

## Role of Education in Empowering Women: A Study of Rural Areas

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### ABSTRACT

*Dr James Emman Kwegyir aggrey very rightly said, "If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate the whole nation". Yes, because only a single-family is benefitted from the education of a man, but in the case of a girl, "women" her education benefits two families, in turn, an entire generation and the whole nation as such. And bring about a revolutionary change in the village, society and nation as a whole. Thus, educating a woman should be the priority of any society, especially at the grass-roots level, i.e., the girl child.*

*This study attempts to analyse the status of women education viz empowerment in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, mainly Hathras and Aligarh (Satoha, Raghaniya, Sasni, Laadhpur, Lakhnau, Nagla Hema) district. In Uttar Pradesh, the practice of early marriage is the main reason besides others which interrupts and hinders the girl education. The second most common factor being the economic condition, where again, a boy is encouraged to continue his education (Patriarchal mindset), and the girl is discouraged. Since the study is conducted with an age group comprised of 14 years to 35 and above, that was the time when the government policies were not framed for the benefit of the girl child education, and strict actions were taken for their marriage. The economic factor is the other major cause for girl's school dropout, where most families cannot afford to pay school fees due to their financial crunch. The researcher also finds out that most of the parents don't allow their girl child to study because of society's matter, i.e. WHAT WILL THE SOCIETY THINK?. In this study, the survey method was used with frequency, cross-tabulation and descriptive statistics having a sample size of 204 women from rural areas. This paper sought to investigate the effect of early marriage, early age pregnancy, sanitation problem, and parent decision on girl child force them to school dropout in Uttar-Pradesh. Early marriage is considered one of the main reasons that affected the girl child school dropout and also contributed to approximately 40% of the cases.*

**Keywords:** Women education, Economic condition, early marriage, School Dropout and Uttar Pradesh.

### I INTRODUCTION

Women also play a vital important role in the nation's development. Considering women she acts as a mother, wife, and sister, she occupies an esteemed place in the society. A woman is the essence of courage and boldness, love and affection, sacrifice and suffering. Though, with time, women lost her privileged position due to social, economic and political factors. From the last few years, women facing "sexual harassment" at the workplace, "eve-teasing", "abduction" and "female foeticide" has given rise to the horrific behaviour patterns occurring in society. The girl-child is someone else's property and thus ought to stay inside to carry out the household chores. Women also facing different kind of discrimination like "female foeticide", "infanticide", and "discrimination in feeding" and "nutrition", which affect the physical sex ratio adversely. Right to property, is consistently denied to women, Men generally own the family properties, and girls don't have any say in purchasing whether land or any other item of use, be it durable or non-durable consumer items; preserving of land which is apparent from our field survey. Re-marriage of widows with brother of her dead husband is primarily aimed toward keeping the property claim. Male relatives in rare cases use powerful force wherever ladies own property. Although ladies participate generously towards running the house and subsistence of the families, her equality is suppressed. Education can play a very vital role in addressing above problems.

UP is a state located in the northern part of India, with a population of over 230 million people; it is India's most populous state, as well as the world's most populous sub-national entity. This is state has large rural areas and suffer from all the problem stated above there are several incidences of rape, abduction, murder, domestic violence and discrimination within the socio-economic and academic fields. Men and women are having different place in society and especially in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh. For example, in Hindu, a girl is called "Parayadhan" and a boy "Apanadhan" (Sharma, 2015).

### II LITERATURE REVIEW

(a) (Dhanaraj &Mahambare, 2019) investigates about the structure of the family, employment of the women in rural areas and their education. Study revealed that women who had higher education those were not constraints with cultural and traditional norms. The study supports that education shows a positive impact on decision making power of women in a joint family, increased level of education also raise women's earning capacity and quality of job as well. According to (Byrne et al., 2019; Mehtap et al., 2019), this may be due to the absence of lack of investor's trust in women, gender biases, judging them based on early marriage, education and work-life balance. Women's contribution in enterprise development and the education sector is still a challenge with their male counterparts.

