

## Social-Culture Factors are Impacting the Status of Women in Punjab: a Case Study

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### Abstract

Women experience discrimination in communities where men predominate. Socio-cultural influences, particularly in rural areas, have a significant impact on women's status in many different ways. The level of gender equality is a crucial sign of a country's prosperity. This research was developed to look at how sociocultural influences affect the status of women in Punjab, Pakistan. Six districts were selected for this study: Vehari, Sahiwal, Chiniot, Jhang, Faisalabad & Gujranwala. One tehsil from each district was chosen and in the first phase of the multistage sample, two union councils—one from rural and one from urban areas—were randomly selected from each tehsil. From each union council, one village was randomly chosen for the second stage. In the end, 15 respondents were conveniently chosen from each village. There were 180 responders in the entire sample. Under the study's goals, an interview schedule was created, and after that, data was gathered through in-person interviews. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) tool was used for collected data analysis. The results show that respondents' family structure, economic position, and level of education all have a significant impact on their status. Therefore, it is advised that measures for women's family planning awareness, employment, education, and training be incorporated into Government programs.

**Keywords:** Socio-culture factors, District Sahiwal, male domination, women's status

## Introduction

Women's contributions to the healthy functioning and development of any society cannot be undervalued. Women's lives are circumscribed and they are still expected to live as men's subordinates, although women and men are practically equally vital in the development process and are regarded as essential parts of humanity. There is a stereotype that women are less capable than men. The male-dominated section of society is reluctant to accord women the proper status that they merit. Women participate in practically every aspect of life, but despite this, they are unable to achieve the position they deserve. If society acknowledges the value of women's employment, they can obtain their proper rights and standing in the sectors of economics, politics, family, society, and culture (Alkire and others, 2013). In Pakistan, patronage dominates the social system. The system restricts women's freedom of mobility and supports a strict division of labour. It demonstrates unequivocally how women fit into the realm of typical job. The ordinary woman's position is directly correlated with that of her family, and she makes a considerable contribution to the upkeep of the family by caring for the young and the old. In India and Pakistan, men outweigh women in terms of opportunities for education, employment, political engagement, decision-making, resource management, and career prospects. (Sathar & Kazi, 2000).

Homelessness, poverty, and family peace are all significantly impacted by unemployment. For this, there is desperation and other socioeconomic issues. The persistently high unemployment rate in Pakistan has grown to be a serious issue in recent years. Pakistani women face several societal and cultural barriers that prevent them from participating in the labor sector, including restrictions on movement, barriers in higher education and technical fields, a lack of moral support from family members, and inequality. The demand for good positions is constrained by the distribution of jobs throughout all economic sectors, as well as issues like the low pay for women workers, etc. Therefore, the government must develop some effective measures to address these gaps to improve the economic status of women in society. The population census shows that women are more powerful than men, so action must be taken to increase women's employment because their presence in the labor force can help the economy. Women in Pakistan have lower social and political positions. Women's perceived inferiority also makes it simpler for them to fall victim to crime and other forms of victimization. The weak social standing of Pakistani women as well as the crimes and abuses perpetrated against them are influenced. Women are seen as inferior to males and their subjects, and where men rule over women in all facets of existence. This arrangement confines women to the home and keeps them out of the public glare. Cultural traditions favour men over women in this regard.

For example, some of these activities rob women of their fundamental right to choose their husband, their standing in society, and their degree of education.

Females are essential members of all societies and may contribute significantly to the advancement of humanity. In today's changing culture, women's strength is employed to the fullest. In Western and contemporary nations, women share numerous responsibilities with men and are more educated and self-sufficient than men. They have the same social standing and legal privileges as males. Any nation's or civilization's progress depends on women's involvement in all aspects of life, particularly when it comes to issues involving the wellbeing of their families and young children. Women who have higher education can assume more leadership roles in society. Due to their greater life experience, individuals are better able to overcome challenges and problems. Women who have higher education can take a more active role in making decisions. By managing their homes and caring for their children, educated women may significantly improve their nation.

### 1.1 Study Importance

This study would be helpful to researchers in Punjab's public and commercial sectors as they continue to examine gender sensitivity and gender status in different professions. The Pakistani government would benefit most from this research by being able to implement gender-conscious and gender-mainstreaming policies for employment, health care, education, as well as pastoral improvement. This study has focused on the root causes of the position of the women shifting. In last 30 years, the discussion has been made on the women covering their status position which led to a rise in women's engagement in the public, private, public health, and commercial sectors—part of which is always acknowledged and encouraged. an analysis of females' advancement in the ethos and its effects. The investigator then explored how women's psychosomatic, monetary, and party-political development affected their old-style roles & customs.

### 1.2 Study Objectives

Following goals were included in the research's planning:

- To look into the respondents' socioeconomic backgrounds;
- To look into the elements that can alter a woman's position.
- Consider the impact on her traditional roles as a woman.
- To learn more about how women's engagement in decision-making affects women's position.
- Outlining some potential policy changes to advance women's position.

### 1.3 Hypotheses

**Hypothesis 1:**

There is a link between women's position and education.

**Hypothesis 2:**

The Status of the Respondents Is Affected by the Family's Economic Situation.

**Hypothesis 3:**

Family structure has an impact on how women are treated.

**2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

In Ghana, the male member of the family receives nutritional food from within, and in certain ethnic groups, the females only eat after the men. Mothers who forgo their meals to feed their children during times of hunger are more likely to face food insecurity, in addition to the non-domestic distribution of food and the low status of empowered utilities. In Ghana, male family members receive wholesome meals that are provided inside, and in certain ethnic groups, women only eat after the males have finished their meals. The study done in 1971 by Lionel and Robin, who also wanted to know how much rural women participated in household and agricultural work, they discovered that in affluent nations, 36.7% of agricultural laborers are women, whereas, in less developed nations, 43.6% are. According to estimates, women contribute more than 50% of the world's output. The researchers observed that Pakistani culture has varied geographical origins, a wide range of expressions, and unique class-based features. It is part of a larger Islamic civilization that has its roots in ancient individual Indian practices.

At the time of the Partition in 1947, Pakistan and India both had literacy rates of 12.2 percent. Women in North Punjab have less economic independence than women in South Punjab, but more mobility and decision-making authority, according to Sathar and Kazi's 2000 study. The gender system is a crucial advocate for women's empowerment at the village level. Despite making enormous contributions to civilization, women still trail men in every area of life, according to Iram (2010). Females gave birth to and raised all prophets, academics, intellectuals, and victims because civilization could not have existed without such visionary men. The biological differences between men and women are associated with gender inequities. The highest levels of political expansion for women's engagement in Pakistan occurred in 2002. In the national, provincial, and male parliaments, women were formally allowed to seek any office in 2002. In comparison to rest of Asia, there are 94 female lawmakers in the Senate and National Assembly. In 2008, the average across the board was 18.3%.

