

Short Communication

Communities Attitudes Towards Working Women in Faisalabad, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to investigate the communities attitudes towards working women in Faisalabad. A large majority of the respondents' fathers, mothers, brothers/sisters, friends, colleagues and boss showed favorable attitudes towards their service. However, 25% respondents in health profession reported unfavorable attitude of friends towards their service. About 50% husbands showed favorable attitude towards their service. It was found that 62% respondents' in-laws had favorable attitude towards their service; whereas, 23% reported that their in-laws showed indifferent behavior.

Key Words: Community attitudes; Working women

INTRODUCTION

With increasing opportunities of education, there has been an increase in women's participation in the paid labour force. They are working as nurses, teachers, doctors, lawyers, bankers, business women, technicians, scientists, administrators etc. In this age of inflation and rising prices, resulting in economic tension, the Pakistani middle class working woman feels, it is incumbent upon her to contribute to the family well-being, relieving anxiety in the hand to mouth existence. Women are fighting the tough battle of their lives for providing the prosperous and comfortable life to their families. Different problems such as attitudes of the society, prejudices and non-recognition which the working women encounter with regard to their status and role in the economic life adversely affect the utilization of their talents and work capabilities. These problems reduce the efficiency of working women and hinder the entrance of females in different jobs (Hussain, 1958; Zaidi, 1971; Azhar, 1978; Akhtar, 1984). The present study was conducted to investigate the communities attitudes towards working women in Faisalabad.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Universe and sample. Residents of working women Hostel, Faisalabad were selected as a universe for the present study. A total of 50 women belonging to different categories of job (teaching= 30, health= 8, others= 12) were included in the study. The data were collected with the help of interviewing schedule through a questionnaire. Before the actual data collection, pre-testing was done to check the workability of the interviewing schedule. Three respondents from the universe were randomly selected. After pre-testing, few modifications in the interviewing schedule were made

to improve its workability. The data were systematically tabulated and statistically analyzed to bring the data into a comparable form. For the attainment of frequency distribution of personal traits of the respondents simple percentages were calculated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The attitudes of different relatives of the respondents have been presented in Table I. It is evident from results that a large majority of the respondents' fathers showed favorable attitudes towards their service; while, about 18% had indifferent attitude towards the service of their daughter. Only 2.56% respondents reported that the attitude of their fathers towards their service was not favorable. It was found that 84.44% of the respondents reported that the attitude of their mothers towards their service was favorable; while, about 7% mothers' attitudes were unfavorable, and about 9% mothers were indifferent towards joining service by their daughters. As far as brothers and sisters are concerned, 77% of the respondents reported a favorable attitude; whereas, about 17% respondents in health profession reported unfavorable attitude of their brothers and sisters towards their service. About 12% respondents reported indifferent attitude towards their joining service.

Table I indicates that overall 90% of the respondents' friends showed favorable attitude towards their service; whereas, 25% respondents in health profession reported unfavorable attitude of friends towards their service. While, 100% respondents in other professions reported favorable attitude of their friends towards their service. Overall 6% of respondents' friends had indifferent attitude towards their joining a service. It is evident from the results that overall 96% of the respondents reported **Table I.**

Attitudes of the respondent's relatives towards their service

Professions	Favorable n (%)	Unfavorable n (%)	In-different n (%)	Total
Fathers				
Teaching	18 (75)	1 (4.17)	5 (20.83)	24
Health	6 (85.71)	–(–)	1 (14.29)	7
Others	7 (87.5)	–(–)	1 (12.5)	8
Total	31 (79.49)	1 (2.56)	7 (17.95)	39A
Mothers				
Teaching	25 (86.20)	1 (3.45)	3 (10.34)	29
Health	4 (66.67)	1 (16.67)	1 (16.67)	6
Others	9 (90)	1 (10)	–(–)	10
Total	38 (84.44)	3 (6.67)	4 (8.89)	45B
Brothers and sisters				
Teaching	42 (82.35)	5 (9.80)	4 (7.84)	51
Health	7 (58.33)	2 (16.67)	3 (25)	12
Others	16 (76.19)	2 (9.52)	3 (14.29)	21
Total	65 (77.38)	9 (10.71)	10 (11.90)	84C
Friends				
Teaching	28 (93.33)	–(–)	2 (6.67)	30
Health	5 (62.5)	2 (25)	1 (12.5)	8
Others	12 (100)	–(–)	–(–)	12
Total	45 (90)	2 (4)	3 (6)	50
Colleagues				
Teaching	30 (100)	–(–)	–(–)	30
Health	7 (87.50)	–(–)	1 (12.5)	8
Others	11 (91.67)	1 (8.33)	–(–)	12
Total	48 (96)	1 (2)	1(2)	50
Boss				
Teaching	30 (100)	–(–)	–(–)	30
Health	7 (87.50)	–(–)	1 (12.50)	8
Others	11 (91.67)	–(–)	1 (8.33)	12
Total	48 (96)	–(–)	2 (4)	50
Husband				
Teaching	2 (50)	–(–)	2 (50)	4
Health	1 (50)	1 (50)	–(–)	2
Others	1 (50)	1 (50)	–(–)	2
Total	4 (50)	2 (25)	2 (25)	8D
In laws				
Teaching	4 (57.14)	–(–)	3 (42.86)	7
Health	2 (100)	–(–)	–(–)	2
Others	2 (50)	2 (50)	–(–)	4
Total	8 (61.54)	2 (15.38)	3 (23)	13D

A= Eleven respondents who were fatherless, were excluded

B= Five respondents who were motherless were excluded

C= Sixteen respondents who were brotherless and sisterless were excluded

D= Only married respondents were included

favorable attitude of their colleagues towards their service. About 8% respondents in other professions complained that the attitude of their colleagues towards their joining a service was unfavorable. While 12.5% respondents in health profession reported indifferent behavior of their colleagues towards their service. The attitude of boss was favorable in the opinion of 96% respondents; while, 4% told an indifferent attitude of their boss. It was interesting to note that 50% respondents reported husband's favorable attitude towards their service; whereas, 25% of working women reported that their husbands showed unfavorable attitude and same number were indifferent towards their joining service. It means that generally working women face no opposition by their husbands regarding their job. The attitude of in laws was favorable as reported by 62% respondents; whereas, 23% reported that their in-laws showed indifferent behavior, and only about 15% told that their in laws did not like their service. It means that majority of the in-laws of the respondents behaved favorably towards them.

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