- (b) **(Ahmed, 2018)** Majorly the labour market workers are illiterate, he finds that majorly the labour market workers are illiterate among literate workers; little less than half of the daily labour market workers have a primary level of education followed by secondary, senior secondary and others. Similarly, among total everyday labour market worker households, about two-thirds proportion of the total population is witnessed as illiterate and both in males and females, more than half of the population is observed as substandard. Among the labour market workers households, more than thirty per cent of total males family member have a primary level of education. Similarly, about two-fifths proportion of females of the labour market worker households has primary education. Furthermore, the economic causes (i.e. unemployment, poverty, low level of income, landlessness and small size of landholdings) have predominance in terms of increasing illiteracy in the city.
- (c) **(Ghosh et al., 2017)** study analyzed that woman mean age of women for getting married is 16 years and it was investigated that who got married at the age of 16 to 18 faced a greater adjustments problem with their spouse and family, Marital happiness was found to be lower with those women who had more than 3 children. Study also carried out that early marriage, females lack of education and maturity among women have direct impact with women's wellbeing.
- (d) **(Sekhar, 2014)** In Madhurai district, a researcher found out the "Impact of education on women", and he came out with the findings that the educational qualification of women played a very prominent role in women behaviour and also in their decision-making power. Also shows a significant positive impact towards their level of education.
- (e) **(Dr. Syed Waseem, A. Ashraf & Ayaz Ahmad 2012)**. Educating a woman gives a kind of superpower in the development of individuality. Education plays as an instrumental role for strengthening socially useful skills, habits and attitudes of shared citizenship in women. The exposure of women in India and especially in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh is worse in comparison with other states.
- (f) **(Ayaz Ahmad, 2012)** One of the main reasons was also found out that is poverty, the main reason for the existence of child labour and even all other factors are inter-related with each other. The researcher also observes that low-income families have more children than other families, and it is challenging for them to survive with single person earnings. So, this reason why they force their small children to do child labour rather than education.

- (g) **(D. Radha Devi, 1993)** In another study based on the position of women in India, a comparison by state, she found a direct relationship between status and development. An overall development of women is also reflected by many status indicators. So those 14 states of the population 10 million or more need to focus properly to raise their level of development with other conditions.

### III OBJECTIVE AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### (a) Objective

- (i) To study the status of women education and empowerment of women in rural areas of UP.
- (ii) To identify the educational problems and root level complications faced by women in rural parts of UP.
- (iii) To study the growth and development of women in rural parts of UP.

- (b) **Data Collection Method** - The primary data was collected through a personal interview conducted with the help of structured questionnaire, questionnaire was designed with close ended questions, which was used to collect data from rural areas of Uttar Pradesh (Satoha, Raghaniya, Sasni, Laadhpur, Lakhnu, Nagla Hema) district. The secondary data was collected with the help of various publications and the internet listed in the bibliography.

- (c) **Sampling Unit** - Women from rural and urban areas of Aligarh district/ Uttar Pradesh

- (d) **Sample size** - In this study, 204 rural women data was collected from (Ruheri, Satoha, Raghaniya, Lakhnu, Ladhpur, Nagla Hema, Sasni) were taken into consideration.

- (e) **Sampling Method** - The method used for sampling is convenience sampling depending upon the information provided by the interviewee. Data consists of rural areas of Uttar Pradesh (Ruheri, Satoha, Raghaniya, Lakhnu, Ladhpur, Nagla Hema, Sasni).

#### (f) Information was collected through:

- (i) Descriptive Research design with well-structured Questionnaire.
- (ii) Personal Interview method.
- (iii) Simple Convenient Sampling.

