

Social Freedom among Working and Non-Working Women

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the research was to study the social freedom in relation to working status and marital status. The present study was conducted on 100 women of Dhanbad town which 50 working and 50 non-working women. Women Social Freedom Scale developed and standardized by Bhusan (1987) was used for data collection. Statistical technique was used mean, standard deviation and t value. It had been revealed from the analysis and interpretations of the present study that desire for social freedom was influenced by working status and marital status. The findings of the study revealed: i) There were significant differences among working and non-working women on social freedom ii) Significant difference was found between married and unmarried women.

Keywords: *Women, Freedom, Social and Traditional*

Social freedom is the desire to be free from social taboos, conventions, rituals and roles, which impose conventional roles and restrictions on women. In past women are believed as maid or goddess which is dependent on men. They don't provided higher education they are banned from roam around, works or dealing outside.

They only have to work inside four walls of house like household and bringing up the children. Status of women has improved considerably both at the work-front as well as at the home-front. Even society has a change in the attitude towards women, their education and importance of their career. Sen (1999) has explained development in terms of the expansion of real freedom that the citizens enjoy to pursue the objectives they have and in this sense, economic development is the expansion of human capabilities. This is known as capability approach of development. Capability is one kind of freedom, the range of options that a person has in deciding what kind of life she / he wants to lead. So a person should have capacity to choose best life that she/he likes from the constraint opportunities available to her/him. Sen (1999) has also emphasized on the process of expanding freedom equally for all people.

For centuries women have been treated as weak, obedient, Shy, and timid partner of the men and thereby have enjoyed an inferior status in society. In recent years desire for social freedom among women has manifested itself in protest and revolt against the traditional social norms and taboos. With the growth in education and vocational opportunities women

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throughout the world have become more conscious of their rights of equality and freedom. They demand equality in true sense of the in all spheres of life.

Concept of Social Freedom of Women

A true encyclopedic study which covers the quintessential woman of Tagore: “I am no goddess to be worshipped, nor the object of common pity to be brushed aside like a moth with indifference. If you desire to keep me by your side in the path of danger and daring, you allow me to share the great duties of your life then you will know my true self.” Woman is the great creation of God, a multifaceted personality with the power of benevolence, integrity, adjustability and tolerance the lives of women of current era are much different than the older days. Women are an important element of our society. Women have been given the ascription of mother Goddess and are considered the source of Shakti. A woman creates life, nurtures it, guards and strengthens it. The role of women in the society is constantly questioned and for centuries, women have struggled to find their place in a predominantly male-oriented world.

Social freedom means freedom from control or interference of parents and husband, freedom from customs and rituals, which impose conventional roles and restrictions on girls/women. Women in India carry a strong desire for freedom. Women have been given equal rights in our constitution. However, it is a sad reality that women are still slaves as they were ages ago. It is pleasant to talk about women liberation; but, no one has really given them real freedom despite all the laws.

Today the role of women in the society is changing and the change in their traditional role is great demand of time. The transition in women’s role has rapidly gained momentum since the government of India has declared the year 2001 as ‘Women Empowerment Year’. It is a great challenge for the women of 21st century to face the resistance shown by conservative people of closed society of India. Women have equal rights to enjoy freedom in terms of social, personal and professional life. Women’s lack of empowerment is believed to be an important factor for this situation and hence they require social and economic protection. Therefore, they need to be empowered economically, socially and politically. The women empowerment is a critical determinant of economic well-being, social status and political power. Women in India now participate in all activities such as education, sports, politics, media, art and culture, service sectors, science and technology, etc. Indira Gandhi, who served as Prime Minister of India for an aggregate period of fifteen years is the world’s longest serving woman Prime Minister. Gender inequality is a form of inequality which is distinct from other forms of economic and social inequalities and stems from pre-existing gendered social norms and social perceptions. Gender inequity has adverse impact on development goals as it reduces economic growth. It hampers the overall wellbeing because blocking women from participation in social, political and economic activities can adversely affect the whole society. Many developing countries including India have displayed gender inequality in education, employment and health. It is common to find girls and women suffering from high mortality rates and vast differences in education level. According to a report by Katherine (2012), India is the “fourth most dangerous country” in the world for women. India was also noted as the worst country for women among the G20 countries, however, this report has faced criticism for its inaccuracy. On 9 March 2010, one day after International Women’s Day, Rajya Sabha passed the women’ Reservation Bill requiring that 33% of seats in India’s parliament and state legislative bodies should be reserved for women. But, inspite of being highly qualified and highly paid, women are not given freedom to survive in this society. If qualified and earning women are not free, then what to say of uneducated housewives.

