most suitable survivor in this struggle. In order to be fit and strong, one has to acquire and adopt skills that will help him overcome all difficulties. This requires freedom of expression and choice. But due to limited resources and the interest of one person or part, not everyone has an equal opportunity to be independent in their own way. As biological creatures, women are very similar to men. Women are born with potential but due to appropriate opportunities and discrimination they are not able to develop as a strong individual and gain proper recognition in the society.

However, in recent years, the status of women has improved due to the increase in our scientific knowledge and technology. Many misconceptions about women have disappeared. We are now well aware of the fact that women are not born physically weak. This is the culture that makes them feel weak. There are many societies where women work hard. The biological difference is not an obstacle to doing a hard and risky job. Realizing this fact, a service department for women has also been opened in the army. Many women are recruited into the police service and the army. More than 20 percent of Israel's military is made up of women. The effects of industrial and urbanization are rapidly changing the society, as a result of which the role of women in the family and society has also changed. Today's women are not involved in the activities that their stepmothers were involved in. Their status has really improved because they are more educated than before and earn more for their family than at an early age. His world has expanded in many ways. Still, they are behind men. In almost all spheres of social life, their status is not equal to that of men.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To study the Women's desire for freedom
- To study the social attitude in today's scenario
- To suggest the effective measures

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

- Women's desire for social freedom score significantly affects religious attitude score
- There will be significant differences on the scores of the overall social attitude related to social issues of the low WSF and the high WSF group.

WOMEN'S DESIRE FOR SOCIAL FREEDOM

Freedom depends on opportunities and abilities. Restrictions on human freedom not only deny civil and political liberties but are also linked to hunger, poverty, incurable disease and premature death. A human rights perspective highlights the importance of actions and policies that expand human freedoms and capabilities by respecting, protecting and fulfilling individual choices and enabling people to realize their importance.

“Freedom” and “control” are two opposites. When we speak of freedom, we mean relaxation or renunciation of restrictions so that anyone can do whatever he wants. Imposing sanctions and reducing freedom from them is nothing more than overcoming check and control. Both freedom and control are considered important for existence and proper development. A child is often spoiled when he is free to do whatever he wants. This emotional behaviour can be dangerous for the society as well. Controlling it and its development in the right direction often requires restraint and reprimand. But too many restrictions can ruin a child and his or her development. There must be a balance between the two. When restrictions interfere with the desired growth, people seek and turn to relaxation in order to enjoy maximum freedom. Society, which is a complex network of social relations and systems, develops some principles. It sets out certain rules and restrictions on the conduct of its members and imposes certain restrictions in the interest of the individual and society. When an individual or group of individuals thinks that its development. If sanctions are unhealthy and undesirable, then they demand the lifting of unwanted sanctions. Social freedom has a lot to do with this aspect of social life.

Even so, women have changed. They entered a world previously dominated by men. In recent decades, more and more women have made significant progress in professionals that were previously reserved for men. As women move from domestic to labour, their aspirations, attitudes

and performance have changed dramatically. It runs parallel to their professional masculine functions, positions and roles. Women today are more educated than men and are an economic force whose power is buying itself. As a result of their constitutional rights and newly acquired independence, Indian women distinguish themselves as politicians, advisers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, administrators and diplomats in various walks of life. Not only are they assigned responsibilities, but they perform their duties with utmost honesty and integrity. It is a fact that women are intelligent, hardworking and efficient. He supported his heart and soul in everything he did. There is hardly an area of life in which Indian women have not participated and demonstrated their excellence. Women exercise their right to vote, participate in Parliament and the Assembly, seek public office and compete with men in other areas of life. This shows that today's women in India enjoy more freedom and equality than ever before.

SOCIAL ATTITUDE

A social attitude is an acquired tendency to assess social things in a specific way. It is characterised by positive or negative beliefs, feelings and behaviours towards a particular entity. The involvement of attitude in most of the social problem has made attitude most distinctive and indispensable concept to social psychologist (G.W Allport, 1968). It is a kind of social motive acquired in course of social learning and is concerned with individual readiness and predisposition to think or act to a person, object or issue in a certain way. Traditionally attitude have been defined as involving beliefs, feeling and disposition to act (i.e. cognition, affect and behaviour components). But today attitudes are simply seen as evaluation of objects (Fazio, Sanbonmastu, Powell & Kardes; 1986, Zinna & Rampel, 1988, Pratkanis & Greenwald; 1989, Tisser & Shaffer; 1990). Object include peoples, actions, events, policies and anything which can be evaluated. David G. Mayers (1993) has defined attitude as favourable or unfavourable evaluative reaction toward something or someone, exhibited in one's belief, feeling or intended behaviour.

