

A Critical Analysis Of Women Empowerment And Social Issues In Sindh: A Case Study

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Abstract- Development of a society is an impossible reality except the women participation and empowerment. The lower Sindh faces the tribal culture, poor women literacy, patriarchal society, and outdated customs which turn down the women empowerment. Despite of the hard circumstances she has emerged under her own and made progress of social advance with proud and dignity. In the all walk of life women have been uplifted and raised her status equal to men in the social, political, economic, domestic and educational institution of life in the developed societies around the world. But still problems are in the destiny of women in the every sphere of life that encompasses the parallel employment opportunities, equal health facilities, property right, and physical security. Henceforth, the notion of women empowerment is still a remote dream. The current study attempts to look into the reality and challenges of women empowerment in Sindh particularly district Kumbhar Shahdaddock. The existing paper is based on an empirical analysis in which 280 respondents feedback was secured to interpret the women autonomy and development in the rural Sindh and the recommendations can be urged to reinterpret study via applying the participatory observation research to collect the facts from the female gender regarding their discrimination in education and social status.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Domestic Violence, patriarchal society

Introduction

Empowerment defines as the authority or power assigned to someone to do something and it measures and increases the degree of the autonomy to make an individual self-determined, stronger and more confident. Empowerment also implies to create a social environment in which make capable to take decisions and pursues the choices for the individual and collective social transformation. Empowerment in social has been encouraged as a process in self-esteem, independence, self-confidence, social influence, and action to change social relations (Casey M, et al., 2010). It makes stronger the instinctive ability through obtaining knowledge, experience and power (Hashemi, et al., 1996). Women empowerment is a comprehensive key concern in terms of development of women in the each institution of life (Choudhry, et al., 2019). It is the course by way an individual can overcome the one's circumstances and destiny. Social empowerment is the degree of an individual's independence, self-confidence and self-esteem to influence and change social atmosphere and relations in the society. Empowerment encompasses the resources to prevail over intellectual, human, physical, and financial status and over the essential ingredients of ideology as values, attitudes and beliefs (Baltiwala, 1994).

The rise of the women empowerment depends on her development that materialize the due social status and significant position in the society. The concrete policy for the betterment of women is significance to her to encourage any kind of development that aspire becomes a futile until to uplift pro women schemes to support the deprived and backward women particular in Sindh (Memon, and Idris, 2019). The motivation of women in her political sphere must be encouraged to empower the less privileged class of women with quality education, executing policies concerning better health, parallel employment opportunities for women and preserving the political right of women (Ali, et al., 2012). As far as concerning with social status of women, they are not in position to secure the equal position to men in all social institution and places. It is made a perception that only western societies gave an equal status to women with men in all walks of life but the true picture reveals that men possess the dominancy in any form in all societies of the world. But gender discrimination in Pakistan is only confined to middle and lower class of society in which domination of the elite class in the social, political and economic institution block the social mobility of society to give birth to an egalitarian society.

In order to revitalize the true picture of women's equal status social activists, religious, clerics, philanthropists and statesman around the world have to play role and apply the diverse themes periodically to highlight the global and local gender issues. International women's day has been observed in 2019 by nu under the theme "think equal, build smart, innovate for change". The constitution of Pakistan under per article 25 (2) supports the equal rights to women. Unfortunately, despite of the constitution right she fails to secure the equal rights that are because of lack of implementation of constitutional rights (Masood, Talat, Johansson, Ingrid, 2018). Here the dilemma requires the solution via implementing pro women policies and developing the atmosphere for women to feel equally under the law and social values of the society. In a study conducted by international monetary (IMF) that GDP of Pakistan can improve up to 30% via provision of equal opportunities to women in the society. This highlights a reason that Pakistan is not developing nation due to lack of utilizing human capital in terms of women folk.

