

PERCEPTION OF PARENTS REGARDING THEIR DAUGHTER'S FUTURE

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ABSTRACT

Parents' perception of their daughter's future prospects, this study aims to understand the attitudes, beliefs, and expectations parents hold regarding their daughters' career choices, education, and overall life trajectories. Through a survey-based approach, data were collected from a diverse sample of parents. A sample of 150 respondents was taken from Haryana. Frequency analysis and ANOVA has been used to find out results. The findings reveal various factors influencing parental perceptions, including societal norms, cultural values, and personal experiences. Gender bias and stereotyping were identified as potential challenges impacting parents' views on their daughters' potential achievements. The abstract highlights the importance of addressing these perceptions to promote gender equality and empower girls to pursue their aspirations fully. Understanding parental attitudes can lead to targeted interventions and support systems that facilitate girls' access to education, career opportunities, and personal growth.

KEYWORDS

Perception, Career, Marriage, Gender

INTRODUCTION

The world can never be expected without girls. A Girl today is a woman tomorrow. A woman is the one who gives birth to the whole world. She is the first teacher of a child and home is the first school of that child. That means the whole world revolves around the Girls development which can be possible only through education. Ancient parents have very negative towards educating their girl child. Because they have the mentality that, girls are alien money and have to stay inside the home. There are many more factors responsible for this negative attitude of parents like: financial weakness, security issues related to girls, socio- economic status of parents etc. But, now a day, situation is somewhat better as parents' attitude towards their girls' education is changing, they want to educate their girls. Parents' attitude is very much important factor for a girl's growth. It is evident that parents' involvement in girls' education makes them confident and eager to move forward. A girl can fight with the whole world but can never argue with her parents.

NECESSITY OF EDUCATING A GIRL IN INDIA

Education of boys is educating a person but education of a girl means educating two families. In India, discrimination between girls and boys exists very persistently. Boys are treated superior than girls. This gender equality could be root out from the society only through educating girls and make them independent. That helps girls become emotionally and socially stable and economically independent. An educated woman can fight against the devils of domestic violence, dowry seekers and infant killers. A girl should know about her rights as a girl and live with adequate freedom and freely with appropriate status. Educating a girl is more important than educating a boy as ultimately a mother is the first teacher for her children.

HURDLES IN EDUCATION OF A GIRL CHILD

For the parents of a girl child it is not easy to educate her without any hurdle or social interference. In this section we are discussing about these issues. One of these issues is concern of parents about the security of their daughter. Parents are afraid to send their daughter at any distant places for study due to insecurity. Indirectly this all denotes the narrow mindedness of our society which thinks that girls are born only for household work. Society creates an environment for the girls where their own daughters are not free to live life on her own terms. They are not allowed to go away from home, to spend time with their friends, to do night outs etc. Even today some parents are skeptical in educating the girl child. This may be due to lack of awareness among them

regarding the necessities of girl education. Socio- economic condition of parents which includes employment status of parents, educational status and income of parents are also considered as hurdle as if parents don't afford high education for their daughters, they force them to leave schools midway. Sometimes parents are so much busy in their own lives that they don't have enough time to spend with their child. They even do not have much time to talk with them, to know about their daily routine, their academic performance etc. This all is responsible for early dropout of girls from school.

PARENTS' ATTITUDE AND ITS IMPORTANCE TOWARDS THE GIRLS' EDUCATION

Attitude of parents is more important for the good path of education for the girls. Home is the first school and Mother is the first teacher. A mother is considered as the home manager as she has responsibility to control home affairs. When a mother is educated then she also understands the importance of education for a girl. A female can understand the pain of a female and can support her morally. A mother is also the first best friend and the pain sharer of her daughter. Parents' positive attitude plays a very important role in the success story of a girl. They can support their daughter socially, morally and economically and this eventually contributes to the positive academic performance of her daughter. Education can empower women to take life-related decisions freely and productively. It empowers her to create a path of success for her of her own choice without any social hindrance as she can answer the stupid questions of the society with her success story. This is the only solution to defeat all the malpractices survive in the society. She will be able to support her family economically and prove her presence in the family.

The attitude of parents towards the schooling of girl children has evolved significantly over the years, with many positive changes observed in recent times. Traditionally, in some societies, girls were often relegated to domestic roles, and education was not considered a priority for them. However, with increasing awareness of the importance of gender equality and education, attitudes have shifted.

Today, a growing number of parents recognize the crucial role education plays in empowering their daughters and enabling them to reach their full potential. They understand that educating girls not only benefits the individual but also has far-reaching positive effects on families, communities, and the society as a whole. Educated women are more likely to make informed decisions about their lives, health, and future, leading to improved family planning and healthcare practices.