Muhammad (2003) investigated educational policy. For female kids, it was recommended that male primary instructors eventually replace female ones. The only time female students will take classes with male students is if their lecturers are female. to increase the number of technical institutions, privatise public universities etc, for the teaching purpose the English methodology was used, and enhanced funds from 32 percent to 42 percent for the period of six years (1983-1989), Zia-ul-Haq proclaimed the National Education Census. Initiatives for adult education for both men and women were started in 1988 with help from UNESCO. Usha (2003) claimed that men are superior to women and that they are subjected to discrimination from the moment of birth till the moment of death. As a result, discrimination against children occurs during their early years and adolescence. The power of empowerment is immense. The power dynamics that underpin all social, economic, cultural, and political ties should be considered when evaluating any empowerment program. Women are denied the chance to maintain their influence in local political politics. They are distinct, yet they also have flaws and limitations. They lack the freedom to express their political identity and any impact based on constituency. They are delegates for women who were not chosen or chosen by other women. They are unable to take on a significant role and only appear to be present.

According to Valentine study held in 2005, women's socioeconomic and political positions are thought to have a significant influence on Pakistani culture, in line with Islamic cultural ideals. These gender-based characters have been designed. Thus, gender affects how men and women interact in a variety of ways. The concept of "gender" refers to how men and

women are defined as being masculine and feminine, the unbreakable power dynamics that exist between sex and women, and the different ways that societal processes impact and differ between men and women. The researcher found that it is frowned upon in Pakistani society for a wife to take care of her husband because she sees it as her job to do so. Purity, dedication, and honesty are crucial components of a successful marriage. Manish (2007) claims that because it is a social organization, it controls how the members behave. The structure of the family places the males in positions of authority over the women. This home creates a situation where the husband and wife fulfil their responsibilities according to conventional notions. To emphasize the domestic sphere, the division of labor was carried out by men and by males only. Typically, male dominance and female dependence are viewed as the typical roles of the couple inside their household. Frequently, the husband has total authority over both the body and intellect of his wife. Women are required to have equal property rights in many nations, according to Ramachandran's (2006) research. Studies of South Asian inheritance laws have revealed that the rules and norms governing social interactions and the family firmly enforce women's inheritance rights. Governmental legislation occasionally draws arbitrary distinctions by taking into account customary or religious norms. This division is important in Pakistan and northwest India, but it goes beyond faith.

Political engagement has been emphasised as a crucial element of democratic governance in jurisdictions where individuals have the right to participate in government, per UNDP (2007). In 1947, GDP spending on education was less than 1%. It scarcely increased during the following ten years to 1.2 percent. The percentage increased to 2.6 percent by 1964. Before increasing to 2.6% (Rs. 31 billion) in the 2009–10 budget, it dropped to 1.7% in 2003. Of the SAARC's seven-member nations, Pakistan spends the least on education. Iftikhar et al. claimed that separated male & females are not esteemed in their 2008 study. The family members become bored as a result. Islam emphasises on and sees reconciliation as a last resort. Additionally, they pointed out that women have always had a big impact on society and are specifically responsible for the most terrible housework. They are the upcoming generation's designers. Iftikhar and Malik (2008) assert that women frequently played an important role in society, particularly when it came to performing the most hated duties. They ought to be the architects of the next generation. For the enjoyment and well-being of their civilizations as well as for their families, they have sacrificed everything, even their lives. Like Eve, she is intellectual and creative, and is regarded as the source of all formation. Men benefit from women's domestic labor. In exchange for performing household work, women receive care. For women, housekeeping is a full-time job. They said that men's attitudes towards women differ in Pakistan. She is a partner who combines strength and helplessness as a wife and mother, and she is deserving of respect and love in both roles.

Faridi (2009) asserts that as women's educational attainment increases, so does their likelihood of participating in the labour force. The proportion of working women is decreased by the number of children in the youngest age group. According to the study's findings, women's education is essential for better work chances. In order to eliminate the gender equality gap in politics, UN member states should make a firm 15% commitment, according to both the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) and the CEDW. This commitment relates to women's representation in legislatures around the world. Women hold 33% (or more) of the parliamentary seats in just 12 countries. In 2009, Faridi looked into the impact of health and education on FLFP. The study found that while financial resources, formal work, and marital status have a negative and minimal influence on women's wages, health, education, and vocational training had a direct correlation with women's performance. Women are advised to support resources for their health and education. Ijaz and Tasnim (2009) noted that several issues affected married women's ability to engage in economic activity in Punjab-Pakistan (reviewed). The logit regression model was employed in the study to analyze first-hand information from a field survey. The researcher also looked at how much poverty affects married women and how it influences their participation within the workforce. Women lawmakers have surpassed their

male counterparts in several legislative job areas, according to Zofeen (2009). The researcher investigated how the development of business and private-sector education had an unexpected consequence that resulted in the creation of schools, colleges, and universities.

Even though it has been put into place in every province, the government hasn't managed to keep an eye on its caliber or pricing. In addition to causing bad schooling and education, poverty may also influence parents and children to think that education won't help them with their difficulties. Research on Pakistani women's involvement in agriculture was done in Peshawar by Behrman and Peterman (2010). He discovered that the agricultural industry benefits from the contributions of both men and women. However, women have a more prominent role in Pakistan, where they perform a large number of agricultural tasks as well as associated ones. 66,1037 men (48.7%) and 695,765 women (58.3%), having more women than men.

According to Behrman and Peterman (2010), the male head is thought to have the last say. Joint families are disappearing, and boys who are educated and working are choosing nuclear families. Working, educated women play a crucial role in this process. Joint families made up 78% of the families in a 1985 case study, while nuclear families made up only 20%. Today, rather than a girl's familial position, more importance is placed on her education and economic worth. The significance of traditional cultural ideals is waning. There is a greater need for educated working girls. Particularly among the educated and urban elites, and especially among the higher classes, marriage has now evolved into a business. In this situation, too, the display of wealth, dowry, and status has taken precedence over the needs of the guy.

According to Iram (2010), 45% of Pakistani children do not attend primary school. 44 percent of children leave school early. Pakistan has 22% of its parliament made up of women, compared to 16.8% in the US and 19.5% in the UK. Kyrgyzstan, a 75% Muslim country, has more women in parliament than Pakistan, the US, and the UK combined. According to UNICEF (2010), our country has started different initiatives to uplift standards because it understands the importance of education and how it affects people's lives and the economy as a whole. A discussion on education with the themes of engineering, empowerment, education, and equality was held in Decker on May 17, 2010, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the UNGEI. According to FAO (2010), women are crucial to the rural economy and agriculture in all developing nations. They apply numerous employment techniques and perform difficult domestic tasks. The majority of the associated activities involve taking care of animals, growing crops, preparing food, labouring for compensation in agricultural and other industries, trading and marketing, fetching fuel and water, and other domestic chores. The well-being of rural households depends on women performing a variety of duties that are not recognised as economic in the national accounts.

