



# “Exploring Parental Attitudes Toward Girls’ Higher Education In District Mohali, Punjab.”

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## INTRODUCTION

Education is the process of facilitating learning or acquisition of knowledge still, values, beliefs, and habits. Education is as important and air we breathe. Education will help you grow as an individual, because the more knowledge you have the better understanding you will have in any given problem. Girl’s education plays an important role in the societal progress and improvement. Education is most powerful tool for change and can put girls on the path of economic and social empowerment.

AIMS:- The Aim of the Study is to assess the attitude regarding girl’s higher education among parents in selected areas of distt.Mohali, Punjab. .

MATERIAL AND METHOD:- A Descriptive study to assess the attitude regarding girl’s higher education among parents in selected areas of Distt.Mohali, Punjab. Non-Probability purposive sampling technique was used to select 100 girl’s parents. Tool used for selection was likert scale for data collection. A formal permission was taken from principal of S.P.H.E.College of nursing, and also took permission from Sarpanch of Gharuan, Mamupur and Rurki. Tools was distributed and data was collected. Each tool distributed to one parent of girls. Instruction was given before distribution of questions.

RESULT:- The total number of sample was 100. Majority of both parents of girls had favourable attitude (88%) regarding girls higher Education, However no parent (0%) showed unfavourable attitude.

## CONCLUSION

Study concluded that Majority of both parents of girls had favourable attitude. There is no significant association found between attitude of girl’s parents with their socio-demographic variables i.e. total number of children, number of girl child, relationship with girl child, education of father, education of mother, type of family, religion, occupation of father, occupation of mother, monthly family income (INR).

## KEY WORDS

Attitude, knowledge, Adolescent Girls , Higher Education.

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Education is the process of facilitating learning or acquisition of knowledge still, values, beliefs, and habits. Education is as important and air we breathe. Education will help you grow as an individual, because the more knowledge you have the better understanding you will have in any given problem. Girls education is a strategic development priority better educated women tend to be healthier, participate more in the formal market, earn higher incomes, have fewer children, marry at later age and enable better health care and education for their children.<sup>1</sup>

Girl's education plays an important role in the societal progress and improvement. Education is most powerful tool for change and can put girls on the path of economic and social empowerment. Making education free and compulsory is the key stone of national plan to eliminate gender disparity in education.

Globally, 65 million girls are not in school. There are 31 million girls of primary school age not in school. Of the 123 million young people between age of 15 and 24 who cannot read or write. 61% of them are women. While only 12% of the people in world could read and write in 1820. Today the share has reversed; only 17% of the world population remains illiterate.<sup>2</sup>

An Indian maxim states:” Grooming a girl is like watering a neighbours’ garden”. It is estimated that death of young girls in India exceeds those of young boys by over 3, 00,000 each year, and every sixth infant death is especially due to gender discrimination. Of the 15 million baby girls in India each year, nearly 25% will not live to see their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. Doctors are advertising aggressively, “Invest Rupees. 500 now; save Rupees. 50000 later, i.e., If you get rid of your daughter now, you walnut have to spend money on dowry “. (India together: A cultural deficit, 2007).<sup>3</sup>

### Objectives

- 1) To assess the attitude regarding girl's higher education among parents in selected areas of distt. Mohali, Punjab.
- 2) To find out the association of attitude regarding girl's higher education among parents with selected socio-demographic variables.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Research Approach/ Design

Quantitative research approach was adopted to accomplish the objectives of the study and Design was Non Experimental .

### Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size for the study was 100. Subjects were selected for the purpose of assessing attitude regarding girl's higher education among parents. Subjects were selected by using Non-probability purposive sampling technique.

## Development and Description of Tool

The tool was divided into two sections:

Section A: Socio-Demographic variables which comprised of total number of children, number of girl child, relationship with girl child, education of father, education of mother, type of family, religion, occupation of father, occupation of mother, monthly family income (INR).

