

# Correlation between Individual as well as Cumulative Education of the Family and the Level of Women Empowerment: A Psychological Analysis

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**Abstract:** Education is a mile stone of women empowerment because it enables them to response to the challenges to confront their traditional role and changed their life. We can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment. It also brings an efficient reduction in inequality and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. One of the most important factors that influence the women empowerment level is the level of education of the family. An educated family would be expected to have a more liberated thought process not bound by the traditional shackles. It would be expected to have more acceptance to the idea of women empowerment. Only the educated family can recognize the importance of woman in the management of the family and can respect her decision making, whereas, a family with lesser education level might not fully appreciate women's decision-making ability. The present study explores the role of education in women empowerment and to see the impact of family education level on the level of women empowerment. It is also a target of the study to evaluate the impact of the level of women's own education on her level of empowerment.

**Keywords:** Education, Women Empowerment, Family management.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Education has been recognized as an essential agent of social change and development in any society of any country. Expression is an instrument through with modernization and social changes come to existence. Education exposes people to new thoughts and ideas and provides necessary skills. So, thinking about harmonious development without educating women is impossible. So, education is the key factor for women empowerment, prosperity development and welfare. Women constitute almost half the human race. Therefore, the emphasis with regard to women education should be to equal the multiple role as citizens, housewife, mother and contributor to the family income, builders of new society and of course builder of the nation. Such strength comes from the process of empowerment and empowerment will come from the education.

Education is important for everyone but it is especially significant for women. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru quotes while underlying the importance of women education that "Education of boy is education of one person, whereas education of a woman is the education of the entire family". So, educated women make the family and the society cultured. Surapur[1] explored the possibilities and opportunities for women empowerment. They found out that the woman should continue higher education and career by strategizing and acknowledging the support of their family members. Mallika and

Courtney[2] studied the importance of higher education in offering empowerment to women, the economic independence and increased understanding with the family. Murtaza[3] examined the current status of women in higher education in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Taxak [4] studied the disparity in education across the socio-economic spectrum in India. Makopadhyay[5] investigated the role of education in the empowerment of women in the district of Malda, West Bengal. Agrawal and Kukreti[6] analysed the role of higher education in women empowerment by identifying the greatest hindrance in the path of women empowerment. Halakerimath and Danappagourdra[7] studied the empowerment of women through education in area of Hubli-Dharwad. Bhat[8] analyzed that education is mile stone of women empowerment as it provides them to respond to the challenges to confirm their traditional role and changes in their life.

## **II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this research is to analyze the women empowerment from different denominations:

- (a) To analyze the relationship between education level of the family and the level of women empowerment,
- (b) To investigate the relationship between education level of women and the level of the empowerment.

## **III. RESEARCH QUESTION**

The following research questions were formulated on the basis of the objective defined above: -

- (a) What is the relationship between the education level of the family and the empowerment level of women in that family?
- (b) What is the relationship between the education level of a woman and her level of empowerment?

## **IV. HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY**

On the basis of the objectives above the following hypotheses have been proposed: -

1. Higher education level of the family, higher the level of women empowerment
2. Higher the education level of women, higher the level of women's empowerment

## **V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The respondents have been selected from Muzaffarpur and were asked to fill a Personal Data Sheet (PDS) and the questionnaire.

The sample size and the number of respondents selected were 320. Depending upon the level of education, the categories of the subjects were made as, no education, primary, Secondary, and Higher. Family Educational Status Index varying from 2-5 and structure of the family (joint or nuclear), were used to calculate the educations status of the family.

## **VI. TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES**

1. One day camp was organized in Muzaffarpur town and surrounding area and all the 320 respondents after screening of PDS were selected from the same.
2. Empowerment questionnaire: For measuring the level of empowerment by using cumulative empowerment index.
3. Statistical analysis: The mean (average) and variance (standard deviation) of the data collected were calculated and the p-value of the data were estimated.
4. One way ANOVA test was carried out for all the classes of respondents across all the dimensions to establish the validity of analysis

The ANOVA has been carried out for all the twelve combinations, household, economic and social scores, across education levels of the respondents' family structure and the education level of the family.