FAO (2010) came to the conclusion that women are essential to agriculture and the rural economy in all rising countries. They carry out difficult household chores while utilising a number of employment tactics. The bulk of connected activities include caring for animals, farming, raising food, working in agriculture and other companies for income, trading, marketing, gathering fuel, and other home chores. The welfare of rural households depends on several tasks performed by women that are not accounted for as economic in the national accounts. According to an IFAD (2013) assessment, controlling resources, having poor leadership in society and little influence, and controlling income are the areas that have the biggest impact on women's empowerment in Bangladesh. Alkire et al. (2013) investigated the barriers that married women face in their decision to take part in the LF. Primary source data from field surveys were used in this investigation. According to his analysis, the involvement rate of women in the workforce rises as education levels and salary rates rise. According to Bhattacharjee (2012), women's labor in agriculture is frequently excluded from production or included in the household's tiny non-cash crop economy, which contributes to the underappreciation of the role of women in agriculture. Nobody is advertising. In the population

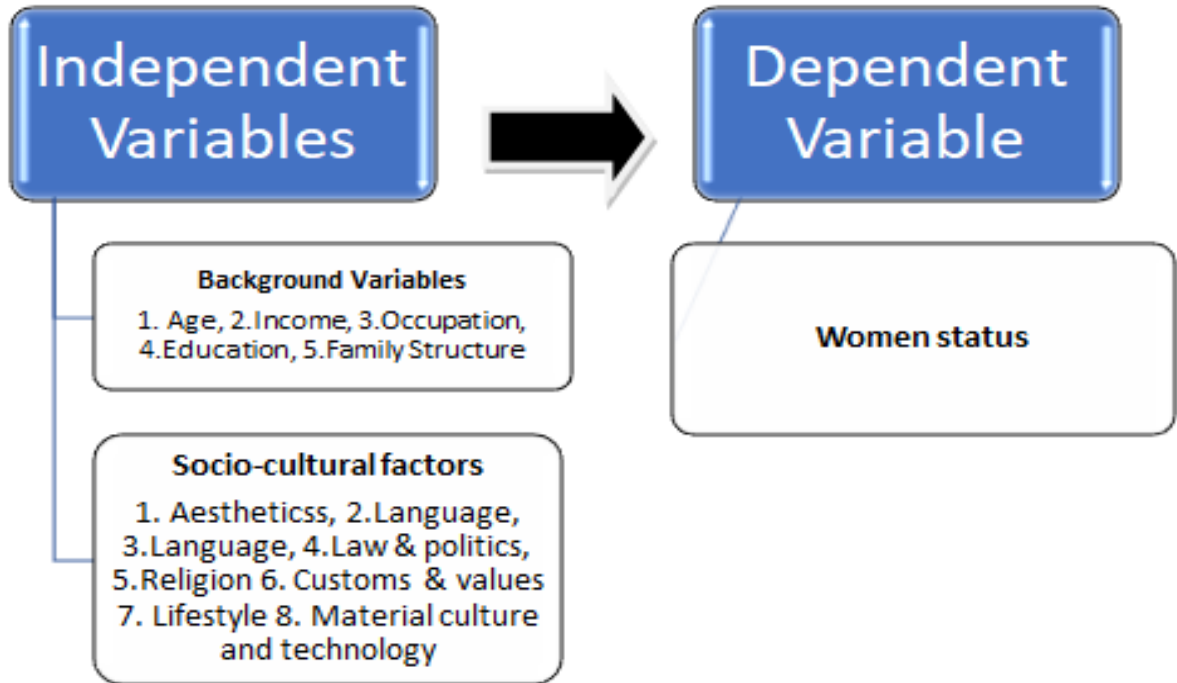
or agricultural census, such work is frequently disorganized and cannot be regarded as a goal-oriented activity.

Schutter has put in his study held in 2013, women face broad discrimination in paid employment, the food industry, and off-farm self-employment. Discrimination can be observed in formal or informal government programs, at the household or community levels. Due to societal traditions and beliefs, women are also disadvantageously affected by the distribution of food within the household. According to Schutter (2013), a woman who engages in the economy experiences various forms of discrimination, regardless of whether she is a worker or an independent contractor, working in the field or elsewhere. Their economic autonomy is decreased by this kind of discrimination, which also weakens their bargaining power at home. It was discovered that women engage in both agricultural and cattle-related chores, particularly feeding, grazing, and chopping fodder. Participates in transportation, preparation, protection, and breastfeeding as well. shed cleaning with butter. Women also contribute significantly to the production and marketing of dairy products as well as to general healthcare. A research by Malapit et al. (2014) on gender issues in rural development and agriculture was conducted in Nigeria. He discovered that although rural women make important contributions to agriculture, their labour is undervalued. Regrettably, governments frequently ignore them despite their wealth of knowledge and talent because they do not view them as "productive" farmers. They are unable to make decisions, and their farm labor is typically performed for free or at a low cost. According to IFAD (2014), there is a gender disparity in market access. However, their employment is unrecognised, unauthorised, and uninvited. Many women engage in access labour markets by working as processors, traders, or labourers in agricultural value chains on farms. Compensation. Pakistan has a predominantly male society, according to Sarwat (2014). "Pakistan has a majority of women, yet their participation in national progress is worthless because of their lack of education, limited skill sets, and poor political empowerment," the World Bank's 2011 Population Index study said. Gender prejudice, according to Sean Meghan Byrne (1997), is pervasive in Pakistani society. Because mothers and wives are not persons, the image of women is private. These socially prescribed positions deprive women of their full potential.

The idea that great nations are not founded by great leaders was examined by Sarwat (2014). They are the work of extraordinary people. In accordance with the Millennium Development Goals and the UDHR, every man, woman, and child has a right to education. The study claims: the Pakistani government measures the success of its strategy for educating girls by how easily they can enroll in classes. Religious, cultural, and tribal factors that discourage women from pursuing higher education are frequently blamed for the low enrollment and retention rates of girls. Numerous educational institutes created by NGOs and religious organizations accept students from far-off regions, FATA and PATA are included. This demonstrates that even traditional households are willing to enrol their girls in school provided their basic necessities are addressed. These traditional families are drawn to childcare facilities with appropriate school schedules close to their homes, infant time, effective teaching strategies, and professionalism. Basic enrolment rose from 33% in 1991 to 66 % in 2004, but because to Pakistan's lack of peace and order, it fell to 52% in 2007–08. The administration suggests tripling the enrollment rate to ten percent to obtain 85 percent universality enrolment rates by 2015. The government plans to eradicate gender inequities and educate 8.1 million adults by 2015. The need for girls to attend school is greater. The most important problem is keeping kids in school, yet the worrisome dropout rate of 44% is a serious concern. According to Akter et al. (2017), gender systems in education are varied and complex. Across nations, societies, and regions, there are differences in the type and degree of gender discrimination as well as the conditions necessary for women's empowerment. However, establishing global food security is viewed as requiring the "basic condition" of women's emancipation.

