

## **WOMEN AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: A CASE STUDY OF MUSLIM WOMEN IN PUNE CITY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Muslim women in general face a lots of constraints in empowering themselves. Education is one of the potent factors in empowering the women. In our study we have conducted the sample survey of 270 educated Muslim women to find whether the education has really empowered the Muslim women in Pune city. We find that education has empowered the Muslim women and also we have made some recommendation to empower the Muslim community in general and the Muslim women in particular for main streaming the development.*

**Key Words:** *Social Inclusion, Education, Empowerment and Muslim women*

### **Introduction**

Muslim women face a number of problems to become a part of mainstream. There are a number of barriers which prevent their empowerment .Hence in this paper a humble attempt is made to understand what the constraints on entitlement of Muslim women are. We have conducted sample survey of 270 Muslim women chosen from different part of the Pune city. With a view to understand how to empower them.

### **Objective of this paper are: -**

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- To document the constraints on entitlement of Muslim women,
- To analysis the finds of sample survey of Muslim women in Pune city,
- To make some recommendation based on our study.

### **Constraints on entitled of Muslim women**

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- 1) The Muslim community is especially faltering on women's rights and freedom. The triple talaq issue, property rights of women, right of women to choose the occupation they like etc, need to be taken up by the community leaders to overcome the conservative elements within the community.
- 2) The economic and social empowerment of women will go a long way to cure many ills that the Muslim community is presently facing. There should be a special provision for Muslim women within the gender budgeting of the state.
- 3) Provisions should be made to ensure representation of Muslim women in all decision-making bodies and committees of relevance.
- 4) They recommend representation of Muslim women in 33% quota for women in local self-governing bodies.
- 5) Studies conducted in Maharashtra show that the State fails to provide minimum support services like shelter home and women cell in Muslim concentrated areas.

Lack of such facilities are deterrent to women protesting against domestic violence.

- 6) Lack of adequate transport services restrict women mobility required to access quality educational institutions and occupation especially in the atmosphere of insecurity that the Muslims experience. In such an atmosphere, provision of good and secure transport facilities would go a long way to help the women in being mobile and in utilizing from the state resources thus contributing towards the cause of development.
- 7) Muslim women suffering from domestic violence must get unbiased protection from police, protection officers, public hospitals and counsellors under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005. Provisions should be made to provide free legal aid.
- 8) The rules governing the acquisition of ration cards and BPL cards should be relaxed for divorced women, widows and women headed families as such women find it difficult to procure the same from their families (both parental and in-laws).
- 9) Muslim women are faced with great challenges within the community. Many of them receive only nominal Mehr and once deserted they also do not receive any maintenance. A scheme for maintenance of deserted poor women needs to be urgently drawn up.

### Findings from the survey on Muslim women in Pune city.

Education is an empowering factor for women of any community so it has to be empowering Muslim women too. Therefore in our sample survey we have selected 270 educated Muslim women from different parts of Pune city to find whether they are really empowered because of education. Below we elaborate on the finding of our study. The social economic profile of the respondents is as follows:-

**Table 1: Socio Economic Profiles of Respondents**

Sr. No.	Parameter	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
1	Occupation	270	2.01	.827
2	Age Group	270	3.91	1.227
3	Education Level (Group) of Respondents	270	2.59	1.424
4	Age at the time of marriage	262	22.59	4.068
5	Family Size	270	3.88	1.340
6	Family head Education Level Group	270	2.55	1.340
7	Marital Status	270	1.16	.602
8	Family Monthly Income of the Family.	270	47642.96	52755.84
9	No. of Earning Family members	270	1.61	0.71
10	Family Head Occupation	270	2.54	1.144
11	Decision maker	270	1.69	1.087

Majority of women respondents are salaried and house wives. They lie between the age group of 30 to 40. The majority respondents are graduates and also married. Their age at the time of marriage is between 20 to 24. The average family size is 3 to 4 persons. Generally husband is family head and decision maker but in some cases father in law is the family head and decision maker. Family income on an average is 47642. With higher standard deviation it shows that it ranges from 10,000 to 60,000. Number of earning family members are 1 or 2 and family head had no significant education level as per respondents, as well as family head occupation has no significant effect while most of the cases husband is the decision maker. The Educated Muslim Women (EMW) in the study area have achieved "Equity" status of educational attainment. The various opportunities were open to them. The educational status has affected their occupation, family attributes, headship and decision making power. However it is observed that these educated women could not develop their career prospects to the "fullest" or "optimum" possible level, due to the constraints such as dominance of the

male in decision making process, and Ghetomentality. However it is remarkable and satisfying finding that, almost all household are careful about the education of their kids. Though educated, they do not have adequate support system outside their employment segments. Lack of commutation, guidance and counseling these are the constraints on economic empowerment of these educated Muslim women under study area of Pune city. We find that in our study education has empowered the Muslim women in Pune city.

### **Recommendation**

- 1 There is a need to Muslim community and Muslim in particular in the mainstream development programme. To facilitate this, the Govt.of Maharashtra needs to do the following. :-
- 2 There should be special provision for Muslim women within the gender budgeting of the State of Maharashtra.
- 3 Provision should be made to ensure, representation of Muslim women in all decision making bodies and committees of relevance.
- 4 Extend the outreach of schemes such as; Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Anudaan Yojana, Shravanbal Seva Raj, Navratna Yojana and National Family Benfit Scheme.
- 5 Extend the coverage of the Unorganized Sector Workers' Bill.
- 6 Ensure that the Muslims are cover by people friendly Insurance Policies, Sensitization of the bureaucrats, staff and the police about the issues faced by Muslim women.
- 7 Ensure proportionate representation of Muslim community and Muslim women in all Govt. Schemes.
- 8 Bring transparency in the condition for issuing BPL cards, (as these are required to be eligible for many Govt. schemes). The present day situation makes it impossible for poor people to acquire BPL card.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Muslim women in general face a lots of constraints in empowering themselves. Education is one of the potent factors in empowering the women. In our study we have conducted the sample survey of 270 educated Muslim women to find whether the education has really

empowered the Muslim women in Pune city. We find that education has empowered the Muslim women and also we have made some recommendation to empower the Muslim community in general and the Muslim women in particular for main streaming the development.

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