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Although women are ahead in every profession, still teaching is a profession preferred by majority of women in our country.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Devi (1982) studied that workingwomen are enjoying freedom, power of decision-making and dignity at home due to economic independence. 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. Kumar, Deo and Sonam (2011) revealed working women excelled over non-working women in terms of desire for social freedom. Kanjya & Joshi (2013) found that there was a significant difference in social freedom among the married and unmarried women. Ghosh (2016) found working women showed higher desire for social freedom in comparison to non-working women. Chhatrala (2017) found an unmarried women college student is having more social freedom than married women college students. Priti (2017) revealed there is insignificant difference between married and unmarried woman primary teachers of social freedom. It means both are same in social freedom.

Objectives

- To study the impact of profession on social freedom.
- To study the impact of marital status among women on social freedom.

Hypotheses

- There will be significant difference between working and non-working woman in social freedom
- There will be significant difference between married and unmarried women in social freedom

Sample of the Study

The study was conducted on 100 women of Dhanbad town. Out of 100 women, 50 were working (25 married and 25 unmarried) and 50 were non-working (25 married and 25 unmarried).

Variables of the study

Dependent Variable

- Scores on women social freedom

Independent Variable

- Working status (working and non-working)
- Marital status (married and unmarried)

Tool used in the Study

Women Social Freedom Scale - The Women Social Freedom Scale (1987) developed by Bhusan was used as tool for the present study. The scale has 24 predicate in this questionnaire which measured Social Freedom. This is a 0.2 scale questionnaire. This questionnaire reliability is 0.75 and high validity

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Hypotheses – 1- There will be significant difference between working and non-working woman in social freedom. To test this hypothesis, t-test applied to determine the significant difference between the working and non-working women.

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Table 1: Means, SDs and t value of working and non-working women in social freedom

Groups	N	Mean	SDs	t	Level of significance
Working women	50	19.24	3.48	9.61	0.01
Non-working women	50	13.67	2.16		

The above table showed that regarding profession the mean score of working women was 19.24 and non-working women was 13.67. The t-value was 9.61 which was found to be significant at 0.01 level of significance. It may be concluded that social freedom of working and non-working women were different. Working women showed high desire for social freedom in comparison to non-working women .Hence the hypothesis “There will be significant difference between working and non-working woman in social freedom” was accepted.

Hypotheses –2- There will be significant difference between married and unmarried women in social freedom .To test this hypothesis, t-test applied to determine the significant difference between the working and non-working women.

Table2: Means, SDs and t value of married and unmarried women in social freedom

Groups	N	Mean	SDs	t	Level of significance
Married women	50	12.81	2.41	7.42	0.01
Unmarried women	50	17.67	3.96		

The above table showed that regarding profession the mean score of married women was 12.81 and an unmarried woman was 17.67. The t-value was 7.42 which was found to be significant at 0.01 level of significance. It may be concluded that social freedom of married and unmarried women were different. Unmarried women showed high desire for social freedom in comparison to married women .Hence the hypothesis “There will be significant difference between married and unmarried women in social freedom” was accepted.

MAIN FINDINGS

- Working women had higher desire for social freedom as compared to non-working women.
- An unmarried woman showed higher desire for social freedom than married women.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors carefully declare this paper to bear not conflict of interests

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