

Feminist Identity and Values of high earning professional women in relation to their life satisfaction

Dr Ramandeep Kaur

Assistant Professor, Lovely Faculty of Education, Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar, India
thindramandeep@yahoo.co.in

Abstract: The aim of the study was to know feminist identity, values and life satisfaction of high earning professional women. To compare feminist identity and values of high earning professional women belonging to medical, teaching, law and engineering in relation to their life satisfaction. The respondents of the study were 200 high earning professional women belonging to teaching, law, engineering and medical profession from two districts of Punjab (Jalandhar and Patiala). It was further bifurcated into different groups according to their different professions, levels of feminist identity, values and life satisfaction. Stratified random sampling technique was applied. To collect data from high earning professional women, feminist identity test, personal values questionnaire and life satisfaction scale standardized tools were used. The frequency distributions of feminist identity, life satisfaction and values were prepared for computation of Means and SD's. High life satisfaction and low life satisfaction groups of high earning professional women were identified by using P_{25} and P_{75} cut points for the total sample. Further high and low life satisfaction groups were formed for four types of professional women i.e. doctors, engineers, college/university teachers and lawyers. The F-test was used to find out significance of mean difference on feminist identity and values for high and low life satisfaction groups of high earning professional women belonging to the four types of professions in 4 x 2 factorial designs. Findings were- High earning professional women are lowest in Democratic values, irrespective of categories and are highest on knowledge value, Economic value and social value. Among high earning professional woman, women lawyers have highest and women doctors have lowest level of feminist identity. Doctors have highest level of life satisfaction as compared to lawyers having lowest level of life satisfaction.

Keywords: Feminist identity, Values, Life satisfaction and Professional women.

INTRODUCTION

In the present era, women are the pivots around whom the society and whole community moves. Nearly half of the population is of women. She has the equal right to receive education, inherit and own property, participate in public and political life of the nation. Women have become economically independent, can seek employment anywhere and remain not a domestic slave. They work in almost all the fields such law medicine, engineering and teaching, they are also entering into administration and business management. Women are politicians, bureaucrats and even pilots. In the field of literature, science and social reforms, women frequently played their glorious roles by their contributions.

In spite of opportunities thrown open to her in various fields along with some labor saving gadgets in house, she still seeks a place as an independent honorable human being contributing to the onward march of humanity. It is to be explored as yet that to what extent has the society accepted and approved the changed status of women. Antipina et al. (1994) reported that women are being treated as commodities or semi-autonomous beings; while society continues to claim that they are equal to men. Many a time, legislation which is supposed to protect women employees, work against their interests. The constitutional laws that have been formulated and passed by our parliament with much fanfare have proved ineffective check the crimes against women. Only making of Laws is no solution, there implementation is must. Proper implementation of laws without first changing the basic values which are hindering it, can be a futile effort. A change in the attitude of the society is a prerequisite for bringing about any substantial change in the status of women. A woman in her entire life plays a variety of roles as a wife, sister, mother, friend etc. But what her actual identity as a human being is stills a question to be probed for.

Significance of the Problem

Gender equality in any social order is an important socio-political and psychological matter of concern. The participation of women in socio-economic development of a nation besides her typical role in the home is gaining attention of policy makers and planners. As in the present scenario women are more aware of their rights, though they grow professionally and become more identity conscious but still maintenance of identity is difficult for them due to the prevailing Indian conditions of male-domination. Even the values among high earning professional women are erasing slowly and slowly. They perform dual-role which burdened them with the responsibility of domestic work along with the official work, it happens because household work



is considered to be exclusively women's work. In this way, life satisfaction among women varies from individual to individual because of many psycho-social factors such as family background, socio-economic status, values etc. The increasing population of educated women in productive activities has raised a number of questions with regard to her security and her placement at the workplace. The issue to identify women in male-dominated society has been focus women studies pertaining to socio-psychological aspects of her life as an individual as well as family/community member.