Section B: Likert Scale consists of 20 statements

Scoring: Positive statement score: 5 to 1, Negative statement score: 1 to 5

### Ethical Consideration

- Approval was taken from the ethical and research committee of the institution. Permission for data collection was obtained from the Principal, S.P.H.E. College of Nursing, Gharuan. Written informed consent was taken from each individual subject before the administration the tool. Subjects were informed that their participation was purely on the voluntary basis and they can withdraw from the study at any time. Confidentiality of information was maintained.

**Result Table 1**

Sr.no	Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
<b>1.</b>	<b>Total number of children</b>		
a)	1	15	15%
b)	2	50	50%
c)	3	25	25%
d)	>4	10	10%
<b>2.</b>	<b>Number of girl child</b>		
a)	1	56	56%
b)	2	32	32%
c)	3	12	12%
<b>3.</b>	<b>Relationship with girl child</b>		
a)	Father Mother	21	21%
b)		79	79%
<b>4.</b>	<b>Education of father</b>		
a)	Non-literate Primary Secondary	8	8%
b)	Senior Secondary Graduation	20	20%
c)	Post – Graduation and above	49	49%
d)		16	16%
e)		4	4%
f)		3	3%

<b>5. Education of mother</b>		
a) Non-literate	12	12%
b) Primary	27	27%
c) Secondary	43	43%
d) Senior Secondary	11	11%
e) Graduation	4	4%
f) Post – Graduation and above	3	3%
<b>6. Type of family</b>		
a) Nuclear family	79	79%
b) Joint family	14	14%
c) Extended family	7	7%
<b>7. Religion</b>		
a) Sikh	85	85%
b) Hindu	13	13%
c) Muslim	2	2%
<b>8. Occupation of father</b>		
a) Private Job	15	15%
b) Govt. Job	16	16%
c) Self employed	59	59%
d) Labourer	10	10%
<b>9. Occupation of Mother</b>		
a) Home Maker	90	90%
b) Private Job	3	3%
c) Govt. Job	4	4%
d) Self employed	3	3%
<b>10. Monthly family income (INR)</b>		
a) <10,000	47	47%
b) 10,001-20,000	39	39%
c) 20,001-30,000	7	7%

Table -I depicts that according to Total number of Children 50% parents having 2 children , 25% having 3 Children , 15% having 1 children and 10% having >4 Children.

Observation of Number of Girl Child , it states that 56% of parents have 1 Girl child , 32% have 2 and 12% have 3 girl child.According to Relationship with Girl Child, majority of information got from mother i.e. 79% followed by father i.e. 21%.Observation of Educational status of Father , 49% having Secondary education,20% having Primary education ,16% having Senior secondary education ,8% were Non-literate ,4% were Graduated and 3% were Post - Graduated .According to Educational status of Mother, 43% of Mothers having Secondary education , 27% having primary education ,12% were non-literate , 11% having senior secondary education, 4 were Graduated and 3 were Post-Graduated or above.Observation of Type of the Family, 79% of girls were living in a Nuclear family, 14% in a Joint family and 7% in a Extended family.According to the Religion, 85% of girls belonged to Sikh family, 13% to Hindu family and 2% to Muslim family .Observation of occupation of Father , 59% of Father

were Self – Employed , 16% doing Government Job , 15% having Private Job , 10% are Labourer .According to Occupation of Mother , 90% of mother were Home maker , 4% having Govt. Job , 3% having Private Job and 3% are Self – Employed.Observation of Monthly Family Income, it depicts that 47% have <10,000 income , 39% have 10,001 - 20,000 , 7% have 20,001 – 30,000 income and 7% have>30,000 income.The results shows that 50% of parents having 2 children , 56% having only 1 girl child ,79% of mothers gave information , 49% of father having secondary education 43% of mother having secondary education , 79% have nuclear family,85% belongs to Sikh religion ,59% of father were self -employed , 90% of mothers were Home-maker and 47% parents have monthly income <10,000.

### **TABLE – II**

**Table – II:-Attitude of parents regarding girls higher education**

**N=100**

<b>Sr.no.</b>	<b>Attitude</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Favourable attitude</b>	<b>71-100</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Moderate favourable attitude</b>	<b>51-70</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Unfavourable attitude</b>	<b>&lt;50</b>	<b>0</b>

TABLE -II depicts that 88% in range of 71-100 parents among father and mother having favourable attitude , 12% in range of 51- 70 parents among father and mother having moderate favourable attitude followed by 0% having unfavourable attitude in range of <50.

