

PROBLEMS OF WOMEN RESEARCHERS IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Education is a very important factor in the economic development of any country. Indian higher education system is the third largest system in the world. In the present time the role of higher educational institutions focuses on the field of providing quality-based education and research to empower youth for sustainability. Even though there are developments and achievements in the field of higher education there are still factors which has to be considered where the government lag such as Issues and problems faced by researcher at various due course. The present scenario is heartening as the admission of women in higher education institutions has increased significantly. This paper especially aims to analyze the major problems faced by the women researchers in higher educational institutions with respect to Coimbatore district. 50 women researchers from higher educational institutions where taken as a sample of the study. By using questionnaire, the primary data were collected. Further the paper discusses various problems faced by the women researcher in the research period and other related issues using statistical tools like factor analysis and one-way Anova. It was identified from the study that harassment issues were highly faced by women researchers followed by psychological problems and family support issues. It is also found that there is no difference among the age group of women researchers and problems faced.

INTRODUCTION

The development of a country depends on education. Education is intellectual and moral training given to individuals through which knowledge and potentials are developed. The world has realized the importance of women's education which is indispensable to a nation's development, it is regarded as investment of human capital, where men and women are given equal responsibility. In order to make changes in the education system it must be associated with culture, social cohesion, employment and scientific progress to make it suitable to global and knowledge-intensive society. Innovative approaches to teaching and learning must be done. Higher education policy must focus on increasing the women participation and should also focus on minimizing the problems faced by the women in higher educational institutions. It must launch measures to overcome the issues.

Problems and issues faced by women in Higher Education Institutions:

Conservative attitude of the society towards the women education creates discouragement and disparities in women participating in education. Women enrollment ratio in the education is not satisfactory even though the ratio of women participation has increased in certain states and the absence of gender dimension must be taken in account along with absence of proper policies and legislation to ensure participation of women are the most serious issue faced by the women researcher.

Most important problems faced by women which is creating hurdle in higher education, social status of a women is a major bane along with lack of social support. There is gender discrimination, cultural stereotyping, family attitude is some of the problems which all women researchers face on day-to-day basis. On the other hand physical environment, religious misconception and transport facilities are creating another hurdle for women researcher.

Recent initiatives in Indian Higher Education System:

Indian govt has taken initiatives to promote and increase the efficiency of education system, some of the developments are: Education quality upgradation and inclusive Programme has been recently launched (EQUIP), Revitalizing infrastructure and system in education 2020 (RISE), UGC learning outcome-based curriculum framework 2022 (LOCF), Graded autonomy to universities and colleges, Global initiatives for academic network (GIAN), All India survey on higher education (AISHE) and National institutional ranking framework (NIRF).

Way forward:

The central government has focused on regulatory and governance reforms aims to restructure or merge different higher education regulators. It has also planned to amend UGC Act, which will allow foreign institutions to act or operate in joint programme and also it has made mandatory to transparent the selection process of vice chancellor. Government is also planning to Create world class universities of 20- 10 each from public and private are selected as institution of eminence to attain world class standards. The draft national education policy 2019 recommends to restructure system into tier -I, II and III. (Tier -I: Research universities

focusing on research and teaching. Tier-II: teaching universities focusing primarily on teaching and Tier-III: colleges focusing on teaching undergraduate levels) and Increased focus on vocational and profession to led education with Accreditation framework. It has planned to link fund and incentives on performance basis.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Women education is a root path for improving the knowledge, skills of women and girl children. Education helps in creating healthier and more productive life and raising the standard of living. But the problems in women educations in India which immediately attracts our attention. In our country conservative traditionalism which plays a major reason for low education of women than men. The importance of women education has gained importance in the fastest changing economy, by building character of the citizen of the country, economic reconstruction and social reforms have made them realize. Even though women participation, enrollment and importance of being educated has increased the problems faced them are affecting their education in some or the other form.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To identify the problems faced by women researcher at higher educational institutional level.
- To analyze whether there is any significant difference in problems among the women researchers.
- To suggest suitable measures to overcome and minimize the impact of the problems.

HYPOTHESES

- There is no significant difference between problems and age group of women researchers.
- There is no significant difference between problems and marital status of women researchers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is Descriptive in nature.

Source of the data

The study is based on primary data. The primary data has been collected using well-structured questionnaire collected through questionnaire.

Sampling design

The required data has been collected from 50 researchers pursuing research work in higher educational institutions with respect to Coimbatore district. And researcher has used random sampling method.

