

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL MOBILITY AMONG WOMEN

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Abstract:- One of the most important features of the highly developed societies of the current era is the high rate of mobility, but the speed of change varies from one society to another society with due course of time. Change is the nature of every state and society or changes may occur in every state and society with the passage of time. The nature is never at rest. Change is ever present in the world, because change is the law of nature. We have seen from a long period of time that an important difference on many grounds between class and caste system is the extent to which people can change their social status. Such progress and change from one social position to another social position is referred as social mobility. Education is an important factor of social mobility. An individual's education is positively correlated with the income that he/she is likely to earn. Education increases social mobility by providing the individual with the skills necessary to enter the job market and to compete against other for a particular job.

Keywords: - Education, Occupation, Social Mobility, Women

I. INTRODUCTION

Social mobility refers to the process by which an individual moves from one social position to another in society, position which by general consent have been given specific hierarchical values.¹ The 'positions' that are compared may be based on occupational rankings, incomes, education, or some measure of social class or socio-economic status. Social mobility is said to occur when individuals move from a lower to a higher position ('upward mobility'), or from a higher to a lower one ('downward mobility') on one of these scales.²

In many cases social status and economic standard of person changes due to hard work or advanced education or purely due to superior intellect. Better education and better service also help in change of the socially disadvantaged groups like women and the people belonging to scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes or backward classes. Lack of better education and will to do hard work have made rich people poor, thereby lowering the standard of living. Such type of changes which are observed in the social status, class, economic condition and standard of life of a person are spoken of as Social Mobility.³ According to Sorokin (1927), "social mobility in its broadest sense is the shifting of people in social space. In other words social mobility is the transition of people from one social position to another".⁴

Sorokin divided social mobility into two principal types-horizontal mobility and vertical mobility. Horizontal social mobility is the transition of an individual or social object from one social group to another situated on the same level, no change in status is found. Vertical social mobility is the transition of an individual or a social object from one stratum to another which indicates a change in status.⁵

Education is an important factor of social mobility. An individual's education is positively correlated with the income that he/she is likely to earn. Education increases social mobility by providing the individual with the skills necessary to enter the job market and to compete against other for a particular job. Most jobs require formal education provided by the school systems, although some jobs require experience that can only be acquired through work in the particular field. Occupational categories requiring a high level of education usually offer correspondingly higher salaries. Virtually all professions require a person to complete a given level of formal education prior to practicing that profession. In addition, the great majority of businesses require a person to complete a college education before entering the managerial level.⁶

¹Lipset, S. M. and Bendix, R (1959), "Social Mobility in industrialized society" Berkeley, University of California Press.

² Saunders P. (2010) "Social Mobility Myths" Printed in Great Britain by Cromwell Press Group Trowbridge, Wiltshire. P-1

³ Ibid p.176

⁴ Sorokin, P.A, 1927. "Social and Cultural Mobility". Free Press, America.

⁵ Sorokin P.A, 1952. "Social and Cultural Mobility". Free Press. America.

⁶ Umar, F. (2012), "Factors of Social Mobility, Gender, Industrialization & Education" Study Lecture Notes.com. <http://www.studylecturenotes.com/>

Jasprit Kaur Soni, points that “education is expected to serve as an indicator of confidence. It helps in development of human personality, social mobility, occupational change and rise of professional, political and social awareness. It increases the degree of participation, which is the key for development”.⁷

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dubey S.M (1975) “Social mobility among profession in Gorakhpur” Dubey in his book stated about the city of Gorakhpur in the Indian context, a sociological study of the pattern of stratification & occupational mobility in such middle sized & transitional cities will be highly useful. It will help us to understand how the traditional structure is being replaced by the modern structure. The aim is to analyze the inter-generational occupation mobility. Data collection was based on both interview schedule & participant observation. The sample size was 300 among them 269 were males & 31 were females. The study revealed that the respondents of Gorakhpur engaged in caste occupation. People belonging to lower occupation have improved their lot by joining different professions & no case of downward mobility was found among inter-generation.⁸

Krishna (2013) examined social mobility in three walks of life in India. He studied social mobility by examining the social background of students admitted to three separate occupations; engineering, business management and civil service. The sample of the study included 671 engineering students, 802 MBA students and 117 IAS entrants at National Academy of Administration. He found that an urban professional elite is being reproduced with children of salaried and self-employed professionals joining higher education and higher status occupation in large numbers. A combination of being rural and poor, or SC/ST and rural or the child of less educated parents and female acted as a severe handicap.⁹

Nazimuddin, S. K (2015) Social structure of society influences the social mobility. The societies of the world can be divided into two groups-closed societies and open societies. Closed societies are caste ridden (as in India) and the status of a person is determined by his being born in a particular caste. Therefore, in such a society chances of mobility are very less because such society remains within the bond of caste and heredity. For example. A person born in a family of Brahmins, may be poor or bad character, will enjoy the status of Brahmin due to his birth; in a Brahmin family. But in an open society equality of opportunities are provided which encourage more social mobility due to the capabilities and educational achievement of the individuals.¹⁰

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The term research commonly refers to a search for knowledge. One can also define as a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic. In fact, advanced research is an art of scientific investigation.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The scientific method is alone appropriate to study the relationship between different variables. The researcher adopted the **Descriptive method** of research for present work. This research is descriptive in nature. Descriptive research is used to describe characteristics of a population or phenomena being studied.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the impact of education among women.
2. To study the educational status of women.

