

## **A Study of the parents Opinion on Discrimination among degree College students of Rural kolar district, South india**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

**Background:** India is a male dominant society and gender discrimination is customized. Habitually females are facing lots of discrimination against them. Some of them are not given enough nutritious food, not allowed to go to school, (denying education), Preferring boys to admit to convent (private) school over girl child. Discrimination in admitting girl's student and boys to convent school, not giving needy health care when the girl child is ill-health. The other issues include early marriage, eve teasing, and abortion of female fetus with the help of scanning techniques, dowry, rape, sexual harassment and divorce.

**Objective:** To study the socio-cultural aspects of gender perception among college students and their attitude towards girl child response of their attitude.

**Methods:** Sample consisting of 150 girls and 150 boys were selected students from different colleges both unisex and co-educational colleges were studied.

**Results:** It is observed that, 60.67 percent boys felt that the girls are not protected by the parents, 26.6 percent are not protected by the society, and the study was concerned more with the social group interaction and social mobility in the campus.

**Conclusion:** Planning commission must design strategy for the holistic approach of women empowerment in the society by formulating policies and programs; and the government has to introduce compulsory female education.

**KEY WORDS:** Gender, Perception, Poverty, Rural India, Discrimination, Social interaction.

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Gender perception is a term used to describe how individuals are classified as male, female or transgendered. These types of perception are frequently dependent upon physical cues such as genitalia, facial, hair and body structure. The term, gender perception may be used to describe group perceptions about gender, as well as individual perceptions about one's own gender [1]. Societal norms, in particular, play a role in how a person views his or her own gender, as well as how his or her gender is perceived by others. For example, newborn girls and boys are dressed in different colors and style of clothing, as well as offered different toys to play with as they begin to develop [1, 2]. Taught to look, behave and perceive one's self as male or female, this gender assignment is generally accepted by the child and others for life. In India discriminatory attitude towards women have existed for generations and affects women over their lives. Although the constitution of India has granted for women equal rights but gender disparities remains, the 1956 act suggest equal property right. Women constitute 48% of the population in India. Female students of co-educational colleges have a significantly higher positive self-perception as compared to the female students of women's colleges [3], [4].

The Principle of Gender equity is enshrined in Indian constitution in its preamble, fundamental rights, duties and directive principles and also reducing gender gap in education is a focus area. [4], [14]. As per the latest Census in the year 2011, the total female sex ratio in India is 940 per 1000 males and the female child sex ratio is 944 girl children per every 1000 boys of the same age group. The overall female sex ratio has increased by 0.75 % in the Census 2011 as compared to the previous Census of 2001. Households and communities in India often place women in subordinate position to men [4], [5], [13], [14]. In health care, girls are frequently neglected during the care seeking process and they experience relatively poor nutrition, greater delays in receiving care and lower access to preventive and curative care [1]. A major reason cited for the low girl to boy ratio in the population of India is the differential in health care seeking behavior between genders. There are limited opportunities for women to access resources such as education, health care services and job

opportunities. Women are disadvantaged at work and are often underestimated for their capabilities. This has prevented Indian women from achieving a higher standard of living [5], [6].

**Objective:** To study the Demographic aspects on gender perception among college students and parents attitude.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample of 150 girls and 150 boys were selected from different colleges both unisex and co-educational colleges. Selection of the students for the study was based on a representative sample reflecting to varying caste, occupation, income, education, economic condition and cultural diversities. In order to obtain a representative sample, colleges in different zones of Kolar district were included in the study in the month of Jan 2014 to April 2014. The colleges offer multidisciplinary courses like arts, science, commerce, BSc (N) Nursing, Diploma in nursing and midwifery Students.

The study of these attitudes of younger generation is highly important as it is significant to know the views of young people on gender issues; they are the ones who would be shaping the new patterns of relationship in the near future. Ideals, beliefs and values are affected by and in turn affect the socio-cultural, political, economic conditions of the society on the vital issues of life and gender relations. One's self is largely conditioned by the society in which one is born and brought up and are affected by the social change taking place in that society, some of the significant factors, which played a crucial role in influencing and shaping the attitude are the type of upbringing at parents place, parent-child relationship, socio cultural setting of the family, schooling and the type of the city or town where they lived, the structure of human society is constituted by certain socially stratifying features, which either provide or crucial the left opportunities of the members, differential principles and privileges operate in the society which are based on sex and gender roles traditionally upheld [6],[8].

Some of the significant agencies like the family, the peer group, the school or college, the workplace and the media – both print and electronic - try to reinforce the established values regarding sex and gender roles. These agencies of socialization play a decisive role in the formation of attitude and opinion about gender role, gender identity, gender discrimination and sex stereotyping. Universal processes like industrialization, urbanization and modernization which are expanding the mental horizons of people have produced very perceptible changes whose impact is felt by the people at large irrespective of sex, caste, creed, and religion [7].

