

Asian Resonance

Changing Status of Middle class women in Urban family of North Bihar

Abstract

India Women constitute almost half the country's population but it is evident from the trend of statistical data that the ratio between male and female is decreasing simultaneously every year. The causes must be some where which can be visualized from a little effort.

Although women are majority but they have been deprived of their self respect in to a given existence. Over the centuries women have accepted their role in society as a housewife and mother as well as an inferior expendable commodity, whether sold off to strangers or a supplier of dowry for her husband's family. Thousands of Hindu parents advertise the fact that they are willing to pay a fortune for the privilege of leading their daughter when they should be aware that the may not last as long as the consumer durables she takes with her.

Keywords: Socio- economic, development, middle class women



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Introduction

In the changing society, there is a consciousness that each one of us whether man or women, has a status of ones own as free human being, with rights and duties. The same consciousness makes us aware that we belong to a world society. There is the commission on the status of women under the United Nations to play a constructive role in raising women to the dignity of a free human being and to guide the General Assembly of the United Nations in preventing any discrimination against women in any part of the world.

The present work tries to throw some Light on "The Changing Status of middle class women in Urban family of North Bihar" in which scientific method used for the field investigation is Random stratified sampling.

The study analyses the status of women in areas in different stages of socio-economic development in the context of their cultural move. The study is intended to provide a comparative assessment of the institutional factors, conventional Social impulses and traditional attitudes, as they affect the status of women in north Bihar (Muzaffarpur). It also probes into the compulsions of change and makes as assessment of its impact on their changing status over a period of time.

Changing status of women emphasizes that modern women must play a complex role. Rights given by law, the freedom that she enjoying and the education that she is receiving should promote her to make the best of the chances open prompt her to make the best contribute her might to the welfare of humanity.

The first step in social research is related to problem formulation and area location. Hence after selecting the topic of study it was essential to select a particular geographical zone for conduction the study from this point of view Muzaffarpur town located in the jurisdiction of Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation in North Bihar were selected as the Universe.

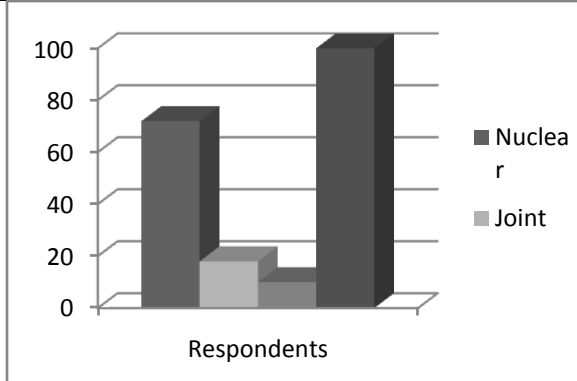
In the present study the respondents had been asked to record the type of family they liked most. It is found that 72% favoured nuclear family disliked the joint family because if impended the development of their education.

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Table – 1

View of Respondents Regarding type of the family they like most

Size of Family	Respondents	Percentage
Nuclear	116	72.5%
Joint	28	17.5%
Both	16	10%
Total -	160	100%

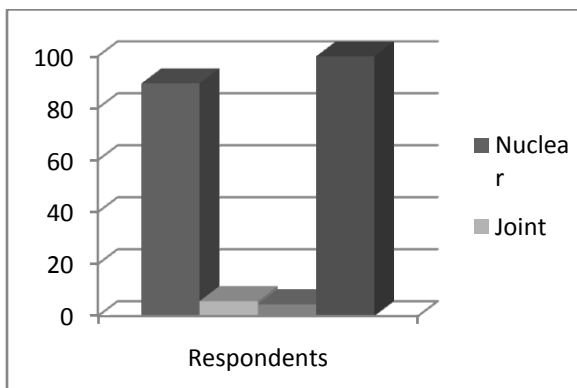


They also disliked it on financial grounds. The joint family gave rise to difference among its members. Thus it is found that those respondents disliked joint family as it has a number of disadvantages. There are only 18% of the respondents who preferred a joint family. They liked joint family because it gave protection to the old and the infants. About 10% of the respondent preferred both the joint and nuclear family. They said that since both the types of families had their own merits and demerits.

