

Realization of Women Professors on Common Social Challenges Faced by the Women in the Society

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Abstract

A woman is the basic unit of society. As women makes a family, family makes a home and homes make a society. Thus, a society would never come into existence without the contribution of women. The very first and best school of a child is its mother's lap. A good healthy society does not automatically merge on its own and stands firm but needs to be emerged and for its emergence women play a pivotal role. Although women teachers play a significant role towards the overall development of the family, they face challenges in managing family as well as their job responsibility. Generally, working women perform dual roles as an income generator and primary caregivers to their children in the family. Due to performing dual roles, it might be hard for working women to fulfill the commitment towards the family as well as professional. This study focus about realization of women professors on common social challenges faced by the women in the society. The study deals with women professors of self finance Arts and Science College, Engineering and Teacher Training Institution in Erode district of Tamil Nadu.

Introduction

In ancient India, women occupied a very important position, in fact a superior position to, men. Women were regarded like mother goddess (Shakti).A symbol of life with immense capacity of tolerance and sacrifice. Hence, they had respectable place in the society.India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said, "*One can tell the condition of nation by looking at the status of its women*". Condition of women in India is on high roads of success, but still for women, her life is a battle for survival and dignity from her birth to death. Women have certainly become an important part of the work force not only in India but all over the World. Women in general have to face so many challenges due to various factors. The key challenge for career women is managing both their traditional roles as housewives and their career. Women experienced great pressure to work hard to prove them in the workplace.

The status of the women teachers reflects the socio-cultural ethos of a society. In fact, teachers are the moulder of future citizens. In the 21st century, women teachers, especially women lecturers, have to face many challenges, in the working environment specifically in the educational field, women professors have to update their knowledge constantly, in addition to managing their family, career and research. They have to strike a balance between their roles as teachers and as family members. Based on above discussion this study aims to analysesrealization of women professors on common social challenges faced by the women in the society

Objectives of the Study

Based on the conceptual discussion made above, the following objectives are framed for the effective presentation of this study.

- To analyse the women professors realisation towards the social challenges faced by women in general.

- To critically evaluate the nature of measures taken by the women to over-come the social challenges and stress faced by them.

Hypotheses of the Study

In order to justify the objectives of the study, the following hypotheses are framed and tested with appropriate statistical tools

- There exist differences in women professors' perception towards social-issues faced by them, at work place and in the society (i) Based on their Marital Status (ii) Nature of Family Set-up (iii) Nature of Institution and (iv) Category of the Institution.
- There exists close association between social supports realised by women professors and their reaction towards social-issues faced by them.

Research Methodology

For studying social challenges faced by working women in Erode district, researcher had used two methods i.e., explorative and descriptive. Explorative nature of research aims for the collection of review of available literature and field survey was considered as part of descriptive research. Questionnaire has been used as a data tool.

Area of the Study

Erode District previously known as Periyar District is a district in the Kongu Nadu region, western part of the state of Tamil Nadu, India. This study primarily focuses on the women working in the Self Finance Arts and Science Colleges, Engineering and Teachers Training Institutions in Erode district.

Statistical Tools Applied

Based on the nature of data and interpretations required, appropriate statistical tools have been applied. One of the most important objectives of statistical analysis is to get one single value that describes the characteristic of the entire mass of entire data. Such a value is called the central value or an "average" means or the expected value of the variable, what the statisticians call the arithmetic mean. The process of computing mean in case of individual observation (i.e), where frequencies are not given is very simple. Add together the various values of the variable and divide the total by the number of items. The researcher has applied weighted mean, instead of calculating the simple mean to obtain a realistic average.

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum W_i X_j}{\sum W_i}$$

Where, \bar{X} = Weighted mean

W_i = Weight of ith item X

X_j = value of the jth item of X

Realization on the Social Challenges Faced by the Women in General

The dual role of women is still not fully recognized by the society. Many working mothers experience a bitter conflict and live with a feeling of guilt. She pleads for the provision of crèches and for better transport facilities from the place of residence to the place of work. She advocates part time jobs, which will be extremely useful for a large number of married women who cannot afford to go for full time work. This section of the study analyses about the women professors' realization on the social challenges faced by the women in general.