## III. RESULTS:

**Table-1: Demographic Characteristics of the respondents**

Age groups	Boys	Girls
18-20	69(46)	70(46.)
21-23	51(34)	41(27.3)
24 >	30(20.6)	39(26)
Nuclear Family	69(46)	56(37.3)
Joint Family	81(54)	94(62.6)

### Caste

Cate	Religious group	Boys	Girls
1	Brahmins	45(30)	41(27.3)
2	Lingyaths, Gowdas, Vysyas, Kshatriyas	65(43.3)	63(42.)
3	SC/ST/ Others	20(13.3)	8(5.3)
4	Muslims	12(8)	4(2.6)
5	Converted Christians	8(5.3)	34(22.6)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>

### Family income:

Family income level Rs	Boys	Girls
20001- >	10(6.6)	7(4.6)
15001-20000	29(19.3)	12(8)
10001-15000	22(14.6)	9(6)
5001-10000	38(25.3)	24(16)
1000-5000	45(30)	16(10.6)
No income	6(4)	82(54.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>

**Social interaction :** The views included to getting an insight into the respondent's intensity of interaction (between boys & girls) in formal and informal settings. Surrogatemarriage is also I find in my studies, Man marries wife's sister or other women/relationship.

**Table No-2Social interaction**

Response	Boys	Girls
Yes	119(79.3)	56(37.3)
No	31(20.6)	94(62.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Participation in specific items in collage</b>		
Activities	Boys	Girls
Sports	31(20.6)	10(6.6)
Curricular activities	26(17.3)	19(12.6)
N.C C	46(30.6)	9(6)
N.S.S	11(7.3)	61(40.6)
Not interested	36(24)	51(34)
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>

**Respondents express regarding packet money:**

Pocket money	Boys	Girls
Rs<500	65(43.3)	44(29.3)
500-1000	10(6.6)	26(17.3)
1001-2000	15(10)	8(5.3)
2001-3000	10(6.6)	5(3.3)
3001- >	10(6.6)	5(3.3)
Very rare/no pocket money	40(26.6)	62(41.3)
	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>
Excursions	Boys	Girls
Yes	95(63.3)	34(22.6)
No	29(19.3)	50(33.3)
Sometime	26(17.33)	66(44)
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>

**Domestic Duties doing in the family:**

Domestic work in the family	Boys	Girls
Yes	59 (39.3)	109(72.6)
No	91(60.6)	41(27.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>

High percentage of positive responses by boys and girls indicate that there was no inhibition by parents for social interactions. 62.6percent girls express no socializing attitude. This attitude may be because of the social and environmental changing conditions. For instance, the social functions and festivals in an urban environment equally participate. Hence, there is acceptability by parents of the group interactions. The positive responses show that invariable there is an increasing trend in both co-educational and unisex colleges to organize a wide variety of extracurricular activities which include sports, cultural activities, as observed from the above table. Only 40.6percent of girls express that joined for NSS to save pocket money. This was assessed in terms of where the respondents are given freedom to spend in terms of pocket money and how do they spend.

It is interesting to note that impact of T.V. serials and movies in very significant in conveying the gender discriminatory episodes pictures of usually and impressively [5].The impact series in intense for girls as they spend more time in viewing them consistently, it is also true that most of the serial revolve around the glaring gender discriminations traditionally rooted in the society. Fiction literature also plays a significant role in creating awareness on this aspect. The role of the advertisements in print and electronic media is not considered as a good indicator because of their bias in portraying women indiscriminately for promoting products andservices [8].

#### IV. OPINIONS OF THE BOYS:

Most of the opinions elicited related to the respondents and his parents attitude to his sister in terms of sharing the domestic duties, likes and dislikes, role performance companion ship and discriminatory treatment in the family.39.3% of the boys noticed that they share the Family duties.72.6pre cent girls involving inshopping, collecting water from public well, cleaning the house, cooking, collecting fire wood from forest, working sometime in the Agricultur all and, Cleaning and collecting cow dung in the cattle shed early morning[11].Those who responded that they did not participate in domestic duties could not be considered as of negative attitude because of their non-participation may be due to a higher level of household life style having servants and cooks for their duties[11],[12].

**Table No-3 Behaviors of Girls (students):**

Treatment of Girls by parents	No. (%)
Yes	30(20)
Some times	15(10)
Always	9(6)
Not So	32(21.3)

Discouraging Girls(boys views)	No (%)
Yes	91 (60.67)
No	59 (39.33)
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

Never	88(58.6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

#### Kindness to girls:

Rejection of favor to girls	No (%)
Yes	49(32.6)
No	81(54.0)
Sometimes	20(13.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

#### Discriminations at Different places:

Discrimination	Boys	Girls
Family	59(39.3 )	71(47.3)
Collage	31(20.6)	39(26.3)
Society	60(40)	40(26.6)