The term modernity has been used interchangeably. In a sense, it is used as a synonym for tradition. Anything contrary to tradition is considered modern. In other words, the term has been used over time. Everything that is new or recent is modern, the use of new technology, new tools, etc. is a feature of modernity. Similarly, the adoption of Western lifestyles and values has also been considered related to modernity. Using the term modernity in different meanings and contexts shows that the concept of modernity is a complex concept that involves many things. This affects the process as well as the modernization of the product. The process of industrialization,

urbanization and westernization is nothing but a process of modernization. The products of these processes in the form of social change and the emergence of the 'modern man' or the 'new man' are also components of modernity. Modernity is generally regarded as the collective characteristic of certain personalities who facilitate individual development and progress with social responsibility and make the individual an effective agent of social and economic and political development. The modern Western model shows some components and configurations that are globally compatible. The model developed in the West is a historical fact because the same basic model appears in practically all modern societies in all countries of the world. The modern man of all societies is seen as modern, democratic, time-oriented and especially as a forerunner and a vision of the future family and community.

The family is the basic unit of any society. It is an important social institution that plays a significant role in the development of individual personality and attitudes towards social values. The joint family system was highly valued in the early days, but in recent years the economic needs of society have changed with the joint family and its values. Modern men and women are based on success. They understand the responsibility to intervene in the traditional family system and their successes. Indicates the effects of unhappy attitudes towards the joint family system, modernization and changing attitudes towards the family, especially among educated men and women in industrial and urban areas. Studies on attitudes have shown that there is a gender difference between modern and traditional men's attitudes towards this attitude in terms of family.

Belief in the political system and certain political philosophies is an important aspect of the social life of any society. We all talk about the philosophy of politics which is about power and government. The use of political thinkers in a changing society periodically reviews the traditional political system and promotes new ideas about the government and its way of working. In the old system, the king was considered the most important person and his desires were the highest. The people were loyal to the king and had a strong belief in humility. But many historical events in the past have forced people in many countries to change their position on the elite. Equality and brotherhood, which is the basis of democratic government, came into being in many developing countries. People do not have the same attitude towards this modern political philosophy, yet there are people who dislike democracy or unconventional system of government. The attitudes of modern men and women towards the traditional political system are less likely to be protected by

traditional men. The involvement of women in politics and their awareness can have a significant impact on their attitude towards politics.

TOOLS USED:

- 1. *Women's Desire for Social Freedom Scale (WSF Scale):*** Desire for social freedom refers to the desire of women to be free from social taboos, conservative rituals and roles which provide them a low status in the society (Bhushan, 1987). It is a desire to break through the traditional way of life. To measure women desire of social freedom (WSF) the researcher used WSF scale developed by M. Sah (1990) which is in fact an improved form of Bhushan's (1987) WSF scale. This is a 24 item scale in Hindi covering women desire of freedom in the areas like parental and husband control, social customs, rituals and taboos, marriage, bondage, economic dependence and interference to occupational choice etc. 18 items of this scale are positively framed and the rest six items of twenty four are negatively framed. The subjects are required to tick mark (√) in either of the two response category-agree and disagree. Scoring system of the scale is very simple. Subjects are awarded score 1 for 'agree' responses on positive framed items and 'disagree' responses on negatively framed items. Zero (0) score is awarded for disagree responses on positive items and agree response on negative items. The maximum possible score on the scale is 24. The reliability and validating of the scale is reportedly satisfactory.
- 2. *Social Attitude Scale (SAS):*** Social attitude refers to a state of readiness to think and to act in a certain way i.e. positively, negatively or indifferently to a person, social system or issue. In the present study the researcher was interested in the study of social attitude to some conventional social systems related to caste, family, social custom, sex-role, religion and politics. For this purpose she first of all selected a 120 items Likert type social attitude scale (SAS) developed by Singh (1974) which measures attitude to family (FA), religion (RA), caste (CA), politics (PA) social and sex role (SA), and Social Custom attitude (SCA) of the respondents. Reducing its size by half she prepared a shorter form of the Singh's social attitude scale. She did it for her convenience and to avoid boredom of the subjects. While reducing the size of the SAS. She took care to retain 10 items for each of the six attitude sub scales. She also took care to have both 'convention' as well as 'modernity' oriented statements in her shorter scale with five alternative responses namely strongly agree, agree, uncertain disagree

