

A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON GENDER SENSITIZATION IN RURAL AREAS

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Abstract

Until now, all studies have considered women as a second gender in the Indian social system. This is the case today in our rural area. But while modernity has been instrumental in bringing about some degree of change in the status of women, full-scale success has not. But the law of change must change all the time, and nowadays in rural areas there is a shift towards gender sensitization. This paper focuses on changes in rural society such as gender discrimination, family ownership, family sustenance, and family responsibilities.

Introduction

Rural societies are undergoing changes in relation to gender integration. The mentality of wanting boys is changing. In some families, the woman is the decisive one. The mindset that daughters are a burden to the family has changed. Females tend to outnumber males. There is a rumor that males support their parents.

This development is changing the perception of gender among the rural population. Females play different roles in the family. The mother, daughter, sous, wife, mother-in-law, nadini, and origithi are all capable of playing these roles. All are equal under the Constitution of India. The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, caste, and creed. Despite equality in the Constitution, women are deprived of rights because men have set rules in the context of social and religious factors.

The awareness of the rural masses through mass media has gone on constantly. The silence about husbands is disappearing. There are people out there who don't want to have a foster mother, just to see the boys who are wandering the streets. The girl is hopeful by supporting her father-mother. In the villages, female elite families are being built instead of male elites. There are fewer men dealing with the family than the wife, but most women, despite all the responsibilities of the family, point out to their husband if he asks who your family is. It is a symbol of male preference.

Although a male-dominated society, the family is a jawabdari, a homemaker, a decision maker. Male-centered families can be seen as changing into families of male and female equality. This rural study of gender integration is, therefore, of great importance.

Study Area:

The research study is about the Kereyooru village of Hunsur Taluk in Mysore district. As of the 2011 census, the village has a total population of 1292. There are 649 men and 643 women. The total geographical area of the village is 714.29 hectares, with a total of 277 households. The literacy rate is 72.01%, and the sex ratio is 991 females for every 1000 males.

Objectives

The present research is being carried out in the Kereyooru village of Hunsur Taluk, mainly for the following purposes:.

1. Studying the social status of women .
2. To know about rural gender inequality.
3. Practicing the status of family management.

Research Methods and Techniques:

For the convenience of the present study, 200 respondents were selected using a simple random sampling method. Information was collected through a questionnaire and in personal interviews with observation.

Marital status of respondents:

There is a direct link between women's public life and their marital life. Considering the marital background of Kereyoor village, 61.50% of the respondents are married, 32.50% are unmarried, and 6.00% are widows.

Table- 1.1

| Marital Status | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------|------------|---------------|
| Married | 123 | 61.50% |
| Unmarried | 65 | 32.50% |
| Widows | 12 | 6.00% |
| Total | 200 | 10000% |

A portion has changed in terms of the marriage of women. Females are permitted to decide to get married. In the past, the eldest man in the family managed the family responsibility. But today age is not at all longer the main standard for managing family responsibilities. So much so that women have improved a little bit in the past. these are changes in the status of a widow.

The system of exclusion from social and religious functions is far away. The costume of widows has changed. He is not only confined to his family but is also involved in outside work. These widows also contribute to the economy of the country. There is a need to recognize his contribution to the economic upliftment and economic earnings of rural society.

Nature of inheritance in the family:

Our family system has traditionally been patriarchal. The man is the master in the family. He is the one who decides all the wants and needs of the ultimate family. A woman used to be a member of the family and had no role in any decision making, but today the situation has changed.

Table-1.2

| Decision Makers are | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Father-in-lae | 22 | 11.00% |
| Mother-in-law | 32 | 16.00% |
| Husband | 46 | 23.00% |
| Wife | 56 | 28.00% |
| Both | 44 | 22.00% |
| Total | 200 | 100.00% |

In Table 1.2, 11.00% respondents answered that father-in-law is the decision-maker in the family, 16.00% answered mother-in-law, and 23.00% husband's role. But the role of wife is 28.00 %. If 22.00% answered that both of them take decisions together, then here is a very important point: Women are at the forefront in deciding the needs and wants of the family.

Reason for giving priority to boys:

Nowadays, both male and female children are considered equal. However, when it comes to the question of one of the two, there are two children. Because the preconceived idea about them has not disappeared yet. Being a girl changes the mood of some people.

