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Notification No :575/2025

Date: 28-02-2025

Department: Teacher Training and Non-Formal Education (Institute of Advanced Studies in Education) Faculty of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi 110025 Title: Problems and Prospects of Muslim Women Education: A Sociological Study of Kupwara District of J&K

Keywords: problems, prospects, Muslim women education, dropouts, attitude

FINDINGS

Under Objective 1: To study the Educational Problems of College going Muslim Women

- 24% of students face unsatisfactory home environments that hinder academic progress, with 20% citing their parents' anxiety and negative atmosphere linked to older siblings' unemployment
- A study found that 32% of students' parents do not motivate them academically, including 6% of mothers who do not encourage their daughters. Additionally, 22% of students lack moral support, with 2% receiving support from fathers but not mothers.
- Results showed that 46% of students cited family issues and household responsibilities as barriers to academic focus, while 86% identified excessive mobile phone and social media use. Additionally, 78% reported drug-related issues and affairs as hindrances, 10% mentioned political controversies, 68% noted a lack of personal interest and increasing Westernization as distractions, and 24% pointed to negative attitudes from others.
- Regrettably, 92% of students reported that insurgencies affect their lives and education, resulting in higher suicide rates and unhealthy social media use.

Under Objective 2: To study the problems of illiterate Muslim Women

- The findings reveal that a major portion (70%) of participants remained uneducated due to their academic apathy.
- 25% of participants believe that their religion (Islam) forbids them to get formal education
- It has been found that a significantly large part of the participants (87.5%) believe that education does not empower women in any way in the present time, so they place less value to the formal education of girls.

Under Objective 3: To study the attitude of college going Muslim Men towards Muslim Women's education

The data analysis shows that many male Muslim students in higher education support the educational aspirations of Muslim women. Educated men understand the importance of women's education in eradicating social issues and outdated customs, as well as in advancing families and nations. They recognize the valuable contributions women make to society and the importance of their role in domestic responsibilities

Under Objective 4: To study the attitude of illiterate Muslim men towards Muslim Women's education Research shows that many illiterate men view women's education as unimportant, believing their roles should be limited to family care. They argue that educated women cannot contribute to society or manage family matters, suggesting that Muslim women should focus only on religious studies. This highlights negative attitudes toward women's education among uneducated Muslim men and underscores the need for targeted interventions to promote its value

Under Objective 5: To compare the attitude of college going and illiterate Muslim men towards Muslim women's education

When comparing the attitude of college going Muslim men to illiterate Muslim men, the analysis and interpretation of the table scores obtained through the use of an independent t-test amply demonstrate that the former have a more favourable attitude toward the education of Muslim women. The views of college going and illiterate Muslim men regarding the education of Muslim women differ significantly.

Under Objective 6: To study the plausible causes for high dropout rate

- As a result of inadequate educational resources at home, it was found that 25.7% of participants dropped out of school.
- According to the study, 42.5% of participants stopped their studies because of an unpleasant home environment.
- The study's results also show that 47.5% of participants dropped out due to familyrelated problems, and 62.5% of participants left for personal reasons, such as a lack of interest in the studies or an inability to understand it. Other academic reasons accounted for 25% of the dropouts.
- The findings show that 87.5% of participants experience daily financial difficulties as a result of their low educational attainment.