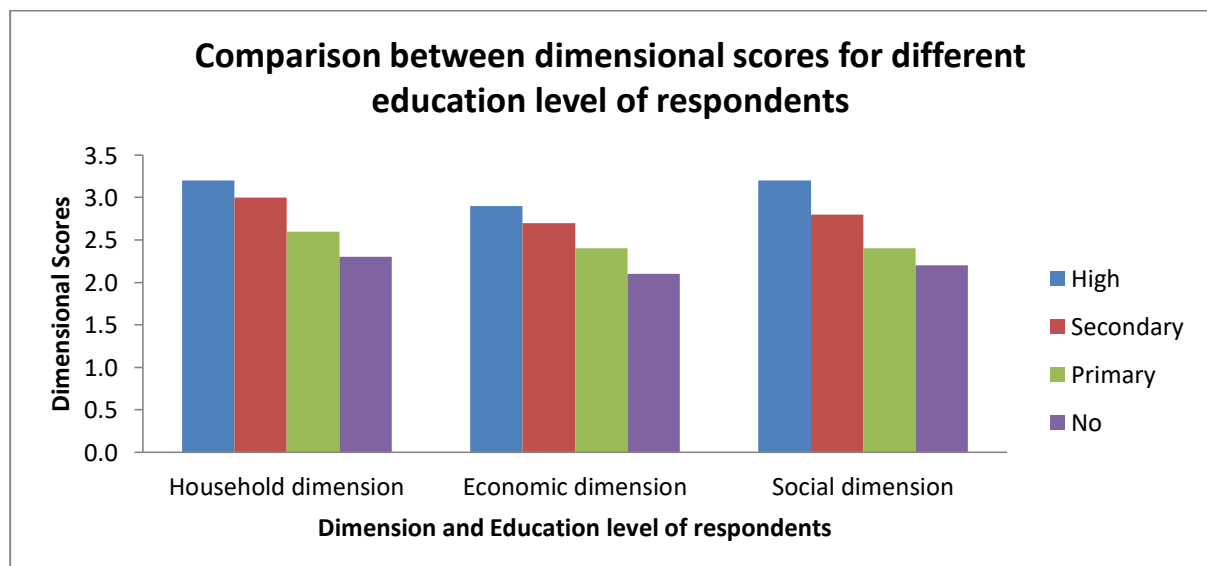
## VII. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### *Effect of education level on the level of empowerment*

The results of education level of women and the level of empowerment have been shown in following table-1 and figure-1.

**TABLE I: showing the impact of education level on the level of empowerment across all sub dimensions.**

Sub-dimension/Self education level	High	Secondary	Primary	No	Overall
Final say on own healthcare	3.6	3.2	2.5	1.8	2.79
Final say on childcare	3.3	3.2	2.7	2.3	2.85
Final say on food to be cooked each day	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.7	3.25
Decision on supporting natal home	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.32
Decision on employing domestic help	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.53
<b>Household dimension</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.75</b>
Who decide how to spend money	3.1	2.7	2.2	1.8	2.45
Final say on large household items purchases such as furniture	3.2	2.8	2.3	1.7	2.52
Decision on buying gifts for social events	3.3	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.92
Decision on loan to be taken for family needs	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.42
Contribution to household income	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.21
<b>Economic dimension</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.50</b>
Final say on visiting relative and family	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.98
Visit outside the village/city alone	2.9	2.5	2.1	1.4	2.22
Go to doctor / hospital alone	3.2	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.74
Political views	2.8	2.3	2.0	1.9	2.22
Decision on social events	3.8	3.3	2.8	2.7	3.18
<b>Social dimension</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.67</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.60</b>



**Fig. 1: Showing the gradual decrease in empowerment score as one moves down the level of education of the respondent across all the dimension of empowerment**

The education level of the respondents plays a major role in determining the level of empowerment of the women. The present study also represents the same. The exhibits presented here clearly indicate the fact that there is a profound impact on the level of empowerment with change in the level of education of the respondent. The respondents with higher education level show higher level of empowerment.