#### (g) Types of data were used.

- (i) Primary Data
- (ii) Secondary Data

#### (h) Tools of Data Analysis

- SPSS

#### (i) Techniques of data analysis

- Graphical Presentation
- Factor Analysis
- Frequency
- Crosstab

- Descriptive
- Ranking

(j) **Study Area** - This study is conducted in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh namely (Ruheri, Satoha, Raghaniya, Lakhnu, Ladhpur, Nagla Hema, Sasni).

## IV DATA ANALYSIS

As we have analyzed the data from rural areas of Uttar Pradesh namely (Ruheri, Satoha, Raghaniya, Lakhnu, Ladhpur, Nagla Hema, Sasni). Data collection is based on both primary and secondary research. This analysis helps us in finding out the main problem faced by women.

### Reliability Test

Table no. 1	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.927	27

(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)

Table-2 Demographic profile of the Respondents		
Construct	Category	Percentage (%)
Age (in years)	14-18(years)	5.4
	18-22(years)	38.7
	22-28(years)	19.1
	28-35(years)	16.2
	Above 35 (years)	20.1
Educational Qualifications	Primary Level	26.0
	Intermediate Level	14.7
	Graduate level	33.3
	Post graduate level	14.2
	Technically qualified	11.8
Income (monthly)	Less than 25,000	27
	25,000-50,000	33
	50,000-1,00,000	10
	Greater than 1,00,000	17
Marital status	Married	36.8
	Un –Married	59.3
	Widow	3.9
Members in the family	2-4 members	31.9
	5 to 7	48.0
	7 and above	20.1
Level of employment	Employed	25.0
	Unemployed	7.8
	Housewife	24.0
	Student	42.2
	Any other	1.0
Type of Family	Joint	42.6
	Nuclear	57.4
Economic status	Own house	82.9

Rented 17.1

*(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)*

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Economic Profile	204	1.17	.378
Household Earnings	204	4.08	1.434
Valid N (list wise)	204		

**(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)**

**Interpretation** – Table depicts the mean ranges from .378-1.434 and the average mean is .906.

Items	Household earnings					Total
	Cultivators	Agricultural labour	Non Agricultural Labour	Service	Business and others	
Primary level	2	24	8	14	5	53
Intermediate level	2	4	1	14	9	30
Graduate level	2	6	1	38	21	68
Post graduate level	0	0	0	14	15	29
Technically Qualified	0	0	0	18	6	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>204</b>

**(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)**

**Interpretation-** This table depicts that there is a cross tabulation between the two variable that is Earning of the family and qualification of the girl

child, we can easily predict that if the family is in service sector than that family girls has taken education up to graduate level.

**(a) Have you ever faced problem in your education.**

Items	No of respondent	Frequency/percentage
Those who faced problem in education	104	50.7%
Those who haven't face any problem	100	49.3%

**(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)**

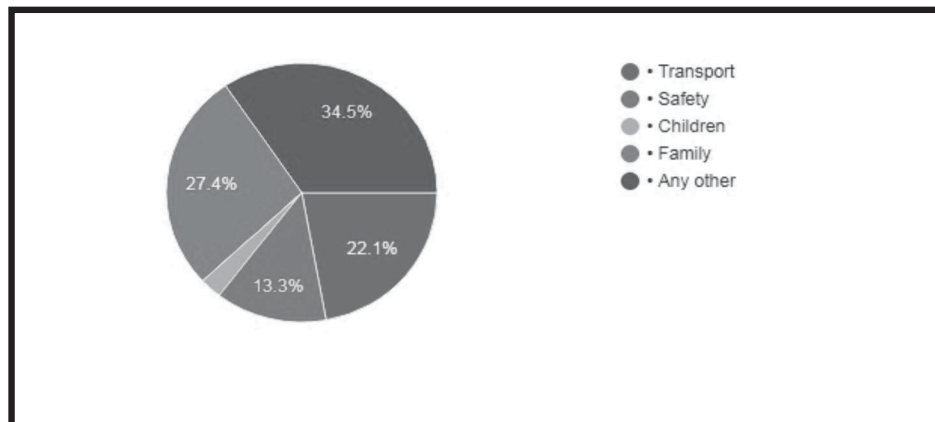
**Interpretation-**Table depicts 50.7% of women facing a problem in taking education and 49.3%

women who haven't encountered any problem in their education.

