

Change in Perception Towards Women Empowerment: A Study on Select Students in Kolkata District of West Bengal

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ABSTRACT

Women are an inseparable part of our society but still they find several difficulties in getting their rights even in the era of twenty first century. Indian Constitution has reserved the provisions for women empowerment through their rights of education, health, security, jobs, skills, decision making authority, better standard of living, and respect. Empowerment of women is to develop their potential to participate in any kind of activities including economic activities, politics, decision making, etc. with greater degree of independence. The present study has described various government initiatives and several influencing factors for empowering women. The study has been conducted with five dimensions of Women Empowerment that include Perception of Self Respect, Respect by others, Participation in family income, Role in family decision making, and future expectations regarding Society. With the help of convenient sample survey on 100 female students (both UG and PG), an assessment has been made regarding women empowerment and women mindset towards their future course of actions. The present study has used both primary and secondary data. Descriptive statistics is used.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Decision Making, Govt. Initiatives, Gender Equality, Self-Respect.

INTRODUCTION

As a part of religious practice and social belief embedded in our mindset and cultural tradition, we offer worship to both God and Goddess with Spirituality. The degree of such religiousness is not subject to any kind of gender specific discrimination. However, the contrasting situation has been predominantly prevailed in our society at present. Gender biased discrimination hits the psychology of people which deprives women from getting their minimum rights and due respect. Women face harassment in many places including office, transport vehicles, political fields and so on. Secondly, premature marriage backed by tremendous family pressure prevents the life of a girl to be blossomed with complete education, leading to her hidden potential remain unutilized. Apart from these, the Superstitions, false belief, social taboos and narrower thinking of common people also act as a barrier towards the improvement of social status of Women since childhood.

According to Swami Vivekananda, **“The best thermometer to the progress of a Nation is its treatment of its Women.”** In this backdrop, empowering women is inevitable for overall development of the Country at large.

Women Empowerment can be reflected through the events like power of women to think and independent decision making, having equal access to all resources, development of innovative skills and presence of more female worker in work place, emergence of female leaders in both corporate culture and political arena and so on.

For a healthy and sustainable society, co-existence of male-female with equal strength of each sex is extremely desirable. Women are an inseparable component of human community and prerequisite for overall social and economic development. Imparting education to women and empowering them have been recognized as an important resource for socioeconomic development. Higher education facilitates women with the skills and knowledge which help them to get an employment and income. Now-a-days, it is found that in majority of families there are co-existence of female earner(s) and male earner(s). A working woman contributes to the family in order to reduce financial crisis in the family. Moreover, an educated woman is

expected to educate others to become educated, thus helping to the process of transmission of education for unborn generation to come. So an educated and empowered woman has better contribution for her family, society and future generation too. Sultana A. M. (2010) thinks that in the poorest regions of the world, developing women's education and training is likely to be a very powerful way of fighting against poverty. According to her, in various developing countries like India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, son preference acts as major cultural barrier. In recent years, women's education and empowerment have been given high priority in India. It includes few initiatives on the part of government like "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan", "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao", "Kanyashree Scheme", "Sukanya- A self-defense programme", "The Indira Gandhi Sahyog Yojana Conditional Maternity benefit plan(CMB)", "Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent girls- Sabla", "Rashtriya Mahila Kosh – Access to loan for low income women", "Priyadarshini – Access to Self-help group" and so on.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Previously researches tried to explain the meaning and different factors responsible for empowering women in their own way. It includes some significant studies in our review as follows.

Mokta M. (2014) has defined "Women Empowerment" in her article titled "**Empowerment of Women in India: A Critical Analysis**" as developing them as more aware individuals, who are politically active, economically productive and independent and are able to make intelligent discussion in matters that affect them.

Sultana A. M. (2010) has suggested with the help of a model that women empowerment is influenced by intellectual and financial resources. Resources such as educational attainment, occupation and income may play an important role in increasing women power and empowerment.

Doepke M. and Tertilt M. (2014) has defined female empowerment is not regarded as a generic concept that has uniform effects at all stages of development. Reducing discrimination against women in terms of education is more likely to promote economic development, but even here there are potential adverse effects in terms of less time spent on educating their children.

