

Views of Female Teenagers towards Education: A Survey

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Abstract

With a view to knowing the views of female teenagers towards education and various factors affecting in getting education, the researcher carried out a research. A grants for the minor research project was sanctioned to the researchers to carry out the research. The aim of the research was to know the opinions of the young female teenagers' views from rural and urban areas towards the importance, needs, challenges and opportunities for the females. The researcher constructed a questionnaire and validated through the experts. The sample of the study was chosen randomly from the total population of young undergraduates female teenagers from the rural and urban area of Gujarat state. The researcher took 200 female students from rural and urban colleges who were studying at undergraduate courses from Gujarat State. It was found from the research that the rural female teenagers are more obedient and respectful than urban female teenagers. They opined, we must follow what our parents say for education and all the other aspects of life. Whereas female teenagers found firm in getting education and deciding their career on their own. Further, the urban females are more aware towards their educational opportunities than the rural females. The urban female said that education is must to survive whereas rural female said that the property, behaviours and other aspects are more important than education. Females from rural opined education is for job and if the prevailing condition of employability is poor then it is of no use to get education and waste money. The life style of urban female is modern and latest whereas rural females are practical in their perspectives towards education.

Key Words: Female Teenagers, Perspectives, Education

INTRODUCTION

Though, India has achieved many milestones in various fields of development, there is an urgent need to change the poor condition of females of the nation. Even today in the 21st

century India, the psychosocial and cultural environments have innumerable prejudiced traditions and redundant customs: dowry, child marriage, illiteracy, physical and mental violence, etc. Indian girls because of their secondary status in the society may have low self-esteem and poor psychological well-being. Thus it becomes important to study the psychosocial and cultural barriers faced by Indian girls in order to offer a timely correction that can help them play a substantial role in shaping up the future society.

Value system is the backbone of the unified society. Value education is the education for becoming an empowered being. It is concerned with the development of the total personality of the individual intellectual, social, emotional, aesthetic, moral and spiritual.

It is said that values are to be 'not taught but caught' and children catch values from the environment in which they breathe whether home or school. Today the youngsters are in 'value crisis' whether to accept 'western values' or 'reject of traditional values'. Therefore, it is necessary to make a synthesis of the traditional and modern social values. Colleges play an important role in the development of the personality of an individual is considered to be the foundation stone upon which the building is built up block by block. Hence, the proposed study will aim to know the challenges, needs, importance and their perspectives towards education.

OBJECTIVES

1. To collect the opinions of the female students towards challenging challenges of education
2. To compare the views of urban and rural female teenagers' views on education
3. To study the life style, attitude, thoughts and perceptions of female teenagers
4. To study the challenges faced by the female teenagers in life
5. To conduct focused group discussion among the female students to know their general understanding on certain issues of education
6. To provide suggestions for inculcating values and education in life

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following questions were framed keeping in mind the objectives of the study.

1. What are the challenges are being faced by the teenagers to get the higher education?
2. What are the changes required in the curriculum?

3. How should be the teacher and students relationship?
4. How does present education system help to imbibe social, moral and cultural values among students?
5. How does medium of instruction (English) discourage students to get better higher education?
6. Do educated family members make the home atmosphere accurate, fruitful and peaceful?
7. Are Arguments and Ego problem observed the most among the educated people?

RESEARCH DESIGN

The present study has utilized **descriptive research** design. Descriptive research studies are designed to obtain pertinent and precise information concerning the current status of phenomena and to draw valid general conclusions from the facts discovered.

TYPE OF RESEARCH

The type of the research was survey.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The population for the study comprised the students of under graduate colleges of Gujarat state.

Random sampling technique was used to select a sample of the study. The students of Shree Bhikhabhai Patel Arts College, Anand affiliated to Sardar Patel University and Kalol affiliated to Gujarat University were taken as a sample of the study. The sample of the present study consisted of 200 students of two undergraduate colleges of Gujarat state during the academic year 2013-2014. The following table explains the numbers of male and female student-teachers of the sample.

Table 1 Sample of the Study

Female Teenagers of Undergraduate Colleges	Shree Bhikhabhai Patel Arts College, Anand Urban	C N Arts and B D Commerce College, Kadi Rural	Total
	100	100	200

RESEARCH TOOL

A Questionnaire on Views on Education was constructed.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher took two under graduate colleges from the Gujarat state. One from urban area and the other one from the rural area. A Questionnaire on Views on Education and Focused group discussion were held to know the changing values of the female teenagers. The researcher noted down the points in his research diary for the quantitative analysis of opinions.

DATA ANALYSIS

The collected data was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively by using content analysis technique and percentage analysis.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Rural female teenagers are less aware about the latest course and its features than urban students.
2. Urban female teenagers are less sensitive towards their study than the rural female teenagers.
3. Both the rural and urban female teenagers found a fee and medium of instruction (English) are the challenges.
4. The female teenagers of rural and urban area found the teacher and an education institute are the pillar of the society and they have to play a special role.
5. The rural female teenagers said that the higher education helps female to be competent manager, responsible citizen and a role model. The urban female teenagers noticed the drawbacks of the higher education.
6. Rural females agreed to the statement that more arguments and quarrels take place among the educated people than the uneducated people.
7. Rural females mostly love house hold works whereas the urban females said that it wastes the precious time and stops professional development.
8. The female teenagers from rural and urban said that education helps to develop life skills, various values, communication skills etc. All those who are educated can be the competent manager.

9. Some females from rural and urban said that the social, moral and cultural values are missing in educated and uneducated people. The effect of western countries and the concept of modernization influenced the life style of Indian community.

SUGGESTIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The educational institutes should organize career guidance sessions on a regular basis at various places to make the female students aware about the educational opportunities.
2. Students should be motivated to take part in value and life skill based activities.
3. The media should telecast the programmes which enable the female teenagers for effective house hold works, family affairs and career based opportunities.
4. The family members should socialize the child to make them accountable for their deeds.
5. The male teenagers along with the female teenagers should be made sensitive to their family members and the other human beings.
6. Special curricular and co-curricular activities for women empowerment must be planned and carried out for rural and urban females.
7. The female teenagers should be made competent to use advanced technology in study and other works.
8. Self-discipline needs to be developed for which self-monitoring needs to be taken up right from the elementary level.
9. All the female teenagers must be made aware about their rights and allowed to practice them.

CONCLUSION

The students enjoyed answering the questionnaire. They made themselves clear while answering such questions. Further, the students from rural areas were practical and determined whereas the females from urban area were impractical and confused. It was also observed that the rural female were deprived with the knowledge, exposure and information of various skill based courses. Females from rural were more soft, respectful and obedient than the urban females.

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