Literature review

Empowerment is a most common used term in the development lexicon that is applied diverse in meaning things to people of different aspects and it is mostly relates expression to the issues of the women at large scale. The women empowerment in the contemporary era of human civilization compares with the progress of education and social authority (Shettar, and Rajeshwari, 2015). The root word of empowerment refers a lawful authority and power to react in the society as it gives a gulf in Pakistan's society. Empowering women is a significant prerequisite for eradicating miserable poverty conditions of the present world and the maintenance of human rights (Shaikh, et al., 2011). The prevailing lack of empowerment of women condition also deeply impacts the good health to women and their subordinate children hence proper food supply in Sindh is a serious dilemma to women except elite class in the society (Ali, et al., 2018). Moreover, it is considered as adopted culture to face prejudice approach and gender discrimination to women and newborn females. there are number of researchers argue that good health and proper and adequate food to girls and women is the serious challenge at large scope in the world (Rogers et al, 2017).

There is deep relationship between empowerment and development that assess how much an individual is in strength in the each social institution which massively impacts the overall personality of women. Likely, diverse studies were maintained on the critical nature to analyze the development process and enumerate the flaws as grabbing the opportunities by rural elites, bureaucratic top down approach and marginalization of poorer sections of society (Shaikh, et al., 2011). the negligence of the women's participation in the small and medium enterprises violate the development process (Desai, 1994). The core concept of the existing study is in the context with the empowerment of women in Sindh. One of the main factors which curtail the empowerment and autonomy of women in Pakistan is the male perception of the role of women (Isran and Isran 2012). Pakistan is recently facing lot of problems like unemployment, and slow growth in Agriculture we imported different agriculture related product from the world. Civil society and state should promote ideologies and policies to promote a positive image and discourse for women's empowerment to guide political parties and individual political actors in this direction (Tabassum, et al., 2013).

Empowerment of women is to develop their role, both in absolute and relative terms, in the major socioeconomic aspects of the country's development. Women being the most disadvantaged section of Pakistani society require special attention in regard with political empowerment to play their due role in overall development of the country (Memon, and Idris, 2019). The chief hindrances before the empowerment of women in the rural Sindh particularly in the region of domain of research can be enumerated as below.

- Feudalistic culture: The tribal culture under the influence of tribal feudal, Nawabs and Wadaras they sustained their dynastical supremacy and special stratification via converting large segment of society illiteracy in which women is the most persecuted class (Dawn, June 2014; Memon, and Idris, 2019). The feudalism is the dominant segment in the district they possess a permanent political triumph that encircles the authority to turn down the expectation of a better education in the rural segment of the society. Likely, researcher argues that Women face multidimensional issues due to feudalistic culture in Pakistan especially in Sindh that may resist the empowerment of women in which cannot access to the court for just and those women defy feudal traditions face very hostile and curse reaction from the society in general and from their families in particular (Memon, and Idris, 2019).
- Religious misinterpretation and dogmatism: Misinterpretation of religion always turned women's position in the every human civilization. Islam always urged to give due status women in the presenting opinion, getting education, progressing economically, and earning social prestige in the society. In our society where it is seen righteous are confined to men only and women are just a tool to use and play by men (Memon, and Idris, 2019). Cultural differences, gender discrimination, religious differences, misunderstanding or misconception of teachings of Islam, economic differences, and so forth have substantially attributed to the deplorable condition of women in Sindh (Soomro, et al., 2012).
- Women literacy dilemma: Education is an effective weapon to make equal man and women and eradicate the notion of gender discrimination. Islam is the faith of the majority that urges both genders to acquire education that can allow the women secure equal opportunities in the social, political, economic and leaning institution. Education empowers the women to take independent decisions and get proper platforms for political activity (Memon, and Idris, 2019). Through this, women know the right paths of their political career building but it is an unfortunate in Sindh province of Pakistan, literacy ratio for girls is very discouraging and needs to be improved so that women be able to get politically empowered. In report of 2010-11, district Qambar Shahdadkot was ranked 18th, out of 23 districts in Sindh, with 44 percent literacy rate (institute of social and policy science 2012). The existing literacy is an abject condition in the rural segment of society in which district literacy rate 28 percent for female population in the district.
- Poverty and Lack of Economic Freedom: Poverty is chief bar in the way of women empowerment that impacts all other institutions of life Memon, and Idris, 2019). It creates obstacles to an individual to participate politically, and socially participating freely because poverty gives birth to a gulf of discrimination in the hers social position that turns down in the decision making and social participation and securing an independent identity. in the Sindhi rural society is always dominated by the tribal lords in this 21th century that occupy the majority economic resources and political dominancy which also impact the status of women to improve themselves economically in the society. Because of the patriarchal societal structure in Sindh major economic opportunities are occupied by the male in the society and women normally earn less given the less earning opportunities for women. Women possess a less authority to spend and earn as in a report

of State Bank Report, 75% of the population in rural areas of Sindh lives below to the poverty line, however the overall poverty ratio in Sindh is 40%.