While looking into the concept of feminist identity and values and consultation of review of related literature indicates the measurement of feminist identity and values and its antecedents, it is evident that this is an emerging area of research. There are only few studies in Indian setting. Since the role of women is most important and no nation can afford to ignore it, it is important to look into feminist identity and values. So, the present study is in this direction to look into feminist identity and values among high earning professional women in terms of their life satisfaction.

Objectives

The study was undertaken with the view of the following objectives:

- To know feminist identity of high earning professional women.
- To study values of high earning professional women.
- To reveal the life satisfaction of high earning professional women.
- To compare feminist identity of high earning professional women belonging to medical, teaching, law and engineering in relation to their life satisfaction.
- To compare values of high earning professional women belonging to medical, teaching, law and engineering in relation to their life satisfaction.

Hypotheses

- High earning professional women have high feminist identity.
- High earning professional women have comparatively higher level mean score on knowledge, social, economic and democratic values and low levels on power, aesthetic, health, religious, family prestige and hedonistic values.
- High earning professional women have high life satisfaction.
- There is significant difference in feminist identity of high earning professional women belonging to medical, teaching, law and engineering in relation to their life satisfaction.
- There is significant difference in ten values of high earning professional women belonging to medical, teaching, law and engineering in relation to their life satisfaction.

Delimitations

The sample of the study was 200 high earning professional women related to teaching, law, engineering and medical professions of Patiala and Jalandhar district only.

METHODOLOGY

Sampling Frame

The respondents of the study were 200 high earning professional women belonging to teaching, law, engineering and medical profession from two districts of Punjab (Jalandhar and Patiala).

Sampling Technique

Keeping in mind the nature of problem stratified random sampling technique was applied. To conduct the present study sample of 200 high earning professional women were considered, it was further bifurcated into different groups according to their different professions, levels of feminist identity, values and life satisfaction.

Tools

- Feminist identity test by S.K. Bawa and Neeraj Sharma
- Personal values Questionnaire (PVQ) standardized by G.P. Sherry and R.P. Verma
- Life satisfaction scale standardized by Q.G. Alam and R. Srivastava

Statistical Techniques

The frequency distributions of feminist identity, life satisfaction and values were prepared for computation of Means and SD's. High life satisfaction and low life satisfaction groups of high earning professional women were identified by using P_{25} and P_{75} cut



points for the total sample. Further high and low life satisfaction groups were formed for four types of professional women i.e. doctors, engineers, college/university teachers and lawyers.

The F-test was used to find out significance of mean difference on feminist identity and values for high and low life satisfaction groups of high earning professional women belonging to the four types of professions in 4 x 2 factorial designs.

Main Findings

1. Feminist Identity among High Earning Professional Women

The high earning professional women have their feminist identity score ranging from 110 to 229 with the mean score of 176.40 and SD= 23.15. This shows that high earning professional women have comparatively high level of feminist identity.

The mean feminist identity score of women lawyers came out to be highest i.e. 185.70 (SD = 17.86) followed by engineers (Mean = 176.90; SD = 25.34) and college/university teachers (Mean = 176.70; SD = 25.94). The women doctors have shown lowest mean feminist identity score of 164.30 (SD = 22.76). So, the hypothesis "High earning professional women have high feminist identity" was accepted. From these results it may be concluded that women lawyers have highest and women doctors have lowest level of feminist identity among high earning professional women.

2. Value Pattern of High Earning Professional Women

Professional women have highest score on knowledge values (Mean = 17.26) and lowest mean score on democratic values (M = 5.23).

In case of women doctors, the highest score came out on social values (17.68) and lowest mean score on democratic values (M=5.86).

In case of High Earning Professional Women teachers have the highest score on social value (M= 17.50) and Knowledge value (M = 17.08) but democratic value with lowest mean score (5.68).