### Conceptual or Theoretical Framework

The diagram representing a theoretical or conceptual framework for the identification and categorizing the parameters in the current investigation has been created. To preserve a thorough grasp of the study problem, it divides the data into independent, independent, and background (social characteristics) factors. This will show that there is only a fleeting link between the parameters or variables.



The notion is made evident in this framework by emphasising a number of factors that are crucial to the health and nutrition of women.

### Research Methodology

#### Introduction

In contrast to a comprehensive set of procedures, methodology, according to Brauw, Huang, Zhang, and Rozelle (2012), refers to a lucid and ethical framework; identifies a specific study. Because of this, a portion of the investigation methodology was inserted after the academic literature. According to Doss (2014), research should always be undertaken taking into account the researcher's interests, views, and viewpoints as well as the environment in which it is being conducted. To create results that are extremely dependable and believable, researchers should always aim to be critical and systematic in the cases they choose and analyze. This chapter largely focuses on numerous research-related topics such as study design, respondent selection criteria, study locations, sampling techniques, and sampling. When creating contests and campaigns, building measurement devices, conducting pilot studies or gathering trustworthy historical data, and creating questionnaires for field research. The use of question marks in data analysis and statistical methods including gamma analysis, Chi-Square, and differential analysis.

#### Universe

Six districts (Vehari, Sahiwal, Chiniot, Jhang, Faisalabad & Gujranwala) served as the site of the current study. These six districts are in Punjab Province and fall in four different division respectively Multan, Sahiwal, Faisalabad & Gujranwala.

### Sampling Frame

Each district vary in tehsil administration i.e 2-6 tehsils in each district so one tehsil from each district was choosen. In the first stage, 12 union councils were randomly selected from 12 tehsils. Each unit has an equal chance of being picked in a simple random sampling process.

### Target Population

When we model in social research, just like we do in everyday life, we strive to build ideas on a variety of topics as well as learn about specific difficulties. Physical and time restraints are important in societal exploration in general. 2 UCs were taken from each tehsil randomly and 15 of them voluntarily answered. These responses came from both the urban and rural parts of the tehsil.

### Sample Size

The population is a sizable collection of people, while the sample is a smaller subset of the population (Alkire et al., 2013). This decision is being made to use the data from the subset to generate knowledge about a large group. Sample is the progression of choosing subset of universe or a populace to serve as a representative of the full population. 180 respondents were chosen for the study using a practical sampling technique.

### Sampling

The study was carried out in six districts: Vehari, Sahiwal, Chiniot, Jhang, Faisalabad & Gujranwala and in six tehsils. In the initial step of the multistage sample, each tehsil had two union councils randomly selected from it. From each union council, one village was randomly chosen for the second stage: one from rural and one from urban area. In the last round, 15 respondents were conveniently chosen from each village.

### Data Collection Tool

Interview schedule tool was used for data collection. As per Kandiyoti (1988), it's a list of questions used for face-to-face interaction with the respondents which has a series of the questions designed against the objectives. This interview schedule was designed in the English language and the questions were asked from the respondents in Urdu language as the respondents were not fluent in the English Language.

### Pre-Testing

There is no faultless way to format study questions. However, researchers can still create useful questionnaires. Prioritizing a survey questionnaire is essential before using it to ensure its value. You might be able to determine the survey's benefits and shortcomings by looking at the format, vocabulary, and sequence of the questions. Due to language issue, questions were asked from the respondents in Urdu language. Pre-test dialogue plans are provided as a resource to identify and address any unanticipated issues with the administration, sequencing, and length of the questions. The interview schedule was pre-tested on ten respondents before the start of the real study. Several questions were altered after the pre-test to get better results from the respondents.

### Field Experience

Collecting data was a challenging procedure. Social researchers regularly face a situation that makes it difficult to come up with solutions. The complexity of human behavior makes it impossible to study it similar to how physical and scientific phenomena can. Efforts made by the researcher are another factor. An aptitude for compiling reliable and accurate information and creating a cogent technical environment. a some of the issues that researchers ran through when collecting data.

- Some illiterate respondents had no idea how important social research is. As a result, much time and attention was put into convincing the respondent of the advantages of this type of research. The vast majority of them thought that they might be held accountable for the information that was acquired. They are therefore reluctant to offer appropriate responses. By defining the study's objectives and assuring the participants that the data obtained would be kept private and utilised solely for those purposes, an attempt was made to clear up this misunderstanding.



- The researcher had to introduce himself to each respondent before gathering the necessary data.
- In some situations, responders were reluctant to agree to an interview.
- In other instances, respondents declined to cooperate with the interviewer and provided incorrect information, notably in response to questions about their age, family size, and monthly income. Even though the researcher was employed by a government agency, he had misgivings about him. The researcher is frequently thought to be a thief or otherwise suspect by the public. It was difficult for the researchers to gain the defendants' trust and inspire them to respond as a consequence.

### **Conceptualization**

describing a general concept is similar to describing a specific concept, claim Massod and Jamil (2015). An unexpected trait or feature from several special theories is removed to develop a broad theory. The fact that it is the same for all distinct persons is the other factor in common. For instance, a notion or broad idea named after the word "red" is a characteristic shared by apples, cherries, and blood. Because some academics utilize diverse definitions by different scholars, the concept of social purpose is more challenging to comprehend than in other fields.

### **Socio-Economic Characteristics**

The father's occupation, age, and membership with a particular religion are significant predictors of social and economic characteristics since socioeconomic characteristics frequently mirror a person's behavior. Socioeconomic views are a diverse group that is interconnected but not monolithic. It speaks about how one is perceived by others in society. These are intricate ideas that have been interpreted in many ways by various academics.

The current study used the following socioeconomic status indicators. Age, education, income, occupation, and family structure are all factors.

### **Education**

Formal process of transmitting social info, values, & skills from generation to generation is called education. It's regarded as a key differentiator between knowledge, attitude, and dignity. The family environment is significantly impacted by the mother's education. The current study defines education as the number of school years that respondents have completed at educational institutions. Respondents' educational experiences were considered as a reflection of their familial, employment, and financial circumstances. The following list of academic categories: Elementary, Middle, Matriculation, Intermediate, or Graduation.

### **Age**

Any sociological investigation needs to take age into consideration. This shows how old the respondents were when the interview was conducted. This was presumed based on the respondent's response. For the sake of this study, the respondents' ages are separated into three categories. Age ranges from 20 to 30 years old, 31 to 40 years old, and 41 and beyond.

