

Determinants of Women Empowerment: A Case Study of District D.G. Khan

Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Awan

Dean, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan-Pakistan

Zertashia,

Research Scholar, M.Phil Economics, Department of Economics, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan-Pakistan

Abstract

This study examines those determinants which contribute to the empowerment of the women of a backward and remote area like D.G. Khan, using primary data with random sampling technique. The results implies access to media, having a bank account, doing any paid job have statistically positive impact on women empowerment. While women living in a joint family system and facing fear of violence from father/husband have significant negative impact.

1. INTRODUCTION

The main focus of human development is development of the people, their freedom, their opportunities, and their participation in those activities and events that shape their lives in a better way. "No nation could rise to the height of glory, unless your women are side by side with you; we are victim of evil customs. It is a crime against humanity that our women are shut up within the four walls of the houses as prisoners" Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1942)

Empowerment refers to have decision making power, freedom of choice, access to facilities. Empowerment means "The expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them" Kabeer (2001) "The term 'Empower' means to give lawful power or authority to act" (Parvin et al., 2004).

Awan and Iqbal (2015) state that Women empowerment means making women self-dependent, giving them freedom, and their access to the opportunities. Women empowerment is a burning issue and women cannot be said to wait any more for their equality and empowerment in the society. Women empowerment is enhancing their position in power structure of the society.

Kabeer (1998) stressed that women's empowerment is the process to acquire the ability to make the strategic life choices restricted through poverty particularly and societal or religious norms generally.

Although women empowerment is the significant part of contemporary development policies of developing countries, yet it faces many problems. At the theoretical level, there is much debate as to what empowerment comprises and how best it can be achieved (Kabeer, 1999). According to UNIFEM (2000), to generate choices, gaining the ability and exercise bargaining power, developing a sense of pride, to secure desired changes, belief in one's ability and the right to control one's life are important elements of women empowerment. Economically empowered women play a more active role in household decision-making, with greater bargaining power to increase spending on education and health (DFID, 2007).

Women empowerment has dimensional focus and envisages greater access to knowledge, social and economic resources and greater autonomy in economic and political decision-making process (Kabeer, 2005). Women empowerment means the participation of women in household decision making process and contribution to the family income (Hossain and Jaim, 2011; and Yusuf, 2010).

Though women have a great contribution in the development process, they have low status as compared to men, specifically in the developing world (Khan 2010). Awan (2014) contends that women empowerment seeks proper health care, education, employment, access to media and having ownership of assets. Women empowerment is the ability to transform economic and social development when empowered to fully participate in the decisions that affect their lives. Women empowerment has two components in general. First, Sense of self-esteem. Second, Rights to have power to control their lives. In the World Bank Report, it is unambiguously suggested that women empowerment is being progressively recognized as an important policy goal or improving not just the well-being of women themselves but also for its positive impact on the family (King and Mason, 2001). Awan and Ibrahim (2015) say that women Empowerment in Pakistan is very important and challenging issue because of its specific regional and religious attributes. Women are very much mistreated than men through the rules, regulations, customs, and ancient nature of the society. This irrational behavior gives women lower status in terms of men socially, culturally, religiously, economically and legally. They are deprived of making decisions in family, education, controlling their assets. This is the low status of women in Pakistan, especially in rural areas, which interfere with achievement of development goals because women constitute approximately half of the population. At the end of the second millennium rural women are less-developed and

have no access to information. Women are not drawing benefits from this changing pattern and are impacted by globalization in reverse order. Rural women are not part of communication system, the system that is turning the global world into "Global village." Awan and Sheikh (2015) Pakistani women possess power and authority to control the governance of the territory while at in the same territory welfare and status of women in backward area is among the lowest in the world. In Pakistan ball of pendulum of economic, social, political, and cultural progress is swinging. Though these indicators have been improved regarding women in absolute terms, yet the scenario does not show relative improvement in comparison of status of women against men.

1.2. Objectives of the Study

1. To study different aspects of the social status of women in D.G. District
2. To study of the determinants of women empowerment in the remote areas of D.G.Khan District.