Table – 2

View of Respondents regarding freedom and status of women in the family

Size of Family	Respondents	Percentage
Nuclear	142	88.75%
Joint	10	6.25%
Both	08	05%
Total -	160	100%



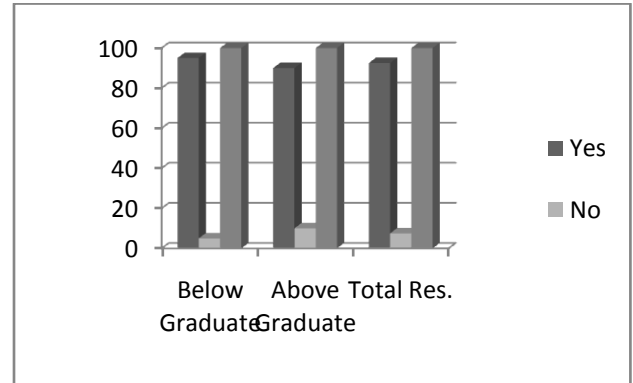
In the present study 89.6% of the respondent mentioned that it was the nuclear family where women got not only more freedom and due recognition but also their status was high only 5.8% thought that women had higher

status and more freedom in the joint family 4.6% remained in desire on the issue.

Table – 3

Know whether working women should be allowed to take part in the decision making process in the family or not.

Respondents	Yes	Per	No	Per	Total
Below Graduate	76	95%	04	05%	80
Above Graduate	72	90%	08	10%	80
Total Res.	148	92.5%	12	7.5%	160

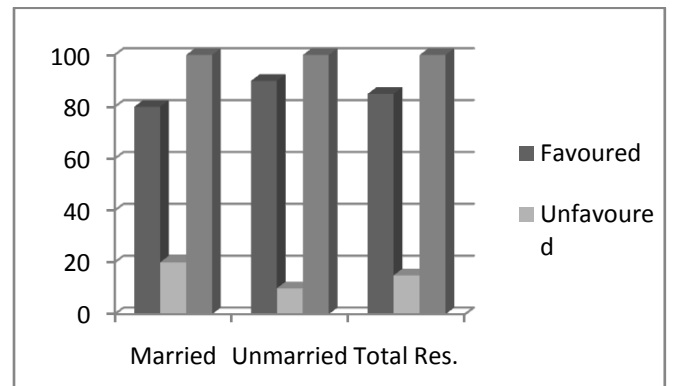


In response 95% of the below graduate respondents replied in the affirmative, Similar views were expresses by 90.8% of above graduate.

Table – 4

Respondents views regarding Inter-caste marriage

Respondents	Favored	Per	Against	Per	Total
Married	64	80%	16	20%	80
Unmarried	72	90%	08	10%	80
Total Res.	136	85%	24	15%	160



Inter-religious marriage is not so favoured as the Inter-caste marriage.

Table – 5

Respondents views regarding Inter-religious marriage.

Respondents	Favored	Per	Against	Per	Total
Married	52	65%	28	35%	80
Unmarried	44	55%	36	45%	80
Total Res.	96	60%	64	40%	160



In the present study out of 160 the bulk of the respondents 92% favoured Inter-caste marriage. There were only few respondents 8% who had a negative opinion about it. This clearly denoted that higher education has changed view of the younger generation towards inter-caste marriage. It analyze respondents views on the basis of their marital status. There is no difference of opinion. Majority of them favored this type of marriage. There were very few married and unmarried respondents who were opposed to it.

In the table no. – 5 shows that out of 160 there were 56% respondents favoured of and 44% were against it. In the term of marital status 63% married and 55% unmarried respondents had positive views towards Inter religious marriage. However, 37% married and 45% unmarried were opposed to it. Thus we see that respondents views are more or less favourable towards Inter religious marriage.

The present study is a small example of this gap which may fulfill the required need of the future study and may provide a path in the further reference of a large scale study or analyses.

It is based mainly on statistical data and were presentation of facts and figures and other side issues are brought in solely to indicate the link between the old and young generation and the attitude of women towards modern conditions.

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