Among women engineers, the highest score turned out to be on social value (M= 17.50) and knowledge value (17.50) and lowest mean score on democratic value (M = 5.86)

In case of women lawyers the highest mean score was on economic value (17.74) and knowledge value (M = 17.50) and lowest mean score on democratic value (6.64). The hypothesis "**High earning professional women have comparatively higher level mean score on Knowledge, Social, Economic and Democratic values and low level mean score on Power, Aesthetic, Health, Religious, Family prestige and Hedonistic values**" was partially accepted. It seems that high earning professional women are lowest in democratic values, irrespective of categories and are comparatively highest on knowledge, social and economic values.

The professional women were ordered in terms of magnitude of mean score on different values, they have comparatively higher mean score on knowledge value (Mean 17.26), social value (Mean 16.60) and economic Value (M=16.37). They have shown average level of power value (M = 13.41) and Aesthetic value (M= 13.12). The professional women have shown moderate level on health value (M= 10.99), religious value (M=10.98), family prestige value (M=10.56) and hedonistic value (M= 9.31) and lowest level on democratic value (M = 5.23).

3. Life Satisfaction among High Earning Professional Women

High earning professional women have obtained life satisfaction score ranging from 30 to 59 and mean score of 50.15 (SD= 6.80). This shows that high earning professional women have shown a very high level of life satisfaction. It may also be seen that women doctors have the highest mean life satisfaction score (51.90), followed by college/University Teachers (49.40), engineers (48.20) and lowest in case of Lawyers (47.40). The hypothesis "**High earning professional women have high life satisfaction**" was accepted. It may be concluded that among high earning professional women having high level of life satisfaction, doctors have highest level and lawyers have lowest level of life satisfaction.

4. Formation of Factorial Design

To find out significance of differences in feminist identity and values among different categories of high earning professional women in relation to high and low levels of life satisfaction 2 way factorial design was set up. There were 50 subjects in each of the four groups. On the basis of distribution of life satisfaction scores of 200 professional women high and low satisfaction groups were formed. To make these groups P_{25} and P_{75} cut-points worked out for total sample. Values came out to be 97 or above and 45 or below. The professional women scoring less than P_{25} or above P_{75} cut-points on life satisfaction scores were categorized into low and high satisfaction groups for each of the four categories namely, doctors, teachers, engineers and lawyers. The two way ANOVA (4 x 2) was carried out with 91 cases out of 200. The feminist identity scores and scores on 10 values namely religious value, social value, democratic value, Aesthetic value, economic value, knowledge value, Hedonistic value,



power value, family prestige value, and health value were treated as dependent variable for the purpose of computation of ANOVA results.

5. Feminist Identity among Different Groups of High Earning Professional Women in Relation to their Life Satisfaction.

The results of ANOVA showed that the F-value for the main effect of different groups of high earning professional women came out to be 5.09, which is significant at .01 level. This indicates that high earning professional women belonging to different categories differ significantly amongst each other in their feminist identity. Women Lawyers (Mean = 188.80) differs significantly from other three groups of high earning professional women. Women doctors (M = 161.40) have lowest level of feminist identity and differs significantly from other three groups of high earning professional women.

The F-value for the main effect of life satisfaction on feminist identity among high earning professional women came out to be 1.43. It is not significant even at .05 level. This shows that high earning professional women having either high or low level of life satisfaction do not differ significantly in their feminist identity.

The F-value for the interaction effect of different categories of professional women and levels of life satisfaction came out to be 0.23. It is not significant at .05 level. This means that the mean differences amongst different groups of professional women do not get affected by level of life satisfaction, i.e. high and low. The hypothesis **“There is significant difference in feminist identity of high earning professional women belonging to medical, teaching, law and engineering in relation to their life satisfaction”** was not accepted.