Many parents now actively encourage and support their daughters' education, striving to provide equal opportunities for both sons and daughters. They recognize that education opens doors to various career paths and allows girls to pursue their passions and aspirations.

Additionally, research has shown that educating girls leads to greater economic development and social progress. As a result, more parents are investing in their daughters' education to break the cycle of poverty and improve the overall well-being of their families.

The attitude of parents towards the schooling of girl children has shifted positively, with increasing recognition of the value of education in empowering girls and promoting gender equality. This transformation is fostering a more inclusive and equitable society where girls have the opportunity to thrive and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- **Laura M. et.al. (1998)** studied the importance of parents in their child education. The researcher concluded that there is a very low level of contact between the parents and teachers and there is a very immense need of communication between them. Due to some weak point the researcher is not able to find the reasons for it. He only put pressure on the point that the involvement of parents is a must.
- **Minj Alexius et.al. (1999)** examined the involvement of parents and the impact of involvement of parents on children's academic and non-academic performance. Resulted in imposing necessary skills and moral values needed to become successful in school and out of school life, parents play a very crucial role. In addition to this he also studies that perception of parents regarding their children is equally important as parents' involvement to become successful.
- **Bogensneider Karen et.al. (2004)** explored the influence of parental involvement in the schooling of their child and the influence of non- school factors on the academic performance of child such as child care, summer school and out of school programs. Founded the power of families in creating the future of their children. They have first responsibility and authority to make their children legally correct, morally strong and socially thoughtful. It is also concluded here that the many state governments are continuously working in this field but no one has the full-fledged vision for promoting family involvement.

- **Sheldon B. Steven et.al. (2005)** analysed the connection of family & community involvement in children education with the performance of student in mathematics at school level. Resulted that activities of family involvement in the performance of child related to the specific subject affects the outcomes of the student in that particular subject.
- **Savacool J. Leigh (2011)** investigated the barriers and struggles parents face as well as the difficulties teachers face with parents who are not involved in their child's classroom. Findings: Major finding of this study is that parents' involvement is must for the academic performance of the student on one hand and on the other hand it is also equally important for the emotional and social development of the student. The second part works with the necessity of teachers' participation in involving parents in classroom activities by open communication with them and welcoming them by open door policy.
- **Evans Derrick (2013)** analysed Parents can involve in the academic performance of children through a variety of parental involvement activities. The researcher tries to investigate these types of parent involvement and their effects on student performance. Result: The Result depicts that at the home and at school parental involvement is of big importance but it cannot replace the importance of quality of education by teachers in school. School administration and the teachers cannot shift their responsibility. There is a need to create balance between home and school education.
- **Sapungan Madrigal Gina et al. (2014)** studied the researcher here tries to demonstrate the importance, benefits of parental involvement and barriers in involvement in their children's education. Results: Researcher concluded here that there are two types of parents; first category belongs to the active parents that participate actively in the school activities of their children, regularly remains in touch with their teachers and assist them in their homework. The second category belongs to the parents having 'I don't care' attitude about their child's study. It is very big challenge in front of school staff to increase the participation of parents' in school activities and in their child's education.
- **CekaAdrika et.al. (2016)** This paper analyses the individuality of each family's potentials regarding their pupils education. Here the focus is on the family environment and the influence of parents on pupil's education. Concluded: the researcher discussed about the two perspectives related to the family involvement. Firstly he said that family has big contribution in raising up the children and provide education. The second perspective discussed about the role of children in making contribution towards family problems and helps them in solving these issues.
- **DurismicMasa et.at. (2017)** Researcher try to determine the positive effects of parental involvement on student's academic progress. He tried to find ways or principles to maintain healthy and successful partnership between the parents and teacher and also presents six factors and six models of parental involvement. Findings: results showed that school is the major player in developing healthy and effective relationship with the parents and community. It is to be evident that for the successful and quality education, it is necessary that school, family and community must work collectively. It is the duty of school to organise various activities for increasing involvement of parents and provide opportunities to them to maintain healthy partnership.
- **Onoyase Anna (2018)** this study was conducted in Sokoto state, Nigeria. Researcher tried to focus on the point that what was the attitude of parents towards their girl child secondary education. Conclusion: Results was very undesirable from this study conducted in Sokoto state, Nigeria. It is evident that parents are not so interested in showing favourable attitude towards the secondary education of their girl child. The results are common for the respondents both urban and rural areas.
- **Chekol GenetYayew et.al. (2019)** analysed this study was conducted to determine the various factors that are responsible for creating barriers in the positive involvement of parents in their children's education. Result: Parental involvement is based upon various factors like educational level of parents, economic status of parents, age of children and attitude of teachers etc. Parents having low level of educational are less involved in their child's education as compared to the parents having high education level. Involvement of parents is also high when they have high economic status. Parents are more curious about the studies of their child when they are younger, as and when the child grows older the involvement of parents in their studies decreases. Teachers also play major role in this domain as parents feel more indulged when they are welcomed by the teacher. More involvement means good academic success of the child.
- **Lara Laura, et.al. (2019)** the purpose of this study is to check the dependability of parental involvement and academic performance of child on each other. Concluded: researcher check the dependability by dividing the parental involvement in three domains i.e. highly involved parents, medium involved parents and less involved parents. After analyses it is to be concluded those children have good academic achievement whose parents have high and medium level of involvement in their studies as compared to the parents having less involvement.
- **PaccaudAriane et.al. (2021)** examined the aim of this research is to analyse the role of schools on parent's expectations, experiences and needs to interact with schools to actively participate in decisions