Sohail M. (2014) has developed a story where prevailing education system plays an important role in empowering women which ultimately leads to Family Empowerment. Women should have higher education and career opportunities. Male dominancy, a greatest bar towards honoring basic right of women education, should be minimized.

Wichterich C. (2009) has mentioned in an article titled "Trade – A Driving Force for Jobs and Women's Empowerment? Focus on China and India" that 'women are making use of the new job and income opportunities, and over the years have developed an awareness of rights and a sense of dignity as wage earners.'

OECD (2012) has developed an idea about 'Gender Equality' in an article titled "**Poverty Reduction and Pro-Poor Growth: The Role of Empowerment**". It intends to start with women by integrating gender-specific perspectives at the design stage of policy and programming. It gives more equitable access to assets and services – land, water, technology, innovation and credit, banking and financial services – will strengthen women's rights, increase agricultural productivity, reduce hunger and promote economic growth.

Jabeen F. and Jabeen M. (2013) has developed an idea on the basis of an experiment made in Pakistan that an empowered women with high confidence can play the role of the change maker of the family, society and the whole country. Societal & cultural constraint is great hindrance to get legal security for female in that country.

According to Sheikh Q., Meraj M. and Sadaqat M. (2016), the extent of women education depends on socioeconomic structure. Economic growth can be achieved through active participation of a class of educated and empowered women.

Research gap:

Previously no study has been made on college and university students of Kolkata to assess their perceptions towards women empowerment in respect of Self Respect, Respect by others, Participation in family income, Role in family decision making, and future expectations regarding Society. The proposed study has also described few initiatives on the part of Government and different influencing factors for empowering women changing their mindset.

Objectives of the Study:

The proposed study has been conducted with the aim to fulfill the following objectives which includes:

1. To discuss various initiatives taken by the Government (both Central and State) towards Women Empowerment.
2. To know different factors influencing women empowerment.
3. To assess women empowerment for selected respondents.
4. To study future expectations towards women empowerment.

Data Collection and Methodology:

Area	Women Empowerment
Selected Sample	Colleges(UG) and Universities(PG) in Kolkata district of West Bengal
Data Source	Primary and Secondary Data
Study Period	15 th January to 20 th February, 2017
No. of Respondents	100 female students
Procedure of Sample Survey	Convenient Sampling
Methodology	Descriptive Statistics

Means to empower Women:

Women Empowerment is not a brand new phenomenon of 21st Century. In India, several efforts have been made to empower the women since pre-independence era. It started with Mahatma Gandhi’s National Freedom Movement constituting women about 50% of the country’s total population. Raja Ram Mohan Roy’s “Brahma Samaj”, ‘widows’ remarriage and educating women’ program by Vidyasagar followed by the introduction of the Widow Remarriage Act in 1856, Swami Vivekananda’s “Shri Ramakrishna Mission” for women education and self-dependence, etc. are remarkable contribution in this context.

In Post-Independence era, several political and cultural efforts on the part of Govt. of India (GOI) have been made to strengthen women from different dimensions in the society. In this context, employment and political participation of women took a major role. The year 2001 was declared as “Year of Women Empowerment” and every year on 8th March, “International Women’s Day” has been celebrated. The GOI had implemented various schemes for the socio- economic development.

Few Legislative measures taken to secure women’s Interest includes:

- The Special Marriage Act, 1954- Provides right to women for inter-caste marriage, love marriage and registered marriage.
- The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955-prohibits child marriage, polygamy, polyandry & provides equal rights to women to divorce and to remarry.
- The Hindu Succession Act, 1956- provides right to parental property.
- The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 – provides right to adoption of child by childless woman.
- The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961-prevents giving and taking dowry and women exploitation.
- The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 – to provide equal remuneration to men and women, and preventing gender discrimination
- The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986
- National policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001.