In Pakistan commonly and in Sindh Province particularly, women face many difficulties in playing their active role in the any institution of life; the chief issues before women empowerment are feudal lords, businesspersons, religious clerics and middle-class people.

Objectives of the study

The current study was taken to meet the following objectives:

- To investigate the needs and hindrances of women empowerment.
- Analyzing the social, political and economic antecedents to impact the women empowerment.
- To discuss the challenges and measures towards the women autonomy and development.
- To find-out factors and its impacts on women's social violence and humiliating the autonomy and development in the society.
- To know about respondents' perspective of social factors and women's issues

Statement of Problem

Women's autonomy in Pakistan can be impossible unless social dilemmas against women are to be eliminated from the society. Women's issues and rights always made a focus by the researchers, intelligentsia, policy makers, and academicians that is considered as the rise and fall of a civilization. The literature survey indicates the various dilemmas concerned women empowerment and hers vulnerable conditions in the society in which there are very little empirical studies have been made in Pakistan particularly rural Sindh on reality and challenges of women empowerment. Henceforth, the study was undertaken in a selected district of Sindh as Kambar shahdadkot to judge the reality and challenges of women empowerment in Pakistan, Sindh.

Hypothesis

H1: women illiteracy impacts positively on the Dilemmas of women's empowerment and social violence

H2: Feudalistic culture and tribal rituals impacts positively on the Dilemmas of women's empowerment and social violence

H3: Poor attention of the government and pro women bill's execution impacts positively on the Dilemmas of women's empowerment and social violence

H4: Gender discrimination impacts positively on the Dilemmas of women's empowerment and social violence

Research methodology

In this study primary and secondary data sources were applied to create evidence to execute the research design. The whole data were collected by the respondents in the Kambar shahdadkot. The major source of data in this study encircle the primary and secondary sources in which number of respondents were motivated to participated as a primary sources and secondary source was comprised journals, books, websites, reports and newspapers as published by the government and private publishers. Moreover, this paper is based on the descriptive research that aims to describe the conditions of women in Pakistan particularly vulnerable condition of women in the Sindh province.

The type of research in this study is based on the descriptive and analytical in nature and it follows the qualitative research design with the use of in-depth interviews method and to analyze the social factors towards dilemmas of the women's autonomy and social violence related problems at Kambar shahdadkot district, Sindh, Pakistan. Different occupations based respondents participated in the study for interviews. Female were selected as the unit of analysis who were at the age of 22 to 60. The universe of the study was district Kambar Shahdadkot, Sindh, Pakistan. The convince sampling was used in order to view the age groups of the respondents. The field study was conducted through structured in-depth survey. Whereas, numbers of the empirical evidences were taken from the area by the different field of occupations such as doctors, peasant, Housewife, and other field of workers related to know the depth of the reason behind the women's issues and the all respondents were belong to educated class of society.