and strongly disagree. “Subjects are required to put tick mark to any one of the five alternative responses given against each item”.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

WSF and Religion Attitude: It was hypothesized that women’s desire for social freedom significantly affects religious attitude score. The summary of the results have been presented in table 1.1 & table 1.2.

Table: 1.1

COMPARISON OF RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE SCORES OF WOMEN’S WITH LOW AND HIGH WSF GROUP

Group	N	Mean	SD	SE of Mean
Low WSF	53	37.4151	4.51678	.62043
High WSF	52	29.2885	3.72767	.51694

Table: 1.2

COMPARISON OF RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE SCORES OF WOMEN’S WITH LOW AND HIGH WSF GROUP

Levene's Test for Equality of Variances			t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Diff.	SE of Diff.	95% Confidence Interval of the Diff.	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	1.394	.240	10.045	103	.000	8.127	.8090	6.52210	9.73116
Equal variances not assumed			10.063	100.081	.000	8.127	.8075	6.52447	9.72879

An examination of the tables 1.1 & 1.2 showed that the mean scores for the religious attitude was significantly higher ($t= 10.045/p<.01$) of the low WSF group (Mean=37.415) than the high WSF group (Mean=29.2885). High score on the scale indicates negative attitude to convention related to religion. Thus, the results indicated that the high WSF group had positive religious attitude as compared to their low WSF counterparts. Hence, the hypothesis has been accepted.

WSF and Social Custom Attitude: Another hypothesis framed for verification was that the low WSF group and the high WSF group will differ significantly on their scores on the social custom attitude dimension. The distribution of the scores are presented in table 1.3 & 1.4

TABLE: 1.3
COMPARISON OF SOCIAL CUSTOM ATTITUDE SCORES OF WOMEN'S WITH LOW AND HIGH WSF GROUP

Group	N	Mean	SD	SE of Mean
Low WSF	53	34.811	4.7880	.65769
High WSF	52	27.173	4.3734	.60648

TABLE: 1.4
COMPARISON OF SOCIAL CUSTOM ATTITUDE SCORES OF WOMEN'S WITH LOW AND HIGH WSF GROUP

Levene's Test for Equality of Variances			t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Diff.	SE of Diff.	95% Confidence Interval of the Diff.	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	.019	.889	8.530	103	.000	7.638	.8954	5.8624	9.41408
Equal variances not assumed			8.538	102.481	.000	7.638	.8946	5.8638	9.41264

Table 1.3 & 1.4 compares the mean social custom attitude score obtained by low WSF and high WSF respondents. The mean social custom attitude score of low WSF respondents was (34.811) greater than their high WSF counterparts (27.173). Thus, there was a significant differences ($t=8.53$; $p<.01$) detected between low and high WSF respondents in terms of their social custom attitude score. It revealed that social custom attitude of a woman did make significant differences as far as her freedom is concerned. Thus, the hypothesis was accepted.

CONCLUSION

The current status of women with respect to human development parameters, legal rights for women to life, freedom from violence, discrimination, economic and social equality and equity shows that still a lot have to be done. It is necessary to reinforce right based approach for creating an enabling environment in which women can enjoy their rights as well as their responsibilities.

The results of this study clearly show that all respondents were exposed to moderate levels of WSF and wanted to raise their social status on an equal footing with men. He also expressed a moderate desire for social attitude. These findings are consistent with other research findings. There is no denying the fact that women in India have made significant progress in the last fifty years, but still they have had to fight against many disabilities and social evils in a male dominated society. It also confirms the image of women in a changing landscape. The free effect of economic freedom and social change is revolutionizing their lives. Therefore, it goes without saying that industrialization, globalization and liberalization have had a profound effect on the status and empowerment of women.

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