



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN: AN INTER-STATE COMPARISON WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WEST BENGAL AND ANDHRA PRADESH IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A study was undertaken in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh comprising of one district in each state among the 60 respondents to examine the relationship between education and women's social status. This study was basically an empirical in nature. A structured questionnaire was used for conducting the survey in 2017-18 in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Students' t-test was used to analyse the data to examine the relationship between education and women's social status in order to achieve balanced development in the society and country as a whole. The findings indicated that there exist significant differences of women's social status w. r. t. economic status, social group, residential area, gender, and education with no significant difference among the two districts of the states – West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

Key Words: Education, Social status, Balanced development, Attitude of women

Introduction

Women's social status implies ensuring women with all their rights they should have in the family, society, school, college and country just like a man. It is to make them capable so that

they can make own independent decisions for their individual development. The status of women in the Indian society is still backward because of the gender inequality. Women also should be given equal rights like men to really empower them. They should not be treated as weak gender of the society as they occupy almost half population of the country so they are half strength of the country. Women have more patience and effort; they can better develop their country. A woman has the right to express her thoughts and opinions freely, without any restriction. Women should be aware of their rights and social positions that they are entitled to constitutionally (Bhat et al, 2016; Desai & Thakkar, 2001; Mercy, 2013; Nasrin, 2013; Suguna, 2011; Singh, 1996; Hossain, 2013).

The most critical aspect of social status of women is the promotion of gender equality which implies that in society women and men enjoy the same opportunities, outcomes, rights and obligations in all spheres of life (Dutta, 2015; Gul, 2015).

Article 14 expresses equality before law “The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth”

Article 16 (2) states equal Opportunities “No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect or, any employment or office under the State”.

Article 39(a) states that the citizen, men & women equally have the right to an adequate means of livelihood.

Statement of Problem

Considering all these aspects the problem may be stated as “**Education and Social Status of Women: An Inter-State Comparison with Special Reference to West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh in India**”.

Objectives

1. To find out the difference between APL & BPL family towards women’s social status in the study area;
2. To find out the difference towards social status according to gender in the study area;

3. To find out the difference towards women's social status according to social group in the study area;
4. To find out the difference towards women's social status according to residential status;
5. To find out the difference towards women's social status according to educational status of the respondents in the study area;
6. To find out the comparison of level of women's social status between two states- West Bengal (Bankura) and Andhra Pradesh (Vizag);
7. To determine the relationship between education and women's social status in the study area.

Hypotheses

The study entailed the following hypotheses:

⁰H₁: No significant difference exists between APL & BPL family towards women's social status in the study area;

⁰H₂: No significant difference exists towards social status according to gender in the study area;

⁰H₃: No significant difference exists towards women's social status according to social group in the study area;

⁰H₄: No significant difference exists towards women's social status according to residential status;

⁰H₅: No significant difference exists towards women's social status according to educational status of the respondents in the study area;

⁰H₆: No significant difference exists of level of women's social status between two states- West Bengal (Bankura) and Andhra Pradesh (Vizag);

⁰H₇: No significant relationship between education and women's social status in the study area.

Source

The present study is primarily empirical in nature. A self prepared questionnaire has been used to collect data from 60 (sixty) households from Vizag district and Bankura district (one women member from each household) in 2017-2018. Multistage purposive sampling technique was used for collection of data from the selected districts.

Table – 1: Sample Profile of the Study

Sl. No	District	Block	Village	No. of Household	No. of Respondents
1	Bankura	Bishnupur	Naboday Pally	30	30
2	Vizag	Anakapalli	Taba garden, Gopal Pantha	30	30
Total	-	-	-	60	60

Methodology of the Study

The suitable statistical methods which were applied in the present study are-

- i. Descriptive statistics: Mean, S.D, SED and correlation
- ii. Binary Logit Regression Model
- iii. Student's t-test: This was used to measure the significant social status among the respondents with respect to some selected variables – gender, economic status, social group, residential status, educational status (Best & Khan, 2012).

Analysis and Interpretations of the Study

⁰H₁: No significant difference exists between APL & BPL family women's social status in the study area

Table -2: showing the particulars about mean, SD and t-value according to Economic status of the respondents.

Economic Status	N	Mean	SD	SED	T	Level of significance
APL	30	65.67	7.27	1.73	8.91	Significant at 0.01 level
BPL	30	50.11	6.12			

Source: Author's calculation based on field survey 2017-2018

From the above table it is clear that the mean scores and S.D of APL and BPL group are different. The t value of the above table is 8.99 which is larger than the table value. So the

null hypothesis is rejected at 0.01 level. That means that there exists significant difference between APL and BPL group towards women's social status (Khan, 2017).