2. Literature Review

Women have never been in a stronger position to lead, change, and shape the economic, social, and political landscape. Things changed in 21 century but still empowerment of woman is a debatable topic as it is defined differently in different regions, religions, and differently in many countries. What actually empowerment is and how it is measured is debated in the development literature. Haq (1995) reported a very low value of Gender Development Index (G. D. I) and Gender Empowerment Measure (G.E.M) for our region. 0.4 percent (G.D.I) and 0.23 percent (G.E.M) . The value of GDI for Pakistan is 0.383 percent, Bangladesh (0.336) percent, Nepal (0.308) percent, India (0.410) percent, Maldives (0.599) percent, and Sri Lanka (0.699) percent. The value of G.E.M is found to be lowest for Pakistan among these five countries that indicate the lack of opportunities for women to participate in economic activities. Nazli &Hamid (1999) concluded in country like Pakistan the general deprivation of humans is extremely high. Population density is 163 persons per square kilometer; population growth rate is 2.6 %. Nearly 45million individuals don't have enough income to finance their basic necessities of life. 40 percent populations do not have access to safe drinking water; Majority is living without sanitation facilities; and 23percent die before the age of 40 years (Human development Report, 1997). Talking about the women they described that women are considered as subordinate to men and their role is confined to the household chores and childcare. They rarely have access to productive resources and have very limited participation in important household decisions. The male members take decisions of a women's life, such as, education, work, marriage, major purchases, number of children and decisions regarding children education and marriage. Awan (1987) analyzed the female labor supply in cottage industry using primary data. He concluded that poverty is the reason, which compelled women to be the part of the cottage industry. Poverty is strong and statistically significant. Age of the women and their hours spend on work have positive relationship. He observed that women living in remote areas work fewer hours than their other counterparts do. The ultimate effect of education of females on their labor supply is indeterminate because holding wages constant; increase in the level of women's education can increase the probability of women's participation and time allocation in market production. Norris(2003) in "Rising Tide "traces the uneven advance of gender equality across states and then offers compelling arguments about both the causes and consequences of this advance. Norris is the first who to systematically compare attitudes towards gender equality worldwide comparing almost seventy nations. Awan,et al (2015) women in Pakistan have less autonomy or control over their lives than do Indian women. Muslim women, either Indian or Pakistani, exercise less autonomy in their own lives than do Hindu women in the subcontinent. Findings suggest that in the patriarchal and gender-stratified structures governing the northern portion of the subcontinent, women's control over their lives is more constrained than in the southern region. Regression results showed that region has strong impact on autonomy than religion. Parveen and Leonhauser (2004) studies the level of women's empowerment rural Bangladesh. They chose six empowerment key indicators and a cumulative empowerment index (CEI). Qualitative and quantitative data collection methods are adopted in Mymensingh district of rural Bangladesh. They suggested a strategic action plan by involving all government organizations (GOs), non-government organization (NGOs), women's organizations (WOs) and other society members and proposed a framework to show rural women's empowerment process. Goldin (2006) described modern economic role of women in four phases. The first three phases were evolutionary and the last was revolutionary. Phase I occurred from the late nineteenth century to the 1920s; Phase II was from 1930 to 1950; Phase III extended from 1950 to the late 1970s; and Phase IV, the "quiet revolution," began in the late 1970s and is still ongoing. Chaudhry (2007) investigated the impact of gender inequality in education on economic growth in Pakistan. The results show that Islamic concept of women empowerment can be strengthened by the women's education, education of her household members, health facilities, less number of household members and no fear of violence. Islam ensures maximum women's rights. It is our typical social norms, old traditions imported from other religions and ignorance from the true teachings of Islam, which has made today's women vulnerable. It was also found that gender inequality in initial education reduces economic growth.

3. Research Methodology

According to the nature of the study, primary data was used for analysis. Dera Ghazi Khan District, a remote area in Southern Punjab, was selected as a study unit. Our sample size was of 200 respondents and Random Sampling techniques were used to collect the Data from main tehsils of Dera Ghazi Khan:

1. Tehsil Dera Ghazi Khan (150 respondents, 90 respondents from urban area and 60 from rural area)
2. Tehsil Tribal Area (50 respondents)

Women of age from 14 to 70 were interviewed, including all the married, Unmarried, working, non-working and Educated and Un-educated to compare their respective values of Empowerment Index. For sample design, data were taken from the Federal Statistical division and it based on the population census 1998. For collection of information a detailed questionnaire was developed and distributed among 200 respondents.

To measure the impact of women Empowerment an Index was developed according to the pattern used by many of the authors mentioned earlier and especially rely on Hashemi, Amin Becker and Bayes(1998), as their work seems most relevant for women status in Pakistan also.

