

WOMEN'S ATTITUDES TO FAMILY VALUES (PARTICIPATION IN THE HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS, DECISION-MAKING AND GENDER BELIEFS) CASE STUDY OF CHADEGAN CITY

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the impact of social classes on the role of women. Theoretical framework is provided by using the ideas of thinkers such as Parsons, Collins, and Barn. Research methods in this research is surveying and tools for data collection, is the valid and reliable questionnaire. The statistical population of this study was married women 16-60 years old, from the Chadegan city of isfahan province, Number of samples was 384 and quota sampling, was based on age and location. The result showed that in the studied population, women's attitude to participate in household affaires is higher than average; so the first research hypothesis was rejected. But the power of decision-making and attitudes towards gender beliefs from the perspective of women is lower than average, therefore the second and third hypotheses were confirmed.

Key words: participation in household affairs, decision-making power, gender beliefs

Introduction

The family in our society is changing and transiting from traditional to modern and its functions are changing. It seems that changes assessing is necessary in the field of culture, women attitudes changing towards themselves, and their role in society. What we mentioned it as a culture is an entity that covers beliefs and traditions, customs and different beliefs, and it is natural to accept that any society is governed by a particular culture. And consequently it can be concluded that cultural factors and the dominant beliefs can be effective in women's attitudes to family values (Holmes, 2010).

Giddens (2003) argues that globalization is a phenomenon that influences the social life and so can be affective at the family institution. One of the major effects of globalization in the family is to transform the predetermined traditional and fixed roles of family members. Ahmadnia (2004) also believes that, the most attitudes changing were performed about the traditional role on the

family, and this change is visible in girls more than boys. Teenage girls are no longer willing to just be a housewife and assign economic responsibilities to men. It is interesting that the majority of boys are yet agreed with this idea that the women would be housewives and men effort the house cost responsibilities. Azazy (2011), states that Iranian families achieve to the participatory living conditions. They consult with each other in their decisions; they have rejected mency attitudes and believe equality between women and men in family, and also mutual economic responsibility.

In today's Iran these conditions have been changed by this developments influence, like any other social institution of the family. And the role of women in the family has been changed, too, and with the roles changing, part of family functions is impaired. It seems that if consequences of this change are not attended seriously, the family institution will suffer numerous injuries. Therefore, this study examines the changes in family values .

Theoretical Framework

In theory, the functional importance of gender roles, Parsons believes that, when the family is most efficient and effective that labor sexual division will be in a transparent manner so that women are responsible for the emotional role i.e. providing care and security for children and emotional support of them, On the other hand, men have instrumental roles that is the family breadwinner (Giddens, 2007: 166-165). Parsons knows the role division as the best way for family unity and take into account any other roles interference as the reason of life balance distribution. Because especially in female employment, she is turned to her husband's career as a competitor, Couple competition with each other cause disharmony and disorder on the family (Azazy, 2008: 120).

Resource theory, suggest that in the couple relationships, the balance of power in decision-making is toward person that has the biggest (and most important) resources. In opinion of Blown and Wolf sources include the ability to earn income, education and occupational prestige that they are all dependent on the outside world economy where the men are more superior to women. (Safiri&et al, 2010: 11-10).

According to Collins, when a gender control force devices this gender can benefit from this power to dominate the opposite sex and thus can create a system of unequal gender. On the other hand, when one of the two sexes, relatively has the control of material resources, this gender will own the power that will control gender relations. (Hosseiniyan et al, 2011: 596).

Another theory in this field is the gender stereotypes theory, which argues that: Children are active on learning the gender roles; they form the existed cognitive categories of society for the gender and then obtain gender relevant knowledge about these items. Bass argues that the role of gender is formed due to a gradual learning process and gender schema will occurs, He claimed an important role for culture in the formation of gender schemas (Nabavi &Ahmadi, 2007: 61).