HYPOTHESIS

1. There is no significant relation between education and occupation among women.

UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

In this study, working women from Government sector, private sector, semi government sector and labour class of Indore city has been selected for data collection.

⁷ Kaur, S. J. (2006). “Women Empowerment-Exploring the Facts”, Authors press, Delhi.

⁸ Dubey S.M (1975) “Social mobility among professions” Popular Prakashan, Bombay

⁹ Krishna, A. (2013). Making it in India: Examining Social Mobility in Three Walks of Life, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 48(49) Pp. 38-50

¹⁰ Nazimuddin, S. K (2015) “Social Mobility and Role of Education in Promoting Social Mobility” *International Journal of Scientific Engineering and Research (IJSER)* www.ijser.in ISSN (Online): 2347-3878, Volume 3 Issue 7, July 2015 pp176-179

SAMPLING DESIGN

Sampling is a process used in statistical analysis in which a predetermined number of observations are taken from a larger population. On the basis of sample determination, the sample size are calculated by Cochran's sample size formula. Therefore in this study, 300 working women including labor class of Indore city have been selected for data collection. Department wise list of working women in Indore city has been prepared and random sampling by regular interval method has been used for sampling.

SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION

Collection of data is the heart and soul of research plan. For this purpose enumeration has to be made in proper sequence. The data has been collect through primary sources and secondary sources:

PRIMARY SOURCES

For the present study the **Interview Schedule** has been used for data collection from working women in Indore city. This is a set of prepared questions designed to be asked exactly as worded. **Interviews schedules** have a standardised format which means the same questions are asked to each interviewee in the same order.

SECONDARY SOURCES

Relevant data about the subject, books, magazines, newspapers, journals, government documents, diaries, letters, unpublished sources and electronic sources including World Wide Web, has been used.

DATA ANALYSIS

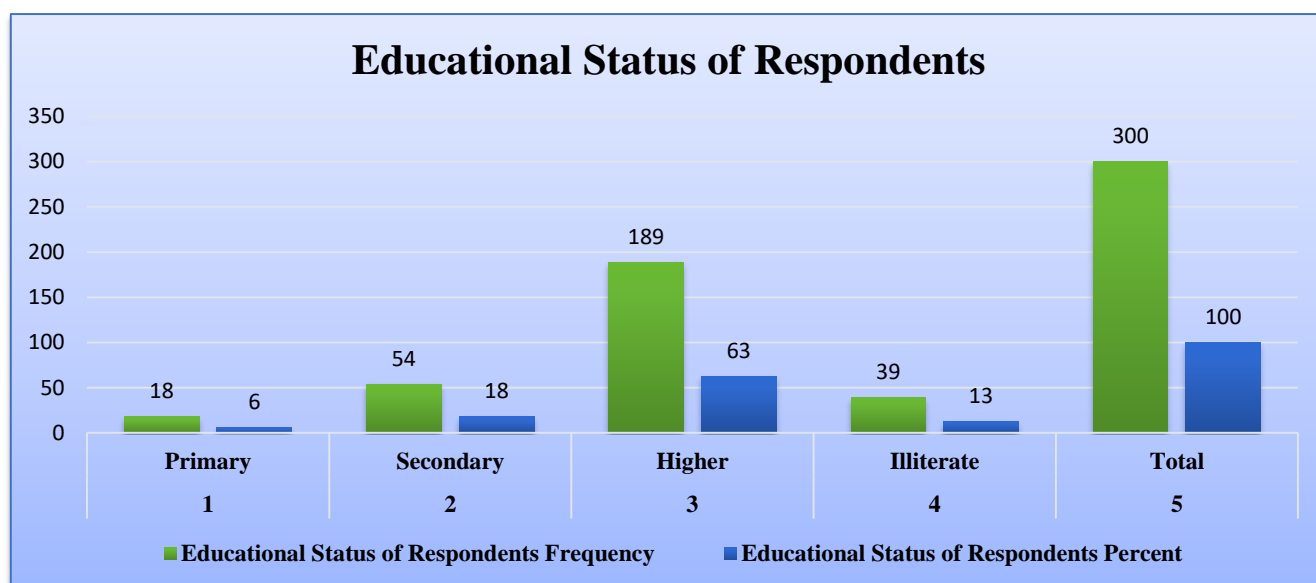
Once the data is collected from respondents, it has been classified and tabulated by using SPSS, and then analysis has been made. The data has been presented in tabulation, graphical form and chi-Square test has been applied for testing of hypothesis.