4. Results and Discussions

According to our hypotheses, the independent variables like education of women (EDUC), years of women's schooling (YOSC), doing any paid work (WORK), having bank account (BACT), access to media (MEDIA), opportunities for outing (OUTNG), per capita income of the household (PINC), participation rate (PART), dependency ratio (DEPR), education index of household (EDUI), age of women (AGRES), marital status (MART), community of woman not believing on typical outdated socio-cultural norms (CMUNTY), asset ownership by the respondent (ASSET) and knowledge of Islamic concept of women empowerment (ISLAM) all have positive impact on cumulative women empowerment index (CEMP).

There are some explanatory variables, which have negative impact on CEMP according to hypothesis, they are, joint family structure (FAMILY), number of household members (NOHM), fear of violence (VOIL) and distance of health unit from respondent's home (DSHU). Dependent variables are CEMP(cumulative empowerment), PAUT(Personal autonomy), FDMI(Family decision making), EDCI(Economic Domestic Consultation) and POAT(Political Autonomy).

For the purpose of Regression Analysis, The ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method is used to find out the estimates from the statistical observations. In this study, the simple linear regression model is used to modify the relationship between independent variables and dependent variables. In order to check the significance of the model various tests like R-square, adjusted R-square, t-test and F-statistic were also taken. Adjusted k-square is also used.

Among the total sample of 200 respondents, 105 were found as working women and 95 was the number were those women who don't do any job. Main reasons of not participating in any earned activity are: no permission, unskilled or uneducated, student/aged/ill, do not like. Among the 105 working women, 71 percent were those who work on need base which is due to higher level of poverty in the area. Table 1 below explains the results of women's participation in the selected economic indicators.

Table 1 Descriptive Statistics of Economic Indicators

Economic indicators	Frequency	Percentage
1 Non-working respondent	95	47.5
Reasons of not doing a job		
1-No permission	20	21.6
2-Unskilled/un-educated	50	52.6
3-Student/aged/ill	15	15.7
4-No need	5	5.2
5-Don't like	5	5.2
2 Working respondent	105	52.5
Reasons of doing a job/paid work		
1-to kill time	5	4.7
2-Need	72	68.5
3-interest	12	11.4
4-All above	16	15.3
Types of work done		
1-Agri	20	19.1
2-Teaching	30	28.5
3-Handicraft	35	33.3
4-Business/Banking/medical	12	11.4
5-others	8	7.6
3 Having a bank account		
if yes= 1	47	23.5
No= 0	153	76.5
4 Asset ownership		
If yes =1	20	10
No= 0	180	90
5 Women as household head		
If yes =1	28	14
No= 0	172	86
Total	200	100

Table 2 Descriptive Statistics of Social and Demographic Indicators

Area of respondent	Access to media		Fear of Violence		Visit for recreation		Marital status	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Urban area	73	81	9	10	75	83	46	51
Rural area	29	48	15	25	23	38	45	75
Tribal area	10	20	31	62	12	24	36	72
Total	102	51	55	27.5	110	55	135	63.5

Table 3 Types of Education

Area of respondent	Education		Quranic Teaching		Joint Family System	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Urban area	84	93	55	61	28	31
Rural area	27	45	15	22	34	56
Tribal area	6	12	5	10	21	42
Total	117	58.5	75	37.5	83	41.5

Analyzation of the both tables 2 and 3 shows women empowerment is higher in urban areas than the rural and in tribal areas women empowerment is very low because of the lack of women's participation in the above-mentioned economic, social and demographic indicators.

Table 4 Descriptive Statistics of Total sample, n=200

Variables	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
ISLM	0.6950	1.0000	0.4616	0.0000	1.0000
FAMILY	0.6600	1.0000	0.4749	0.0000	1.0000
WORK	0.4500	0.0000	0.4987	0.0000	1.0000
BACT	0.2350	0.0000	0.4251	0.0000	1.0000
MEDIA	0.5150	1.0000	0.5010	0.0000	1.0000
OUTNG	0.4750	0.0000	0.5006	0.0000	1.0000
CMUNTY	0.8600	1.0000	0.3479	0.0000	1.0000
DEPR	0.3190	0.2610	0.3145	0.0000	2.5000
PART	0.5465	0.5000	0.2758	0.0000	1.5000
EDUI	6.931	5.000	6.214	0.000	20.000
NOHM	6.670	7.000	2.328	2.000	12.000
AGRES	31.370	28.000	11.509	15.000	70.000
MART	0.9100	1.0000	0.586	0.0000	3.0000
DSIU	8.680	4.000	8.377	1.000	45.000
YOSC	6.775	5.000	7.054	0.0000	16.000
LOG-PINC	3.2213	3.2210	0.5915	0.0000	5.4510
ASSET	0.0950	0.0000	0.2940	0.0000	1.0000
VOIL	0.3250	0.0000	0.4696	0.0000	1.0000
EDUC	0.5350	1.0000	0.5000	0.0000	1.0000
CEMP	0.4151	0.4173	0.1566	0.0175	0.8000

Tables 5 gives us a clear picture of different variables that how they are correlated with each other.