Tools used for the study

The analysis is made using factor analysis, one-way Anova.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Table1.Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

SC.NO	CHARACTERISTICS	CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	%
1	AGE	21-24	29	58
		25-28	15	30
		29-32	4	8
		Above 32	2	4
2	MARITAL STATUS	MARRIED	19	38
		UNMARRIED	31	62
3	DOMICILE	URBAN	30	60
		RURAL	20	40
4	MODE OF STUDY	FULL TIME	44	88
		PART TIME	6	12
5	MONTHLY FAMILY INCOME	10,000-15,000	7	14
		15,000-20,000	9	18
		20,000-30,000	17	34
		30,000-40,000	17	34

The breakdown of the respondent's demographic characteristics is shown in table1. The majority of respondents are between 21-24 years (58%). 62 % of the respondents are unmarried and 88% of the respondents are full time research scholars and 60 % of them are from urban background and around 34% of them are under category of monthly income of 20,000-30,000 and 30,000-40,000.

Reliability Test:

Table 2 - Reliability Statistics		
Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.790	.786	48

Cronbach's alpha of 0.6 or less generally indicates unsatisfactory level. But this study, the overall test value was found more than the required value that indicates good consistency among items and tools developed for the study are reliable. It can be concluded that all of the variables were reliable due to the values of each variable are greater than 0.7 which is acceptable.

Factor Analysis

Table 3 - KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.708
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	484.911
	Df	136
	Sig.	.000

The above table shows the KMO results were the statistic value is .705, which is well above the minimum criterion of .5 and falls into the range of 'middling'. So, the sample size is adequate for factor analysis. And the Bartlett's test for sphericity show .000 which is significant to conduct further tests.

Table 4 Rotated Component Matrix

	Component				
	Harassment issues	Psychological problems	Family support	Learning problems	Institutional problems
X8		.855	.125		-.238
X19			.846		
X20	-.127	.348	.782		
X21		-.101	.567	.692	.135
X26	.422	.629	.232	.110	.398
X27	.277	.757	.265	-.157	
X28		.729	-.447	.170	
X31	.129	.721		-.313	.108
X32		.648	-.386	-.180	.313
X39	.874		-.131		-.132
X40	.784	.330	-.259		-.100
X42	.638	.246	-.261	.327	-.359
X43	.511	.199	-.319	.411	-.374
X44	.857			.222	
X45	.753		.365	-.155	
X46	-.300			.230	.786
X50	.244	-.176	-.102	.805	.149

Table 4 explains the analysis of the principal components and rotated factors loadings method is used to identify the factors. From the above table, it is observed that out of the 17 variables, 5 factors namely harassment issues, psychological problems, family support, learning problems and institutional problems, were identified by the rotation method.

Table 5- factor 1- Harassment Issues

Label	Statement	Loadings
X39	Women researchers face harassment in research area.	.874
X40	Gender discrimination creates mental stress.	.784
X42	Racism is still a problem in higher educational institutions	.638
X43	Castism and religion plays a major issue in higher educational institutions.	.511
X44	Dominations from superior creates problem.	.857
X45	Women from other state are facing more challenges.	.753

Table 5 shows the cluster of the statement in factor 1. The statement ‘harassment in research area’ with the loading of .874, ‘gender discrimination’ with loading of .784, ‘racism’ with the loading of .638, ‘castism and religion’ with the loading of .511, ‘dominations from superior’ with the loading of .857, ‘women from other state are facing more challenges’ with the loading of .753.

Table 6- factor 2- Psychological Problems

Label	Statement	Loadings
X26	Women researchers are from renowned families are facing less challenges.	.855
X27	Pressure from Peer group creates constraint in research area.	.629
X28	There are Dominations from peer group.	.757
X31	Continuing studies after marriage causes mental issues.	.729
X32	Lack of social support.	.721
X26	Social status of a women is a major banging issue.	.648

Table 6 indicates the clustered statement of factor 2. ‘researcher from renowned families face less challenges’ with the loading of .855, ‘pressure from peer group’ with the loading of .629, ‘dominations from peer group’ with the loading of .757, ‘continuing studies after marriage’ with the loading of .729, ‘lack of social support’ with the loading of .721, and ‘social status’ with the loading of .648, were grouped into second factor return.

Table 7- factor 3- Family Support

Label	Statement	Loadings
X19	Married women get support from family side both financially & mentally.	.846
X20	Married women researcher has exposure and have less restriction from family side.	.782
X21	Women researchers have freedom to integrate with society.	.567

Table 7 reveals the clustered statements of factor 3. ‘married women get family support’ with the loading of .846, ‘married women researchers have exposure and less restrictions’ with the loading of .782, and ‘freedom to integrate with society’ with the loading of .567 were grouped into third factor.

Table 8- factor 4- Learning Problems

Label	Statement	Loadings
X21	Women researchers have freedom to integrate with society.	.692
X50	Transport facilities provided by institutions are more convenient.	.805

Table 8 presents the clustered statements of factor 4. ‘freedom to integrate with society’ with the loading of .692 and ‘transport facilities’ with loading of .805 are grouped in factor 4.

Table 9- factor 5-Institutional Problems

Label	Statement	Loadings
X46	Women researcher have good relationship with their guide.	.786

Table 9 shows the cluster loading of ‘good relationship with the guide’ with the loading of .786 are grouped under factor 5.