Table-1.3

| Boys | Frequency | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Household heir | 181 | 90.50% |
| Supporter of family | 7 | 3.50% |
| Taking Family bears responsibility | 12 | 6.00% |
| Total | 200 | 100.00% |

Even in rural areas nowadays, if both women and men are equal, 90.50% of the instructors say that children continue the family's offspring. 3.50 % of the instructors say that children bear family responsibility and support the family. 6.00 % of instructors said. That is, as the society changed, the gap between male and female children decreased. When it comes to the genealogy of Gothra, although there is a mindset that male children are needed, it seems to have reduced to some extent. Today, children are less supportive of their parents. Sons are neglecting their parents because they say wife, children and work. So today, as the society has changed, it can be seen that there is an inclination towards girls.

Equality in Family:

But girls are being treated like boys. 64.00% of the respondents do not have the mindset that both men and women want the same child. Any child is saying the same thing.

Table-1.4

| Boy/Girls | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Both male and female are the same. | 128% | 64.00% |
| There is no difference between male and female. | 146% | 73.00% |
| Daughters are the support of the house. | 88% | 44.00% |

Table.1.3 shows that, 73.00% of the instructors are girls who are helping their parents these days. So they say that daughters are right for boys. If girls prove that they are no less than boys by shouldering the responsibility of parents. If 44.00% of the respondents answered that girls are being raised indiscriminately in the families. It means that both male and female children are considered equal in families.

Status of Women:

Women are playing an important role in our families. Women are managing the worldly life and family responsibility more than men. The husband is misusing money. In the houses with irresponsible men, there are many instances where the families are in trouble.

Table-1.5

| Percentage of Decision Makers in the Family are Women | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Women are intelligent | 25 | 12.50% |
| Maintains the family | 104 | 52.00% |
| Wives fight | 48 | 24.00% |
| Wife is afraid | 23 | 11.50% |
| Total | 200 | 100.00% |

12.50% of the instructors are women who are smart in family management. That's why, whatever business a man needs to do in the family, he asks his wife to do it. Another 52.00% of the respondents do well in household management without allowing any expense. That is why the husband is listening to his wife. Even those who have worked are keeping a little bit and giving some money to their wives. With that money, the woman is leading a mundane life. At present, the husband is entrusting the house responsibility to the wife. 24% of the respondents ask the wife as she says because the wife fights. 11.50% respondents answered that wife is a fear for some people. Some women fear their husbands. There are women who fight when the husband does not get along with his wife and does not listen. Some of these women fight to manage family responsibilities, while others fight to get out of family responsibilities. But in recent times husbands are also doing business by listening to the words of women, which shows that the society is really dominated by both men and women.

Freedom for girls

There were separate laws for men and women in the institution called family. These discriminatory laws are still in place today. In urban areas, female children are being given freedom. But it is still not possible in rural areas.

Table-1.6

| Giving freedom | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Yes | 108 | 54.00% |
| No | 92 | 46.00% |
| Total | 200 | 100.00% |

Table Shows that 46.00% of the instructors said that they give freedom to girls as well as boys, while 54% of the instructors said that they do not give freedom. What is to be noted here is that in rural areas 54.00% of the people are giving freedom to girls as much as boys.

Family caregivers

In our society women are considered equal to men. But being equal does not mean that women are able to deal with men at all levels. Women have been given equal rights in getting education, getting employment, making decisions and deciding needs and wants. Yet family business remains a male prerogative.

Table- 1.7

| Family caregivers | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| Men | 115 | 57.50% |
| Women | 85 | 42.50% |
| Total | 200 | 100.00% |

Table 1.7 shows that 57.50% of the informants replied that the husband does the business and 42.50% of the informants answered that the wife does the business. This means that even today, the family business remains male-dominated. No matter how much freedom a woman has, it is only her husband who deals with society.

Findings:

- 1) Families have transformed into female-dominated families instead of male-dominated families.
- 2) Both male and female children are considered equal.
- 3) Girls are also given freedom.
- 4) The wife plays an important role in the family.
- 5) There is a need for equality, but there is a slight preference for boys.
- 6) Today, illiterate women are boldly doing business without fearing anyone.

Suggestion:

- 1) The media should be made more effective in changing prejudicial beliefs about girls.
- 2) There is a need to improve and create awareness of this dual trend of preference for boys and attitude towards girls.
- 3) Even today, the family decides the marriage of a woman. People should be made aware to allow women to choose.