**(b) If yes than what type of problem?**

Items	No of respondent	Frequency/percentage
Transport	25	22.1%
Safety	15	13.3%
Children	3	2.7%
Family	30	27.4%
Any other	39	34.5%

**(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)**



**Fig. 1**

**Interpretation-** Table depicts that there are 2.7% of women's who faced a problem because of their Children,13.3 % facing problem because of safety, 22.1% facing problem because of

transportation,27.4% women's encountered problem because of their Family and 34.5% women's are there who are facing any other kind of problem.

**Part 1 In your opinion the role of parent’s consciousness in women education.**

**(c) Descriptive Statistics**

Items	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic
Lack of funding	204	3.08	1.270
Illiteracy of parents	204	3.33	1.363
Rural atmosphere	204	3.52	1.221
Negligence of parents	204	3.40	1.391
Family Atmosphere	204	3.69	1.199
Valid N (list wise)	204		

**(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)**

**Interpretation** –This table reports the descriptive statistics based on the Parent's consciousness in women education; here, we can see that majorly

women affected by the negligence of parent’s factor that is 1.391.

**(d) In your opinion the role of Family Consciousness in women's education**

**Descriptive Statistics**

<b>Table :8</b>			
Items	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic
Sibling Care	204	3.00	1.226
Not good in monetary terms	204	3.06	1.289
Household work	204	3.33	1.238
Family constraint	204	3.39	1.272
Social Pressure	204	3.39	1.280
Valid N (list wise)	204		

**(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)**

**Interpretation-** Table depicts the descriptive statistics based on the whole family consciousness in women education; here we can see that majorly

women affect by lack of funding factor or we can say Family which is not good in monetary terms that is 1.289.

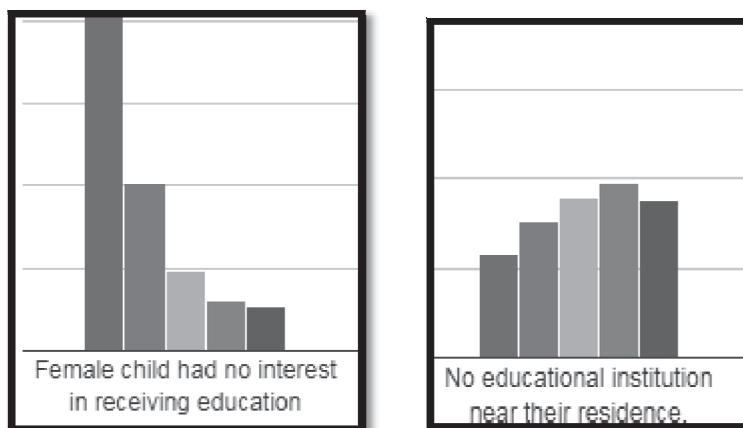
**(e) Role of Learner's Interest**

<b>Table: 9</b>				
Serial	Items	No respondent	of	Ranking
1	Female child had no interest in receiving education.	102		1
2	No educational institution near the residence.	48		4
3	Female child preferred going to school rather than staying at home.	69		2
4	Parents and society did not encourage for educating the female.	58		3

**(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)**

**Interpretation –** Table analyzed that we use ranking analysis which depicts that in some of the condition's

women don't have much interest in receiving education.