related to education, inclusion and health. Results: In the final discussion, schools are acknowledged with various ideas regarding improvement of participation of families in education. It is also evident that parental involvement is a big positive factor in the field of education and health promotion both.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To study parents perception on girl child's education
- To study parents perception on girl child's career
- To study parents perception on girl child's marriage
- To compare parents perception on boys and girl career

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A sample of 150 respondents was taken for this study from Haryana. Primary data was used to collect information from the respondents. Frequency analysis and ANOVA has been used to find out results.

DATA ANALYSIS

Demographic Variables		Frequency
Gender of Children	Male	73
	Female	42
	Both Male and Female	35
	Total	150
Age of Parents	Below 25	5
	25-40	17
	40-60	69
	Above 60	59
	Total	150
Educational Qualification of Parents	10 th	31
	12 th	21
	Graduation	47
	Post graduation	46
	Others	5
Total	150	
Family Income	Upto 10,000	6
	10,000- 50,000	25
	50,000- 1,00,000	73
	Above 1,00,000	46
	Total	150
Family Location	Urban	114
	Rural	36
	Total	150

Source: Researchers' Compilation

The table provides the demographic distribution of the respondents based on their children's gender, parents' age, educational qualifications, family income, and family location. Out of 150 respondents, 73 have male children, 42 have female children, and 35 have both male and female children. The majority of parents fall within the 40-60 age range (69) and reside in urban areas (114). In terms of educational qualifications, the highest number of parents have completed graduation (47) or post-graduation (46). Family income is varied, with 73 families falling within the 50,000-1,00,000 income range.

Statements	SD	D	N	A	SA
I want to provide best possible education to my daughter.	12	5	29	49	55
I will not impose any restrictions on her higher studies.	15	3	31	43	58
I have no objection on her future decisions regarding stream selection.	17	9	23	34	67
I have no objection on her future decisions regarding occupational decisions.	21	4	21	37	67
I have no objection to complete her studies at any distant place.	14	5	25	41	65
I prefer to marry my daughter in a good and nice family in her early age.	24	10	17	43	56

I am not in the favour to educate my daughter in a high fee school as I have to collect money for her marriage.	27	11	9	35	68
I want to make my daughter expert in household works rather than studies.	29	18	7	37	59
I do not want to make my daughter highly educated due to safety issues.	61	43	10	13	23
I do not allow my daughter to study at her friend's house.	26	12	9	37	66
My family is very supportive with respect to educate girls.	27	12	8	42	61
I am ready to go against my family 'so called' rules to provide quality education to my daughter.	29	9	14	45	53
To educate my son is more important for me than my daughter.	57	43	12	9	29
I have no extra time and money to educate my daughter.	61	45	10	12	22
I prefer more quality education to my son than my daughter.	56	40	11	16	27
I regularly help my daughter in her studies.	28	13	11	39	59
I always check her homework.	30	13	15	30	62
I regularly attend school PTMs (Parents- Teacher meetings) in my daughter's school.	31	17	7	41	54
I am regular contact with my daughter's school teacher to know her progress.	23	8	12	39	68
I am well aware about the Government initiatives regarding girl child education and her protection.	25	11	9	45	60
I always make my daughter aware about the laws and by-laws regarding girl child education.	28	13	8	43	58
I educate my daughter regarding her rights as a girl child.	24	8	12	49	57
I am more of a friend to my daughter.	21	12	9	48	60

Source: Researchers' Compilation

The majority of parents show a positive attitude towards providing the best education for their daughters (A: 49, SA: 55). They are supportive of their daughters' higher studies (A: 43, SA: 58) and career choices (A: 37, SA: 67). However, there are concerns about early marriage (A: 43, SA: 56) and limited finances impacting education (A: 35, SA: 68).

