

Muslim Women Education and Lived Experiences in Purba Medinipur District of West Bengal: An Empirical Study

Sujata Maity¹, Dr. Sunil Kumar Baskey²

¹Ex- Student of Jadavpur University and Independent Researcher

²Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, West Bengal

Abstract: Women Education is Very important for our country. The present paper highlights the status of Muslim women in West Bengal. Women in Muslim society of traditional Bengal used to live in a much closed social environment under many socio-cultural restrictions. Islam has given a great importance to the attainment of education. Muslim women are confined in home and lion share of them strictly obey the system of Parda Practices. There is found a distinction between men and women in case of share in father's properties but according to Quran, Islam has clearly given equal rights in the matters of education. Even Though the Indian Government has taken some measures such as the 'Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship', 'Naya Savera', 'Nai Roshni Scheme' and also government of West Bengal special scheme for girl's child i.e. 'Kanyashree Scheme' and 'Rupashree prakalpa' but the attitude towards girl child is very negative in our society even on today. The present paper is an attempt to analyze the educational status of women along with the socio economic status, marital status, first baby gender preference and mother age of first baby born. The study has been conducted during the month of April to May 2024 in Moyna block under Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal. It has been found that about 52.44% women under the study whose age during marriage were below 18 years. It has been study area 35.37% women under studies expressed their desire regarding first baby gender as 'boy' surprisingly 10.98% women want a baby girl as her first child. About 45.86% women are married, 48.87% women unmarried and 5.26% women are widow. Surprisingly 70% of women first baby born below 19 years age. In this study area 86.59% of women are housewife and 2.44% women do private sector job. About 10.98% women do small business or self-employed like online e- commerce business, beauty parlor and dress etc. It has been found that in this study area 6.60% of women are illiterate, 4.24% women are below IV, 0.94% women are IV passed. It has been found that 22.64% women are below VIII, 7.08% women are VIII passed, 11.32% women are below M.P, 18.39% of women are M.P. passed, 6.13% of women are below H.S.,

13.25% of women are H.S. passed, 0.94% of women are below B.A. and 6.60% of B.A. passed, 1.41% of women are M.A. passed and 0.47% of women are nursing pursuing.

Keywords: Muslim Women, Educational Backwardness, Socio Economic Status, Marriage and Child Birth.

INTRODUCTION

The present paper explores the lived experiences of Muslim women. Islam has given so much importance to the education. Women empowerment is a critical development concern around the world, especially in developing nations. The prophet himself quoted that education is essential for Muslim man and woman to adequate knowledge. Women empowerment can be treated as a process by which women can enjoy greater control over material and intellectual resources that will enable themselves to have greater autonomy over household decision-making and economic resources. Women were allowed to work, subject to certain condition. It was the first time a human treatment and legal status was given to women. The Muslim women are enough educationally backward as compared to non-Muslim women. The social status of Muslim women in the Indian society is concerned that they are not fairly treated as equal to men in all the places. The best practices in Western societies are that women are recognized and given equal rights and status. Some kind of sufficient reasons behind the low literacy among Muslim women. Empowerment of women as described in National Policy of Empowerment of women 2002 takes Economic empowerment and social empowerment as its basic parameters. Women empowerment can be treated as a process by which women can enjoy greater control over material and intellectual resources that will enable themselves to have greater autonomy over household decision

making and economic resources. The women empowerment has been taken as a priority area in UN Millennium Development Goals.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are

1. To know the educational status of women of moyna block under purba medinipur district of West Bengal.
2. The second objective is socio economic status of Muslim women of the said area.
3. To enquire the Age during marriage, marital status, first baby born, economical status, gender preference, occupation of the said area.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study has been conducted in Moyna Block of Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal. We have taken four big villages of Moyna block namely Tilkhoja, Gar Moyna, Garsafat, Dobandi. The data have been collected through a self- made interview schedule and house hold survey schedule. We have covered 215 Respondent and household survey among these three villages of Moyna block and also taken interview of one elderly women respondent of each household. The study has been conducted during the month of April to May 2024. The collected data then have been analyzed qualitatively.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The details findings of the study along with discussion are given:

- a) Age during Marriage: It has been found that about 52.44% women under the study whose age during marriage were bellow 18 years and 47.56% women whose ages during marriage were above 18 years.

