



Vidhyayana - ISSN 2454-8596

An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal

www.j.vidhyayanaejournal.org

Indexed in: ROAD & Google Scholar

A survey of adolescent girls in Saurashtra's rural and urban areas on their knowledge of women's rights

Bukhari Tabassum F.

M. Sc., Smt. Gardi Ins. of Home Science,
Surashtra University, Rajkot

Dr. Rekhaba C. Jadeja

Assi. Professor & Research Guide,
M. Sc., Ph. D.
Smt. Gardi Ins. of Home Science,
Surashtra University, Rajkot



Abstract

The current study was carried out in the Saurashtra Barabanki district. The research project aimed to evaluate teenage girls' understanding of women's rights in urban and rural locations. 120 teenage females, 60 from urban and 60 from rural regions were chosen on purpose. A survey was conducted using a self-structured questionnaire with closed-ended questions to gather information on fundamental rights. These rights include the right to education, health care, property, marriage, dowries, pregnancy and abortion, wages and employment, domestic violence, prostitution, and even teasing. The survey was carried out in India. The data were analyzed using the means, frequencies, and percentages over various dimensions. The majority of urban teenage females have an understanding of women's rights, according to the findings. Adolescent girls from rural and urban areas differed in their awareness of basic rights, women's political rights, the right to education, health, and property, and issues like domestic abuse, prostitution, and eve teasing.

Keywords: Adolescent girls, Fundamental rights, Wages and employment, Domestic violence, Prostitution and eve teasing.



Introduction

The formative years of adolescence are the most crucial for determining how a girl's or boy's life will unfold. Adolescence is a time of commitment, resolve, and dedication to realizing one's aspirations and a period of transition and turning point in one's life. The majority of the population of the nation is made up of adolescents. This group accounts for over a sixth of India's population, making up a bigger population than many other nations.

Inequality and subordination in the home and society are traits that adolescent girls share with adult women. Teenage females are particularly vulnerable to various social, legal, and health challenges. They all contribute to a country's overall development. However, they are impressionable because of their inadequate awareness of their rights (Madan, 2000), concerns with sexual issues and rights, and a lack of opportunity for growth and mental enlightenment. 34.54 percent of women had no formal education (Census, 2011). The level of education for girls has barely changed. Moreover, adolescent girls, in particular those between the ages of 14 and 19, are more likely to experience gender discrimination, low levels of education, high school dropouts, poor health, early marriage, early pregnancies, abortions, infanticides, and feticide, as well as prostitution, eve teasing, dowry, lack of control and share in a property, unequal wages, domestic violence, and other such things. Adolescent boys, on the other hand, have a lower awareness of the rights guaranteed to them legally (UNICEF, 1998).

Women represent a marginalized group in society. The unfavourable sex ratio, low educational and nutritional conditions, pay disparity, and the



prevalence of violence against women, including trafficking, are all manifestations of the disparities in the social, political, and economic sectors.

Let's think about the stats below: 40 percent of Indian women are literate, compared to 67 percent of men, and 43 percent of Indian girls attend elementary school, compared to 62 percent of boys. In India, 42 girls per thousand die before age five, as opposed to 29 boys. There are only 940 women in India for every 1000 men (Census 2011). A woman in India is sexually assaulted every 26 minutes, raped every 54 minutes, or kidnapped every 43 minutes due to dowry-related violence (National Crime Bureau). So, it was intended for the current study to draw attention to these problems.

The two components of awareness are knowledge (information) and action readiness (action). We would want to characterize teenage girls' awareness in terms of their knowledge of and desire to carry out their tasks and responsibilities as members of society. We may recognize a girl as a responsive or conscious part of society when she has good information, thoughts, and ideas, perceives herself as an autonomous member of society with equal rights and obligations, and has the willingness to act. Therefore, from our perspective, teenage females may be considered conscious or aware members of society if they have a thorough understanding of their lives and surroundings and are motivated to act. The recognition of one's existence is known as awareness. This survey was designed to determine how well-informed teenage girls from urban and rural areas are about women's rights.



Objectives:

- To evaluate urban teenage girls' awareness of women's rights.
- To evaluate rural teenage girls' awareness of women's rights.
- To determine the knowledge gaps between teenage girls in rural and urban areas about women's rights.

Methods

The study was conducted in the Barabanki district of Saurashtra's rural and urban areas (India). For the study, 120 teenage females from various government girls' schools were randomly chosen. Girls in grades XI and XII were purposefully chosen as a sample to acquire the necessary research data. A systematic questionnaire (closed-ended questions) was created to gather the necessary data, including the background traits of the respondents and their understanding of women's rights among teenage girls in urban and rural areas. In terms of mean, frequency, and percentage, data were studied.

Observations and Analysis

The understanding of fundamental rights is revealed in Table 1. The majority of teenage girls were aware of their constitutional rights to equality (64.17%), freedom (67.50%), protection from exploitation (69.17%), freedom of religion (62.50%), access to culture and education (71.67%), and remedies for the infringement of basic rights (65.00%). The urban adolescent girls knew more about these rights than the rural adolescent girls did (51.67%, 55.00%, 61.67%, 53.33%, 63.33%, and 56.67%, respectively): the right to equality (76.67%), the



right to freedom (80.00%), the right against exploitation (76.67%), the right to freedom of religion (71.67%), the right to cultural and educational rights (80.00%), and the right to constitutional remedies for the enforcement of fundamental rights (73%).