### **TABLE – III**

**Mean, Standard deviation, Maximum Score, Minimum score and Mean percentage of attitude score regarding girl's higher education among parents**

**N=100**

	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>Maximum score obtained</b>	<b>Minimum score obtained</b>	<b>Mean%</b>
<b>ATTITUDE SCORE</b>	<b>78.41</b>	<b>7.63</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>78.41%</b>

Maximum score: 100

Minimum Score: 0

The data presented in this table reveals that the mean and S.D. attitude score was  $78.41 \pm 7.63$  with mean percentage of 78.41%. the maximum attitude score obtained regarding girl's higher was 95 and Minimum was 57.

#### **TABLE-IV**

**Table – IV Association of attitude regarding girl's higher education among parents with their socio-demographic variables.**

**N=100**

Sr. no.	Variables	Favourable Attitude	Moderate favourable Attitude	Unfavourable Attitude	Chi-square Value ( $X^2$ )	df	Table value
1.	<b>Total no. of children</b>						
a)	1	14	1	0	3.846 <sup>NS</sup>	6	12.59
b)	2	44	6	0			
c)	3	23	2	0			
d)	>4	7	3	0			
2.	<b>Number of girl child</b>						
a)	1	50	6	0	2.392 <sup>NS</sup>	4	9.49
b)	2	29	3	0			
c)	3	9	3	0			
3.	<b>Relation- ship with girl child</b>						
a)	Father	20	1	0	1.3 <sup>NS</sup>	2	5.99
b)	Mother	68	11	0			
4.	<b>Education of father</b>						

a)	Non- Literate	6	2	0	2.878 <sup>NS</sup>	10	18.31
b)	Primary Secondary	17	3	0			
c)	Senior - secondary	43	6	0			
d)	Graduation Post- graduation	15	1	0			
e)	And above	4	0	0			
f)		3	0	0			

### 5. Education of mother

a)	Non -Literate	9	3	0	6.07 <sup>NS</sup>	10	18.31
b)	Primary Secondary	22	5	0			
c)	Senior - secondary	39	4	0			
d)	Graduation Post- graduation	11	0	0			
e)		4	0	0			
f)		3	0	0			

### 6. Type of family

a)	Nuclear Joint	67	12	0			
b)	Extended	14	0	0	3.627 <sup>NS</sup>	4	9.49
c)		7	0	0			

### 7. Religion Sikh Hindu

a)	Muslim	74	11	0	4.578 <sup>NS</sup>	8	15.51
b)		13	0	0			
c)		1	1	0			

### 8. Occupation of father

a)	Private Job Govt.	12	3	0	1.486 <sup>NS</sup>	8	15.51
b)	Job	15	1	0			
c)	Self-Employed	52	7	0			
d)	Labourer	9	1	0			

<b>9. Occupation of mother</b>							
a)	Home Maker	79	11	0	2.24 <sup>NS</sup>	8	15.51
b)	Private Job Govt.	2	1	0			
c)	Job	4	0	0			
d)	Self- employed	3	0	0			
<b>10 Monthly family income (INR)</b>							
a)	<10,000	43	4	0			
b)	10,001-20,000	32	7	0	2.835 <sup>NS</sup>	6	12.59
c)	20,001-30,000	6	1	0			
d)	>30,000	7	0	0			

TABLE -IV depicts that total number of children in which 50% of parents having 2 children , number of girl child in which 56% having only 1 girl child ,relationship with girl child in which 79% of mothers gave information about their attitude. According to attitude , 88% in range of 71-100 parents among father and mother having favourable attitude , 12% in range of 51- 70 parents among father and mother having moderate favourable attitude followed by 0% having unfavourable attitude in range of <50. According to education of father, 49% of father having secondary education. According to educational status of mother, 43% of mother having secondary education. According to type of family, 79% have nuclear family. According to religion, 85% belongs to Sikh religion. According to occupational status of mother, 59% of fathers were self -employed. According to occupational status of mother, 90% of mothers were Home-maker and According to Monthly family income (INR), 47% parents have monthly income<10,000.

