

Role of Education and Women's Decision-Making Power In Families

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Abstract

Educated women enjoyed greater power and freedom compared to non-educated women. Woman's decision-making power increases, when they are empowered with education. Though many factors affect the ability of women to take part in the decision-making process in the household, education plays a decisive role here. In our society, women are perceived generally as having lower social status, that has further weakened their opportunity and thoughtfulness for education. Education helps women to gain Independence from the social and family constraints of patriarchal traditions. With access to education, women get more exposure towards media, awareness of their rights, more access to resources, better communication skills, at the same time economic empowerment increases their negotiation power in the family decisions and more say in money related decisions. It was noted in the study that most of uneducated women were facing constraints to take decision regarding their children's education, choosing college or coaching, their occupation etc. Women's educational attainment, occupation and income were positively related to their decision-making power.

Introduction

Access to education is considered as an important determinant of women's decision making. Education is essential requirement for the survival of a nation. It is a form of learning that transferred from one generation to the next through teaching, training, research or from other processes. Education has become a tool and also an agent of social change promoting new knowledge, new values, and new ways of improving, human conditions. Education, no doubt wideness the mental horizons and releases from the ignorance and superstitions, it makes a person aware about rights and improve decision making capacity. We can measure the decision-making power of women's participation in household activities. Education plays an important role and influences decision making of women which is an important indicator of empowerment of women. It is purely accepted that education plays an important role to facilitate social and economic progress. Promotion of women's education has been foundation of our educational policy. The national policy on education brought the fundamental issue of women's equality on center stage.

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social and family constraints of patriarchal traditions. With access to education, women get more exposure towards media, awareness of their rights, more access to resources, better communication skills, at the same time economic empowerment increases their negotiation power in the family decisions and more say in money related decisions. Many research have proved that there is a direct link of education level with women's decision making power in the family. Women's increased education is positively associated with autonomy in their decision making. Status of women have witnessed different ups and downs over centuries and at present Indian society is trying for eradicating gender discrimination through empowering women through education and employment. Education, no doubt widens the mental horizons and releases from the ignorance and superstitions, it makes a person aware about rights and improve decision making capacity.

The purpose of the research is to analyze the role of education in the household decision making process of women. Women empowerment in society and family are closely linked to decision making influence. Traditional gender roles reflecting men's participation in commercial spheres and women's in domestic spheres have disadvantaged women in their ability to engage in decision making. Decision making has been measured in terms of participation of women in household responsibilities. Education plays an important role and influences decision making of women which is an important indicator of empowerment of women.

Objective of the study

1. To study the impact of education on decision making ability of women within the family.

Research Question

1. Is education played an important role in the decision-making ability of women?
2. Is there any difference in the decision-making ability of educated and uneducated women within the family.

Methodology

The study was conducted which was entitled as Relationship between Education and Women's Decision-making power within Family. Here the researcher has adopted mixed method which is a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. Descriptive survey method of research was employed in the study.

Sample

A sample of 100 women's from Irinjalakuda Municipality was taken for the study. Keeping in-view the objectives, research questions and number of samples of the present study, investigator found random sampling technique suitable for data collection.

Tool Used

Tool was prepared by the investigator. The variable decision-making ability was divided in to five dimensions. They are economic decisions, legal matter, family, mobility, social behavior. The investigator prepared questions based on these dimensions. Altogether there where twenty questions.

Statistical technique used

The data was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. For analysis of the data Mean, SD and t-test was used.

Analysis of Data and Interpretation

The data on decision making ability of educated and uneducated women were quantitatively analyzed.

women	N	M	SD	Df	T	Sig
Educated	50	21.16	3.71	98	11.99	0.05 level
Uneducated	50	13.42	2.65			

Decision-making ability between educated and uneducated women.

The above table indicates that, in decision making ability there is significant difference between educated and uneducated women. The 't' value is significant at 0.05 level, so there is a significant difference between decision making ability of educated and uneducated women. From the above table it is clear that education plays an important role in decision making ability of women. Access to education is considered as an important determinant of women's decision making. Women's increased education is positively associated with autonomy of decision making in different activities.

Findings and conclusion

The major findings of the study were:

1. Decision-making ability of educated women is more than uneducated women. Education plays an important role in decision making ability of women.

On the basis of the analysis of data the following conclusion was drawn:

Educated women enjoyed greater power and freedom compared to non-educated women. Woman's decision-making power increases, when they are empowered with education. Though many factors affect the ability of women to take part in the decision-making process in the household, education plays a decisive role here. Education is the milestone of women empowerment because **it enables them to respond to the challenges**. It was noted in the study that most of uneducated women were facing constraints to take decision regarding their children's education, choosing college or coaching, their occupation etc. Women's educational attainment, occupation and income were positively related to their decision-making power. Therefore, on the basis of the results of the study the practical implication of this research are quite evident. It is suggested that policy makers at government level

should pay attention to the education and employment of women. The study also suggests that interventions are necessary especially for uneducated women who enjoy less freedom and less power in decision making. These interventions refer to increasing education and income opportunity for women that might increase their decision-making power as well as their empowerment. This should create more job opportunities for them. So that women become more independent in the decision of life. This support ultimately will lead to the cause of women empowerment and a better community. There is a positive relationship between education and woman's empowerment. In order to promote women's empowerment, it is necessary to create an environment that will allow women to participate in educational programs and share the benefits. The educational and other policies for women empowerment should be implemented in reality for empowering women in the world.

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