### **Occupation**

Business may be viewed as a specific and continuing activity that satisfies one's wants and supports a particular social class. In this survey, the respondents' jobs were divided into the following categories: Businessperson, Public servant and Employee in the private sector.

### **Income**

revenue is the total of all sources of revenue, including earnings, salaries, profits, interests, payments, and rent. The ability to make ends meet depends heavily on one's income. It frequently serves in the current study as the element in charge of establishing and maintaining behavioral patterns and also serves as a representation of people's views on a variety of areas of people's way of life. I was ranked. The term "income" used in this study refers to total incomes from all sources, including the respondent's parents' land. These are the calculated monthly incomes: Below 10,000; 10001–20,00; 20001–30,00; 3000–40,00; 4001–50,000; and Above 50,000.

## Kinds of Families

A family is a close-knit group of individuals who are responsible for birthing and upbringing and are emotionally attached by blood, marriage, or adoption. The respondents were asked to provide the following categories to describe their family:-

### a. Nuclear Family

There are separate identities for the parents and the kids.

### b. Joint Family

It is formed by parents and their children, and every one of them is an individual.

### c. Extended family

The phrase "extended family" can refer to several different groups of people. a close nuclear family living with extended family in the same home.

## Statistical or Analytical Analysis

### Distribution of Frequency

The data could now be inspected since it had been coded and set up for automatic processing. The initial step was to generate a frequency distribution, which was then used to analyse each independent and dependent variable under investigation's response patterns. The quantity of data in each variable category makes up the frequency distribution of a single variable, also called a variable frequency distribution. The researcher simply lists the many variable categories and counts the amount of data in each to get a frequency distribution.

### Percentage

The formula used to determine percentages is as follows: A percentage is equal to  $\frac{f}{N} \times 100$ . In this case,  $f$  is the Absolute Frequency,  $N$  is the overall # of things.

### Chi-Square

A statistical test known as the chi-square is used to assess how well categorical variables from a random sample match the expected and observed outcomes. This test was applied to look at the relationship between independent and dependent variables. The correlation was deemed statistically significant if the calculated chi-square value at the indicated degree of freedom was equal to or higher than the table value at the probability threshold of 0.05. It is deemed to be extremely relevant if it is smaller than the value in the table (0.01 level of probability). As a result, at the 0.05 level of significance, the count value is lower than the table value @ the level of 0.05 of significant.

### Gamma Statistics

The intensity and direction of the relationship between the independent and dependent variables are displayed by the gamma values. The following formula was used to calculate the results.

## The results and Discussion

### Using a Single Variable

**Age:** Five groups of ages were used to categorize the respondents. In the survey, 6.7% of respondents were between the ages of 20 and 25. The age range of 30% of those surveyed was between 26 and 30. The age range of 52% of those surveyed was between 31 and 35. The age range of respondents who were surveyed was 36 to 40 for 6.7%. In the survey, 4.4% portion was for 41-45 year.

**4.2 Marital Status of the Respondents:** Of those surveyed, 21.7% were single. 59.4% of the respondents to this study were married. 10.6% of the respondents were widows. 6.7% of respondents to this study were divorced. 1.7% of those surveyed had experienced marital separation. This variable's mean deviation is 2.048, while its standard deviation is 0.382.

**4.3 Family Types:** Nuclear households made up 12.8 percent of the sample. Seventy percent of the respondents were joint parents. 17.2% of those surveyed were leading an extended lifestyle. The variable has a resource of 1.983 and a standard deviation of 0.847.

**4.4 Size of the household:** Three categories exist. One to three people make up 22.8% of respondents. Of those surveyed, 56.1% have four to six organs. More than 7 embers are present in 22% of responders. The variables' mean and standard deviation are, respectively, 1.893 and 1.294.

**4.5 Spiritual Association of the Defendants.** Muslims made up 95% of the responses. The Sikh group represented 3.3% of the respondents. The percentage of respondents who identified as Christians was 1.7%. Variables' significance and their respective standard deviations of 1.038 and 0.397.

**4.6 Schooling:** 6.1% of those surveyed had finished elementary school. 53.3% of those surveyed have earned their high school diploma. Intermediate Education has been completed by 31.1% of the respondents. 9.4% of those surveyed had earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The variables' average and standard deviation are, respectively, 2.781 and 1.038.

**4.7 Profession:** 9.4% of those surveyed had a connection to agriculture. Most responders (57.2%) worked for themselves. 27.2% of the responders were from the government. Employee. 6.1% of the respondents worked for private companies. The variables' average and standard deviation are, respectively, 2.302 and 1.028.

**4.8 Earnings:** 6.1% of up to 12000 responders. Between 1201 and 20,000 respondents make up 46.1% of the total. Between 20001 and 28000, 33.9% of responders are from. The variables' average and standard deviation are, respectively, 1.792 and 0.493.

**4.9 Nature of work:** Housewives made up 13.3% of the respondents. Of those surveyed, 57.2% own their firm. Of the respondents, 5.6% worked for a commercial company, while 23.9% had government degrees. The variables' means and standard deviations are 2.042 and 1.042, respectively.

**4.10 Utilization of income:** 22.8% of respondents reported spending between Rs 1,000 and Rs 5,000 each month. 56.1% of those polled report monthly spending of between \$5,000 and \$10,000. 21,1% of those polled report monthly spending between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Means and standard deviations for the variables are 2.042 and 1.042, respectively.

**4.11 Who has the final say in Household decisions?**

Statement	Husband		Wife		Both		Others	
	f	%	F	%	F	%	f	%
Routine household spending	47	26.1	44	24.4	71	39.4	18	10.0
Purchasing jewelry/bonds/shares	80	44.4	44	24.4	52	28.9	4	2.2
Purchasing gifts for relatives	42	23.3	28	15.6	72	40.0	38	21.1
Control the saving for use	84	46.7	44	24.4	45	25.0	7	3.9
Purchasing clothes and make-up articles	22	12.2	30	16.7	94	52.2	34	18.9
Own and control household valuable	81	45.0	43	23.9	56	31.1	0	0.0
Sale or exchange of land/house/livestock	18	10.0	12	6.7	108	60.0	42	23.3

Statements

Topic	Mean	S. D	WS	Rank order
Routine household spending	2.3	0.972	420	4
Purchasing jewelry/bonds/shares	1.9	0.900	340	5
Purchasing gifts for relatives	2.6	1.063	466	3
Control the saving for use	1.9	0.924	335	6
Purchasing clothes and make-up articles	2.8	0.892	500	2
Own and control household valuable	1.9	0.861	334	7
Sale or exchange of land/house/livestock	3.0	0.836	534	1

Table 4.11 above looks at the respondent's response to the household's ultimate choice. It also computes the average, standard deviation, weight score, and rank order of each teaching approach variable. We ranked each variable based on its weight score to determine the ultimate chosen variable's relevance. The decision is made in light of seven distinct variables. The first variable is categorized, and the variable's score ("Land/House/Livestock Sale or Exchange") of 534 determines its weight. The method for producing items and purchasing clothing is regulated by the second variable categorization and the weight of the variable score (500). The variable that receives the weighted score of 466 is "buying gifts for family," which is the third categorized category. The fourth variable evaluated is called "Normal Household Expenses" and has a variable weighted score of (420). The weighted score for the variable "Jewellery / Bonds / Shares Purchase" is 340, which corresponds to the sixth variable. The weight of the variable score (334), which is rated as "Control," and the category of the seventh variable both point to homeowners' possession and control over their properties.