Few constitutional provisions in this regards includes:

- Equality before law for all persons (Article-14);
- Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15(i));
- Equality of opportunity for all citizens relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state (Article 16);

- State policy to be directed to securing for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood (Article 39(a); (v) equal pay for equal work for both men and women (Article 39(d);
- Provisions to be made by the state for securing just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief (Article 42);
- Promotion of harmony by every citizen of India and renouncement of such practices which are derogatory to the dignity of women Article 51A(e)
- Reservation of not less than one-third of total seats for women in direct election to local bodies, viz; Panchayats and Municipalities (Articles 343(d) and 343 (T).

In spite of the various measures taken on the part of government after Independence and even during British rule the Women haven't been fully empowered. However, we have seen women President Mrs. Pratibha Patil (2007-2012), Mrs. Sumitra Mahajan (2014 onwards) and Mrs. Meira Kumar (2009-2014) in the seat of Lok Sabha Speaker, Mrs. Soniya Gandhi, Chief Supremo of All India Congress Party, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal (Incumbent), and so on in political arena. In Corporate Context, women have equal presence like Dr. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, CMD of Biocon Ltd., Neelam Dhawan, MD of Microsoft India, Mrs. Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairman of State Bank of India, and so on.

Following are the few more measures towards empowering Women:

- Economic Empowerment of Women
- Prevention of Gender Discrimination
- Education of Girl Child
- Prevention of Dowry System
- Encouraging women for pursuing Higher Education
- Building strong aspiration towards Career
- More Platform to raise women Voice
- Arrangement for Women's self-Employment
- Reservation for Women in Education, Job opportunities.
- Reservation for women in respect of Political Participation
- Better Access to public facilities and Social Welfare
- Giving women more Autonomy through Legal Means

Several Initiatives by Governments for Empowering Women:

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA): With the aim to disseminate elementary education to mass people and ensuring social justice, GOI has introduced Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education for All Movement) giving Fundamental Right for children (the ages of 6 to 14 years) to have free and compulsory education. Though the project was introduced by GOI, but the funds required for the program is being shared between centre and state in the proportion 85-15. Through this program, Children can be able to inculcate value learning and bridging the regional and social imbalances can be made.

Kanyashree Prakalpa: With the aim to prevent child marriage, Govt. of West Bengal has introduced "Kanyashree Prakalpa". This scheme ensures a conditional cash transfer directly to the bank account of the girl student in order to improve her status and well-being of in West Bengal. The scheme is applicable to all girls between the ages of 13 to 18 studying in class eight to class twelve in any govt. affiliated school. The scheme provides Rs. 500 (Five hundred only) per annum, and a lump-sum grant of Rs. 25000 (Twenty Five thousands only) between 18 to 19 years pursuing higher education.

Sukanya Scheme: Another landmark scheme of Govt. of West Bengal is "Sukanya Scheme." Through the scheme, girl students (must studying in and above class eight) are trained the Martial Arts in order to defend themselves if they face attack. The scheme builds Self-discipline, socialization skills, self-esteem, self-respect, conflict resolution skills, and teamwork skills in them.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana (BBBP): It is another flagship program of GOI introduced to provide welfare service for girls through generation of awareness and improving efficiency of women. The BBBP (Save and educate girl child) scheme came to prevent sex selective abortion, ensuring survival and protection of girl child and to provide education to girl child through participation.

The Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY): This program was introduced in 2010 by GOI in order to provide Maternity Benefits to the women. Under the scheme, pregnant and lactating women having age 19 years or more will receive Conditional Cash Transfer for the first two child births.

Sabla: This Scheme is introduced by GOI for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – Sabla” in 2011. It promotes awareness on health, hygiene, nutrition, reproductive and for the purpose of self-development and empowerment of adolescent girls.

Swabalamban Scheme: Through the Scheme, training is given to the poor and needy for improvement of their vocational skill to enable them to undertake income generating Activities for achieving self-reliance on sustained basis. In West Bengal, Women Development Undertaking has been responsible for the implementation of the project through joint collaboration with reputed NGOs. Trainings are imparted on weaving, mat making, beautician courses, manufacturing jute items, zori crafts, repairing, computer literacy, public health work, etc. Once trainings end, the trainees get employed or start self-employed.

