

A Study of The Opinion of Men Towards Working Women

Dr. Geetha S.^[1]

Abstract:

The study intended to bring to light the society's changes. In the sense change in the attitude of men and their mindset which not stereotype. There are definite indications to prove that women are proceeding towards empowerment as there are opportunities and facilities in and around their home and society. Women want to change, so men are promoting it and they are also changing. As a result we find lot of changes in the attitude, abilities and skills of women. They prove to be good and sincere workers, able managers and leaders as well as good social workers. It is because of the comforts extended to them by the family and society. A woman cannot progress solitarily. She needs support of parents, sisters, brothers, husband and that of society at large. This study in an attempt to confirm the above points.

I. INTRODUCTION

India is a country advancing towards development. For this both men and women have contributed not only economically but also socially, politically. Men's contribution is considered genuinely whereas not that of women. Indian culture has paradox. We worship goddesses and say women are to be respected and worshiped. But at the same time we consider her inferior to men. Men ill-treat, harass, and abuse them with a feeling of being superiors. Hence, India is scored low in the gender index. "Yathra Naryasthu Pujyantha thatra Ramanthe Devatha" This is divine saying. Women's role in family and workplace has to be recognized and promoted to enhance society's progress.

Women are reared equally with men in the family. In this modern world the roles of boy and girl are gradually changing. But this is in very small proportion. Major change is the need of the hour. Without which it is impossible to visualize a society with equity. There are many incidents of harassing women in our society people around and the law has to take care of it. Mainly, the mindset of society requires change positively.

Let us not be pessimistic. We can bring change when the elite group of the society intends to bring changes individually as well as collectively. There are hopes and signs indicating changes in our society in desirable proportion. We are to welcome them with all happiness. Women folk should strive to strengthen themselves in their own interest.

As an indication of "she is changing and so he is"; a questionnaire is served to primary school male teachers and their opinion is sought for it. They were in the training programme with their female counterparts. The investigator felt the need and urge to collect data and analyze it.

II. OBJECTIVES

- To study the level of women empowerment of Indian women
- To study the change of mindset of men with respect women

- To study the attitude of men towards working women
- To study the different roles of working women
- To appreciate the contribution of working women as a workforce.
- To observe the signs of gender equity in respect to working women.

III. TOOL

A questionnaire including 30 questions prepared by the investigator was used to collect data.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

The tool was administered to 54 men teachers of primary schools and they were given enough time to respond. They gave the response sheets after responding to questions in the questionnaire which included both close ended and open ended questions.

V. SCORING

The 'YES' response and the 'NO' responses were counted and percentages were calculated. For the 'open type questions' the free responses by the men are analyzed qualitatively. Their responses indicate the change men are showing with regard to 'women empowerment'.

Table: The table showing the "YES" and "NO" responses of 54 men teachers for the questions in the questionnaire

Sl. No	Questions	Yes	%	No	%
1.	Do you feel that in this society women have opportunities to fulfill their needs and aspiration?	54	100	0	0
2.	Do you agree that role of women is important for the wellbeing of the family?	48	18	6	11
3.	Do you agree that women are cultural ambassadors?	42	77	12	22
4.	Are modern women trying to develop their own identity?	48	88	6	11
5.	Do you accept that behind every successful woman / women there is / are man/ men?	51	94	9	16

^[1]Principal, Hasanamba College of Education, Hassan

6.	Do you accept that behind every successful man / men there is / are a woman / women?	51	94	9	16
7.	Do you agree that women are hurdles to women?	48	88	6	11
8.	Do you help when women are in trouble?	54	100	0	0
9.	Is the attitude of men changing positively towards women?	54	100	0	0
10.	Do you agree that women have many difficulties?	54	100	0	0
11.	Do you feel woman with you are narrow minded?	9	16	45	83
12.	Do you feel that women should be broad minded?	33	61	21	38
13.	Do you feel that women show arrogance as they are educated and earning?	30	55	24	44
14.	Do you feel that because of compromise you are successful in family and profession?	33	61	21	38
15.	As a man do you allow your earning wife to help her parents financially?	48	88	6	11
16.	Do you feel inconvenient as your wife is facing physical and mental illness?	30	55	24	44
17.	Do you also feel depressed sometimes like women?	27	50	24	44
18.	Do you help your wife or colleague to complete day to day works?	54	100	0	0
19.	Do you cooperate if a woman takes leadership?	48	88	6	11
20.	Do you repent for not caring your children when your wife is working?	30	55	24	44
21.	Do you feel women neglect responsibilities of children / home to fulfill professional responsibilities?	9	16	42	77
22.	Do you allow your wife to make independent decisions?	54	100	0	0
23.	Do you respect decisions of your wife?	48	88	3	5
24.	Are you happy about women's achievements?	54	100	0	0
25.	Do you consider efforts of women?	54	100	0	0