Anova:

1 Ho: there is a no significant difference between age group and the problems faced.

Table 10- ANOVA for age group and problem faced

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Harassment Issues	Between Groups	7.671	3	2.557	2.846	.048
	Within Groups	41.329	46	.898		
	Total	49.000	49			
Psychological Barriers	Between Groups	3.409	3	1.136	1.147	.340
	Within Groups	45.591	46	.991		
	Total	49.000	49			
Family Support	Between Groups	.452	3	.151	.143	.934
	Within Groups	48.548	46	1.055		
	Total	49.000	49			
Learning Problems	Between Groups	3.617	3	1.206	1.222	.312
	Within Groups	45.383	46	.987		
	Total	49.000	49			
Institutional Barriers	Between Groups	1.887	3	.629	.614	.609
	Within Groups	47.113	46	1.024		

	Total	49.000	49			
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The above table shows the results of one-way Anova, the significant value of harassment issue is .048, the significant value of psychological problems is .340, the significant value of family support is .934, significant value of learning problems is .312 and significant value of institutional problems is .605, which is above the significant value of 0.05, hence it can be concluded that there is no significant difference among problems faced by the women researchers and their age group.

2.Ho: there is no significant difference between the marital status and the problems faced by the researchers.

Table 11-ANOVA for the marital status and problems faced						
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Harassment issues	Between Groups	8.284	1	8.284	9.766	.003
	Within Groups	40.716	48	.848		
	Total	49.000	49			
Psychological barriers	Between Groups	.001	1	.001	.001	.980
	Within Groups	48.999	48	1.021		
	Total	49.000	49			
Institutional barriers	Between Groups	2.900	1	2.900	3.020	.089
	Within Groups	46.100	48	.960		
	Total	49.000	49			
Family support	Between Groups	.045	1	.045	.044	.834
	Within Groups	48.955	48	1.020		
	Total	49.000	49			
Ease of resources	Between Groups	.002	1	.002	.002	.964
	Within Groups	48.998	48	1.021		
	Total	49.000	49			

The above table shows the results of one-way Anova, the significant value of harassment issue is .003, which is below significant value of 0.05, hence the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be concluded that marital status of women researchers influence on problems faced by them, the significant value of psychological problems is .980, the significant value of family support is .089, significant value of learning problems is .834 and significant value of institutional problems is .964, which is above the significant value of 0.05, hence it can be concluded that there is no significant difference among problems faced by the women researchers and their age group.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

Findings:

- The one-way Anova results for age group and the challenges faced by women researchers shows that there is a significant difference in the age group and the harassment issues faced by the women researchers.
- The rest of the challenges such as psychological barriers, institutional barriers, family support and ease of resources are not having significant difference between the age group and the challenges faced by the women researchers. Which means that all age group face equal level of above challenges.
- The one -way Anova results for marital status and the challenges faced by women researchers shows that there is a significant difference between the marital status and the harassment issues faced by the women researchers.
- The rest of the challenges such as psychological barriers, institutional barriers, family support and ease of resources are not having significant difference between the marital status and the challenges faced by the women researchers. which means that both married and unmarried women face equal level of above-mentioned challenges.

Suggestions:

- The prevailing vishakha guidelines must be more stringently followed in order to eliminate discriminations and ensure the safety and security of the women's everywhere.
- There must be internal grievance committee with headed by a women along with counselor's.
- Lackadaisical investigation can be made available everywhere in order to eliminate the delay in investigation.
- Education system long with the legislation must make law such that to increase the women enrolment and to increase the social status of women.
- Educations for all women is very much mandatory to tackle the society and overcome the challenges.
- Ministry of women development has lots of schemes and reforms for the welfare of women society which must be made avail to all and can also bring new schemes to enhance education.
- Fellowships and scholarships can be increased to women researchers.
- Promote wider access to higher education.
- Provide encouragement and build their confidence.

CONCLUSION

The study tends state that women face various challenges from the joining into higher education. Analysis states that most challenges faced by women researchers such that the harassment and psychological challenges in the research period. Even though social and economic problem are considered base for any women to get into education the above-mentioned challenges quite severe to take into consideration and implicate measure

and norms to overcome them. There are institutions with high level stringent policies but it must be made mandatory to all the higher education's institutions and colleges. Challenges of women can only be met when their enrolment increases in education when their potential and knowledge increase which gives social standard and status for women to overcome risk involved in each stage. The universities and the colleges must take care of facilities that are needed for research and capacities of guide and research scholar. Along with above mentioned needs the basic infrastructure and safety must be guaranteed to the students, which in turn promote the social justice and ensure that women become decision makers. It can be concluded that the study facilitates the academic institutions to understand the challenges that are met by the women researcher at each of stage of research and to pave way to effect necessary improvements in this regard. If the institutions know the factors responsible for the challenges it would help in creating the safety for women and a healthy environment.

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