**Fig. 2 Fig. 3**

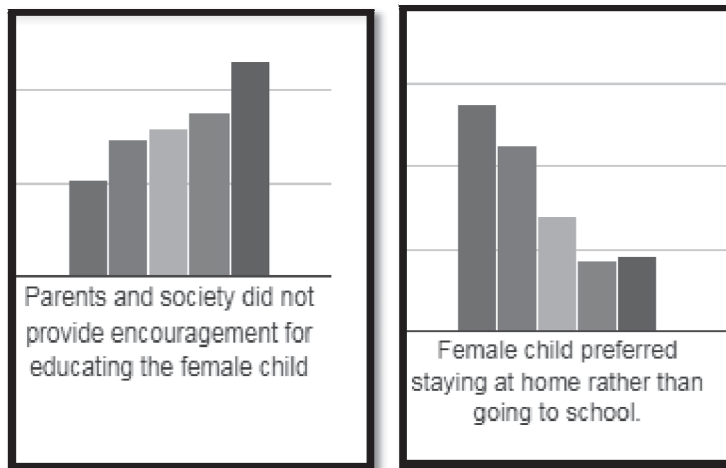


Fig. 4 Fig. 5

(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)

(f) Why females drop-out from school/colleges?

Table :10

KMO and Bartlett's Test	
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.	.846
Approx. Chi-Square	1154.486
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity Df	45
Sig.	.000

(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)

**Interpretation**–In this table, The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) ratethe sampling adequacy. High Values (between 0.5 and 1.0) indicates factor analysis

is appropriate, value below 0.5 indicates factors are not appropriate.

Table: 11

Total Variance Explained						
Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% Variance	Of Cumulative %	Total	% Variance	Of Cumulative %
1 Early marriage	4.722	47.225	47.225	4.722	47.225	47.225
2 Pregnancy	2.109	21.088	68.312	2.109	21.088	68.312
3 Lack of sanitation	.735	7.347	75.659			
4 Because of distance	.547	5.470	81.129			
5 Child labour	.493	4.928	86.057			
6 Lack of funding	.367	3.672	89.729			
7 Poverty	.306	3.057	92.786			
8 Parent decision	.276	2.761	95.547			
9 Lack of school infrastructure	.242	2.415	97.962			
10 Lack of Awareness	.204	2.038	100.000			

(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)

**Interpretation-** Table reports that the two factors majorly affect the female dropout from school and

colleges i,e early marriage and pregnancy 47.225 and 68.312, respectively.

Table 12		
Rotated Component Matrix		
	Component	
	1	2
Because of distance	.873	
Early marriage	.855	
Pregnancy	.808	
Lack of Awareness	.803	
Lack of sanitation	.654	
Lack of school infrastructure	.634	
Parent decision		.880
lack of funding		.808
Child labour		.802
Poverty		.796

(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)

**Interpretation** – The rotated component matrix also referred to as loading and this shows the key output of principal components analysis.