IV. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Table 1 Showing Educational Status of Respondents

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Educational Status of Respondents</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1	Primary	18	6
2	Secondary	54	18
3	Higher	189	63
4	Illiterate	39	13
5	Total	300	100

Table No.1



Education is a means to provide systematic training to make the individuals mentally superior and rational. Spread of education surely leads to abundant attitude, information sharing, social and legal reforms and a desire to attain extraordinary standard of living. Education therefore is determining a factor which is likely to bring about a change for the betterment in the society and to improve the status of individual awareness.

An overall analysis of information collected by the researcher from selected population reveals that 63% out of the total respondents have achieved higher educational status. Out of total population 18% respondents have touched secondary education, 6% out of total population falls under the primary educational status, whereas 13% out of total population are illiterates they are mostly labors. Data reveals that educational status is good among working women in Indore city. The designation of an individual in mostly depends upon the educational qualifications.

Table 2 Showing Respondents Showing Nature of Job

S. No.	Nature of Job	Frequency	Percent
1	Contract	87	29
2	Permanent	132	44
3	Need based	81	27
4	Total	300	100

Table No. 2

An overall analysis of information collected by the researcher from selected population reveals that 44% out of the total respondents working as permanent employed. Out of total population 29% respondents working on contract basis, whereas 27% out of total population are working as need bases. Data reveals that maximum number of the population here settled on permanent basis and near about one third of the total population working on contract basis, whereas the rese population mostly labors working on need based.

HYPOTHESIS TESTING

Cross tabulation of education- nature of occupation and Chi-Square results

<i>Nature of Occupation</i>					<i>Pearson X² value</i>	<i>DF</i>	<i>Asymp. Sig. (2- sided)</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>Contract</i>	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Need based</i>	<i>Total</i>			
<i>Primary</i>	0	3	15	18	1.375	6	.000
<i>Secondary</i>	30	18	6	54			
<i>Higher</i>	51	111	27	189			
<i>Illiterate</i>	6	0	33	39			
<i>Total</i>	87	132	81	300			

Note: Significance level; ≤ 0.05

An overall analysis of the association between education and occupation of the respondents, chi-square statistics is applied for testing the hypothesis. The results revealed that chi-square statistics is 1.375 with Df 6 and p value is 0.000, which is less than 5 percent level of significance. Thus it is clear that there is statically significant association between education and occupation of the respondents. Therefore, null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted.

From the cross tab statistics, it is clear that 44% (n=132) respondents out of total population (n=300) belongs to permanent nature of occupation in which about 84% (n=111) of the respondents out of (132-Permanent) were having higher level of education. On the basis of cross tabulation it indicates that 29% (n=87) respondents out of total population (n=300) belongs to contract nature of occupation in which 58.62% (n=51) of the respondents out of (87-Contract) were having higher level of education. Whereas 27% (n=81) of the respondents out of total population (n=300) belongs to need based occupation in which 40.75% (n=33) of the respondents out of (81-Need based) were illiterates because majority of them were labors class working women.

V. CONCLUSION

Change is ever present in the world, because change is the law of nature. Social mobility may be defined as the progress or opportunities for progress between different social groups in society, and the advantages and disadvantages that go with this in terms of earnings, safety of service, opportunities for progress and development etc. Individual not moves by their position, but by their performance in the society. In India, Social Mobility was almost impossible within a caste system before the British came to India. The status of women in India has been subjected to great changes over the past years. The status of women in social, economic, political and general- in India today is much higher than in ancient and medieval periods.

The study reveals that to achieve a higher occupation is directly related with upward social mobility. We know that urbanization and modernisation processes are causing social mobility in the women of modern society. The urban and modern societies particularly represent the characteristics of such a change.

The study reveals that working women in Indore city played a great role in making society. It is found that educational mobility is there among working women in Indore city. No doubt some of the respondents are illiterates but majority of the population belongs to higher level of education. Those who have higher educational status are doing permanent jobs as revealed by the collected data. Data shows that women belonging to higher income have higher rights to take decisions in family matters. It is said that dependents are never free as data shows that economically independent women have achieved good status in family. Higher the income, higher the status in society. In medieval period, women were suffered a lot because of so many social evils against women. Women were considered as slaves of men, but in modern times due to the advancement in society it is found that working women in society participate in every field par with men as data shows that majority of the population is saving 40% of their salary to raise her status in society.

Social mobility is always resultant of some factors. The factor of social mobility produces new circumstances which finally brings change in the role and status structure of a society. As regards social mobility among women in our society, we notice the presence of so many factors under action. In fact, with the beginning of modern age a new-inspiration and awareness have been established among Indian women. They have been provided with increased chance of education and employment. Besides, they have been given right of equality of opportunities. New governmental measures for women well-being and upliftment have also been laid down, which results social mobility among women in society.

VI. SUGGESTIONS

- No doubt educational development and occupational structure of women empower and mobilize them, in society women are facing multiple problems which stumbles her way to contribute to society at all, only independence is not mobilize women in society, but there should be the positive vision in society.

- Government should review measures related to development of education among women at grass root level.

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