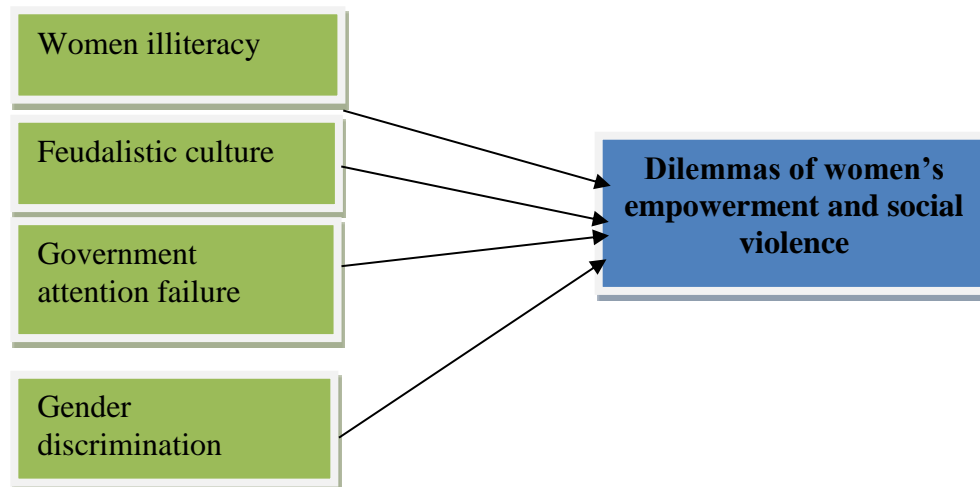
A strict privacy has been maintained regarding the respondents participation and their viewpoint towards issues related the women dilemmas in the district. Data was collected with the help the of the coauthors participation with same sex interconnectivity to discover the opinion of the women and secondary source was applied to collect the evidence to meet the criteria of the questionnaires of the study related issues related to the district Kambar Shahdadkot. The respondents were the women who have been involved in organized, un-organised sectors and Self-Help Group. The sample was selected on the basis of convenience sampling by the researcher. The sample size undertaken includes 280 which distributed equally in the each tehsil as Qambar, Shahdadkot, Warah, Miro Khan, Nasirabad, Qubo Saeed Khan and Sijawal Junejo (seven tehsils of the district).

Discussion

On the basis of this study women in the rural Sindh face diverse challenges and constraints in which she loses the social empowerment and autonomy. In this perspective, the chief dilemmas faced by women in Sindh particularly in the rural region of the province can be enumerated as;

- Social norms and family structure nourished on a nature of a perpetual subordination of women.
- The male dominant society develops the norms to ensure the preference for a son over a girl by birth. In this way, society is biased in the favor of male child in respect of education, nutrition and other opportunities. The root cause of this type of attitude lies in the belief that male child inherits the clan in Sindh particular Balochi communities.
- Women often internalize the traditional concept of their role as natural thus inflicting an injustice upon them.
- Poverty is the reality of life for the vast majority women in rural Sindh. It is another factor that poses challenge in realizing women's empowerment. There are the several type of issues related with Women such as education, poverty, health and safety, professional inequality, mortality and inequality and household inequality etc.

In the presented model was investigation in which all independent factors deeply impact the dependent variable and which result to highlight the dilemma of women autonomy and social violence.



Conceptual framework model

Research Questionnaires	Mean	SD
Q1: is the illiteracy the major factor towards the women's backwardness and hers vulnerable condition.	3.691	.9663
Q2: Does education assist women to ensure the social empowerment and due social status in the society.	3.7568	.85132
Q3: There is a literacy gap in the rural Sindh that encourages the male dominance over women rights in the each institution of life.	3.7897	.74723
Q4: Feudalistic culture's dominance on the resources give birth to social stratification that becomes the cause of poverty impact the women development equally.	3.8197	.75821
Q5: Feudalism imposes the local and outdated customs to maintain superiority and social monopolization in the society that turns women into the dilemmas of illiteracy and empowerment failure.	3.8469	.76509
Q6: The permanent dynastical politics on the basis of the tribal culture, feudalism and tribal chiefs sustain a static position of women's empowerment dilemma.	3.8841	.74241
Q7: The delayed law making and poor attention of the government towards the execution of the pro-women bills are the leading factors of women's vulnerable condition and backwardness.	3.7424	.86536
Q8: The bars in the way of women's access to law allow the tribal culture to violate hers due position in the society.	3.6352	.84560
Q9: No mobilization of campaign towards the women empowerment and investment of government on the women's relief and development encourage the persecution of women by means of social, political, and economic gap in the	3.7410	.76245

society.

Q10: The religious misinterpretation turns away women from the equal educational opportunities and social misunderstanding vitiate the empowerment.

