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Topic of the Thesis : “Political and Social status of Muslim Women in Western Uttar Pradesh: A Case study of Saharanpur and Muzaffnagar Districts”

Abstract

Since studies on Political and Social conditions of Muslim Women are very limited, it was desirable to take on the study of the two districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Hypothesis:

It was assumed that political social background of Muslim women in this region is because of poverty, lack of education, neglect of government support system and low awareness among Muslim women themselves.

Objectives:

The objective of this study was aimed to understand the political and social conditions of Muslim Women in the above said district of Uttar Pradesh. To understand appropriately, a comparative study was conducted in their level of education of social and political awareness their status in family as well as in the community lives.

Methodology:

A well designed questionnaire was used to conduct interviews of randomly selected Muslim Women, converting rural and urban, poor and rich, educated and uneducated, politically active and non-active, working and non- working. During interviews, more and more in depth personal information was gathered.

Findings:

After a thorough research at grass root level, it was found that negligence regarding education of Muslim Women on a mass scale has kept them away from the benefits in this area is an alarming sign of their political social and economic background.

Rarely Muslim Women were reached to higher cadre jobs, high profile business and national or state level political leadership.

Though, this region is highly fertile and generally the standard of life is not as poor as in M.P., Orissa or Jharkhand. Poverty doesn't lead to their educational backwardness. School

and Colleges, both of public and private, are easily approachable. But, it was found during the survey, that Muslim Women are not encouraged to persue education at higher levels.

But, they have become very conscious about their lack of education and now realize the value of education. These women openly support girls' education to change their destinies.

The Muslim women of these two districts were found to be more responsible towards their next generation of girls, regarding the age of marriage and other family issues. Early marriage system and its counter effects on the health and other aspects of life are going under change. It was also found that the present conditions of Muslims women here are keen to act as agents of change at the community and personal level.

As far as political condition of Muslim women in this region is concerned, the researcher found that they are much behind in political leadership but becoming conscious of the value of their votes. Their own understanding of the present political system may not be very clear but they realize importance of parties and organizations etc. though very few Muslim women are in active politics, but environment is changing silently. It was found that their independent political outlook is getting shape and making them prepared for clear-cut political roles in future political activities. Though, at present 75% women vote according to the wish of their families, 25% women vote independently.

This research also brought out the inner feelings of Muslim women to be capable of holding more dynamic roles in social and political life. The concept of women employment is getting clear to them and they seem to be eager to achieve it.

A very surprising finding of this research is related to their religious life. It was found that religion is not a bar, their understanding of political and political system, their views of the modern society, their perspective of family and community life and above all their developmental attitude. The new generation of Muslim women in these two districts of Uttar Pradesh was found to be gearing up for new social and political roles. They were found committed towards their own educational upliftment and economic growth. Their understanding of new dynamism of political parties was found very positive, constructive and encouraging too. Their enthusiasm to perform better and better in private as well as public life is observable. Their economic ambition and desire to be independent, was also noted. Though 68.75% women are not free to decide about their savings and income but they revealed their hidden intentions to be economically independent. Such current of change may be channelized through public and private mechanism in future.

Conclusion:

Inspite of these findings, the researchers feels the need and significance of more area specific research studies in Muslim women's issues and problems.