Table 5.5 Correlations (Pearson)

	CEMP	PAUT	FDMI	EDCI	POAT	YOSC	EDUC	VOIL
PAUT	0.648							
FDMI	0.691	0.288						
EDCI	0.769	0.282	0.452					
POAT	0.731	0.443	0.375	0.415				
YOSC	0.001	0.150	0.019	-0.111	0.035			
EDUC	0.086	0.213	0.072	-0.072	0.111	0.494		
VOIL	-0.157	-0.239	-0.038	-0.080	-0.135	-0.242	-0.188	
DSHU	-0.076	-0.128	-0.076	-0.030	0.011	-0.269	-0.283	0.226
MART	-0.054	-0.055	-0.039	0.040	-0.117	0.339	0.182	-0.131
AGRES	0.105	-0.074	0.220	0.099	0.181	0.092	-0.100	-0.081
NOHM	-0.263	-0.265	-0.189	-0.174	-0.162	-0.068	-0.176	0.168
EDUI	0.420	0.399	0.105	0.232	0.505	-0.046	0.085	-0.033
PART	0.291	0.151	0.309	0.196	0.124	0.039	0.031	-0.131
DEPR	-0.080	-0.172	0.069	-0.019	-0.102	-0.102	-0.109	0.066
CMUNTY	0.075	0.167	0.195	0.061	0.170	0.075	0.086	0.034
OUTNG	0.494	0.392	0.286	0.334	0.509	0.023	0.124	-0.104
MEDIA	0.432	0.590	0.193	0.175	0.406	0.047	0.219	-0.138
BACT	0.530	0.366	0.295	0.356	0.519	-0.044	0.091	0.018
WORK	0.346	0.175	0.379	0.263	0.183	-0.060	-0.063	0.123
FAMLY	-0.327	-0.270	-0.146	-0.299	-0.208	-0.071	-0.182	0.025
ASSET	0.277	0.160	0.196	0.247	0.199	-0.060	-0.006	-0.043
Log-PINC	0.081	0.172	0.010	0.052	0.018	0.430	0.530	-0.263
ISLM	-0.435	0.454	0.234	0.165	0.484	0.162	0.275	-0.236
	DSHU	MART	AGRES	NOHM	EDUI	PART	DEPR	CMUNTY
MART	-0.082							
AGRES	0.020	0.141						
NOHM	0.165	0.048	0.061					
EDUI	0.004	-0.220	-0.150	-0.170				
PART	-0.093	-0.196	-0.016	-0.277	0.038			
DEPR	0.002	0.022	0.116	0.101	-0.407	0.090		
CMUNTY	0.003	0.061	0.027	-0.051	-0.268	0.056	0.151	
OUTNG	-0.074	-0.093	-0.079	-0.223	0.538	0.106	-0.149	-0.107
MEDIA	-0.019	-0.149	-0.139	-0.224	0.432	0.257	-0.139	-0.161
BACT	-0.018	-0.217	-0.037	-0.211	0.551	0.186	-0.194	-0.116
WORK	0.037	-0.205	-0.003	-0.006	0.095	0.495	0.019	-0.012
FAMLY	0.063	0.016	0.130	0.280	-0.238	-0.096	-0.010	0.075
ASSET	0.084	-0.038	0.117	-0.145	0.230	0.042	-0.157	-0.017
Log-PINC	-0.211	0.248	-0.019	-0.061	0.040	0.118	-0.125	0.103
ISLM	-0.115	-0.065	-0.029	-0.239	0.362	0.126	-0.059	-0.111
	OUTNG	MEDIA	BACT	WORK	FAMLY	ASSET	Log-PINC	
MEDIA	0.422							
BACT	0.417	0.326						
WORK	0.206	0.254	0.376					
FAMLY	0.311	-0.274	-0.324	-0.115				
ASSET	0.238	0.144	0.383	0.187	-0.235			
Log-PINC	0.092	0.161	0.012	-0.024	-0.067	-0.020		
ISLM	0.304	0.357	0.265	0.250	-0.177	0.141	0.047	

Results obtained using Mini-Tab as statistical programmed

Table 5 helps to check the relationship between the variables to analyze their inter-dependence. All the results are according to the hypothesis. Only MART shows negative correlation with CEMP. This tables gives us a clear picture of different variables that how they are correlated with each other along with the sign of correlation.