There are 16 questions (indications) scoring high Percentages of response favorable to women and 2 questions (indications) scoring very high percentages of responses not favorable to woman. (Narrow minded and fails to take responsibilities)

Along with these above 25 questions there were 5 more open ended questions the details are as below

26) Are you happy with progress of women in society? List them

- Women need not be over modern.
- Our culture should be maintained.
- Women strive for wellbeing of family and society.
- Women help economically.
- If opportunities are given they can excel in many fields.
- Women strive to be independent, courageous and maintain leadership.
- They work equally to men.
- Progress of men and children is by women's effort.

27) According to you what are pro women aspects in our culture?

- Respect as women
- A working woman may marry an unemployed man
- Equal respect as women
- Opportunities for education
- Respect and regard in family and society
- Women have to be good cooks and serve others
- Child bearing and rearing
- Women's follow daily routines must for time management.
- There are ways to grow for women

28) Women come across problems while balancing home and work responsibilities. Which are they according to you?

- Time management
- Mental stress
- Health problems
- Pressure by higher authority
- Adjusting to criticism of society
- Undue importance to work and neglect of family
- Not Prioritizing home and work responsibilities

29) Women want to be independent in some work areas. List some of them according you?

- Family matters
- Politics
- Economic matters
- Social / behavioral matter
- Cultural
- Daily life styles
- All should behave as I say
- Everything is there because of my salary
- Educational
- Professional

30) Women have priority related to life and others. List four of them.

- In respect of parents, husband and children
- Family progress
- My home should be neat
- All family member be good
- Have comfortable life financially
- Property and jewellery accumulation.
- To dress up well
- I should be different from others (Unique)
- Equality with all
- Cooking and serving others
- Look after elders and relatives

31) Do you want to write something other than what is asked above? Write here.

- There should be preference for women in many fields.
- Women should be treated equally
- Women should be satisfied with what they have.
- Working women should not be arrogant
- They should not ill-treat men who are unemployed
- They should care their health

VI. INTERPRETATION

The data collected has many indications that Indian men (Teachers) have revealed several positive aspects about women empowerment. Some of them are listed below:

The selected group indicates following favorable aspects about working women

- 1) Working women strive for progress of family and society
- 2) Working women double work to save family

- 3) Working women should be treated equally
- 4) Working women have to be cooperated to achieve success in their life
- 5) Working women are good cooks
- 6) Working women have many opportunities to grow and develop
- 7) Working women should take care of their physical and mental health
- 8) Working women should be helped to strike a balance between work and home.
- 9) Working women show lot of concern for their family and society
- 10) Working women may marry an unemployed when she is earning

Some genuine suggestions are

- Women must manage their time
- Women must care for their health
- Women must not be over talkative
- Women must not ill-treat those unemployed
- Women must not be over modern which hinder development of Indian culture
- Women must not be over ambitious
- Women must not emphasize over their role as professionals
- Women must not be emotional to the pressures of higher authorities. They must learn to cope with it.
- Woman must prove their existence both at home and workplace positively
- Woman must not bother about mean behavior of others when they are all intact.

VII. CONCLUSION

The study intended to bring to light the society's changes. In the sense change in the attitude of men and their mindset which is not stereo type. There are definite indications to prove that women are proceeding towards empowerment as there are opportunities and facilities in and around their home and society. Women want to change, so men are promoting it. As a result we find lot of changes in the attitude, abilities and skills of women. They prove to be good and sincere workers, able managers and leaders as well as good social workers. It is because of the comforts extended to them by the family and society. A woman cannot progress solitarily. She needs support of parents, sisters, brothers, husband and that of society at large.

This study conducted by the administrator of a college of education, being herself a lady (women) of keen interest. The results of the study will reflect on changes in the society to indicate women empowerment. As there is a study course in college of education related Gender, School and society, the outcomes of this study will help teacher educators, teachers and those who are involved in bringing women empowerment. Women who constitute 50% population of world (Fredrik Mayer, former Secretary UN General Assembly) are to be genuinely brought to main stream.

There lies peace and happiness in the world. Women are the cultural ambassadors. It is rightly opt for a developing country like India.

VIII. REFERENCES

- Dr. S. Geetha; 2012, working women; Karnataka State Open University, Mysore.
- Articles published in the daily News paper "The Hindu"
- Author's experience as a woman, teacher educator and an administrator.