Ref Table:- 1. The above table indicates that out of 615 respondents surveyed, 65.53 per cent of women professors are working in Arts & Science Colleges. Batch of 24.88 per cent

of respondents' are enrolled in engineering colleges and 9.59 per cent of respondents' are Professors of B.Ed. colleges

Ref Table:-2. The data presented in the above table infers the women professors' opinion on common social challenges faced by the women in the society. Majority of the sample population have said that generally, women are afraid of failures and criticism and it is ranked in first place with the mean score of 5.43. It is evident from the above table that the respondents' have said that the women are affected by inadequate encouragement and there is lack of courage and self-confidence among them and it hinders their growth. These variables are ranked in second and third place with the mean score of 5.36 and 5.21, accordingly. Similarly it has been also found that the women professors' are affected by dominance in expressing their views, role conflict with opposite gender and unjust social, economic & cultural system and these issues lead them to inferiority complex and susceptible to negative attitude among the women. Hence it has been concluded that majority of the sample population have said that generally women are afraid of failures and criticism and it is ranked in first place with the mean score of 5.43.

Type of Response

Ref Table:-3. The above table discusses about the type of response given by the women professors' while facing social challenges.

Negative Reactions

The above table indicates that, majority of the women professors' have said that they become nervous at tense situations, it is ranked in first place with the mean score of 4.46. Similarly the respondents' have said that they accept the social-suppress and support it, worry a lot, feel depressed and blue while facing challenges. These variables are ranked in second, third and fourth place with an average score of 4.29, 4.27 and 3.97, respectively. It has been found that the women professors' have opined that they tend to find fault with others, quarrel with others and blame the society & cultural practices while facing issues.

Conclusion

The majority of the respondents have said that generally women are afraid of failures and criticism. Moreover, they remain calm in tense situation. Further, the subjects have agreed that women's participation in occupation, social and political activities have increased in recent days.

Table 1 - Women Professor's Opinion on Nature of Educational Institution

Sl. No	Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Arts & Science	403	65.53
2.	B.Ed.	59	9.59
3.	Engineering	153	24.88
	Total	615	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 2

Women Professors' Opinion on Common Social Challenges Faced by the Women in the Society

Challenges	Sum	Mean	Rank
Poor self -image of women	3004	4.88	6
Inadequate motivation from family and society	2979	4.84	9
Role conflict with opposite gender (Colleagues)	3037	4.94	5
Lack of courage and self-confidence	3203	5.21	3
Inadequate encouragement	3299	5.36	2
Unjust social, economic & cultural system (Against women)	2995	4.87	7
Lack of freedom of expression	3125	5.08	4
Afraid of failures and criticism	3337	5.43	1
Susceptible to negative attitude	2991	4.86	8

Source: Primary Data

Values in parenthesis are in percent

Table: 3

Type of Response Given by the Women Professors' While Facing Social Challenges

Reactions	Sum	Mean	Rank
Negative Reactions			
Accept the social-suppress & support it	2640	4.29	2
Tends to find fault with others	2349	3.82	5
Feel depressed & blue	2442	3.97	4
Starts quarrels with others	2335	3.80	6
Feel Tensed	2740	4.46	1
Worries a lot	2626	4.27	3
Blame the Society & cultural Practices	2339	3.80	6
Positive Reaction			
Remains calm in tense situations	2149	3.49	1
Try to educate the people about the false believes about women	2036	3.31	2
Educate the society & family about the role of women & her rights	1771	2.88	3
Prevent women committing violence against another women	1707	2.78	5
Prevent one women criticizing the act of another women	1719	2.80	4

Source: Primary Data

Values in parenthesis are in percent

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