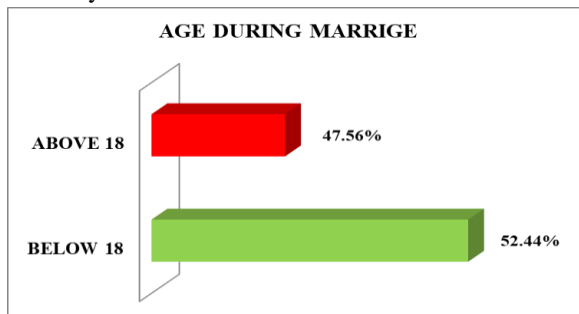


Figure 01: Age during Marriage
Source: Field Survey

- b) First Baby Gender Preference: 53.66% women under study expressed their desire regarding first baby gender as ‘boy’. About 30.37% women have no such gender preferences in their married life. Surprisingly 10.98% women want a baby girl as her first child.

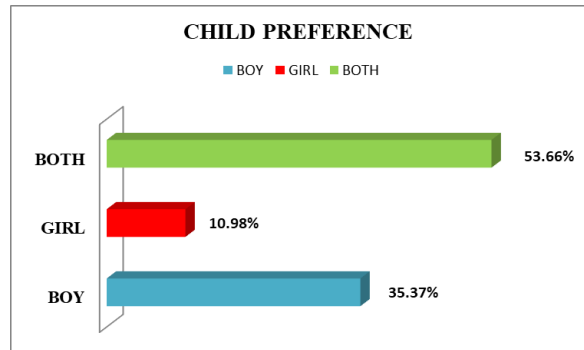


Figure 02: Gender Preference
Source: Field Survey

- c) Marital Status: 45.86% of women married, 48.87% of women unmarried and 5.26% of women widow in this study.

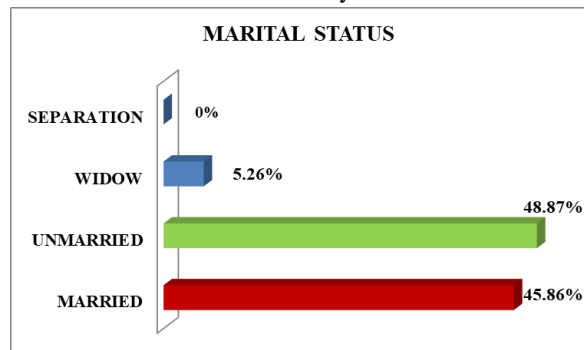


Figure 03: Marital Status
Source: Field Survey

- d) Age First Baby Born: It has been found that 70% women first baby born is below 19 years age and surprisingly 30% of women first baby born above 19 years age group.

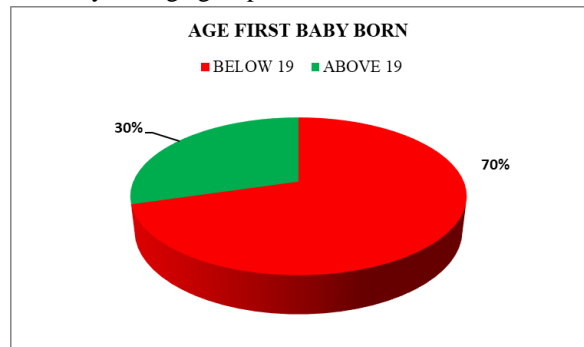


Figure 04: Age First Baby Born
Source: Field Survey

e) Occupation of Respondent: In this study 86.59% of women are housewife, 10.98% of women small business and 2.44% of women are private job.

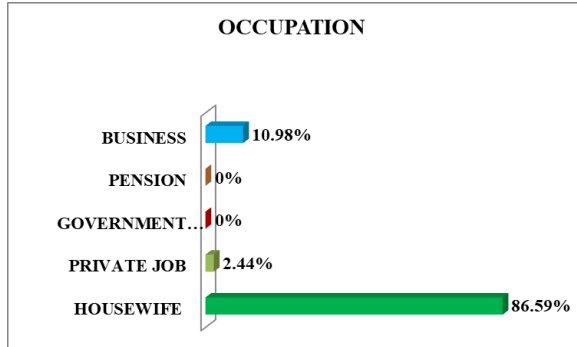


Figure 05: Occupation of Respondent

Source: Field Survey

f) Monthly Income of Family: It has been found that in this study area 53.66% of family monthly income during 20.001 to 30.000, 32.93% of family monthly income during 30.001 to 50.000, 9.70% family monthly income 50.001 to 1 Lakh, 2.44% of family monthly 15.000 to 20.000 and 1.22% of family income above 1 Lakh.