Most of the respondents got pocket money substantially in the range of rupees per month. Most of it was spent on social outings such as visit to eating houses. Films, picnics, gifts for birth-day functions and greetings. They also spent it on personal present ability such as visits to saloons and beauty parlors to keep up with the modern fashions.41.3percent girls saysthat no pocket money because of family in economic recession. The above opinion made further reinforced by the responses the daughters are denied certain favor when compared to sons.58.6percent mentioned that such discrimination existed in their family. Most of the respondents felt that the girls in the family were treating “not-better” only on certain occasions and not always.54per cent respondents did not favor any discriminatory attitude to be shown to these sisters by the parents in the home 60.67 per cent boys felt that the girls are not protect by the parents as shown. This opinion should be assessed abjectly not a negative reaction but as a positive attitude and suggesting individual freedom to the girls and is a good indication of the awareness on gender equality. However, a lesser percentage of college students 26.3percent were active members participated, it can be inferred that the girls respondents had no family hindrances for their social mobility interactions so far they were within the limits of the social decency expected even is a changing value milieu[12].

#### V. DISCUSSION

An attitudinal response in this study is based on the scaling technique of eliciting the respondent’s negative and positive responses in terms on approval or disapproval to a list of table’s statements relevant to the gender perception. The Background which include age, caste, family and income. The analysis reflects statement variable positive and negative attitudinal responses.

The boys in the age group of 18-23 showed a great awareness on the significance of this statement agreeing that Girls were given better privileges this may be an indicator of the impact of Education of their mothers, media, print, electronic etc. [2]. While majority of the forward caste girls belonging to mixed categories agreed this differing caste – related attitudinal responses amongst the girls may be due to their observations in the family with the employed mothers particularly in the public sector. Boys in the lower income segments felt that the statement was true again may be due to a perceptual distortion, mentioned above, by mistaking equal opportunities for more privileges. 54.67 percent girl's respondents in almost all the income segments disapproved [1],[3].

In my study Girl's attitude, basically girls are not keen to active much in life. Majority of boys in all age groups tend to agree with this statement. This may be due to the observation based on the family background that's the educated mothers stay as near house wives or even the employed mothers prefer to attend to household outsides in their off time rather than pursue any other vocations [5],[10]. The attitude response of the girls in each category, more or less, was similar to these of the boys may be due to the same reasons. Study Shows an interesting feature that both boys and girls belonging to higher income groups had a perception of the achievements of the women in life again this may be due to the fact that higher income families could afford maids and servants to attend to the family chores while the mothers would take part in larger social interactions which provide recognition such as participation in cultural activities or social group activities which in turn would give them promotional avenues in the professional careers [16].

The age-related response of boys to this statement is on the whole similar is not approving it showing a greater awareness of the gender equality. The responses of the girls was a mixed bag of approval and disapproval of the above statement again indicating that it may be due to the gap between their expectations of recognition and the realities the conventional attempt of the family giving more prominence to the girls traits required for family life than any extracurricular achievements may be one of the reasons for their mixed responses. Caste related responses did not reveal any consistent trend apart from what has been mentioned more or less [6].

Income related responses showed that for both boys and girls since most of the families belonging to higher income have a higher social mobility where the girls achievements get recognized, this response pattern seems appropriate. Age wise there was a positive response to this statement more so in the 18-23 age group for the boys and girls. This is the age where the social maturity and consciousness relatively gets stability. Surprisingly, caste-related responses showed higher positive responses in girls than in the boys particularly in forward and mixed categories [7]. As this statement point, generally, to group activity the response pattern again indicates an awareness of increasing social interaction taking place in the college campuses. Education and employment of girls solve to some extent the problem of gender discrimination, there was a high rate of positive response from both boys and girls for friendship relationship irrespective of caste or religion, Most of the attitudinal responses to the listed statement were in direct influence by the socialization variables of the family background of the respondents, such as parental education and parental occupation [6], [9].

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

Collegiate education, particularly the co-education in the Kolar city has provided an excellent opportunity for developing cognitive learning process for both boys and girls on the gender perception in a positive manner. This cognitive process which helps the individual social behavior is to an extent conditioned by the socialization process the student achieves in his family environment the variable which help progressive socializations process, are caste, parental education, occupation, and income. The impact of these variables is interdependent in molding the social values of the boys and girls [14], [15].

This study has aimed at assessing the gender perception, in general it does not specifically focus on the definitive factors in the educational in put at the colleges which are required to promote gender perception the study was concerned more with the social group interaction and social mobility in the campus. From the study, there is a high degree of social awareness on the gender values general in both boys and girls. The attitudinal response analyzed in the study bears evidence to this. The various perspectives discussed clearly indicate that the issue of empowerment of women is very complex phenomenon. The demand for equality or equal rights with men and reservations for women in political institutions and jobs may help the situation but it will not be adequate, what is required it's to see women's issues as a part of the broader issue of development. Planning commission must plan for the Holistic approach of women Empowerment in the society by sponsoring the politics and programs in this regard through the government has introduced several programmes. But unfortunately due to various reasons it has failed miserably.

The government of India has also taken responsibility by passing a law; there is law of inheritance and succession. In the construction of gender relations, it has been mentioned cultural symbols and responses are as important as economic and technological aspects [16], [17].

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