Swayamsiddha: This is the integrated Women Empowerment programmer for underprivileged and backward women in rural area with the aim to bring their self-respect, self-awareness, increasing potential to overcome difficulties, and to overcome sufferings, helplessness, and frustration of the individuals. This scheme forms Self Help Groups (SHGs) in different districts of west Bengal, disbursing credit to those socially and economically backward for their Self-employment.

Educational Initiatives: Different women centric educational initiatives on the part of Govt. of West Bengal includes first time establishment of University for Women, State women’s college, various polytechnics hostels and Govt.-sponsored Library for women. The WB Govt. has also given bicycles to the school girls in rural areas.

Women Police: The West Bengal Government has adopted a ‘zero tolerance’ approach towards crime against women. The Government is setting up police stations run exclusively by women police officers. As of now, the Government has set up 30 Women Police Stations, as these are termed.

Analysis:

The role of education in Social and economic up liftment of women is universally accepted. Without education, ‘empowerment’ has no meaning at all. In Indian context, literacy plays a dominant role towards country’s socio-economic progress. Indian literacy rate has achieved 74.04% (2011) from 12% at the time of Independence in 1947. Currently, India has largest illiterate population. Despite different programs taken by the government, the growth of Indian literacy has been sluggish. Census Report 2011 has revealed a picture of wide gender disparity achieving 82.14% for men (age 7 and above) and 65.46% for women. The low female literacy rate brings adverse impact on Family planning and population stabilization efforts in India. However, the census has reported that growth in female literacy (11.8%) rate was substantially faster than male literacy (6.9%) in 2001-2011 decade. It leaves us an indication of gender gap becoming narrower.

Najma Heptulla, Hon’ble Governor, Manipur, said that laws and schemes for benefitting women formulated in the country have become instrumental in empowering women. She thought that India is a better destination in comparison to the rest of the world so far as the situation of women facing lot of challenges.

The Process of empowering women paves the way towards self-respect, Self-realization, decision making ability, substantial role in family decision making and mostly, the greater voice of women on determination of their future course of actions. Presently, India has experienced more female representation in political activities, social movements and also in corporate world. The phenomenon improves the status of Indian women through self-sufficiency, self-independence, economic independence, greater social recognition,

There has been an inherent inertia in the mindset of people towards women education. Talukdar. S. (2015) has diagnosed that ‘significant differences about the status and rights of women’ and ‘Religious orthodoxy’ have been responsible for inherent backwardness of the general mass of women.

At this juncture, Central Govt. and West Bengal Govt. came up with several projects for the purpose of educational and social development of women.

The Present study has been conducted keeping in mind the following yardsticks on the basis of which responses from the respondents are analysed and evaluated.

1. **Perception about Self Respect:** The sense of Self Respect plays a crucial role in recognizing women as important and inseparable in the society. But the women having low or no self-Confidence often face difficulties in Public Place due to inability to raise their voice. However with the passage of time, women are becoming more aware towards their self-respect.
2. **Perception about Respect by others:** Respect can be defined as a positive feeling of regard by one person. If that respect comes from many persons in the society, then the person concerned feels more empowered. Disrespecting people leads to misconduct, while good conduct brings proper respect.
3. **Participation and controlling power in Total Family Income:** Economic Income of women boosts the sense of economic freedom, self-sufficiency and self –Independence. Few examples are emergence of dual earner family, significant contribution in total family income by the women and so on. Economic Independence gives women more controlling power over family spending decision.
4. **Role in Family Decision Making:** Previously India has experienced male dominancy over any kind of decision making. However time has changed, more autonomy has been given to women’s opinion causes Female dominance over family decision making.
5. **Expectations regarding Future Course of Actions:** This segment intends to enquire the participants’ mindset towards their future course of actions.

Findings:

Following are the factors leading to women empowerment, which are tested with the help of data obtained through sample survey and interpreted accordingly.

1. As per sample survey, 36% women think that they enjoy respectable status at present society, which is essential characteristic of women empowerment. Rest 64% respondents feel no respect in the society.

Respectable status of women at present		
Total	Yes	No
100	36	64
Source: Primary data (2017)		

2. 62% of the respondents consider Government initiatives as a crucial factor improving the self-respect of women.

