

Women Social Freedom among Married and Unmarried Women College Students

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to know the women social freedom among the married and unmarried women college students. The sample constituted total 100 women college students out of which 50 were from married (25 joint family and 25 nuclear family) and 50 were from unmarried (25 joint family and 25 nuclear family). The “Women Social Freedom Scale (WSFS)” prepared by L.I. Bhushan (2011) was used. The data was collected, scored and calculated. ‘t’ test was being calculated. The result showed that (1) There is significant difference between the mean score of the women social freedom among the married and unmarried women college students. Thereafter could be said that, the unmarried women college students is having more women social freedom than married women college students. (2) There is no significant difference between the mean score of women social freedom with regards to women college students of joint family and nuclear family.

Keywords: *Social Freedom, Married and Unmarried Women College Students*

Social freedom means the will of women obtaining freedom from social custom tradition religious ritual which is giving them lower level financial freedom, political rights, self relevant freedom from bonds of cast, freedom from orthodox thoughts, own options for selection of life partner participation in decision making etc. Included social freedom is the desire to be free from social taboos, conventions ritual and roles which impose conventional roles and restrictions on women.

Women all over the world lack access to opportunities, skill, knowledge, assets and fundamental human rights such as freedom from want and freedom from fear. Women constitute fifty percent of the population, make up thirty percent of official labour force, perform sixty percent of all working hours, receive ten percent of world’s income, but own even less than one percent of world property. All political systems regardless of ideology or form, often deny women’s formal political status.

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But today women are smashing into every male stronghold. Political power is the only inaccessible material to Indian women today. So the concept of 'Women Politicization' is provoking the thoughts of thinkers today. No section of society always lies suppressed. When conditions become favorable, they will surely awake and resurrect, as if fresh sprouts emerge from the soil after fresh rains. Clarion is being blown for the renaissance of the marginalized. Once came out, they will never return to their shells. Same is its application on women empowerment and resulting politicization. There are various magnitudes of women empowerment. 'Personal Empowerment' includes economic freedom, involvement in decision making, gender equality, freedom of action etc. which leads to increase in self reliance and self strength. 'Economic Empowerment' includes increased access to economic resources through increase in income, access to finance and ability to make decisions regarding the utilization of money. 'Social Empowerment' is attained through mingling with others, participating in collective activities etc. 'Intellectual Empowerment' includes political awareness, possibilities to participate in the public sphere and power to influence the development process etc. 'Psychological Empowerment' includes the sense of power, efficiency and authority, which gives the individual a self confidence to permeate the power in other spheres and 'Political Empowerment' includes political awareness, possibilities to participate in the public sphere and power to influence the development process.

21st century has been a new Dawn for women in terms of progress as they are matching every step with men. They have to always be ahead of the situation within the society. Important junctures in everyone's life (especially women) are birth, marriage, occupation and death. Talking about marriage as an institution, we can say that it changes the life of any individual, especially women, dramatically. They have to go through plenty of changes.

Women after marriage have to carry the burden of dual responsibilities. One is to take care of the biological parents and in addition to that they also have to equally take care of their parents-in-law. Women have to go through a lot of mental struggle in order to be a balancing force and solving all the domestic problems with extreme maturity. **Kanjya & Joshi (2013)** found that there was a significant difference in social freedom and depression among the married and unmarried women. But there was no significant difference in the social freedom and depression among the joint and divided families women. However, there was an inverse relationship between social freedom and depression among women. **Jan (2009)** indicated that with the increase in age of women, their decision-making power had also increased. Urban, educated, working and married women hold more decision-making power than rural, illiterate, non-working and unmarried women. In nuclear family set-up, women held more decision making power than in joint families.

Concept of Social Freedom of Women

The term 'Social Freedom' refers to women's desire to be free from social taboos, conventions, rituals and roles which provide them with lower status in society. In the study, the following dimensions of women's social freedom were taken into consideration:-

1. Freedom from control or interference of parents and husband.

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2. Freedom from social taboos, customs and rituals which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls/women.
3. Freedom concerning sex and marriage.
4. Economic freedom and social equality.

Present research therefore makes an attempt toward the focusing upon the women social freedom of married and unmarried women college students.

Objective

1. To know the women social freedom among the married and unmarried women college students.
2. To know whether there is any difference among the women social freedom with regards to family.

METHODOLOGY

Sample

The sample of the present study was selected from Bhuj City. It constituted total 100 women college students out of which 50 were from married (25 joint families and 25 nuclear family) and 50 were from unmarried (25 joint families and 25 nuclear family).

Research Design

A total sample of 100 women college students equally distributed between married and unmarried and type of family from various colleges of Bhuj City were selected for the research study.

Showing the table of Sample Distribution

Type of Family	Category		Total
	Married	Unmarried	
Joint Family	25	25	50
Nuclear Family	25	25	50
Total	50	50	100

Variable

Independent Variable :

1. **Category :** Married and Unmarried women College Students.
2. **Type of Family :** Women College Students of Joint family and Nuclear family.

Dependent Variable :

1. Women Social Freedom Score.

Tool

The Women Social Freedom Scale (WSFS) prepared by L.I. Bhushan (2011). The test consists total 24 items out of which 16 items are Positive and 8 items are Negative. The subject is supposed to mark his response to each item in 'agreement or disagreement' and if

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to put a “☑” mark in the appropriate cell provided against each item. The scale was validated against the external criteria and coefficient obtained was 0.44. The test-retest reliability was 0.83.

Hypothesis

1. There is no significant difference between the mean score of the women social freedom among the married and unmarried women college students.
2. There is no significant difference between the mean score of women social freedom with regards to women college students of joint family and nuclear family.

Procedure

The permission was granted from various colleges of Bhuj City for data collection after the establishment of rapport, the ‘Women Social Freedom Scale (WSFS)’ was administrated. The data was collected, scored as per the manual and analyzed. The statistical method ‘t’ test was calculated and results were interpreted.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table -1 Showing mean, SD and “t” value of women social freedom score of married and unmarried women college students.

Groups	N	Mean	SD	“t” - value	Sign. level
Married Women	50	38.80	7.70	3.17	0.01
Unmarried Women	50	43.40	7.32		

As can be seen from above table the “t” value of 3.17 is found significant at 0.01 level. The means score of the married women college students group is 38.80 as against the mean score of 43.40 of the unmarried women college students. It should be remembered here that, according to scoring pattern, higher score indicated higher women social freedom. Thus from the result it could be said that, the unmarried women college students is having more women social freedom than married women college students. The hypotheses no.1 that, “There is no significant difference between the mean score of the women social freedom among the married and unmarried women college students”, is rejected.

Table – 2 Showing mean, SD and “t” value of women social freedom score of women college students of joint family and nuclear family.

Groups	N	Mean	SD	“t” - value	Sign. level
Joint Family	50	34.37	5.65	0.26	N.S.
Nuclear Family	50	33.98	7.37		

As can be seen from above table the “t” value of 0.26 is found not-significant. The means score of the women college students of joint family group is 34.37 as against the mean score of 33.98 of the women college students of nuclear family group. The hypotheses no.2 that,

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“There is no significant difference between the mean score of women social freedom with regards to women college students of joint family and nuclear family”, is rejected.

CONCLUSION

1. There is significant difference between the mean score of the women social freedom among the married and unmarried women college students. Thereafter could be said that, the unmarried women college students is having more women social freedom than married women college students.
2. There is no significant difference between the mean score of women social freedom with regards to women college students of joint family and nuclear family.

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