

SOCIOLOGY

"EDUCATIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY AMONG MUSLIM WOMEN IN SAHARANPUR: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY"

ABSTRACT

It is generally seen that the real situation of Muslim women is not very encouraging. Muslim women are facing discrimination with respect higher education and modern occupation. Low level of education and economic dependence appear to have subordinated the Muslim women in reality. The present work has tried to find out the changing status of Muslim women in educational and occupational set-up. Of course there are various studies like A.R. Saiyed (1976). Zarina Bhatti (1976), Rokaiya Begum (1999) related to some aspects of Muslim women but there are lesser empirical studies of educational and occupational mobility specifically of Muslim women of different regions like that of West Uttar Pradesh. The present study thus focused on educational and occupational mobility in particular among Muslim women. The present works have been studied in the context of Saharanpur city of Western Uttar Pradesh. The universe of the present work consists of the highly educated and working Muslim women. Data has been collected by using observation, interview, interview schedule and case studies.

Through the present study, it has been known that the biggest change in Muslim community has been that higher educational is considered essential for Muslim girls. Majority of the respondents believe that if they want to progress, will have to increase their percentage in higher and professional education. Muslim Women consider Professional education as important source for development of women in Muslim community. So they have started sending girls away from home for higher education, which is a very significant change in the traditional religious structure of the Muslims.

Most of the respondents believe that independent financial existence is possible only through higher education and can combat the changing socio, academic and economic scenario. Muslim women believe that education gives many opportunities of upliftment and improving in social status, enable them to face any situation, better future of family and community is possible.

Analyzing the data of occupational mobility, we find amazingly change that all respondents are in favour of access to occupations for Muslim women. Their most important point is that they are coming out of orthodox thinking and making their own

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independent identity in modern professions. It reflects respondents' awareness about relevance of occupation in changing scenario.

One of the most significant changes has been the thinking of Muslim women about seclusion. The present study shows that Muslim women have started to change about purdah, yet still, with some transformation, the purdah remains an essential part of Muslim women's life. They believe that they can get education by staying in the purdah and are also doing it. Purdah does not hinder progress even with that the can.

In conclusion it can be said that to overcome their educational and economic backwardness and to improve the situation, Muslim women have been making a lot of efforts, the result of which have started showing.

Based on the above analysis, we can say that there is mobility among Muslim women in the area of in education and occupation. Educational and occupational mobility is comparatively better in the present generation in comparison to the past generation. Muslim women doing job and professions as well. It is another matter that their presence is still very thin. If we compare with other communities' women, then their presence worth counting on the fingers. Thus we can say that till now the backward and typical image of Muslim women is slowly improving.

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