

Challenges of Woman Researchers in Rural Higher Education Institution

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Abstract:

Indian history and recently 20th & 21st century women have strongly intended to play a major role in all the fields. She has proven her best from earth to moon. Women have contributed mainly in science fields but she is lacking in social sciences research. Research centres are not the hurdles, social and family issues make women to withdraw her contributions in social sciences. Therefore the field of social science and science has to create the mechanisms whereby qualified and professional women researchers would focus on the research in their respective specialised fields. This article focusses on various challenges faced by women researchers in their specialised areas.

Keyword ; Women researcher, research field, social science, society and family.

Introduction

Recently Mr Narayan Murthy cofounder of Infosys, reacted to the interview, that india needs qualified, bright and professional women researchers specially in the field of science. A recent report released by Clarivate Analytic shows that only 10 indians figure among the worlds top 4000 highly cited researches, only one woman from india featuring in the list topped by the US.

Girl is upperhand in every year, whenever 7th, 10th and PUC II results are announced. She wins gold medals more compared to men but it all stops when she comes to graduation to post graduation. She disappears after postgraduation. Then question arises where is she in research field? It may be in science or social science.

In many professional fields we find women but not in research because of their social and family issues. In rural higher education especially, most women face challenges in doing their research in respective fields. Most of the women in rural higher education institutes are expected to do their routine work and find very less time for research purposes.

Women in greater numbers who undertake PhD or research fellowships fail to convert their degrees into careers due to their biological clock and family pressure. Women become a professional on the basis of their basic qualifications but not to be in the research fields due to lack of support from Higher education institutions and family.

Objectives :

1. To study the challenges faced by women researchers
2. To focus on the solutions to be provided to the women to do her contribution in the research specially in social science field

Review of Literature:

Literature has been developed on women researchers in science fields. In STEM, her contributions are more than men. But in social sciences, the study hardly finds her contributions of course suggest her views in social science aspects like decreasing poverty, increasing literacy, solutions for unemployment, making youth empower, contributions in agriculture sector, medicine etc. But it is reviewed that women is less found in social science research.

Methodology:

The article is based on the primary data, Questionnaire has been prepared by taking 30 women researchers as a sample size out of 300 population of women researchers in Higher education all over the Karnataka state as per appendix 1. Data collected from women researchers whoever is working in rural higher education institutes. Response have been analysed on percentage basis, and the result has been elaborated.

Scope of the study:

The article is prepared by taking only 30 women researchers who are working in rural higher education institutions some of them have completed their PhD and remaining are pursuing their research.

Challenges Faced By Women Researchers:

1. Women has to fulfil the expectations of the institution.
2. Family issues, her children, husband and inlaws, and social gathering are her first priority.
3. Her personal health makes her to be away from the research work.
4. Institutions wont support women in combining the routine work and research work.
5. Women researcher wont get internet facilities in rural institutions.
6. Women faculties wont her financial support from most of the institutions.
7. Women researchers get mandatory structured work assignment from head of the institutions.
8. Rural higher education institutions are far from research centres. Most of the women get hurdles to travel from her home to work place and work place to research centre and back to home.
9. Sometimes women have to work overtime in institutions in time of students examinations and valuation duties.
10. Women gets social bindings like women cannot spend more time in research centre and libraries in University or college.

Response of Women Researchers to questionnaire is as follows(n=30) percentage wise:

SA: Strongly Agree A:Agree N:Neutral DA: Disagree SDA: Strongly disagree

Questions	SA	A	N	DA	SDA
1.All the employees are equally treated in research matters	28	51	7	14	-
2.The organisation makes the employees very clear about the expectations to be fulfilled	71	14	14	-	-
3.My superior gives more importance towards employee research	0	44	28	28	-
4.I can give my attention for urgent family or personal issues immediately	65	35	-	-	-
5.My organisation supports the employees in terms of combining college routine work load and research	7	21	7	65	-
6.I get high degree of respect from my principal in doing research	7	28	21	44	-
7.i get free wifi and browsing facilities in the institution	7	21	58	14	-
8.I get high standard journals and magazines in the institution for research purpose	51	7	21	21	-
9.I get good lab facilities for experiments for the research	-	-	-	-	100
10. I get financial assistance from the institution.	-	-	-	-	100
11.My workload keeps me away from my research	65	7	28	-	-
12.My job ,home and research centre are in different places creates trouble in doing research	79	14	7	-	-
13.My days and hours in the institution keeps me away from the research	21	65	14	-	-
14.Me and my husband share equal responsibility at home or kitchen	30	35	35	-	-
15.Me and my husband share kids/kid responsibility equally	30	49	21	-	-
16.Both will manage household issues equally	28	51	21	-	-
17.My husband helps me in doing research	28	58	7	-	-
18.My inlaws support for my research	21	44	28	7	-
19.My parents support for my research	46	54	-	-	-
20.I am physically and mentally fit for balancing work and personal life	70	30	-	-	-

Suggestions :

It is in the hand of women, most of the challenges faced by women researchers in rural higher education institutions but she can find the solutions. She has to make a mind to contribute in social science research fields. Her contributions are more appreciable in science and medical field. Indian women are recognised by her contributions in academics but also expected in research fields, Indian education system, Govt, Society and family support is needed. Some of the suggestions are pointed out,

1 Govt has to change some rules and regulations through UGC and AICTE in higher education dept.in giving relief from working days and hours,Saturday should be keep as a professional research hours and those hours are to be monitored.

2.While giving promotions, Ph.D and research fellowships are kept as criteria same time research paper publications should also be made mandatory.

3.Women as a academician should not restrict herself only up to Ph.D. More scope has to be given to herself in further research.

4. In rural higher education institutions' library should be strengthened. Higher education board has to take care of library automation and online journals subscription facilities to be provided.

5. Ultimately family has to support for her research work. She can balance but let her to balance.

Conclusion:

Girl is getting education, facilitating by the institutions and the government. When girl becomes woman comes to professional and research field, more recognitions to be given instead of underestimating her efforts. Gender equality is there in the professional field but not in research field especially in social sciences. Woman can balance her personal and professional life but more scope should be given in research fields. Rural higher education institution should give her strength because she travels every day. In the same time system has to provide facilities to do the research.

References

1. Narayan Murthy interview Jan 16th 2019.
2. Times of India Newspaper dated 01st April 2018 <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>
3. 20th Century Indian women scientists, <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Appendix 1

Questionnaire on women researchers in rural higher education institution

SA: Strongly Agree A: Agree N: Neutral DA: Disagree SDA: Strongly disagree

Questions	SA	A	N	DA	SDA
1.All the employees are equally treated in research matters					
2.The organisation makes the employees very clear about the expectations to be fulfilled					
3.My superior gives more importance towards employee research					
4.I can give my attention for urgent family or personal issues immediately					
5.My organisation supports the employees in terms of combining college routine work load and research					
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19.My parents support for my research					
20.I am physically and mentally fit for balancing work and personal life					