
The Attitude Of Homemakers And Their Contribution Towards The Well Being of A Girl Child

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Introduction

Nature has created men and women equally, but in the present world, women live around as appendage of man, be it the father, husband or son. The dominance of man in every sphere of life is not a phenomenon. Specific to a region but is universally observed.

Ideologically a girl child is considered as completely inferior species inferior to that of men having no significance and no identity. One important feature of the girl child's growth is associated with her attitude towards her parents and in turn the parents attitude towards her.

The societies in which boy children are strongly favoured also treat women as subordinate to men. It is as a result of sex selection women become fewer and fewer in number in sex ratio as the days go by.

Therefore the need arises to keep women in an comfortable, happy and safe atmosphere to bring up her children in good atmosphere and do here familial role in a perfect way. The people should be taught to bring sons and daughter on the basis of equality. The daughter should be given equal chances for education and employment as sons. They must be treated equivalent as sons. Dowry and marriage should not be a barrier to prevent their education and employment.

Objectives

- To assess the influence of demographic characteristics on the respondents
- To study the attitude of homemaker towards girl child as compared to boys.
- To assess the contribution of mothers towards the well being of their daughters in different stages of life.

Methodology

The sample of 125 home makers were selected, out of which 25 were categorized as uneducated homemakers, educated upto higher secondary level, graduate homemakers, post graduate homemakers and professional homemakers. The study was carried out with use of questionnaire and circulated randomly in Chennai city only purposive sampling technique was adopted. A pilot study was conducted with 20 samples to test the efficiency and validity of the questionnaire regarding the usefulness of data obtained and understanding on the part of the respondents. Hence the same questionnaire is used for main study.

Results And Discussion

The following statistical techniques were used in the analysis of data that is one way Analysis of variance (F test) Duncan's multiple range test and 't' test to test the significance of data.

Attitude of Homemakers and Family Members towards Girl Child as compared to Boys

The homemakers were interviewed about their attitudes towards preference for a child, health her clothing, education, food, pocket money given, celebration of the birth of a child and the entertainment of the child's friend at home. The views of her husband and her in laws were drawn through her.

Attitude towards Girl child

In general, majority of the homemakers remained neutral in their preference for girl child in the families (37 percent). Thirty two percent of the homemakers were greatly interested in preference for girl child and 22.4 percent were interested in having girl child in a family.

Their husbands (58 percent) were greatly interested in preferring girl child as only 16 percent remained neutral. It was followed by 12 percent, who were less interested in having girl child in a family.

From the table, it could be seen that both the homemaker and the husbands behaved alike in aspects namely girl child's education. Great Interest was taken in the food of girl child (61 percent) of homemakers and (55 percent) of husbands. Similarly Great Interest was taken by 59 percent of homemakers and 55 percent of husbands in girl child's clothing. It was followed by great Interest towards girl child's health (Only 54 percent of Homemakers and 44 percent of Husbands). Freedom given in the form of pocket money took a different picture. Fifty two percent of husbands took great interest in giving pocket money where as 59 percent of homemakers remained neutral. In celebrating the birth of girl child 46 percent of homemakers remained neutral. But 52 percent of the husbands has great interest towards it.

Regarding the in laws a maximum mean of 41 percent of them took great interest in girl child's health, clothing, food, pocket money given respectively. Fifty four percent of them remained neutral in celebrating the birth of a girl child. It is obviously seen that the in laws who gave the lowest score of one was found to be more in number than the husbands in all the aspects (except in celebrating the birth of girl child). (Fig 1)

TABLE - 1

The Attitudinal Difference between Girls and Boys in a family

Variable	Group	X	SD	SE	t-Value
Preference for child	Girls	9.68	3.47	0.3	+ 13.0**
	Boys	14.04	1.9	0.1	
Child's health	Girls	10.81	3.05	0.2	+ 11.44**
	Boys	13.98	2.08	0.1	
Child's education	Girls	10.51	3.15	0.2	+ 12.18**
	Boys	14.04	1.95	0.1	
Child's clothing	Girls	11.21	3.17	0.2	+9.91**
	Boys	14.02	1.99	0.1	
Child's Food	Girls	11.24	3.12	0.2	+9.66**
	Boys	13.99	2.02	0.1	
Pocket money given to child	Girls	10.45	3.54	0.3	+10.26**
	Boys	13.88	2.19	0.1	
Celebrating birth of child	Girls	10.35	3.28	0.2	+ 11.23**
	Boys	13.95	2.12	0.1	
Entertaining child's friend at home	Girls	10.23	3.69	0.3	+10.47**
	Boys	13.77	2.27	0.2	

Note - ** Significant at 0.1 level

From Table - it could be noted that, the attitudes of homemakers, her husband and her in-laws towards the girl and boys differed significantly. Their attitudes differed in all the variables namely preference for child, child's health, child's education, child's clothing child's food, pocket money given to the child, celebrating birth of child, and entertaining child's friends at home. Attitudes towards boys was much favourable than girls, as the mean values scored by boys was higher than the mean values scored by girls.