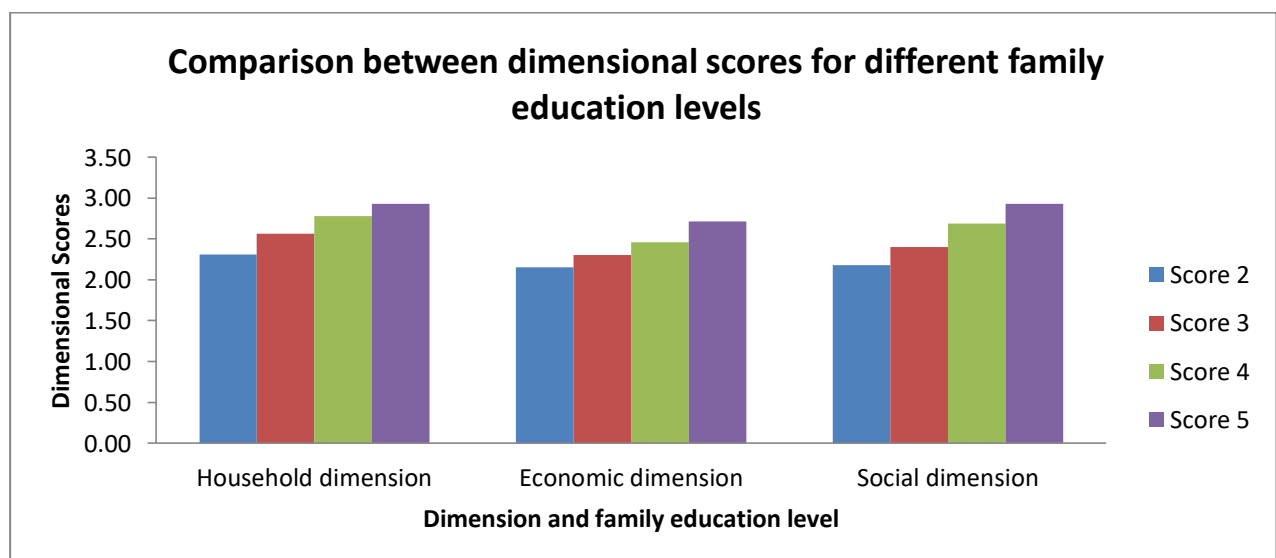
However there exist another point of discussion that some of the elements so extremely high gradient from one education level to another whereas other scores are bunched together and show little deviation across education level.

### *Effect of families education level on the level of empowerment*

The results of family education level on the level of empowerment have been shown in following TABLE II and Fig.2.

**TABLE II: Showing the impact of family education level on the level of empowerment across all sub-dimensions**

Sub-dimension/Education level	2	3	4	5	Overall
Final say on own healthcare	2.24	2.65	2.84	2.96	3.24
Final say on childcare	2.26	2.68	2.88	3.16	3.29
Final say on food to be cooked each day	3.13	3.17	3.25	3.26	3.44
Decision on supporting natal home	1.80	2.01	2.34	2.64	2.81
Decision on employing domestic help	2.13	2.29	2.57	2.65	3.01
<b>Household dimension</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>2.56</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>3.16</b>
Who decide how to spend money	2.03	2.24	2.41	2.68	2.88
Final say on large household items purchases such as furniture	2.23	2.36	2.49	2.71	2.80
Decision on buying gifts for social events	2.30	2.56	2.91	2.21	3.63
Decision on loan to be taken for family needs	1.92	2.14	2.50	2.70	2.82
Contribution to household income	2.28	2.19	2.00	2.25	2.33
<b>Economic dimension</b>	<b>25.15</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>2.46</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.89</b>
Final say on visiting relative and family	3.16	3.02	2.86	2.88	2.96
Visit outside the village/city alone	1.55	1.87	2.21	2.53	2.96
Go to doctor / hospital alone	1.92	2.32	2.92	3.16	3.36
Political views	1.88	1.98	2.22	2.42	2.60
Decision on social events	2.37	2.82	3.24	3.64	3.81
<b>Social dimension</b>	<b>2.18</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>2.69</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>3.14</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>2.60</b>	<b>2.90</b>	<b>3.10</b>



**Fig 2: Showing the correlation between empowerment scores and family structure of the respondent across all the dimensions of empowerment.**

Based on the analysis of the data collected, it has clearly been established that there exists a positive correlation between the level of education of a family and the level of empowerment i.e. greater the level of family education, higher the level of empowerment. Thus, the hypothesis proposed in the study stands verified.

The hypothesis proposed in this field was that higher the education level of a respondent, greater will be the level of empowerment. This hypothesis gets verified by the empowerment scores of different education level of respondents across all the dimension of empowerment. Overall an average respondent from the highest education level is 42% more empowered than an average respondent from the lowest education level. The difference is almost uniformly distributed across the education levels and there is no sharp jump or declines upon changing of the education level.

This is true across all the dimension of empowerment, however the level of influence on the empowerment score with change in education level is different for different dimension. It is the highest for the social dimension i.e. an increase in level of education of the family, is expected to have the biggest impact on the social empowerment of the women. The least impact is for the score of economic dimension that an increase in the education level of the family would increase the level of empowerment the least, in the economic empowerment here.

### VIII. CONCLUSION

From the analysis of the above discussion, it is found that education directly influences the level of empowerment correlated with the level of the education of the respondents as well as the level of the families education of the respondent.

Human being can cooperate with the society only with the educational tool. Education also brings about a reduction in the gender inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. Education of women is the most powerful tool for changing their position in the society. Educating a woman will lead to educating the whole generation and in turn the whole globe.

Women empowerment is directly linked to the empowerment of health and quality of life of a woman and family and in turn contributes a lot towards the social development. Hence, it can be concluded that education is the key factor for women empowerment.

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