

Horiz Holis Edu

Volume 3, Issue 1, January - March 2015

p ISSN : 2349-8811

e ISSN : 2349-9133

The International Quarterly Journal

# Horizons of Holistic Education

Peer Reviewed

Published By

Children's University

Sector-20, Gandhinagar, Gandhinagar (Gujarat) INDIA

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## ATTITUDES OF SOCIETY TOWARDS WOMEN

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Received : 04-02-2016

Accepted : 31-03-2016

### ABSTRACT

*The study of attitudes is useful to understand the behaviors of human beings and society because our action is dependent on our thought and our thought is dependent on our attitude. In some societies, a woman's value was measured in her ability to bear children, and raising children became the focus of many women's lives. Gradually, there came a shift in attitude where women were viewed as an integral part of the workforce and began to gain equality with men. Women have gained substantial respect in the workforce and increased participation in education in the last decades of the 20th century. With the progress of civilization, many things have got changed. Now women are coming forward in every walk of the life. But here comes the questions: what is the attitude of the society towards women? Has it got changed according to the certain variables such as area, gender, age, category, educational qualification and occupation? This paper is a quest to find out the answers of these knobby questions.*

*The study was conducted in the Taluka of Patan by survey method and the sample of 352 people was selected by multi-stage sampling method. A self made five point rating scale having 35 items was used as a tool. The chi-square test, sigma score and 't' test were used to analyze the data. The general trends of the attitude towards women are also decided. From the present study, it is clear that we need to develop more positive trends of attitude towards women. That is required to achieve among the people of female members of the society. The class of open category as well as the people who are having the educational qualifications up to graduation is also needed to be taken care to develop positive attitude towards women.*

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### INTRODUCTION

Since, our action is the direct result of our thought-process and our thought-process qualifies our attitude, it is required to study the attitude to understand the behavior. Generally people use the word 'attitude' in a very common fashion. However, as J.P. Guildford defines,

"By attitudes we mean the tendency (of an individual) to favor or not to favor some type of object or situation" (Sharma, 2003, p. 55) Skinner explains attitude as a psychological process exerting a motivational influence on the individual's responsible behavior in situations directly or indirectly related to

short our action is consciously or unconsciously affected by our attitude. The study of attitudes is useful to understand the behaviors of human beings and society.

In some societies, a woman's value was measured on the basis of her ability to bear children, and raising children became the focus of many women's lives. Gradually, there came a shift in the attitude of the society where women were viewed as an integral part of the workforce and began to gain equality with men. Women have gained substantial respect in the workforce and increased participation in education in the last decades of the 20th century. With the progress of civilization, many things are changed. Now women are coming forward in every walk of the life. But here comes the questions: what is the attitude of the society towards women? Has it got changed according to the certain variables such as area, gender, age, category, educational qualification and occupation? This study is an attempt to find the answers of such questions.

By present study, the attitudes of the society towards women with reference to the variables such as area, gender, age, category, educational qualification and occupation would be studied. As the area is stratified in urban and rural area, the study answers the question wherein the urbanization affects the attitude towards women in society or it is as in the rural area. In our society it is said 'A woman is the enemy of a woman' By studying the difference between the attitude of the two gender i.e. male and female, we can get the idea whether the gender affects variable or not and the most important thing is that we will conclude from the result whether the attitude of the women towards women is positive or negative in comparison to male members of the society. It is generally believed that the higher education liberates our mind. So,

investigator included the variable such as educational qualification in the study. As the women can be found in all the works but still it is observed that women prefer to do jobs more than business, the investigator included to study the occupation as one of the variables. The other variables such as category and age group are also included in the study. On the basis of the findings of the study, the proper guidance to the society shall be provided.

#### **Title of the Study**

Title of the study was worded as follows.

"ATTITUDES OF SOCIETY TOWARDS WOMEN"

#### **Statement of the Study**

In present study, the attitudes towards women of the society were studied. In this study area, gender, age, category, educational qualification and occupation were included as independent variables where as the attitude of the society towards women was included as dependent variable.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

Objectives of the study are as follows.

1. To construct an attitude scale to measure the attitude of the society towards women by Likert method.
2. To study trend of attitudes of the society towards women.
3. To study the effect of area, gender, age, category, educational qualification and occupation on the attitude of the society towards women.

#### **Null Hypothesis of the Study**

In present study, null hypothesis were formulated. They were as follows.

1. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores on attitude scale of the urban and rural people of the society towards women.

2. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores on attitude scale of the male and female people of the society towards women.
3. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores on attitude scale of people of the society up to 25 years age and more than 25 years age towards women.
4. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores on attitude scale of the people of open category and reserved category towards the women.
5. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores on attitude scale of the people of the society having educational qualification up to graduation and more than graduation towards women.
6. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores on attitude scale of the people of the society doing business and the people who do jobs towards the women.

#### **Explanation of the Important Terms**

The following terms are used in present study.

**Attitude** : According to Woodworth, "Attitudes are more or less stable set or disposition of opinion, interest or purpose involving expectancy of certain kind of previous experience and readiness with an appropriate." (Edward., 1957, P. 48). In present study, the score gained on the attitude towards women scale is considered as the attitude of the society. The higher score on the scale means positive attitude towards women and visa versa.

**Attitude towards Women Scale** : In present study, attitude towards women scale means the

self made attitude scale constructed to measure the attitude towards women of the society. The scale was constructed with reference to the various facets of the attitude measurement such as direction of the attitude, its force, clarity and relevance. On the bases of these facets, the scale was constructed containing the components such as participation in politics, decision making, household work as well as the social and household responsibility. Seven items were constructed for each facet. Thus the scale was containing 35 sentences. Responses on the scale were collected on the five point rating scale. The higher score on the scale means positive attitude towards women and visa versa.

**Society** : Here the word society is used for the people who lived in the particular region without any kind of marginalization of age, category, gender, area, educational qualification or occupation. All the adult human beings who lived in the town of Patan become the people of society in this study.

**Attitude towards Women** : In present study, the phrase, attitude towards women is used for the score gained on the basis of the responses of the people collected on the attitude towards women scale.

#### **Delimitation of the Study**

Present study was limited to the people of Patan Takuka and the attitude scale was prepared by Likert method. 352 people from Patan Takuka were selected in the sample of the study by stratified random sampling method, attitude scale was self made were the limitations of the study.

#### **Variables of the Study**

Table 1 presents the information regarding dependent and independent variables of the study.

Table-1 : Variable of the Study

No.	Variable	Type	Level	Which Level?	Tool of Measurement
1	Area	Independent	2	1. Rural 2. Urban	Primary Information
2	Gender	Independent	2	1. Female 2. Male	Primary Information
3	Educational Qualification	Independent	2	1. Up to Graduation 2. More than Graduation	Primary Information
4	Age Group	Independent	2	1. Up to 25 years 2. More than 25 years	Primary Information
5	Category	Independent	2	1. Open 2. Reserved	Primary Information
6	Occupation	Independent	2	1. Business 2. Job	Primary Information
7	Attitudes towards women of the society	Dependent	-	-	Self made attitude Scale

### Area, Type and Method of the Study

The main objective of the present study was to measure the attitude of the society towards women. So, it was related to the area of 'psychological testing'.

Present study can be also classified as an applied research as it was related to the

measurement of the attitudes of the society towards women. The data collected on the scale was in form of interval scale and analyzed by statistical methods. So, it is a quantitative study too.

Present study was conducted through survey method.

**Population and Sample of the Study**

The People of Patan Taluka were the population of the present study. In Present study, the sample of 352 people was selected by Multistage sampling technique. For sample selection, Patan taluka was stratified in urban and rural area. Patan city was considered as urban area and all the villages were considered as rural area. Then the city area was also stratified in five zones such as north, east, west, south and middle. From each zone about 35 people were selected randomly. Thus, 171 persons were selected from urban area. In the same way, rural area i.e. the villages were also stratified in the four zones i.e. north, east, west and south according to their location from Patan city. Then about 45 people were selected from each zone randomly. From rural area, 181 persons were selected.

**Tool Construction**

In present study, the attitude scale was used to measure the attitude of the society towards women. The attitude scale was prepared by Likert method. First of all the sentences were collected. Various facets of the attitude measurement such as the direction of the attitude, its force, clarity and relevance were taken into consideration for the collection of items. On the bases of these facets, the scale was constructed containing the components such as participation in politics, decision making, household work as well as the social and

household responsibility. Seven items were constructed for each facet. 35 items were constructed. In the scale the five point rating scale was used such as "Totally Disagree", "Disagree", "Neutral", "Agree" and "Totally Agree. For the positive items of the scale 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 marks were given sequentially for the "totally disagree", "Disagree", "Neutral", "Agree" and "Totally Agree" and visa-versa. Experts' opinions were collected for the scale and the scale was modified according to the suggestions of the experts. The reliability of the scale was established by split-half method and it was 0.86. As, the calculated value is more then 0.60, it shows high reliability. Present scale was bearing face validity as well as content validity. Thus, the attitude towards women scale was valid as well as reliable.