Govt. Initiatives can improve Self-Respect		
Total	Yes	No
100	62	38
Source: Primary data (2017)		

3. Though majority of respondents do not associated with any Organization or any kind of social work, however they (65%) think that membership in any women organization is helpful for raising women voice in better way. 41% of total respondents take training for protecting their self-respect if they face attack from outside source.

	Total	Yes	No
Membership in women Organization for better women voice	100	65	35
Involved in Social Work	100	11	89
Associated with Organization	100	7	93
Training for protecting Self Respect	100	41	59
Source: Primary data (2017)			

4. Education is the most powerful weapon to influence women empowerment and self-Respect, followed by enactment of law for securing Women Right and introduction of more women centric initiatives. Respondents were allowed to choose more than one option here.

Factors influencing Women Empowerment and Self-Respect	
Total Responses: 120	
Education	58 (48.33%)
Participation in Politics	12(10.00%)
Women centric Govt. Initiatives	20(16.67%)
Enactment of Law for Women Right	28(23.33%)
Others	2(1.67%)
Source: Primary data (2017)	

5. As per our sample survey, 70% of the respondents find significant (extreme and good) importance from family while they address any problem. It is imperative in the context of significant importance on the part of the family for the women at present.

Importance of family received on problems raised by women	
Total Responses:100	
Extreme	44
Good	26
Average	25
Poor	3
No Importance	2
Source: Primary data (2017)	

6. As per our study, Majority of Women (approximately 87.34%) feel free to express their opinion in their family, College or University and Local area, because they (approximately 91.56%) find proper and adequate respect there. Respondents are allowed to choose more than one preferences here.

	Free to express opinion	Find adequate respect
Total Responses	150 (100%)	154 (100%)
Own Family	68 (45.34%)	78 (50.65%)
College/University	35 (23.33%)	36 (23.38%)
Local Area	28 (18.67%)	27 (17.53%)
Club	14 (9.33%)	10 (6.50%)
Other place (s)	5 (3.33%)	3 (1.94%)
Source: Primary data (2017)		

7. As per our study, female students find most respect from professors and their female friends also, while they find comparatively less respect from their male friends. As a result they feel more comfortable to express their opinion(s) and also take leading role in any kind of agenda(s) in their colleges or universities.

Respect at College or University	
Total: 188(100%) [More than one response is allowed]	
Professors	70 (37.23%)
Male Friends	38 (20.22%)
Female Friends	80 (42.55%)
Source: Primary data (2017)	

Assessment of Women Empowerment can be made through Economic and Non-economic aspects.

8. As per our study, it has been observed that Government initiatives are substantially advantageous to 37% (first two categories together), good to 20%, not good to 32%, while the same is inadequate to 11% of respondents. At present, significant (60%) number of female students earn approximately one-fourth of their total family income at present, although the dominance (53%) over the spending decision has been kept with their parents. The students used to spend more money for their family, education and personal expenditure with the help of income earned by them or from other receipts. Approximately, 44% of the respondents want to save 25%-50% of their income while 47% of the women want to become the sole earner in their family. It shows the economic empowerment of women leading to the progressive change in the mindset of women in terms of contribution in total family income.

9.

Role of Government Initiatives in Women Empowerment				
Absolutely	Very Good	Good	Not Good	Inadequate
15	22	20	32	11
Contribution of respondents in Total Family Income				
No Income	Less than 25%	25%-50%	50%-75%	Above 75%
7	60	15	13	5
Spending Pattern (More than one response allowed)				
Education	Family Exp.	Personal Exp.	Others Expenditure	
40	32	45	9	
Tendency to Save (% of total income)				
Less than 10%	10%-25%	25%-50%	50%-75%	Above 75%
15	15	44	20	6
Dominance over Expenditure Decision				
Only Father	Only Mother	Parents	Respondent	Others
18	16	53	13	0
Willingness to become Sole earner in Family in Future				
Total		Yes		No
100		47		53

Source: Primary data (2017)

10. As per our study, it is revealed that 34 respondents usually feel free to provide self-opinion to their family, while their (32%) opinions are honored occasionally like the same in case of decision making on domestic expenditure (31%). However, women are progressive and they (42%) want to take leading role in making maximum decisions in near future.