The uneducated homemakers were interviewed about their attitudinal difference between girls and boys. The views of her husband and her in-laws were also enquired.

TABLE - 2

The Attitudinal Difference between Girls and Boys in families with Uneducated Homemakers.

Variable	Group	X	SD	SE	t - Value
Preference for child	Girls	8.12	2.00	0.4	+ 14.52**
	Boys	14.72	1.06	0.2	

Child's health	Girls	9.04	2.09	0.4	+ 11.85**
	Boys	14.64	1.15	0.2	
Child's education	Girls	8.32	1.84	0.3	+ 14.51**
	Boys	14.68	1.14	0.2	
Child's clothing	Girls	8.84	1.72	0.3	+ 14.51**
	Boys	14.76	1.01	0.2	
Child's Food	Girls	9.00	2.02	0.4	+ 12.86**
	Boys	14.80	1.00	0.2	
Pocket money given to child	Girls	7.52	2.50	0.5	+ 12.97**
	Boys	14.80	1.00	0.2	
Celebrating birth of child	Girls	8.24	2.24	0.4	+ 13.98**
	Boys	14.80	1.00	0.2	
Entertaining child's friend at home	Girls	7.52	2.50	0.5	+9.90**
	Boys	13.20	2.24	0.4	

* Note - ** Significant at 0.1 level)

The results shows the attitudinal difference between girls and boys in families with uneducated homemakers was significant. The mean values of boys was noted to be higher (1%) than the mean values of girls. The attitudes of her husband and her in laws were also included with the homemakers views.

The graduate homemakers were interviewed about their attitudinal difference between girls and boys. The views of her husband and her in-laws were also drawn through her.

TABLE - 3

The Attitudinal Difference between Girls and Boys in families with Graduate Homemakers.

Variable	Group	X	SD	SE	t-Value
Preference for child	Girls	9.12	2.89	0.5	+8.93**

	Boys	14.36	1.65	0.3	
Child's health	Girls	10.64	2.84	0.5	+ 7.27**
	Boys	14.40	1.65	0.3	
Child's education	Girls	10.00	2.81	0.5	+ 7.97**
	Boys	14.36	1.65	0.3	
Child's clothing	Girls	11.28	3.02	0.6	+5.82**
	Boys	14.36	1.65	0.3	
Child's Food	Girls	11.04	3.12	0.6	+4.85**
	Boys	14.16	1.86	0.3	
Pocket money given to child	Girls	10.20	3.24	0.6	+5.03*
	Boys	13.84	2.30	0.4	
Celebrating birth of child	Girls	10.00	2.97	0.5	+5.26**
	Boys	13.92	2.15	0.4	
Entertaining child's friend at home	Girls	9.88	3.43	0.6	+6.65**
	Boys	14.24	1.71	0.3	

Note - * Significant at 0.5 level

** Significant at 0.1 level

It was found that families with graduates homemakers, her husband and her in laws also favoured boys more than girls.

The homemakers in different stages of life span were interviewed.

TABLE - 4

The Attitude towards Girls Child in Different stages of life

Variable	Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Squares	F - Value
Preference for child	Between groups	3	9.6262	3.2087	2617

	Within groups	121	1483.5738	12.2607	(NS)
Child's health	Between groups	3	22.2835	7.4278	7908
	Within groups	121	1136.4845	9.3924	(NS)
Child's education	Between groups	3	21.8632	7.2877	7256
	Within groups	121	1215.3687	10.0444	(NS)
Child's clothing	Between groups	3	10.0064.	3.33.55	3257
	Within groups	121	1239.1616	10.2410	(NS)
Child's Food	Between groups	3	6.2932	2.0977	2104
	Within Groups	121	1206.5068	9.9711	(NS)
Pocket money given to child	Between groups	3	12.6654	4.2218	3299
	within groups	121	1548.3426	12.7962	(NS)
Celebrating birth of child	Between groups	3	20.3932	6.7977	6250
	Within groups	121	1316.1188	10.8770	(NS)
Entertaining child's friend at home	Between groups	3	25.0053	8.3351	6049
	Within groups	121	1667.2667	13.7791	(NS)

This Table 4 gives the result of one way Analysis of variance (F test), carried out amount homemakers, where the girl children in different stages were analysed, between groups and within groups. Their attitudes towards girl child remained constant throughout various stages of life span. No significant difference was noted.

Conclusions

The results showed that majority of the homemakers and her in laws remained neutral in their preference for a girl child in a family. The attitudinal differences between boys and girls was seen among the uneducated homemakers, homemakers educated upto higher secondary level with those of educated upto graduate and other educational levels.

In general, majority of the homemakers had ranked that their daughters should get a slightly lower status in life than that of their sons in a family.

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