⁰H₂: No significant difference exists towards social status according to gender in the study area

Table -3 showing the particulars about mean, SD and t-value according to gender of the respondents.

Gender	N	Mean	SD	SED	t	Level of significant
Male	30	67.55	8.13	1.74	5.52	Significant at 0.01 level
Female	30	58.13	5.10			

Source: Author's calculation based on field survey 2017-2018

From the above table it is clear that the mean scores and S.D of APL and BPL group are different. The t value of the above table is 5.50 which is larger than the table value. So the null hypothesis is rejected at 0.01 level. That means that there exists significant difference between male and female towards social status (Gangopadhyay, 2015).

⁰H₃: No significant difference exists towards women's social status according to social group in the study area

Table - 4 Showing the particulars about mean, SD and t-value according to social group of the respondents

Social Group	N	Mean	SD	SED	t	Level of significance
General	25	68.36	8.68	1.99	6.85	significant at 0.01 level
Others	35	54.63	5.81			

Source: Author's calculation based on field survey 2017-2018

From the above table it is clear that the mean scores and S.D of APL and BPL group are different. The t value of the above table is 6.89 which is larger than the table value. So the null hypothesis is rejected at 0.01 level. That means that there exists significant difference between general and other social group towards women's social status (Narula, 2014).

⁰H₄: No significant difference exists towards women's social status according to residential status

Table- 5 Showing the particulars about mean, SD and t-value according to residential status of the respondents

Locality	N	Mean	Sd	SED	't'	Level of significance
Nearby Town	35	64.2	7.01	3.33	6.22	Significant at 0.01 level
Rural	25	42.6	4.86			

Source: Author's calculation based on field survey 2017-2018

From the above table it is clear that the mean scores and S.D of APL and BPL group are different. The t value of the above table is 6.52 which is larger than the table value. So the null hypothesis is rejected at 0.01 level. That means that there exists significant difference between rural and nearby urban women's social status (Shantilin, 2011).

⁰H₅: No significant difference exists towards women's social status according to educational status of the respondents in the study area

Table 6 showing the particulars about mean, SD and t-value according to educational status of the respondents

Educational Status	N	Mean	Sd	SED	t	Level of significance
Educated	40	72.25	7.69	2.01	3.78	Significant at 0.01 level
Uneducated	20	64.90	7.75			

Source: Author's calculation based on field survey 2017-2018

From the above table it is clear that the mean scores and S.D of APL and BPL group are different. The t value of the above table is 3.48 which is larger than the table value. So the null hypothesis is rejected at 0.01 level. That means that there exists significant difference between educated and uneducated group towards women's social status.

⁰H₆: No significant difference exists of level of women's social status between two states- West Bengal (Bankura) and Andhra Pradesh (Vizag)

Table- 7 Showing the particulars about mean, SD and t-value according to studied state of the respondents

State	N	Mean	SD	SED	t	Level of significance
West Bengal	30	41.65	3.56	1.59	13.29	Significant at 0.01 level
Andhra Pradesh	30	62.78	7.99			

Source: Author's calculation based on field survey 2017-2018

From the above table it is clear that the mean scores and S.D of APL and BPL group are different. The t value of the above table is 13.29 which is higher than the table value. So the null hypothesis is rejected at 0.01 level. That means that there exists significant difference of women's social status according to study area (Shindhe & John, 2011).

⁰H₇: No significant relationship between education and women's social status in the study area.

Table - 8: Showing the particulars about mean, SD and t-value regarding the interrelationship between education and women's social status

Variable	N	Mean	SD	r	t _r	Level of significance
Education	60	61.65	5.56	0.68	7.98	Significant at 0.01 level
Social status	60	62.78	7.996			

Source: Author's calculation based on field survey 2017-2018

From the above table it is clear that the mean scores and S.D of APL and BPL group are different. The t value of the above table is 8.99 which is larger than the table value. So the null hypothesis is rejected at 0.01 level. That means that there exists significant relationship between scores of education and women's social status in the study area (Mohammad, 2004).

Concluding Remarks

After analysing the present study, it is concluded that education has a strong potentiality to strengthen women's social status among the households in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh in India. The findings highlighted that there existed significant difference in the level of social status of women between the two states – West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Apart from this, social status differs of the respondents w. r. to educational status, economic status, social group, residential area and gender within the surveyed state.

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