Table 6. Regression results of the determinants of women empowerment based on total sample, n=200

Explanatory variables	Explained variables				
	CEMP	PAUT	FDMI	EDCI	POAT
Constant	0.194* (2.66)	0.453* (5.78)	0.019*	0.128 (1.28)	-0.33
YOSC	-0.002*** (-1.78)	0.003*** (1.68)	-0.001 (-0.067)	-0.007* (-2.96)	-0.000 (0.29)
Family	-0.032*** (-1.65)	-0.020 (-0.79)	-0.01 (-0.72)	-0.107* (-3.16)	---
Work	0.031 (1.40)	0.015 (0.63)	0.129* (5.06)	0.052 (1.42)	0.008 (0.33)
Bact	0.098* (3.70)	---	---	0.131* (3.10)	---
Media	0.041** (2.07)	0.180* (6.63)	0.024 (0.85)	---	0.102* (3.84)
OUTNG	0.60* (2.92)	0.032 (1.15)	---	---	0.168* (6.51)
Cumnty	0.014 (0.59)	---	0.29* (3.59)	---	---
Log-pic	0.004 (0.28)	0.009 (0.45)	---	0.30 (1.07)	---
DEPR	0.008 (0.27)	---	---	---	---
EDUI	0.001 (0.65)	0.004** (2.00)	0.0006 (0.26)	---	---
PART	0.034 (0.90)	---	---	0.095 (1.50)	---
NOHM	-0.002 (-0.66)	-0.008 (-1.72)	-0.009** (-1.74)	---	---
AGRES	0.002* (3.07)	---	0.004* (4.14)	0.002*** (1.94)	0.004* (4.43)
MART	0.26*** (1.66)	0.006 (0.31)	0.008 (0.36)	0.071* (2.50)	-0.027 (-1.29)
DSHG	-0.004 (-0.44)	---	-0.001 (-1.04)	---	---
VOIL	-0.021* (3.09)	---	---	---	---
Islam	0.066* (3.09)	---	---	---	---
Asset	0.0001 (0.00)	---	---	0.050 (0.89)	---
R-Squared	0.516	0.41	0.32	0.26	0.37
Adjusted R-Squared	0.46	0.38	0.28	0.22	0.35
F-Statistic	10.71*	15.04*	8.13*	7.43*	19.04*

Notes: * Indicates that coefficients are significant at the 1 percent level

**Indicates that the coefficients are significant at the 5 percent level.

***Indicates that the coefficients are significant at the 10 percent.

5. Conclusions

Regression results of the total sample depict the situation that women empowerment in such a remote area has some distinct requirements like education of the household, awareness in the community with outing opportunities, significant impact of media and knowledge Islamic teachings about women rights. These are the factors that provide guidance and direct the policy makers and relative institutions to achieve the goals of women empowerment in the area. The results show that statistically positive impact on women empowerment is due to their access to media, having their own bank account, doing any job, opportunities for outing. Urban women are in better condition due to access to these facilities. While women living in a joint family system and facing fear of violence from father/husband have significant negative impact. Results show that only married women are empowered in tribal area. So, if women are not provided equal chances of development, we shall stay behind as a backward and underdeveloped nation.

6. Policy implementation

Following points are suggested as policy implication:

1. Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
2. Creation of contributive environment for women's broad participation in all fields, including promotion of women's legal rights.
3. Eradicate illiteracy among women and they must be enlightened with the true Islamic teachings

- regarding women rights.
4. Their tribal customs, poor transportation facilities, long distance health centers, and lack of basic health facilities must be improved their health condition
 5. Provide women skills training and different vocational courses to enhance their abilities.
 6. Strict laws and their implementation in this area must be ensured against harmful traditional practices in the shape of early marriages, Vanni, Watta Satta and Karo Kari and badly effects the women.
 7. Very important and Active role of Govt. NGO's, Media, Educationist, Writers and Religious personals to spread true picture of Women rights in accordance with cultural and Religious needs.

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