	Always	Usually	Occasionally	Rare	No
Free to Opine	23	34	24	16	3
Opinion honored	14	25	32	24	5
Decision honored in domestic expenditure	7	20	31	30	12
Nature of Decision:	Final	Major	Shared	Rare	No
Decision Making Power	10	42	35	12	1

Source: Primary data (2017)

Mindset towards Future Expectations

11. As per our study, majority of women (70%) think that having a degree of graduation or masters is essential for a woman at present scenario. They want to see themselves as Corporate Professionals followed by self-Employment and government servant, while 15% respondents have passion to be politician while 8% wants to be home maker. It has been observed that remarkable % of respondents want to take self-decision regarding their career followed by the decision from parents. According to them, both male and female should be educated for a healthy society and 36% of women think that they hold the same capacity as men.

Minimum qualification for a woman at present				
High. Secondary	Graduation	Masters	Doctorate	Others
12	30	40	17	1
Desired Professions in Future				
Corporate	Home Maker	Self Employed	Politician	Govt. Servant
30	8	26	15	21
Decisions about continuance of respectable job				
Women Only		Head of the family	Parents	Others
67		4	26	3
Who should be more educated in a family?				
Male Member		Female Member		Both
4		14		82
Women possess exactly same capacity to Men				
Total		Yes		No
100		36		64

Source: Primary data (2017)

12. As per the present study, if they face sexual harassment, more than 50% girls are ready to fight back followed by legal and family intervention. For the purpose of improving the status of women in the society, the respondents suggested few measures like change in mindset of men towards women (41.67%), more female representatives in legislative assembly (16.67%), eradication of dowry system (13.33%) and ensuring equality in social justice (10.55%) on priority basis.

If women face sexually harassment	
The girl Should be careful	7
She should fight back	52
Family Intervention	11
Political Intervention	5
Legal Intervention	25
Source: Primary data (2017)	

Additional measures for Women Empowerment (More than one response is allowed)	
Educational improvement	30 (16.67%)
Mindset of Men to be changed	75 (41.67%)
More female representation	30 (16.67%)
Equality in social justice	19 (10.55%)
Eradication of Dowry System	24 (13.33%)
Others	2 (1.11%)
Total	180 (100%)
Source: Primary data (2017)	

Limitations of the Study:

The proposed study also has several limitations. Such limitations, however, can be taken as the subject of further research. Such limitations are as follows:

1. We have interviewed only 100 women respondents
2. The Study has been restricted to above-mentioned parameters. There may be other parameters on the basis of which degree of women empowerment can be better evaluated.
3. Actual responses may not be collected due to biased mindset of respondents.
4. The Study has been conducted over a limited period of time.
5. Dearth of Money and time have played as major Constraints.

CONCLUSION

Women who were the most dormant segment of Indian population have now become active participants in all walks of life. Till now, they were only unit of family organization, but now they are not only significant unit of the society but also influencing the course of social change in the society. Woman is now an important instrument of social mindset change and her participation in corporate is the measure of such social change in India. A woman no longer lags behind the man in most occupations. She can no longer be kept behind the curtains doing only domestic duties. A woman's intelligence, personality and perception successfully protects her family, her society from disruptions and disintegration in the modern world.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Name:

Address:

Caste: Unreserved/ Reserved/ Minority

Age:

Educational Qualification:

Profession:

Annual Income:

Are you engaged with any social work? Yes () No ()

Are you associated with any Organization or Club? Yes () No ()

Self-Respect and Respect by others

1. Do you think that women have a respectable status in today’s society after several initiatives taken by the Govt. since 2011?
Yes () No ()
2. Do you think that several Govt. initiatives can be able to improve women perceptions towards self-Respect?
Yes () No ()
3. Do you think that membership in any women organization is essential for improving women Voice?
Yes () No ()
4. Are you taking any kind of training for protecting self-respect that may be violated from outside attack?
Yes () No ()
5. Do you think that education can improve the women perception towards self-Respect?
Yes () No ()
If yes, then how much (1 to 5)
6. According to you, which of the following factor(s) can highly influence the Women Perception towards their Self Respect? (More than one response is allowed)
 - A. Education
 - B. Participation in Politics
 - C. More women oriented Govt. initiatives
 - D. Enactment of Law for securing Women Right
 - E. Others (if any, please mention)
7. If you address any problem, how much importance your family gives on that?
 - A. Extreme
 - B. Good
 - C. Average
 - D. Poor
 - E. No importance

