JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE & SOCIAL SCIENCES
1813–2235/2005/01–2–178–179
http://www.ijabjass.org

Factors Affecting Skill Development and Job Opportunities for Young Females in Rural Faisalabad–Pakistan

SHABBIR HUSSAIN, ASHFAQ AHMAD MAANN AND AMNA AFZAAL
Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad–38040, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

The present study was designed to identify the factors affecting the parents' attitude towards the skill development and job opportunities for their daughters. The study was conducted in Faisalabad district, which comprised of five tehsils. One tehsil was selected at random and five Union Councils from this tehsil were selected randomly. Out of each Union Council, three villages were selected at random. Five males (fathers) and five females (mothers) totaling to ten respondents were randomly selected from selected villages, making a sample of 150 respondents for interview. The data were analyzed and interpreted for drawing results. The results show that parents were in favour of males' technical education because males extend more support to the parents than females and males have more opportunities for job than females. Furthermore, daughters do not work due to family traditions and male members do not allow daughter for paid job because of bradary pressure. Bad environment at the work place was also one of the important factors affecting skill development and job opportunities for females.

Key Words: Skill development; Job opportunities; Females; Pakistan

INTRODUCTION

The education is becoming one of the defining enterprises of the present century with the emergence of globalization and increasing global competition. In this fast changing and competitive world, education and technology are the master keys for respectable survival and progress of Pakistan. Education is the process by which society seeks to transmit its traditions, customs, skills and culture to the younger generation. Education, particularly technical education/skill development and development of a county are interdependent. It helps to generate technical and scientific manpower that is essential component of development. Technical education and skill development help an individual to develop his/her abilities and capabilities in accordance with the changing environment and need of the day. The quality and type of education is important to ensure an adequate supply of qualified, highly skilled and well-trained manpower to fulfill the opportunities available and ultimately accelerate the process of socio- economic development (Samina, 1995; Govt. of Pak., 2003- 2004). Technical education and skill development are more important for females than the males. Now day's females have an active participation in every field of life in terms of skill development and job opportunities. Therefore, they should have equal chance to seek technical knowledge. It is important to impart technical education and skill development, especially for females to enable them to avail the job opportunities and to participate in family and the national development (Afzaal, 2000; Hussain, 2003).

Keeping in view, the above said facts, the present study was designed to analyze the factors affecting skill development and job opportunities for females in rural areas of Faisalabad–Pakistan.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The universe of present study comprised of parents of residing in rural areas of Faisalabad. This study was conducted in Faisalabad tehsil including five union councils selected by using simple random sampling technique. Of each union council, three villages were selected at random. The number of five males (fathers) and five females (mothers) totaling to ten respondents were randomly selected, thus making a sample of 150 respondents for interview. Data were collected personally through a pre-tested interviewing schedule. The data were analyzed by using statistical methods. After cleaning and editing data, the data were presented in the form of tables and the tables are presented and results are discussed in the following section.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Distribution of the respondents for various parameters considered in this study has been presented in Tables I, II, III, IV and V. The results regarding preferring son in attaining education coincide with Draz (1998) who stated that son preference was one of the major issues for parents in rural areas while making a decision regarding technical education. He also suggested that both sexes should have equal opportunities for attaining technical education/skill development and ultimately for paid job. The findings regarding interest and preference in technical skill work for their females were in support of Naz (1997) who stated that 66.7% of the respondents in her study were in favour of skilled work for their daughters.

The present findings on type of technical skill work for their females supported the results of Naz (1997) and Draz (1998). It was found that 64% male respondents (Table IV) were not interested in the jobs of their daughters. These results corroborate with Jaffary (2002). Table V shows that 43.8% male respondents did not encourage their females to join job after completion of their education because of male members did not allow it. Similar findings have been reported by Naz (1997) and Chaudhry (2001).