According to Bam, gender schema, is a set of related associations to gender. The existence of gender schemas increases gender stereotyping formation. Gender stereotypes, are beliefs and attitudes about masculinity and femininity. According to gender schema theory, culture is

involved in the development of gender and preparing a reference for the formation of gender schemas. (Khamse, 2004: 121-120).

The research method on this study was conducted in spring 2014; this research was based on survey methods. The analysis unit of the family and the sample person was the married women aged 16 to 60, who are living in the Chadegan city of Isfahan province. The statistical population was 8825 persons ,But since the class distribution of respondents is important in this study, and there is not the access possibility to different classes through a quota sampling, Therefore, finally 384 persons were selected as samples with the maximum value estimation of p and q ($p = 0/5$ and $q =0/5$) .

Questionnaire validity

In this study, to ensure that questionnaire has sample validation, after reading and taking notes from articles and books, the receipts were reviewed with the questioning approach. And several questions were designed and these questions were placed near the questions that were extracted from the validated questionnaire in relation to the raised issues in the research. With their reviewing and revising and finally, a preliminary study some questions were deleted or modified. So the remained questions answer the presented assumptions in the present study. Also the questionnaire was placed for the surveying at the disposal of scholars and researchers. And by applying their opinion the face validity of the questionnaire was also ensured.

Reliability of the questionnaire

Table 1 - Calculation of the reliability coefficient

| | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| Lateral dimensions of the questionnaire | Participation rate in domestic affairs | Decision-making power | Gender beliefs |
| The coefficient of reliability | Cronbach's alpha | Cronbach's alpha | Cronbach's alpha |
| Coefficient value | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 |

As can be seen in the above table all dimensions have the necessary reliability

The research findings

Descriptive findings

Table 2 - The frequency distribution of the respondents according to age groups

| Age groups | frequency | percent | Valid percent |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| 16-19 | 7 | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| 20-24 | 51 | 3.13 | 3.13 |

| | | | |
|-------|-----|------|------|
| | | | |
| 25-29 | 109 | 4.28 | 4.28 |
| 30-34 | 94 | 5.24 | 5.24 |
| 35-39 | 64 | 7.16 | 7.16 |
| 40-44 | 24 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| 45-49 | 22 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| 50-54 | 9 | 3.2 | 3.2 |
| 55-60 | 4 | 0.1 | 0.1 |

Table 3 - Frequency distributions of respondents' education based on their spouses' education

| Education level of respondents | Education level of Spouses | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------------------------|-------|
| | Low literacy | Guidance | Diploma | Bachelor | Master's degree or higher | Total |
| Low literacy | 35% | 50% | 5% | 10% | 0% | 100% |
| Guidance | 15/7% | 52/9% | 28/6% | 2/9% | 0% | 100% |
| Diploma | 1/1% | 12/5% | 67/9% | 16/8% | 1/6% | 100% |
| Bachelor | 0% | 2% | 26/3% | 59% | 12/1% | 100% |
| Master's degree or higher | 0% | 0% | 0% | 11/1% | 88/9% | 100% |
| Total | 5/2% | 18/8% | 45% | 24/9% | 6% | 100% |

Table 4: Frequency distribution of respondents in terms of revenue

| Revenue | Frequency | Percentage |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Less than 5 million RS | 11 | 2.9 |
| Between 5.1 to 6 million RS | 48 | 12.5 |
| Between 6.1 to 7 million RS | 46 | 12.0 |
| Between 7.1 and 8 million RS | 45 | 11.7 |
| Between 8.1 to 9 million RS | 89 | 23.2 |
| Between 9.1 to 10 million RS | 80 | 20.8 |
| Over 10 million RS | 64 | 16.7 |
| No reply | 1 | 0.3 |
| Total | 384 | 100% |

Table 5: Frequency distribution of respondents in terms of social class

| Class | Frequency | validity percent |
|---------------|-----------|------------------|
| Low | 12 | 3.1 |
| Medium Low | 60 | 15.6 |
| The average | 199 | 51.8 |
| Above average | 87 | 22.7 |
| Top | 26 | 8.6 |
| Total | 384 | 100 |

The table results shows that 51.8 of respondents are in middle-class, 22.7 percent above average, 15.6 percent lower average and the lowest percent belongs to person who reside in lower social classes.