#### 4.12 *Involvement in the Political Activities?*

##### Statements

Activity	No		Yes	
	f	%	f	%
Do you cast your vote in an election?	115	36.1	65	63.9
Do you vote for the candidate of your own choice?	121	67.2	59	32.8
Do you attend the speeches of election contestants?	117	65.0	63	35.0
Do you involve yourself in the election campaign of a particular candidate?	115	63.9	65	36.1
Do you update yourself about the changing political situation?	118	65.6	62	34.4
Do you discuss the problems of local people at any forum?	114	63.3	66	36.7
Do you have the intention of contesting the election?	113	37.2	67	62.8
Do you think women should contest the election?	121	67.2	59	32.8

Activity	Mean	S. D	WS	Rank order
Do you cast your vote in the election?	1.36	1.322	245	3
Do you vote for the candidate of your own choice?	1.33	1.284	239	6
Do you attend the speeches of election contestants?	1.35	1.023	243	4
Do you involve yourself in the election campaign of a particular candidate?	1.36	1.078	245	3
Do you update yourself about the changing political situation?	1.34	1.077	242	5
Do you discuss the problems of local people at any forum?	1.37	1.100	246	2
Do you have the intention of contesting the election?	1.37	1.184	247	1
Do you think women should contest the election?	1.33	1.201	238	7

The responses of participants to the different activities are shown in Table 4.12, together with the average, standard deviation, weight score, and rank order of each teaching technique variable. We assigned a weight score to each variable in order to determine its relative importance in the different activities. First-order activity is determined by weight score and rank order. "Are you going to run for office?" According to the Rank Order and Weight Score, the activity ranked second is "Do you discuss local issues at any forum" The activity of the third order is determined by the rank order and weighted score. "Are you involved in a specific candidate's campaign?" "Do you attend the speeches of the candidates?" is the fourth aim, which is determined by ranking and weighted score. Activity for the fifth order based on rank order and weighted score "Do you keep up with the shifting political landscape?" sixth-order task determined by rank order and weighted score Does your preferred candidate win your vote? Both weighted score-based and rank-order seventh-order actions "Should more women run for office?"

#### 4.13 Participation in Family Discussion

Topic	To great extent		To average Extent		To some Extent		Not at all	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
	Current affairs	24	13.3	19	10.6	83	46.1	54
Household purchasing	79	43.9	45	25.0	52	28.9	4	2.2
Household finances	28	15.6	34	18.9	78	43.3	40	22.2
Family health care	75	41.7	45	25.0	60	33.3	0	0.0
Children Education	20	11.1	15	8.3	103	57.2	42	23.3

Statements

Activity	Mean	S. D	WS	Rank order
Current affairs	2.9	0.966	527	1
Household purchasing	1.9	0.898	341	5
Household finances	2.7	0.978	490	3
Family health care	1.9	0.862	345	4
Children Education	2.9	0.869	526	2

Table 4.13 displays each variable in the family conversation's average, standard deviation, weight score, and rank order. It also shows how respondents responded to family discussions on various topics. To evaluate the weight of family discussion variables on various subjects, we rated each variable according to its weight score. Five factors affect the subjects of family discussions. "Current affairs" is the classification's first factor. The second classifying criteria is "Children's Education". The third classifying criteria is "Household Financing". While the 4<sup>th</sup> is "Family healthcare." The 5<sup>th</sup> element on the list is "home purchase".

#### 4.14 Decision-Making in Household Matters:

Decision about	Husband		wife		both		Others	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Family health care	18	10.0	19	10.6	85	47.2	58	32.2
Making larger household purchases such as TV	84	46.7	40	22.2	53	29.4	3	1.7
Making routine household purchases	19	10.6	10	5.6	113	62.8	38	21.1
Children Education	24	13.3	22	12.2	78	43.3	56	31.1
Family size	82	45.6	42	23.3	52	28.9	4	2.2
Family planning services	83	46.1	40	22.2	55	30.6	2	1.1
Job of women	19	10.6	9	5.0	119	66.1	33	18.3

#### Statements

Decision about	Mean	S. D	WS	Rank order
Family health care	3.0	0.910	543	1
Making larger household purchases such as TV	1.98	0.899	335	7
Making routine household purchases	2.92	0.828	530	2
Children Education	2.95	0.980	526	3
Family size	1.92	0.905	338	5
Family planning services	1.91	0.891	336	6
Job of women	2.94	0.806	525	4

We look at respondents' replies to decisions about pursuing cases on many themes in The choice on the next difficulties was made using the information in Table 4.14 above, This also provided the average, standard deviation, weight scores, and rank of each variable. Decide on a timeline. "Family Healthcare" is the first variable in the Rank Order, and its resource is 3.0. "Family Healthcare" is the first variable under the Rank Order (2.9), where the resource is the variable.

According to the rank order (2.9), "normal household shopping" is the second variable, and the variable is the source. "Children's education" is the third variable in the rank order, and the variable is the resource (2.90). "Employed women," the fourth variable in the rank order, with a mean value of (1.92). "Family size" is the fifth variable, and its resource, according to the rank order (1.91). As per Rank Order, "Family Planning Services" and 1.98 are the sixth variable and variable resource.

#### 4.2 Bivariate Analysis

##### Hypotheses testing

1<sup>st</sup> Hypothesis: *The position of women and education have a relationship.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Hypothesis: *The Family's Economic Situation Has an Impact on the Status of the Respondents*

3<sup>rd</sup> Hypothesis: *The status of women is influenced by family structure.*

Variable.	Chi-Square.	Gama Value.
Respondent's education	25.2*	0.52**
Respondents income	19.1*	0.46**
Respondents family structure	17.2*	-0.56**

*\* shows significance at a 5% alpha value. \**

*\* shows significance at a 1% alpha value"*

1<sup>st</sup> Hypothesis *The position of women and education have a relationship*

The preceding table's Chi-Square values (25.2) show a significant correlation between the respondents' educational attainment and their position. This link is supported by the value of gamma (0.52). Gama's high rating suggests a direct and favorable correlation between their standing and education. Thus, the claim that "Connection is here between the women's position and the learning means education" has been confirmed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Hypothesis *The Family's Financial Situation Has an Impact on the Status of the Respondents*

The cross-tabulation values of Chi-Square (19.1) indicate that the respondents' position and income are related.. Link is also supported by the value of gamma (0.46). The respondents' income and status are positively and directly correlated, according to the positive Gama score. Therefore, it has been determined that "Economic Condition of the Family Does Affect Residents' Status" is true.

