

Perception of the Community toward Female Education in Lower Dir Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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Abstract: This study is conducted to investigate the perception of community toward female education in district Dir Lower, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The cluster random sampling method is used to select the representative sample from the population. Total of 550 respondents are selected. Data is collected from the selected sample through structure questionnaire. The data is presented by tables. In order to investigate the significant factors affecting the female education in population, binary logistic regression model is used. The model estimate that father's education of female, family size of female and income of the parents/ guardian of female, are significant factors contribute in decision of enrollment of female in school.

Keywords; female education, father's education, family size, income, binary logistic regression, Nagelkerke R square.

Introduction

One of the fundamental rights of each individual is getting education. It is the responsibility of the society to provide the educational facilities to each individual. Education not only raises the society morally but lead to financial development. The importance of education rises more in the present time because of socio-economic changes. Without proper education the standard of living can not be improved. Moreover, education is equally important for female, enhancing their status, placing them on an equal foot with their male counterparts.

In Pakistan, 32% and 21% of primary school age girls and boys are out of school respectively. These figures show gender gap in the country (Ali and Hilali, 2021). A high proportion of female in tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faces difficulties to access higher education (Inamullah et al., 2010).

Amin et al. (2021) studied the parent's attitude toward female higher education in three Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. They found that joint family system, poverty, co-education restricts female from higher education. Devi (2020) conducted study on the parental attitude towards girl's education, it can be concluded that the occupation of the parents, education level, and income have a great influence on their attitude towards girls' education. According to Amin et al. (2019) positive attitude of parents led to higher education of their daughters. Buzdar (2011) investigated that most of

the female’s parents are in dark of the personal, domestic and financial benefits of the female’s education.

Ullah et al. (2021) found the factors affecting the female education; the lack of female educational institutions, inadequate transport system, lack of female teaching staff, poor quality of education, ineffective education policies, and early marriage of females. Fahim et al. (2021) conducted study on attitude of the parents towards female education. They found some factors which responsible for the attitude towards female education.

Shehzad et al. (2011) study the attitude of parents toward female education, and concluded that poverty and lack of awareness were the major factors influencing the female education. Hashmi (2010) conducted study on female education in rural area of Punjab, Pakistan.

Female’s education is very important, therefore, this study conducted in the area of District Dir (lower), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Few studies on the academic performance of the students already conducted (Khan et al., 2022; Khan et al., 2021; Amin et al., 202; Khan, 2012). Up to my knowledge study on the community attitude toward female education is not conducted yet.

Data and methodology

Population of this study is the fathers’ having at least one daughter in District Dir Lower, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Five hundred and fifty respondents are selected, using cluster sampling technique from the District Dir (lower). Data were collected from towns and villages, to represent the population accurately. The cluster method used by Akhtar et al. (2016) is considered.

Binary logistic regression model is used to identify the significant factors affecting the female education in the study area. The reason for using such model is the response variable is binary, 0 or 1 (yes/no), that is either the father admitted their daughter into school or not.

Results

This study is conducted to investigate female education status in light of community behavior. Total 550 respondents are included in this study. More than half 380 fathers are in favor of female education while 170 fathers are not able to send their daughters to school, due to some problems. Some characteristics of the respondents (female’s fathers) are investigated. Three hundred and ten respondents are educated while the remaining respondent are illiterate are under 5 years of education. Low income of the father is also a barrier for female education. Most of the respondent has low income that is 60%, while the 22% respondents have average income, and the 18% have high income.

Family size of the respondent is very important for female education. Table 1 shows that 43% of the respondents have family size, 04 to 08 persons, 43% have family size 09 to 13, and 18% have large family size that is 14 to 18 persons.

Table 1 Family Size and their Frequency in the study area.

Family Size	Frequency	Percent
04–08	235	43
09–13	215	39
14–18	100	18
Total	550	100

Binary logistic regression model is used to assess the effect of father education, income and family size on the decision of enrollment of female in school. Thus, the response variable is decision of father

about admitting their daughters in school, and explanatory variables are income, father's education and family size of the respondent.

Table 2 shows the result of binary logistic regression model. The P value shows that the explanatory variables; father education, family size and income level of respondent are significantly related to dependent variable, decision of community about girl's education

Table-2: Fitted Parameter Estimates Using Binary Logistic Regression Model

	Co-efficient	Standard error	P value
Constant	0.215	1.980	0.830
Father education	-0.579	2.052	0.004
Family size	3.899	0.277	0.030
Income	3.878	1.884	0.040

Nagelkerke R square = .40

Discussion

One of the major hurdles to female's education is the size of family. The large size of the family leads to low chance of female education. Table 2 shows that family size has coefficient -0.59 which shows negative relation between female education decision and family size. The p value shows higher significance of the coefficient family size. Amin et al. (2021) also show that the joint family system which has usually large size is major hurdle for female education.

Another important factor for female education is education of their father. Literate father realizes the importance of education of female in society. The table 2 shows 3.899 value of coefficient of father education which shows positive relationship. The p value shows higher significance of this explanatory variable. The same relation is found by Devi (2020).

Income of father is another important factor for female education. High income father have higher chances to admit their daughter into school than low income father. The table 2 shows that female's father income is significantly positively related with female education decision. Our result is matched to Amin et al. (2021).

Nagelkerke R square of the model was 0.40. Thus, the explanatory variables, father education, family size and income level of parents are explaining 40% of variation in the dependent variable, decision of enrolling of girls into school.

Conclusion

This study aims to explore the community perception about female education. The respondents are selected by cluster random sampling technique. The binary logistic regression model is used which shows that education of the father, family size and family income are significantly related to female education.

People should be aware about the importance of female education through media, scholar, teacher and other important persons of the society.

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