

Abstract

The basic right of every citizen is equal access to education. Throughout all *aspects of life* where men and women have equal education opportunities, such *communities* have flourished today. This research study focuses on issues and challenges faced by women in co-education and their socio-cultural obstruction in Pakistani society. The core purpose of this study is look at the difficulties women had to encounter in co-education and how Pakistan's social structure serves as an obstacle in the way of women empowerment. In this research, the socio-cultural and religious conditions of the Pakistani community were studied in a critical way in connection with women studying in co-education. The research found that male dominated society, patriarchal society, rigid social and cultural norms, low income of family, male preferences over female, complex social structure, Purdah system, women segregation, gender disparities, distance of educational institutions, harassment, impartiality from teachers and domestic affairs serves as major hurdles to co-education. The study concludes from the findings that eliminating all of the barriers might pave the way for promoting higher education for women in Pakistan.

Quantitative research method is used to search out the problems from different perspective and get the opinion about researched issues. The research is descriptive in nature. The data was collected through structured questionnaire. 255 questionnaires from each university are collected. Female respondents from various age groups, semesters and departments of four public sector universities of Lahore are included in this study.

Keywords

Female Education, Co-education, Higher Education, Women Empowerment, Parents attitude, Harassment, Purdah, Patriarchy, Bargaining of sons over daughters, Campus harassment, Impartiality of Teachers, Society and Women.