**Collection, Analysis and Interpretations of the Data**

According to the scheme of sampling, from each zone, investigator selected streets or society randomly. From these areas, the proper quota of the data was collected on the scale. For answering the scale, a respondent was taking about five minutes. Then Responses of the people were evaluated on the bases of the scoring key and given them a score. On the basis of the scores collected on the attitude scale, trend of the attitude of the society towards women was decided by applying sigma score and chi square analysis. It is presented in table 2.

Table- 2 : Tend of Attitude towards Women

Tend of Attitude Towards Women	Score	Frequency	Percentage	Chi-square Value	Level of Significance
Highly positive	153 or more than that	5	1.42 %	200.78	0.01
Positive	136-152	99	28.13%		
Neutral	119-135	147	41.76%		
Less Positive	104-118	85	24.15%		
Least Positive	103 or less than that	16	4.55%		

### Interpretation

Table 2 shows that the calculated chi square value is significant at 0.01 level. From table 2 it is clear that there is positive trend of attitude towards women in the society. 29.55%

people in the society are holding highest of high positive trend of attitude towards women whereas 28.70% people in the society are holding less of least positive trend of attitude towards women. The 't' test was applied on the data as presented in table 3.



Table -3 : Testing the Null Hypothesis

No.	Variable	Which Level?	Number	Mean	SD	SED	't' Value	Level of Significance
1.	Area	Rural	181	128.89	14.21	1.47	1.63	N.S.
		Urban	171	126.49	13.33			
2.	Gender	Female	143	123.16	13.27	1.44	5.34	0.01
		Male	209	130.85	13.27			
3.	Educational Qualifications	Up to Graduation	152	123.34	13.37	1.43	5.39	0.01
		More than Graduation	200	131.06	13.24			
4.	Age Group	Up to 25 years	170	128.68	15.92	1.49	1.25	N.S.
		More than 25 years	182	126.82	11.50			
5.	Category	Open	204	125.38	13.23	1.48	3.77	0.01
		Reserved	148	130.95	14.02			
6.	Occupation	Business	224	126.69	12.30	1.64	1.73	N.S.
		Job	128	129.52	16.04			

**Interpretation**

1. From the above table, it is clear that the 't' values of the variables such as Gender, Educational Qualifications and Category are higher than 2.58 and they all are significant at 0.01 level. It means area, Gender, Educational Qualifications and Category are affecting variable on the attitudes of the society towards women.
2. From the above table, it is clear that the 't' values of the variables such as area, age

Group and Occupation are lower than 1.96 and they are not significant at 0.05 level. It means age Group and Occupation are not affecting variable on the attitudes of the society towards women.

3. There is a significant difference between the attitudes towards male and female of the society. As, the mean score of attitude of male is higher than that of female, it can be concluded that male persons are holding positive trend of attitude towards women than that of the female persons.

4. There is a significant difference between the attitudes towards women of the people having educational qualifications up to graduation and more than graduation. As, the mean score of attitude of people having educational qualifications more than graduation is higher than that of people having educational qualifications up to graduation, it can be concluded that the people having educational qualifications more than graduation are holding positive trend of attitude towards women than that of the people having educational qualifications up to graduation.
5. There is a significant difference between the attitudes towards women of the people of open category and reserved category. As, the mean score of attitude of people of reserved category is higher than that of people of open, it can be concluded that the people of reserved category are holding positive trend of attitude towards women than that of the female persons.

### Conclusions

From the present study, it is clear that we need to develop more positive trend of attitude among the female members of the society, persons of open category as well as among the people who are having the educational qualifications up to graduation towards women is needed. Respect for women and accepting them in totality of their virtues and beauty should be ingrained in every individual by the means of education. Also right education and creating good role models has to be promoted. Women should be promoted to develop more and more positive attitude towards women so that they can enforce this attitude in the child

bearing and during their interaction with the society.

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