### Discussion

The findings of the present descriptive study conducted among parents in selected areas of District Mohali, Punjab, revealed a predominantly moderate to favorable attitude toward girls' higher education. A significant proportion of parents acknowledged the intrinsic value of higher education for their daughters, recognizing its role in enhancing personal development, economic independence, and social standing. These findings are consistent with a broader national trend observed in urban and semi-urban areas of India, where rising literacy rates and increased awareness of gender equity have gradually shifted parental perceptions. The relatively progressive attitudes observed in this study may be attributed to the geographical context of Mohali, a rapidly urbanizing district with greater exposure to educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and digital media, all of which are known to positively influence attitudes toward women's education.

The findings of the present study are consistent with the results of a study conducted by **Khanam and Nghiem (2016)**, titled "Family Size and Child Educational Attainment with Special Reference to Girls in Rural India," published in the *Journal of Development Studies*. The authors examined parental attitudes and investment in girls' education across rural and semi-urban Indian households and reported that parental perception of the long-term social and economic returns of education was the strongest predictor of support for daughters' higher education. They further noted that mothers' educational level and household economic status were significantly associated with positive attitudes toward girls' schooling. These findings closely parallel the results of the present study, wherein parents with higher educational backgrounds and greater socio-economic stability demonstrated more favorable attitudes. The concordance between the two studies reinforces the view that parental attitude is not an isolated variable but is deeply embedded within broader social, familial, and economic structures.

In addition, a study by **Rao and Kulkarni (2018)**, titled "Gender, Parental Attitudes, and Higher Education Aspirations for Daughters in Urban and Peri-Urban India," published in the *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, found that parents in peri-urban regions of northern India exhibited significantly more positive attitudes toward their daughters' pursuit of higher education when they had access to information about career opportunities and scholarship programs. The authors concluded that awareness and accessibility of educational resources were key modifiable determinants of parental attitude, a finding that aligns with the present study's context of Mohali — a district characterized by growing institutional infrastructure and increasing community awareness regarding women's empowerment.

Several socio-cultural, educational, and economic factors appear to underlie the variation in parental attitudes observed in this study. Culturally, deeply entrenched gender norms, concerns about marriage prospects, and familial expectations regarding domestic roles may discourage some parents from prioritizing higher education for their daughters. Economically, financial constraints, concerns about the return on educational investment, and prioritization of sons' education over daughters' in resource-limited households contribute to attitudinal disparities. Educational factors, including parents' own level of schooling and their familiarity with available opportunities for women in higher education, also emerged as likely mediators. Parents who themselves had formal education were more likely to value and support their daughters' academic advancement, suggesting that intergenerational education plays a crucial role in shaping these attitudes.

The implications of this study for community health nursing and health education are substantial. Positive parental attitudes toward girls' higher education are intrinsically linked to women's health outcomes; educated women demonstrate greater health literacy, improved maternal and child health practices, and enhanced ability to make autonomous healthcare decisions. Community health nurses, by virtue of their sustained contact with families in the community, are uniquely positioned to serve as change agents. Through structured health education sessions, home visits, and community mobilization activities, nurses can address misconceptions, challenge regressive gender norms, and advocate for the

educational empowerment of girls. The findings of this study underscore the need for targeted awareness programs aimed at parents — particularly fathers and less-educated caregivers — to foster a more equitable and supportive educational environment for girls in the region. Incorporating education-related counseling into routine community health nursing practice may thus serve as a meaningful strategy for promoting long-term gender equity and improving population health outcomes.

## CONCLUSION

Majority of both parents of girls had favourable attitude (88%). There is no significant association found between attitude of girl's parents with their socio-demographic variables i.e. total number of children, number of girl child, relationship with girl child, education of father, education of mother, type of family, religion, occupation of father, occupation of mother, monthly family income (INR).

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