6. Value Pattern among High Earning Professional Women in Relation to their Life Satisfaction

6.1 Religious Value

The results of ANOVA showed that the F-value for the main effects of categories of high earning professional women and life satisfaction along with their interaction came out to be 0.65, 0.04 and 0.37 respectively. None of these F-values is significant even at .05 level. This means that high earning professional women do not differ significantly in their religious value across different categories of jobs and level of life satisfaction.

6.2 Social value

The results of ANOVA showed that the F-value for the main affect of different groups of high earning professional women came out to be 7.67, which is significant at .01 level. This indicates that high earning professional women belonging to difference categories differ significantly amongst each other in their social value. Women lawyers have a mean score of 14.16, which is lowest and significantly different from women doctors engineers and teachers. It may also be stated that women doctors (Mean = 17.09), College/University Teachers (M = 17.78), and women engineers (M = 18.19) do not differ significantly in their social value.

The F-value for the life satisfaction on social value came out to be 3.53. It is not significant at .05 level. This means that high earning professional women with high and low levels of life satisfaction do not differ significantly in their social value.

The F- value for the interaction effect of groups of high earning professional women with life satisfaction came out to be 1.78. It is not significant at .05 level. This shows that there is no significant interaction between different categories of professional women with high and low levels of life satisfaction on social values.

6.3. Democratic Value

The results of ANOVA showed that the F-value for the main effects of categories of high earning professional women and life satisfaction along with their interaction came out to be 1.35, 0.98, 0.81, respectively. None of these F-values is significant even at .05 level. This means that high earning professional women do not differ significantly in their democratic value across different categories of professions and levels of life satisfaction.

6.4 Aesthetic Value

The results of ANOVA showed that the F-value for the main effect of different groups of high earning professional women came out to be 5.24, which is significant at .01 level. This indicates that high earning professional women belonging to different categories differ significantly amongst each other in their aesthetic values. women teachers (Mean = 14.43) having highest level of aesthetic value differs significantly from women lawyers (M=10.86) but do not differs significantly from women doctors (M=14.09) and women engineers (M=14.31). Women lawyers (M =10.86) have lowest level of aesthetic value and differs significantly from other three groups of high earning professional women.



The F-value for the main effect of life satisfaction on aesthetic value among high earning professional women came out to be 0.002. It is not significant even at .05 level. This shows that high earning professional women having either high or low level of life satisfaction do not differ significantly in their aesthetic value.

The F-value for the interaction effect of different categories of professional women and levels of life satisfaction came out to be 1.14. It is not significant at .05 level. This means that the mean differences amongst different groups of professional women do not get effect by levels of life satisfaction, i.e. high and low.

6.5 Economic Value

The results of ANOVA showed that the F-value for the main effect of different groups of high earning professional women came out to be 6.13, which is significant at .01 level. This indicates that high earning professional women belonging to different categories differ significantly amongst each other in their economic value. Women lawyers (Mean = 17.30) differs significantly from other three groups of high earning professional women. Women doctors (M = 14.31) have lowest level of economic value and do not differs significantly from other two groups of high earning professional women i.e. women teachers (M=14.47) and women engineers (M=14.62) but differs significantly from women lawyers (M=17.30).

The F-value for the main effect of life satisfaction on economic value among high earning professional women came out to be 0.059. It is not significant even at .05 level. This shows that high earning professional women having either high or low level of life satisfaction do not differ significantly in their economic value.

The F-value for the interaction effect of different categories of professional women and levels of life satisfaction came out to be 1.77. It is not significant at .05 level. This means that the mean differences amongst different groups of professional women do not get affected by levels of life satisfaction, i.e. high and low.

6.6 Knowledge Value

The results of ANOVA showed that the F-value for the main effects of different categories of high earning professional women and life satisfaction along with their interaction came out to be 1.05, 2.38 and 0.13 respectively. None of these F-values is significant even at .05 level. This means that high earning professional women do not differ significantly in their knowledge value across different categories of jobs and levels of life satisfaction.