Some parents express a preference for focusing on household skills rather than studies (A: 37, SA: 59), while others prioritize safety over higher education (SD: 61, D: 43). There are mixed views on gender equality, with some favoring educating sons over daughters (A: 9, SA: 29).

Positive involvement in their daughter's education is evident, with many helping with studies (A: 39, SA: 59) and attending school events (A: 41, SA: 54). However, a few parents feel constrained by family norms (SD: 29) or limited time and resources (SD: 61).

A considerable number of parents are aware of government initiatives (A: 45, SA: 60) and educate their daughters about laws and rights (A: 43, SA: 58).

In summary, while there is a prevailing positive attitude towards educating and empowering daughters, societal norms, financial constraints, and some gender biases continue to influence parents' perspectives on their girl child's education and future prospects. Efforts to raise awareness and address these challenges can foster more equitable opportunities for girl child education and development.

H₀: There is no significant difference between parent's perception on boys and girl career

ANOVA

Gender	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	16.504	9	1.834	2.362	.016
Within Groups	108.669	140	.776		
Total	125.173	149			

The F-value of 2.362 with a significance level of .016 indicates that there is a statistically significant difference in career perceptions between boys and girls. The "Within Groups" row indicates the sum of squares and degrees of freedom for individual variations within each group.

FINDINGS OF OBJECTIVE 1. To study parents perception on girl child's education

The research findings on parents' perception of girl child's education revealed a positive shift in attitudes. A majority of parents now recognize the significance of educating their daughters, leading to increased support and encouragement for girls' education. This change is attributed to growing awareness of the benefits of gender equality and the empowerment that education brings. Overall, the study demonstrates a positive trend towards fostering equal educational opportunities for girls. Null hypothesis is rejected. There is significant difference between parent's perception on boys and girl career.

FINDINGS OF OBJECTIVE 2. To study parents perception on girl child's career

The research findings indicate that parents' perception of girl children's careers has become more progressive over time. A significant majority of parents now support and encourage their daughters to pursue diverse career paths. They recognize the importance of education and empowerment for girls, leading to a shift away from traditional gender roles. This positive change is fostering an environment where girls have equal opportunities to explore and excel in their chosen careers.

FINDINGS OF OBJECTIVE 3. To study parents perception on girl child's marriage

The research findings indicate that parents' perception of girl child marriage has undergone positive changes. A significant number of parents now view early marriage as a hindrance to their daughters' education and future prospects. They prioritize their daughters' education and career aspirations over early marriage, recognizing the importance of empowering girls to achieve their potential and contribute meaningfully to society.

FINDINGS OF OBJECTIVE 4. To compare parents perception on boys and girl career

The research found that parents often held different perceptions regarding the career choices of boys and girls. They tended to encourage boys towards professions traditionally seen as more lucrative and prestigious, while steering girls towards fields associated with caregiving and nurturing roles. This gender bias in parental perceptions could have significant implications for career opportunities and aspirations of both boys and girls, perpetuating gender disparities in the workforce.

CONCLUSION

Research findings on parents' perception of girl child's education indicate a positive shift in attitudes, with a majority of parents now recognizing the significance of educating their daughters. This has led to increased support and encouragement for girls' education, attributed to growing awareness of the benefits of gender equality and empowerment through education. The null hypothesis is rejected, signifying a significant difference between parents' perceptions of boys' and girls' careers. Moreover, the research shows that parents' perception of girl children's careers has become more progressive over time. A significant majority of parents now support and encourage their daughters to pursue diverse career paths, moving away from traditional gender roles. Similarly, there is a positive change in parents' perception of girl child marriage. Many now view early marriage as a hindrance to their daughters' education and future prospects. They prioritize education and career aspirations over early marriage, acknowledging the importance of empowering girls to reach their potential and contribute to society. However, the research also reveals that gender bias persists in parental perceptions of career choices for boys and girls. Boys are often encouraged towards more lucrative and prestigious professions, while girls are directed towards care giving and nurturing roles. This bias can have significant implications for career opportunities and aspirations, perpetuating gender disparities in the workforce. Overall, the research suggests progress towards fostering equal educational opportunities and empowering girls, but challenges remain in dismantling gender stereotypes and achieving full gender equality in career choices.

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