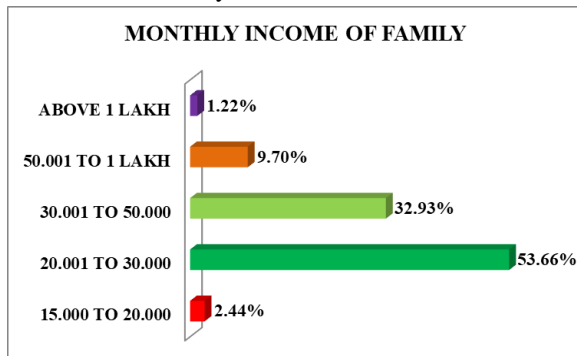


Figure 06: Monthly Income of Family

Source: Field Survey

g) Educational Qualification: It has been found that in this study area there are 6.60% women are illiterate, 4.24% women below IV, 0.94% women are IV passed, below VIII 22.64% women, 7.08% women are VIII passed, 11.32% below secondary level, 18.39% of women are secondary level passed, 6.13% women are Below H.S, 13.25% women are H.S passed, 0.94% women are below B.A, 6.60% women are B.A. passed, surprisingly 0% women are below M.A. and 1.41% women are M.A. passed, B.ED pursuing 0% women and Nursing pursuing 0.47% women.

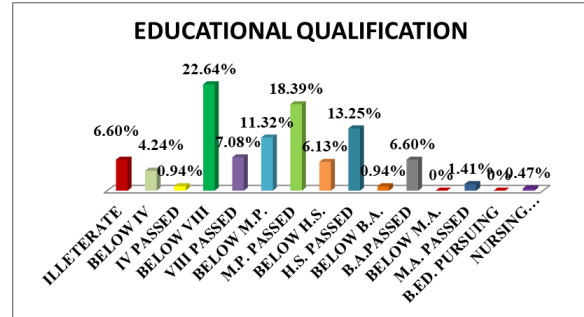


Figure 07: Educational qualification

Source: Field Survey

MAJOR FINDINGS

The major findings of this study are

- 1) It has been found that about 52.44% women under the study whose age during marriage were below 18 years.
- 2) It has been study area 35.37% women under studies expressed their desire regarding first baby gender as 'boy'.
- 3) In this study area surprisingly 10.98% women want a baby girl as her first child.
- 4) It has been found that about 45.86% women are married, 48.87% women unmarried and 5.26% women are widow.
- 5) It has been found that in this study surprisingly 70% of women first baby born below 19 years age.
- 6) In this study area 86.59% of women are housewife and 2.44% women do private sector job.
- 7) About 10.98% women do small business or self-employed like online e-commerce business, beauty parlor and dress etc.
- 8) In this study area maximum 53.66% family income 20.001 to 30.000.
- 9) It has been found that in this study area 6.60% of women are illiterate.
- 10) It has been found that 4.24% women are below IV.
- 11) It has been found that 0.94% women are IV passed.
- 12) It has been found that 22.64% women are below VIII.
- 13) It has been found that 7.08% women are VIII passed.
- 14) It has been found that 11.32% women are below M.P.

- 15) It has been found that 18.39% of women are M.P. passed.
- 16) It has been found that 6.13% of women are below H.S.
- 17) It has been found that 13.25% of women are H.S. passed.
- 18) In this study area 0.94% of women are below B.A.
- 19) It has been found that 6.60% of B.A. passed.
- 20) It has been found that 1.41% of women are M.A. passed.
- 21) It has been found that 0.47% of women are nursing pursuing.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion we may highlight that in the study area; it has found that about 52.44% of women whose age during marriage was below 18 years. In the study area, 35.37% women under studied expressed their desire regarding first baby gender as a 'boy'. In the study area, surprisingly 10.98% of women are want a baby girl as her first child. It has been found that 70% women first baby born below 19 years age. Though there are 6.60% of women are illiterate women in the study area, but only 0.94%, 7.08%, 18.38%, 13.25%, 6.60% and 1.41% passed class IV, VIII, Matriculate, Higher Secondary, B.A. and M.A. respectively, though their employment scenario is not good, most them are housewife.

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