Table I. Distribution of the respondents for preferring son in attaining education

Respondents view	Male		Female		Total	
	F.	% age	F.	% age	F.	% age
Male support parents	43	57.3	39	52.0	82	54.7
Male have more opportunities for job after education	21	28.0	16	21.3	37	24.6
Female get married	3	4.0	14	18.7	17	11.3
Due to family tradition	5	6.7	2	2.7	7	4.7
Lack of interest in daughter	3	4.0	4	5.3	7	4.7
Total	75	100.0	75	100.0	150	100

Table II. Distribution of the respondents with regard to interest and preference in technical skill work for their females

Response	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq.	% age	Freq.	% age	Freq.	% age
No	25	33.3	20	26.7	45	30.0
Yes	50	66.7	55	73.3	105	70.0
Total	75	100.0	75	100.0	150	100.0

CONCLUSION

There is a tradition to prefer Males for education and paid job than females'/daughters' in the rural areas of Faisalabad. Three most important reasons identified were upholding the tradition that sons support their parents in their old age, more jobs are available for males and brothery (near family) pressure against female education and paid job. However, parents were in favor of providing technical education/skill development to their daughters rather than general education. These skills include sewing, knitting and embroidery. It was interesting to note that majority of the mothers were in favor of daughters' education/paid job as compared to fathers. Fathers' behavior is shaped on this pattern due to the social and cultural factors such as bradary pressure, opposition by male family members and bad environment at the work place.

It is suggested that government should launch "motivational programs" to motivate parents regarding female skill / technical education. Vocational Institutes, exclusively for females should be opened on Thana (police station) level particularly in rural areas. Subsequently the development of Cottage Industry in rural areas is an urgent need for female skill development.

Table III. Distribution of the respondents with regard to the type of technical skill work for their females

Type of skill	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq.	% age	Freq.	% age	Freq.	% age
Sewing	46	61.3	51	68.0	97	64.7
Embroidery	9	12.0	7	9.3	16	10.7
Knitting	20	26.7	17	22.7	37	24.6
Total	75	100.0	75	100	150	100.0

Table IV. Distribution of the respondents for encouraging their females for job

Response	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq.	% age	Freq.	% age	Freq.	% age
No	48	64.0	33	44.0	81	54.0
Yes	27	36.0	42	56.0	69	46.0
Total	75	100.0	75	100	150	100.0

Table V. Distribution of the respondents with regard to reasons for not encouraging their female to join job

Reasons	Male		Female		Total	
	Freq.	% age	Freq.	% age	Freq.	% age
Against bradary traditions	16	33.3	8	24.2	24	48.2
Male family members do not allow	21	43.8	18	54.5	39	3.7
Because Islam has forbidden	2	4.2	1	3.1	3	3.7
Due to bad environment	9	18.7	6	18.2	15	18.5
Total	75	100.0	33	100.0	81	100

REFERENCES

Afzaal, A., 2000. The attitude of mothers towards the education of their daughters in changer community Chak No. 7, *Research Report*, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad–Pakistan

Chaudhry, K., 2001. A study of attitude of males towards female employment. *M.Sc. Thesis*, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad–Pakistan

Draz, U., 1998. A case study of attitude of rural males towards female education in Faisalabad District. *M.Sc. Thesis*, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad–Pakistan

Government of Pakistan, 2003–2004. *Economic Survey*. Government of Pakistan, Finance Division, Economic Advisor's wing, Islamabad, Pakistan

Hussain, S., 2003. Parents attitude towards their daughters' education. *Int. J. Agric. Biol.*, 5: 306–7

Jafferi, M., 2002. Attitude of mothers towards female education in low income families of Faisalabad. *M.Sc. Thesis*, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad–Pakistan

Naz, Z., 1997. *Attitude of Mothers Towards their Daughters' Education:* A case study of Rural Faisalabad–Pakistan

Samina, Q., 1995. Discriminatory attitude of parent towards their female children in rural Faisalabad. *M.Sc. Thesis*, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad–Pakistan

(Received 01 January 2005; Accepted 20 March 2005)