

Research Article

The Role of Media and its Effect on Women Social Status: A study of Punjab, Pakistan

Sidra Noreen

PhD Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Dr. Manan Khan Tareen (PhD)

Research Scholar, Department of Communication Studies, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Pakistan.

Rao Umair Ali

Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Communication Studies, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Pakistan
risemedia.mux@gmail.com

Hannan Khan Tareen (PhD Scholar)

Associate Lecturer, Department of Media Studies, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Pakistan.
hannankhan.tareen@iub.edu.pk

Ghullam Murtaza

Masters in Media Studies, Department of Media Studies, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

Communication through media has changed the cycle of interacting people or for development of social bonds is needed involvement of media information in a social contents and creating social support for people. In addition, the interaction level o of individuals through electronic media delivers shared values, chief to a positive impact of sharing. Inheritance is an eternal right of a man and his heirs to property. Assets Ownership is a way for Getting higher status, respect and admiration in family and society. Discriminatory customary laws as well as cultural practices serve to strengthen women inheritance right abuses. Life time poverty, homelessness, increased exposure to diseases and physical violence are outcomes of such abuses. Present study had been conducted in rural areas of Punjab to investigate the role of Media to socio-cultural factors affecting women's rights and their outcomes. The present study had been carried out in two Tehsils Samundri and Faisalabad Sadar of District Faisalabad. For this purpose 240 female respondents were interviewed and selected purposively. Questionnaire was prepared in the light of study objectives to collect data. Data was analyzed through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

INTRODUCTION

Social and electronic media has played a very clear role to hit every sphere of the human feature. In the present periods, media sources are mingled with the society's commercial development as well. The evolution of electrical and electronic media has prodigious influence on the society. Ali, Jan and Bukhari (2013) stated in their research that it is in actual multifaceted to distinguish the association between social and electronic media and its consequence on cultural norms because it may interpose many other reasons. It is not as important to focus that the social and electronic media has played straight impression to cause fragmentation in the culture and distinct personality. So, this explicit research study will aim at empirically examination between electronic and electronic media bearing on culture and individual personality development of local society.

In count, the present study will be endeavored to donate concerning the local community by examining and classifying automated and electronic media interferences on the way to culture and personality developmental observations. Today, with the development of electronic media and people attitude toward adaption have turned the agenda of cultural barriers because electronic media are just like a platform for various development strategies that play a role by trust-building instruments and affecting audience ' intention to follow the modern system. According to the most recent report of United Nations development program Pakistan is ranked on 146th position worldwide in gender inequality index (UNDP, 2012).Pakistan has been ranked 122nd in property rights protection and comes under bottom ten countries worldwide with 4.2 IPRI score in international property right index (IPRI, 2013).The efforts to implement a rights-based framework for application in policies and laws for empowerment of women in Pakistan are getting higher. Rigorous women rights violations, especially in context of their exposure to intense level of violence, vulnerability in the time of disaster and conflict, and rejection in accessing justice and political involvement, are well-known. In Pakistan, Lacking women's access to human development and social services has positioned them at their very low empowerment ratings in developing countries (Khan, 2009).Majority of women in old age have no access to social security formally in any country where just five percent of the total labor force has complete access to it. Widowhood greatly changes the women status in Tanzania and weakens their security. Customary laws refuse widows right to inherit property or common assets (e.g house or land).Widows are inherited usually by their dead husband's brother, must abide by such laws, risk being hated or left without gaining income or assets at the time of grief and trauma. Such violence with Gender discrimination causes lifetime poverty for older women. Extreme poverty and isolation are the serious consequences, both for widows and dependents they look after. Their situation becomes worse with the lack of knowledge about their legal rights (CEDAW, 2008). Every social group in this world has particular traditional and cultural practices or believes, some of those are beneficial to its all members, whereas other beliefs are risky for some specific group, like for women. Denying from women's inheritance right is one of these traditional practices. Sexual control of female by men, women's political and economic subordination, its responsible for women inferior status and restrain attitudinal or structural changes which are necessary to eradicate gender inequality (AWAZ, 2010). Women are legally given right to own property by Constitution of Pakistan, even when women disown their share from property by themselves courts upheld their right again and again ,when such cases of women inheritance right denial are brought to courts .and when cases of denial or usurping women's inheritance are brought to Court, in actually customary practices state what women are permitted to own, and their inheritance right is avoided under social and family pressures easily, according to the customary practices in four Provinces of Pakistan, women are not allowed to inherit property and widows lose their inheritance right if they marry again and outside the dead husband's family still the law recommends a deceased's assets prompt division and widow's right to her 1 property

share (Mumtaz and Noshervani, 2006).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dascalpoulos (2001) examined that the cultural norms and environment demean the women status in all fields of life especially regarding human rights including inheritance, local practices in communities of Car pathos and Saputo in Greece regarding women's property rights denied the existing traditional law. The customary law entitled women with share in lands but the people opposed this right, and in some regions the people from same communities replaced it with dowry.