Q11: The concept of gender equality in Islam can materialize the sound personality of women but the poor interpretation of the religion grasp women in the social issues and violation of her empowerment.

3.7324 .86541

3.6653 .85561

Table 2: Reality and Challenges of Women Empowerment Factors

S. No.	Name of the Factors	Eigenvalues
1	Dilemmas of women's empowerment and social violence	4.350
2	Women illiteracy	4.341
3	Feudalistic culture	3.937
4	Government attention failure	3.972
5	Gender discrimination	3.892

On the basis of above factors, there are three most dominant components viz. Dilemmas of women's empowerment and social violence with eigenvalue of 4.350, Women illiteracy with eigenvalue of 4.341 and Feudalistic culture with eigenvalue of 3.937, Poor attention of the government and pro women bill's execution 3.972 and Gender discrimination 3.892. In the given results it is assumed the above factors deeply impact the women empowerment and autonomy. Hence it can be said that women empowerment face challenges in some aspect of their life. Socio-economic status was related to provisions of one's educational level, health and social empowerment in the society. Income of a family member had the deep relation with healthcare availability (Ali, et al., 2018). According to a respondent that economic issue is the chief factor to impact the women personality and social statutes and it allows the illiteracy and rule of the tribal Sardars (Tribal wadaras or chief) to decide the destiny of women in their court (Otaqs). According to an informant that poverty was the major reason for malnutrition, social backwardness and poor participation of women in the many families of the Asian communities that requires an urgent attention to encourage active participation of rural women in income generating jobs through a very strong social mobilization (Ali, et al., 2018; Anka, 2009). They had no access to adequate food nutrition to children and their food diet and its quality was very poor especially among children and women. Education is the major factor that had direct and indirect impacts over the women to secure the empowerment and autonomy in the society and family. An educated woman had knowledge about health and diseases hence she could easily manage the health-based issues. Women who had more education level led to proper and adequate access to healthcare services, access to law and contribution in the society's development.

Disparity among rural and urban lifestyle

The role of women is in its diverse form in Pakistan when it is compared to the rural and urban segments. The service of women in the urban society assist her to secure the good health, quality of living and social empowerment to play role in the social, political and economic institutions in a more better and surpassing scale rather than remote areas of Pakistan. It can be observed from an extensive literature in which an effective disparity has been found between the rural and urban women particular in education, social status and all other institutions of life which create a rampant form of discrimination and personality development (Afzal, et al. 2013; Hamid, et al., 2013; Saeed, and Fatima, 2015). Islam is the faith of equality which gives a balance living structure in which women and men ensured the provision of the rights on the basis of their nature and physical traits and strength which require mobility and execution of the Islamic values in Pakistan society particularly Sindh. In Pakistan, disparity between male and female gender reveal in the form of employment opportunities, provision of education, development of personality, and social empowerment.

Limitations

The study carried out at district Kambar shahdadkot and hence one cannot generalize the conclusion the results of the study at a broad level. The study duration was very limited due to lack of resources, time management and secures a wide level access to respondents. The whole area of the district was not covered under this study due to lack of income and other facilities. Therefore, the researcher did not cover many aspects of women related issues in the study and more research was needed on women related problems in the rural Sindh.

Conclusion

Women empowerment implies to encourage political, social, economic, and educational authorization of rights and gender strength female in the society. Women's empowerment in Pakistan is heavily dependent on many different variables that include

geographical location (urban / rural) educational, social status (caste and class), age, and norms of the society. The main objective of this study emphasizes to ensure the women empowerment through women participation both gender to contribute in the each institutions of life and the current study also highlight the major determinants to create obstacles in the way of empowerment. Human resource is one of the main contributing factors for economic growth and for social, political, and technological development. The findings in the prevailing study reveal the major issues, and challenges towards the women empowerment in the rural Sindh in which it inculcates the factors like illiteracy, feudalistic culture, gender discrimination, and poor attention of government impact the women empowerment in the society. Thus except women's role no nation can meet its glorious position and investment of women role can make Sindh to compete to other regions of Pakistan and Glob as well.

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