Research hypothesis

- Attitude to participation rate in the domestic affairs is lower than average.
- Attitude to the decision-making power is lower than average.

Table 8 - Description of decision-making power

| variables | numbers | Mean | Standard derivation | The standard derivation of mean |
|---|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| the participation rate in the household affairs | 383 | 2.93 | 0.50 | 0.02 |

Table 9 - Results of T-test

| Variables | Test Value=3 | | | | Difference | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| | t | Degrees of freedom | Significance level | The mean difference | For a confidence level of 95% | |
| | | | | | Lower limit | The upper limit |
| the decision-making power rate | -2.69 | 383 | 0.00 | -0.06 | -0.11 | -0.01 |

In the second hypothesis, because the mean of decision making power is 2.93 and is less than 3, so the first condition is available and since the obtained significance level was less than 0.05, thus the obtained t value is significant and this difference of sample mean and the value of 3 is significant. so in this way the research hypothesis is confirmed and it becomes clear that the decision-making power is lower than average in the studied population.

Hypothesis test: attitudes toward gender beliefs are lower than average.

Table 10- Description of attitudes to gender beliefs

| variables | numbers | Mean | Standard derivation | The standard derivation of mean |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| attitudes to gender beliefs | 383 | 2.87 | 0.61 | 0.03 |

Table 11 - Results of T-test

| Variables | Test Value=3 | | | | Difference For a confidence level of 95% | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| | t | Degrees of freedom | Significance level | The mean difference | Lower limit | The upper limit |
| attitudes to gender beliefs | -3.83 | 383 | 0.00 | -0.12 | -0.18 | 0.05 |

Since the significant level is 0.00 and less than 0.05, and also the difference of sample mean and the value of 3, is significant, thus the null hypothesis is rejected and the research hypothesis will be confirmed.

Discussion and conclusions

Social Changes as the result of industrialization and modernity have significant impact on family structure and the status of its members, and involves a change in people attitude, role distributing and distribution of power in families. Women's participation in the social field and economic independence for women, have increased their bargaining power in the family. The present study also is looking for reviewing the married women's attitude towards family values such as household affairs participation decision-making power and gender attitudes. The results show that Women's attitude to participation rates in household affairs is higher than average, so women are believed that men's participation in household affairs should be more. This suggests that with women literacy levels increasing, women entering in the community and having control over the economic resources of the family, the traditional family structure and family relationships has been changed. It is assumed in view of functionalism that division of labor between the sexes is encouraged in all societies, since it has a positive function for society as a whole. But this view while accepting the relative stability of the family, knows changing possible to this entity in terms of how to perform the assigned duties. So it can be accepted that in any particular period or society, the family will have a specific formation, duty and direction that distinguishes it from other periods and communities. In second hypothesis of research, women believe that the decision-making power of men should will be lower than average. This suggests that women want more decision-making power in family due to society changes.

On the other hand, one of the natural features of persons is their gender which is assessed on the basis of cultural - social criteria in most societies. And usually women are considered inferior to men. The results of the present study showed that woman's attitudes to gender beliefs is lower than average that ,the situation improvement of women in family life, awareness rising and education of women and the women entering into the labor market and society, can be considered as its results.

Guidelines and recommendations:

- Due to the important role of education at the empowerment of women in decision-making, on the one hand it should be tried to increase the level of their education by eliminating negative

beliefs about educating women and on the other hand, increase more educational facilities for them.

- Attitudes modifying should be considered in order to eliminate discrimination between men and women through tools such as press, radio and television textbooks.
- Parents training in order to contribute their children, boys and girls, on the family responsibilities since the childhood on this field cause to create positive attitudes towards gender equality and promote women greater participation in public life.
- The government should support women's NGOs.
- Attitudes modification towards women in society, with different policies.

Resources

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