3<sup>rd</sup> Hypothesis *The status of women is influenced by family structure.*

The study also looked at the relationship between the respondent's status and their family structure. There is a connection between the respondents' position and their family structure, according the findings of Chi-Square (17.2). Association is further supported by the value of gama (-0.56). The respondent's family structure and status are directly and negatively correlated, according to the negative Gama sign. Consequently, the claim that "Family Structure Has a Bearing on the Status of Women" has been confirmed.

So the following hypotheses are accepted:-

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Hypothesis. Connection is here between the women's position and the learning means education.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hypothesis. The Family's financial Situation Has an Impact on the Status of the Respondents
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Hypothesis. The structure of the family structure affects the women's status.
4. **Assessment, Results, Conclusion and Recommendations**

### 5.1 Summary

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of women in childbirth and society's survival. Humanity depends on both men and women, yet in a world where men predominate, a woman's life has become a cycle of servitude and labor. There is bias and discrimination towards women. The woman experiences some level of suffering in all spheres of life because the man is reluctant to accord her the status she deserves. She can advance to her rightful position and has succeeded in obtaining some of her rights in the areas of the economy, society, politics, and religion. In the family and society, she has successfully carved out a respectable place for herself. Half of the world's population is made up of women, while the other half depends on them in some way. Women are less favored than men in most parts of the world, even though they have made a considerable contribution to the development of civilization (Rahman & Naoroze, 2007). It is detrimental to women's status that they have limited access to land, property, finance, education, skill, and paid jobs. Two billion individuals on our planet are classified as poor, with two-thirds of the impoverished being women.

Collecting data is a challenging procedure. Social scientists regularly come with circumstances where getting answers is challenging. Unlike physical scientific phenomena, which can be examined in controlled environments, human behavior is complex. Additionally, it is up to the researcher to observe and cultivate a cordial atmosphere—technically referred to as rapport to get reliable and accurate information. While gathering data, the researcher faced a few obstacles. The importance of social research was unknown to several of the illiterate respondents. As a result, a lot of time and energy was put into persuading respondents of the merits of this type of research. For the most part, they were worried that the data might be used against them. They are therefore reluctant to offer appropriate responses. By clearly stating the study's objectives and assuring the participants that their information would be kept private and used solely for research, it was hoped that this misconception would be cleared up. In order to get accurate information, the researcher had to make an introduction to each respondent. Respondents occasionally hesitated to agree to an interview with the researcher. In other cases, interviewees were uncooperative and gave false information when asked about their age, family size, or monthly income. They suspected the researcher was a government spy and had doubts about him. If they disclosed information to the department of income taxes, they feared the researcher would face legal issues. The researcher is frequently thought to be a thief or otherwise suspect by the public. The researcher therefore found it difficult to gain the respondents' trust and encourage them to provide replies.

This research sought to examine the sociocultural influences on the status of the women in the Pakistani districts: Vehari, Sahiwal, Chiniot, Jhang, Faisalabad & Gujranwala. The first step of the multistage sample involved selecting one tehsil from each district than two union councils at random from each tehsil. Second, one hamlet or village was randomly selected from each union council. 15 responders from each community were arbitrarily selected at the conclusion. 180 people in total participated in the sample. Data was gathered through in-person interviews, and



a plan for the interviews was created based on the study's goals. The data was examined using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). The majority of respondents (59.4%), according to the findings of this survey, were married. The majority, or 90.6% of respondents, had a low level of education, and the majority, or 59.4% of respondents, believed that the position of women might be improved by raising their educational attainment. The majority, or 67.2% of respondents, do not vote for the candidate of their choosing, while the majority, or 67.2% of respondents, believe that women should run for office.

The following are the study's recommendations:

- Including clauses in government policies that support women's access to family planning information, work opportunities, and education.
- to change men's negative attitudes towards women in order to recognise their contributions to the domains of health, education, politics, economics, religion, and society.

## 5.2 Findings

There are five replies in all, ranging in age. 6.7 percent of respondents were in the 20–25 age range. Thirty percent of the respondents were in the 26–30 age range. The age range of 52% of the respondents is between 31 to 35. The age range of 6.7% of respondents fell between 36 and 40. 41 to 45-year-olds make up 4.4% of the responders.

- Of those surveyed, 21.7% were single. 59.4% of the respondents to this study were married. 10.6% of the respondents were widows. 6.7% of respondents to this study were divorced. 1.7% of those surveyed had experienced marital separation. The mean and standard deviations of this variable are 2.048 and 0.382, respectively.
- 12.8% of survey participants were nuclear families. Seventy percent of the respondents were joint parents. 17.2% of those surveyed were leading an extended lifestyle. The variable has a resource of 1.983 and a standard deviation of 0.847.
- Three different types exist. One to three people make up 22.8% of respondents. Of those surveyed, 56.1% have four to six organs. More than 7 embers are present in 22% of responders. The variables' mean and standard deviation are, respectively, 1.893 and 1.294.
- Muslims made up 95% of the respondents. The Sikh group represented 3.3% of the respondents. The percentage of respondents who identified as Christians was 1.7%. Variables' significance and standard deviation, which are 1.038 and 0.397, respectively.
- 6.1% of those surveyed had earned their GED. 53.3% of those surveyed have earned their high school diploma. Intermediate Education has been completed by 31.1% of the respondents. 9.4% of those surveyed had earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The variables' mean and standard deviation are, respectively, 2.781 and 1.038.
- 9.4% of respondents have a connection to agriculture. Most responders (57.2%) worked for themselves. 27.2% of the responders were from the government. Employee. 6.1% of the respondents worked for private companies. The variables' average and standard deviation are, respectively, 2.302 and 1.028.
- 13.3% of those surveyed were stay-at-home moms. Of those surveyed, 57.2% own their firm. Government respondents made up 23.9% of the sample. Private employees made up 5.6% of the workforce and respondents. The variables' means and standard deviations are 2.042 and 1.042, respectively.
- 22.8% of respondents reported monthly spending of between Rs 1,000 and Rs 5,000. Between \$5,000 and \$10,000 is what 56.1% of respondents spend each month. 1 000 to 5

000 are monthly expenses for 21.1% of respondents. The variables' respective means and standard deviations are 2.042 and 1.042.