COHRE (2004) Women and Housing Rights Program (WHRP) documented the disastrous reality that, under statutory and customary law both, the vast majority of sub-Saharan African women despite of marital status they owned could not inherit land or housing and other properties. Women were always dependent to their males in any relationship for access to land and housing. A study in all ten sub-Saharan countries examined, the fact that women could not lease, rent, own and inherit land or housing is not just the consequence of gender biased constitutional law; it was also because of inequitable customary laws, mores, social norms and behaviors.

Muhammad (2011) attempted to know the current inheritance practices in agricultural property on the basis of gender, and to identify different hurdles in giving share to the women of Tangi, a big area and village of Charsadda district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Simon (2012) stated that if a man failed to decide the distribution of his estate or leave will before he died, the state used to stand with responsibility to do it as per its framed law.

Andikrah (2012) explored that perception indicated in present study is identical to the practice of the Swazi people, where women are culturally not entitled for their share in lands, reason for high rate of denial to the proprietary rights of women have been on big pieces of land, as the concerned male owners did not want to let suffer their dominant and hegemonic role in the community through the fragmentation of land holdings. According to Parveen (2013) cases reported about violence against women in four provinces and Islamabad in 2009 were of various natures such as Wannu/Sawara, rape, child marriages, women marriages with Qur'an and etc. Most of such cases occurred and reported in 15 districts in Pakistan including Faisalabad, Lahore, Sargodha and etc.

Chan (2013) examined female property rights practices in a lineage village of rural Hong Kong in china during twentieth to twenty-first century. The conditions according to which those female villagers had been permitted to family land, property or cash share of an inherited estate, although male based inheritance rule had been a deep rooted ancestry custom. Women inheritance while permitted had only been applied to land or cash, not to houses themselves just because that those were vital for preservation of a ancestry community and its sense of identity associated with it. Above all after the 1970s, they were not restricted to those social and symbolic meanings for cash or land thus were usually considered transferable to female members of those villages. Women's right to property was permitted in ancestry system, but this was not fair for not being based on the ideology of gender equality and which clearly highlighted that inheritance rights of women were not just situational but also subject to cooperation.

Findings and Discussion

Majority of the respondents i.e. 45.4percent were in the age group of 41-50 years. Majority of the respondents i.e. 53.3 percent were married. Majority of the respondents i.e. 58.3.percent belonged to endogamy marriage type. 45.0 percent respondents had and above male family members. 36.2 percent respondents had 3-4 female family members. 33.3 percent of the respondents were educated up to Middle

level. Majority of the respondents 48.8 percent had up to 5000 monthly income 52.5 respondents' husband/father belong to non-agriculture occupation. 56.7 percent respondents had 1-2 number of son children. 76.2 percent respondents had 1-2 number of daughter children. Majority of the respondents 95.8 percent had knowledge about the inheritance right. Majority of the respondents 78.8 percent had no knowledge about their share in inherited property Majority of the respondents 56.2 percent were given their share in property. Majority of the respondents 64.2 percent were agreed non receipt of share is because of given up. Majority of the respondents 70.0 percent were agreed that dowry system is the cause of no receipt of share. Majority of the respondents 67.9 percent were agreed that relative's boycott is the basic reason behind non receipt of share. Majority of the respondents 64.6 percent were agreed to great extent that inheritance right is being affected with fear of transmission of property to other family Majority of the respondents 77.5 percent were agreed to great extent that inheritance rights violation cause poverty. Majority of the respondents 47.5 percent were agreed to some extent that inheritance Majority of the respondents 77.1 percent were agreed that reason behind disapproval of women own inheritance right is symbol of respect and affiliation. Majority of the respondents 64.6 percent were agreed that reason behind disapproval of women own inheritance right is social customs/practices. Majority of the respondents 79.2 percent were agreed that reason behind disapproval of women own inheritance right is anticipated dependency on parental family after marriage. Majority of the respondents 70.4 percent feel religious scholars can bring change to this situation. Majority of the respondents 41.7 percent feel state can bring change to this situation

Recommendations

The inclusion of women in government's land distribution schemes is needed. Support women in realizing their full potential and to achieving equality in all spheres of life campaigns needed to be run. Marginalized women, widows and single women should get property rights when they become heads of households. Research should be conducted for awareness rising on rural issues for women and also on land rights. Women centered research needs to be done. Advocacy on human rights of women and children is needed. Conduct research activities on socio-legal issues of contemporary importance. Build up national, regional and international network on issues of women.

Conclusion

Present study concludes that human rights violation has become the most sensitive issue of Pakistan and women are going to be its major target day by day because of huge being at inferior status socially and culturally. They think women own give up is the root cause her property right violation in Pakistan because of which financial condition of widows and even married women is getting severe day by day educing legal complications, women will be defiantly motivated and boost up for their right more, otherwise they don't have any other choice except bearing that financial pressure throughout life because they cannot afford to fight against customs.

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