**(g) Does education bring some improvement for marriage?**

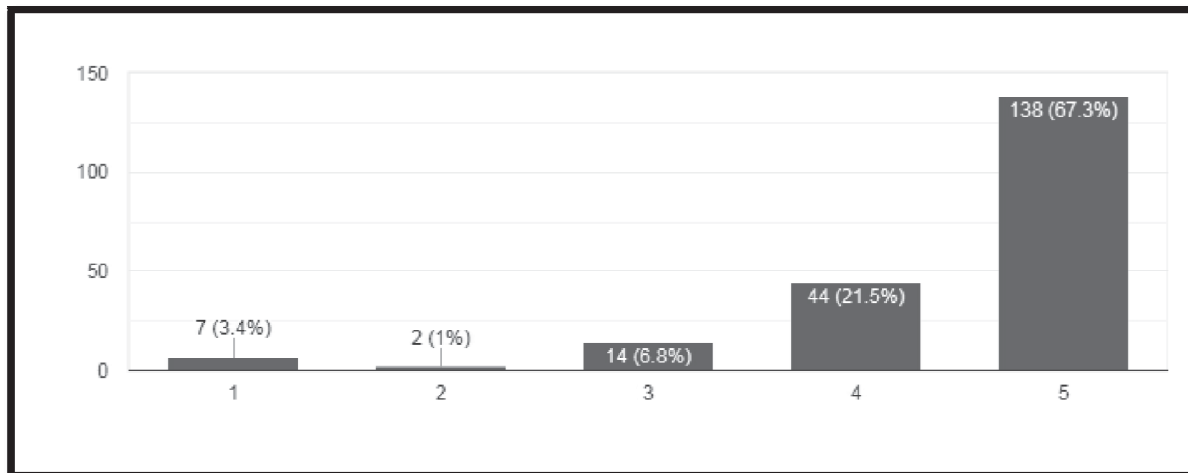


Fig. 6

(Source: Primary data collected, Feb-Mar 2020)

**Interpretation** – This figure depicts that out of 204 there are 138 respondents who feel that education will bring improvement in their married life it simply means that if women or a girl child takes complete education before his marriage than that thing surely bring some kind of improvement in their after married life.

**V FINDINGS**

(a) This study finds out main crucial reason why girls or female child dropout from schools, researchers have analysed that the introduction of different education programme and awareness of the same will help out the girls to continue their education.

(b) The study also offers an opportunity for those females who drop out schools because of early marriage, repeated pregnancies and funding issues.

(c) Furthermore, there is a need for Psychosocial and mentoring programs and the introduction of Life Skills, Civic and Peace education programs in schools and in the curriculum. Also, the establishment of vocational and technical schools in the state to cater for the learners with emphasis to those girls who drop out of school due to several factors and those who missed school because of coeducation and parent decision, to earn a living and lifelong learning opportunity to be valuable citizens to themselves and the country.



- (d) The study also found out there is a need for the government and the ministry of education to deploy more teachers to address the shortage of teachers in schools in the Country and salary increment to motivate them. The country also requires more teacher training institutes to help teachers meet quality education.
- (e) Lastly, the government needs to introduce gender mainstreaming programs in all the institutions of learning.

## VI CONCLUSION

The social status of women in Aligarh District indicated that they live in a male-dominated society, which is culture-bound. After primary education, discontinuation of studies, early marriage, and SHG women's dependence on male bookkeepers for maintenance of their accounts are some clear examples for this scenario. The condition of women in rural areas particularly in Uttar Pradesh is worse than other Indian states. On the basis of above study, researcher determined that the development of a Nation, largely depends upon the active participation of women in the development process, and financial and economic freedom can be achieved through education only. So, Education in Uttar Pradesh is the most important problem to be addressed. For this matter, parents, family, government, and political parties should emphasize women's education and development. The girl child in small villages and town should get proper funding (there should be regressed awareness programmes conducted in small villages and towns regarding the facilities granted for the girl child education, protection and equality). In Uttar Pradesh, the most crucial problem is child marriage, early pregnancy, lack of hygiene, sanitation, lack of awareness, poverty, and school infrastructure, medical facility. Many talented women, particularly in rural areas, are deprived of

education and employment opportunities. Early marriage and childbearing take a toll on their health and ability to think constructively. Basic education and awareness can, however, bring about change in their thinking patterns and help them to earn better and enhance their standard of living.

## VII SUGGESTIONS

- (a) Enrolment of females should be strictly monitored from Village panchayat level. It also helps in reduction of school dropout.
- (b) Schools should be at within reach for girls.
- (c) Proper infrastructure facilities like computer labs, also separate toilets and running water should be provided.
- (d) Female staff should be on priority so that female students should not face any difficulties in learning from same gender.
- (e) The government should open schools and colleges for old age women are who still want to pursue their education.
- (f) Awareness programmes should be conducted to encourage girls to pursue higher education.

## VIII LIMITATIONS

- (a) There is a time constraint in collecting data
- (b) Many women don't want to open up to give information regarding their education and personal problems.
- (c) The study was conducted in a small geographical area with a small sample.
- (d) There are large numbers of factors that affect the study, but we cannot incorporate all the factors in the study
- (e) Each individual is unique in their way and having a different set of behavioural values.