- According to the respondents, the husband is in charge of 26.1% of normal home expenses, the wife is in charge of 24.4%, both are in charge of 39.4%, and 10% are under the control of others.
- According to the respondents, the husband holds 44.4% of the jewelry, bonds, and shares he has purchased, the women have 24.4% of them, both hold 28.9% and the rest, 2.2%, are in the hands of other people.
- According to the respondents, 40.3% of respondents said they bought gifts for their wives, 15.6% said they bought gifts for their husbands, and 21.1% said they bought gifts for others.
- According to the respondents, the husband controls 46.7% of savings for use, the wife controls 24.4%, the couple controls 25%, and 3.9% is under the jurisdiction of someone else.
- According to the respondents, 12.2% of husbands, 16.7% of wives, 52.2% of both, and 18.9% of others are in control of the purchasing of clothing and cosmetics.
- According to the respondent 45%, the husband owns and controls 45% of the household's valuables, followed by the wife with 23.9%, the two together with 31.1%, and others with 0%.
- According to the responder, 10.0% of land, homes, or cattle are sold or traded by husbands, 6.7% by women, 60.0% by both, and 23.3% by others.
- In line with the respondent's opinions, 36.1% of women do not vote in elections, compared to 63.9% of women who do.
- Following the respondents' opinions, 32.8% of women voted for the candidates of their choosing, while 67.2% of women voted for the candidates of their families' choosing.
- In the respondent's opinion, 35% of women attend the speeches of candidates for office, whereas 65% of women do not.
- According to the respondents' opinions, 62.8% of women do not wish to participate in elections, whereas 37.2% of women plan to run for office.
- According to the respondents' opinions, 32.8% of women believe that women shouldn't vote, while 67.2% of women believe that they should.
- According to the respondents, 13.3% of women participate in family discussions on current events to a great extent, 10.6% do so to an average amount, 46.1% do so to some extent, and 30% don't wish to discuss current events at all.
- 2.2% of women said they would prefer not to take part in family talks about home purchases, while 25% participate in an average amount, 25% to a somewhat-extensive extent, and 28.9% to a somewhat-extensive extent.
- According to the respondents, 15.6% of women participate in family discussions about household finances to a considerable extent, 18.9% do so to an average extent, 43.3% do so to some extent, and 22.2% do not want to do so.
- According to the respondents, 41.7% of women participate in family discussions on current events to a great extent, 25% do so to an average amount, 33.3% do so in some way, and 0% say they don't want to.

- According to the respondents, 57.2% of women have some involvement in family discussions on current events, 8.3% have average involvement, and 23.3% don't agree to included in discussions about education of their children.
- As per respondents' opinions, 10.6% of wives, 47.2% of both, and 32.2% of other respondents believe that the decision about the family's health care is final.
- According to the respondents' opinions, 46.7% of husbands, 22.2% of wives, 29.4% of both, and 1.7% of other people believed their decision to make a significant home purchase to be definitive.
- The decision to make a normal household purchase is final, according to the responder. 10.6% of persons who are married, 5.6% of married women, 62.8% of both, and 21.1% of others are married.
- The responder believes that the choice regarding the education of children is final. 33.1% of other people, 13.3% of husbands, 12.2% of wives, and 43.3% of both.
- According to the respondent's perspectives, the choice was taken with the future family size of 45.6% of the husband, 23.3% of the woman, 28.9% of both, and 2.2% of others in mind.
- After the responder has made a decision regarding family planning services, Married individuals make up 46.1% of males, 22.2% of women, 30.6% of both, and 1.1% of all other persons.
- In the respondent's opinion, the decision on women's employment is definitive. 10.6% of married people, 5% of married women, 66.1% of both, and 18.3% of others.

### 5.3 Conclusion

- With consideration for the past, present, and circumstances surrounding family structures, the researcher sought to examine how women's standing was evolving in the traditional communities.
- This poses the following research questions: What are the variables causing the status of villager's women to change?
- How has Community present situation impacted its historical figures?
- With a position and specified roles, are communities woman legitimately entitled to them?
- What is the standard of the women from concerned districts who have status?

The study's primary goals were to highlight how traditional culture is impacted by new trends and to assess how much these qualities change. The researcher came to the following conclusions through this study:-

- Increasing the status of women is seen to be largely dependent on education.
- Members of both sexes believe that employment is a crucial economic force for women, elevating their level of self-assurance, financial situation, and sociopolitical status.
- Families esteem women and encourage them to participate more in family affairs. Male leaders continue to make significant/final decisions while domestic activities continue to predominate.
- Changes in family structure, member attitudes, and inter-family relationships are taking place, enabling women to participate in decision-making.
- Power imbalances in local, provincial, and national decision-making institutions serve to promote women's participation.

- Despite steadily entering politics, male family members still dominate women's political participation.
- The women have admitted that they are denied their cultural rights, while the male members support giving women property, stating that it is their Islamic right.
- People respect elders according to their age. Because of their position, women who are educated and employed are also revered.
- Although educated children are also asked for permission to select their partners, arranged weddings still happen.
- Working women's wisdom and skill serve as the foundation for the masculine perspective on how they should manage home responsibilities.
- Conflicting duties that working women must fulfill at home lead to conflict.
- The greatest barrier to the advancement of all social evils as well as the emancipation and empowerment of women is culture.
- The most important component in determining class differentiation and an issue of respect and dignity is women's economic empowerment.
- The majority of physical abuse continues as a result of the violent or harsh behavior of the husband. As males, women's education, jobs, and economic empowerment rise, violence is on the decline.
- The most prevalent trend now is educated, financially secure women embracing new lifestyles, including fashion.

#### 5.4 Recommendations

Pakistan is a historically rich nation where sociocultural norms influence people's personalities. Despite certain gaps between official efforts and reality, women are actively participating in domestic and international social, economic, and political spheres. The researcher offers the following suggestions to help women engage fully in society while increasing public awareness of social injustices against women in general and policymakers in particular.

- Women's access to education, training, employment, and family planning information should be a priority in government programs.
- Employment awareness should be increased following regional demands so that the majority of women can obtain employment without interfering with their domestic duties.
- Primary through intermediate-level education for women should be made mandatory in rural regions, and additional female-only educational institutions should be established.
- Men's negative attitudes toward women need to be modified, and their contributions to the social, political, economic, and educational realms should be acknowledged.
- The general public has to be educated on the factors that contribute to mental illness, particularly in women, including neglect, oppression, abuse, and injustice.
- To strengthen the state's capacity to protect women and children from abuse, the province government, NGOs, civil society, and women's initiatives should be linked to services for legal aid, vocational training, and children.
- Microcredit schemes and rural banking networks should be used to increase access of the women to the organizations and processes for saving & borrowing money.

- Given the rise of educated women, there should be a 20% increase in the percentage of women working in government.

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