6.7 Hedonistic Value

The results of ANOVA showed that the F-value of 1.41 is not significant at .05 level. This means that there is no significant mean difference in hedonistic value of different categories of high earning professional women, belonging to either high or low level of life satisfaction.

6.8 Power Value

The results of ANOVA showed that the F-value for the main effect of different groups of high earning professional women came out to be 5.29, which is significant at .01 level. This indicates that high earning professional women belonging to different categories differ significantly amongst each other in their power value. Women lawyers (Mean = 16.26) differs significantly from other three groups of high earning professional women. Women engineers (M=12.69) have lowest level of power value and differs significantly from women lawyers (M=16.26) but do not differs significantly from women teachers (M=12.82) and women doctors (M=12.81).

The F-value for the main effect of life satisfaction on power values among high earning professional women came out to be 0.04. It is not significant even at .05 level. This shows that high earning professional women having either high or low level of life satisfaction do not differ significantly in their power values. The F-value for the interaction effect of different categories of professional women and levels of life satisfaction came out to be 0.22. It is not significant at .05 level. This means that the mean differences amongst different groups of professional women do not get affected by levels of life satisfaction, i.e. high and low.

6.9 Family Prestige Value

The results of ANOVA showed that the F-value for the main effects of categories of high earning professional women and life satisfaction along with their interaction came out to be 0.66, 0.38 and 0.23 respectively. None of these F-values is significant even at .05 level. This means that high earning professional women do not differ significantly in their family prestige value across different categories of professions and levels of life satisfaction.

6.10 Health Value

The results of ANOVA showed that the F-value for the main effect of different groups of high earning professional women came out to be 4.98, which is significant at .01 level.



This indicates that high earning professional women belonging to different categories differ significantly amongst each other in their health value. Women lawyers ($M = 12.90$) differs significantly from other three groups of high earning professional women. Women teachers ($M = 9.13$) have lowest level of health value and differs significantly from women lawyers ($M = 12.90$) but do not differs significantly from other two groups of high earning professional women i.e. women teachers ($M = 10.21$) and women engineers ($M = 9.68$).

The F-value for the main effect of life satisfaction on health value among high earning professional women came out to be 0.18. It is not significant even at .05 level. This shows that high earning professional women having either high or low level of life satisfaction do not differ significantly in their health value.

The F-value for the interaction effect of categories of professional women and levels of life satisfaction came out to be 0.32. It is not significant at 0.5 level. This means that the mean differences amongst different groups of professional women do not get affected by levels of life satisfaction, i.e. high and low. The hypothesis **“There is significant difference in ten values of high earning professional women belonging to medical, teaching, law and engineering in relation to their life satisfaction”** was not accepted.

CONCLUSIONS

Owing to the analysis of the results of the present study, the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. Among high earning professional woman, women lawyers have highest and women doctors have lowest level of feminist identity.
2. High earning professional women are lowest in Democratic values, irrespective of categories and are highest on knowledge value, Economic value and social value.
3. High earning professional women and high level of life satisfaction doctors have highest level as compared to lawyers having lowest level of life satisfaction.
4. High earning professional women having either high or low level of life satisfaction do not differ significantly in their feminist identity.
5. Women lawyers ($M = 188.80$) have significantly higher level of feminist identity as compared to college/university teachers, doctors and engineers, whereas doctor ($M = 161.46$) have significantly lower level of feminist identity than college/university teachers, lawyers and engineers.
6. High earning professional women do not differ significantly in their values namely democratic value, knowledge value, hedonistic value, family prestige value, social value, religious value and aesthetic value across different categories of professions and levels of life satisfaction.
7. In social value women lawyers have a mean score of 14.16 which is lowest and significantly different from women doctors, engineers and teachers but women doctors ($M = 17.09$), college/university teachers ($M = 17.78$) and women engineers ($M = 18.19$) do not differ significantly in their social value.
8. Among high earning professional women teachers having highest level of aesthetic value ($M = 14.43$) differs significantly from women lawyers ($M = 10.86$) but do not differs significantly from women doctors ($M = 14.09$) and women engineers ($M = 14.31$). Women lawyers ($M = 10.86$) have lowest level of aesthetic value and differs significantly from other three groups of high earning professional women.
9. Women lawyers ($M = 17.30$) having highest level of economic value differs significantly from other three groups of high earning professional women, whereas women doctors ($M = 14.31$) have lowest level of economic value do not differs significantly from other two groups of high earning professional women i.e. women teachers ($M = 14.47$) and women engineers ($M = 14.62$) but differs significantly from women lawyers ($M = 17.30$).
10. In power value women lawyers ($M = 16.26$) differs significantly from other three groups of high earning professional women. Women engineers have lowest level of power value ($M = 12.69$) differs significantly from women lawyers but do not differs significantly from women teachers ($M = 12.82$) and doctors ($M = 12.81$).
11. In health value women lawyers having highest mean value ($M = 12.90$) differs significantly from other three groups of high earning professional women. Women teachers ($M = 9.13$) have lowest level of health value differs significantly from women lawyers ($M = 12.90$) but do not differs significantly from other two groups of high earning professional women i.e. women engineers ($M = 9.68$) and women teachers ($M = 10.21$).