Where you feel free to express your opinion? (More than one response is allowed)

- A. Own Family ()
- B. College/ University ()
- C. In your local area ()
- D. In any Club or Voluntary Organization ()
- E. Any Other place, if any, please mention ()
8. Where you find proper and adequate respect? (More than one response is allowed)
 - A. Own Family ()
 - B. College/ University ()
 - C. In your local area ()
 - D. In any Club or Voluntary Organization ()
 - E. Any other place, if any, please mention ()
9. Do you feel respected at your College/ University? (With Rating 1 to 5)
 - A. From Professors ()
 - B. From Male Friends ()
 - C. From Female Friends ()

Participation and Controlling power in Total Family Income

1. **At present, what proportion of Total Family Income constitute your income?**
A. No Income, B. < 25%, C. 25%-50%, D. 50%-75%, E. Above 75%
2. **Do you want to become sole Earner in your family in near future?**
Yes () No ()
3. **Who, in your Family, has the dominance over the expenditure decision?**
A. Only Father ()
B. Only Mother ()
C. Both Parents ()
D. You ()
E. Others (Please Specify)
4. **How do you spend?(More than one response is allowed)**
A. Education Expenditure ()
B. Family Expenditure ()
C. Personal Expenditure ()
D. Others ()
5. **How much of your income you want to save?**
A. Less than 10%, B. 10%-25%, C. 25%-50%, D.50%-75%, E. Above 75%
6. **Do you think that present initiatives by Govt. are adequate enough to an empowered women?**
A. Absolutely () B. Very good, C. Good () D. Not good ()
E. Inadequate ()
7. **Role in Family Decision Making**
 1. **Do you feel free to give opinion in your family?**
A. Always, B. Usually, C. Occasionally, D. Rare, E. No
 2. **Do you feel that your opinion (s) are duly honored in Family Decision(s)?**
A. Always, B. Usually, C. Occasionally, D. Rare, E. No
 3. **Do you think that your opinion (s) are duly honored in domestic expenditure decision?**
A. Always, B. Usually, C. Occasionally, D. Rare, E. No
 4. **In near future, how much decision making power you want to keep with yourself?**
A. Final decision () B. Majority of decision () C. Shared Decision Making ()
D. Rare decision Making () E. No decision making ()

Expectations regarding Future Course of Actions

1. **Where do you want to see women in future?**
A. Corporate Professionals
B. Home Maker
C. Self Employed
D. Politician
E. Government Servant
2. **Who should be more educated in a family?**
A. Male Members, B. Female Members, C. Both
3. **If a girl gets a respectable job like doctor, teacher, etc., then who should decide about the continuance of her career?**
A. Women only
B. Head of the family
C. Parents
D. Others
4. **Do you feel that women have exactly the same capacity to Men?**
Yes () No ()
5. **What should be the minimum qualification for an empowered women today?**

- A. Higher secondary, B. Graduation, C. Masters, D. Doctorate, E. Others
- 6. If you see a girl to be sexually abused before you, what should be done?**
- A. The girl should be careful
 - B. She should fight back
 - C. Family Intervention
 - D. Intervention by Political leader
 - E. Legal Action should be taken
- 7. Do you think that present initiatives by Govt. are adequate enough to an empowered women?**
- B. Absolutely () B. Very good, C. Good () D. Not good ()
E. Inadequate ()
- 8. According to you, what are the additional measures to be taken towards the further development of the status of women in society?**
- A. Educational Improvement
 - B. Mindset of Common people to be changed in society
 - C. More representation to Legislature
 - D. Equality in respect of Social Justice
 - E. Eradication of Dowry System
 - F. Other, if any please specify.