REFERENCES

- [1]. Atwood, Margaret (1972), Surfacing, Simon and Schuster publishers, New York.
- [2]. Bebel, August (1879), Women and Socialism. <http://www.marxists.org/archive/bebel/index.htm>.
- [3]. Beutell, Nicholas (2006), Life Satisfaction, Satisfaction, Sloan Work and Family Research Network, <http://wfnetwork.bc.edu/>
- [4]. Broudy, H.S. (1961), Building a Philosophy of Education. New Jersey: Printer Hall, P. 142-143.
- [5]. Chauduri, Maitrayee (2004,) Feminism in India: Issues in Contemporary Indian Feminism, Kali for Women, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminism-in-India>.
- [6]. Collins, Denise(2004), Feminist Identity, <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu>.
- [7]. Elmer, Spreitzer (2005) Age, Marital Status and Labor Force Participation as Related to Life Satisfaction. Sex Roles, 1(3), 235-247.
- [8]. Engels, Frederick (1884), The Origin of The Family, Private Property and The State, <http://www.marxists.Org/archive/marx/works/1884/originfamily/index.htm>.
- [9]. Jerry Copper (2006), What are values? <http://personaldevelopment.suite101.com/article.cfm>
- [10]. Kapur, Promila (1974), Changing Status of the Working Women in India. Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd. P.131-134.
- [11]. Kristin Gayle, Atkins (2004), Investigating Female Identity Formation: From Fairy Tales to Fabulous Lives, <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu>.
- [12]. Lall, Ramji (2002), A critical study of Jane Austen's Emma (1815). Rama Brothers, Educational Publishers.
- [13]. Pawar, Kiran (1996) ,Women in Indian History. Published by Brahamraj Singh vision and Venture, Patiala and New Delhi. P-262.
- [14]. Saul, Jennifer (2003,) Feminism. Oxford University Press, London. P.140-151.
- [15]. Sengupta, Padmini (1974), Story of Women of India. Published by Indian Book Company, New Delhi. P.10-12.
- [16]. Sharma, S.R. (1996) , Education and Modernization of Women. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House.
- [17]. Sherry, G.P. and Verma, R.P. (1971), Manual for Personal Values Questionnaire (PVQ)..National Psychological Corporation, Agra.
- [18]. Singh, Maina Chawla (2004), Feminism in India. Asian Journal of Women's Studies, 10 (2), 48.
- [19]. Sodhi, T.S. and Suri, Aruna (2005), Philosophical and Sociological Foundations of Education, Bawa Publications, Patiala.P.89-91.
- [20]. Thomas,Hardy (1891), Tess of the D' Urbervilles. New American Library.