Table 2 reveals this information about the rights of women in politics. Most adolescent girls knew the voting age, the legal age to be elected, and the 33% female quota (82.50%). In comparison to rural teenage girls who were more ignorant of these rights (58.33%, 80.00%, and 65.00%, respectively), the majority of urban adolescent girls knew the proper age to be elected (91.67%), the proper age to vote (95.00%), and the proper percentage of reservation for women (33%). In research by Garg and Srilata (2009), it was discovered that urban teenage girls had more awareness (76%) than rural adolescent girls regarding "the political rights of women. The terms of this convention are women are to be on equal terms with men without any prejudice in being entitled." Concerning the "Reservation of seats in every Panchayat and every municipality for women," the difference was judged to be significant (value 7.327) at the.05 levels of significance knowledge. The females from the cities and the country had less knowledge. 10% of teenage females in urban areas and 5% of girls in rural areas knew this. At the.05 level of significance, the difference was determined to be non-significant (value 0.015).



Table 1: Percentage distribution of knowledge of adolescent girls regarding fundamental rights

Fundamental rights	Response	Urban (n=60)		Rural (n=60)		Total (n=120)	
		No	Per cent	No	Per cent	No	Per cent
Right to equality	Know	46	76.67	31	51.67	77	64.17
	Don't know	14	23.33	29	48.33	43	35.83
Right to freedom	Know	48	80.00	33	55.00	81	67.50
	Don't know	12	20.00	27	45.00	39	32.50
Right against exploitation	Know	46	76.67	37	61.67	83	69.17
	Don't know	14	23.33	23	38.33	37	30.83
Right to freedom of religion	Know	43	71.67	32	53.33	75	62.50
	Don't know	17	28.33	28	46.67	45	37.50
Cultural and educational rights	Know	48	80.00	38	63.33	86	71.67



Right to constitutional remedies for enforcement of fundamental rights	Don't know	12	20.00	22	36.67	34	28.33
	Know	44	73.33	34	56.67	78	65.00
	Don't know	16	26.67	26	43.33	42	35.00

Table 2: Percentage distribution of knowledge adolescent girls regarding women's political rights

Political rights	Response	Urban (n=60)		Rural (n=60)		Total (n=120)	
		No.	Per cent	No.	Percent	No.	Per cent
The right age to be elected	Know	55	91.67	35	58.33	90	75.00
	Don't know	5	8.33	25	41.67	30	25.00
The right age to vote	Know	57	95.00	48	80.00	105	87.50
	Don't know	3	5.00	12	20.00	15	12.50
33% reservation of women	Know	60	100	39	65.00	99	82.50



Don't know	0	0	21	35.00	21	17.50
------------	---	---	----	-------	----	-------

Table 3 shows that the majority of teenage girls were aware of the appropriate marriage age (82.50%), the freedom to choose one's life partner (74.17%), and the freedom to choose one's life partner regardless of religion or culture (69.17%). When compared to rural teenage girls, most urban adolescent girls knew more about the appropriate marriage age (91.67%), the freedom to choose one's life partner (81.67%), and the freedom to choose one's life partner regardless of religion or culture (80.00%).

According to Table 4, the majority of young women knew that requests for money and valuables at or before the time of marriage were illegal (75.63%), as were dowry tortures committed after marriage (70.83%), and the death of the bride within three months is considered a dowry crime (62.50%). In comparison to urban adolescent girls for the same (95.00%, 83.33%, and 75.00%, respectively), rural adolescent girls had less knowledge of demands for money and goods at or before the time of marriage, is a crime (56.67%), dowry tortures after marriage, is a crime (53.33%). Death of the bride within 3 months comes under dowry crime (50.00%). According to Garg and Srilata (2009), girls from urban and rural areas were aware of who was entitled to the dowry that girls' parents gave them when they got married. However, the percentage of urban adolescent girls who knew this information (66%) was only marginally higher than that of rural girls who knew this information (53%). The number of 3.507 indicates that the difference was considered to be insignificant. Girls were questioned further regarding the "If the wife had died in the first three months of



her marriage, who would have rights to the item forming dowry." Adolescent females in urban areas were likelier to be knowledgeable than those in rural areas, where knowledge was less common (45% vs 55% in urban areas). The result of 2.000 indicates that the difference was determined to be insignificant.

Table 3: Percentage distribution of knowledge of adolescent girls regarding marriage rights

Dowry rights	Response	Urban (n=60)		Rural (n=60)		Total (n=120)	
		No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Right age of marriage	Know	55	91.67	44	73.33	99	82.50
	Don't know	5	8.33	16	26.67	21	17.50
Freedom for selection of life partner after legal age	Know	49	81.67	40	66.67	89	74.17
	Don't know	11	18.33	20	33.33	31	25.83
Freedom for selection of life partners across the	Know	48	80.00	35	58.33	83	69.17



religion and culture after the legal age	Don't know	12	20.00	25	41.67	37	30.83
---	---------------	----	-------	----	-------	----	-------

Table 4: Percentage distribution of knowledge of adolescent girls regarding knowledge of dowry rights

Dowry rights	Response	Urban (n=60)		Rural (n=60)		Total (n=120)	
		No	Per cent	No	Per cent	No	Per cent
Demands of money and goods at or before the time of marriage, is a crime	Know	57	95.00	34	56.67	91	75.83
	Don't know	3	5.00	26	43.33	29	24.17
Dowry tortures after marriage are a crime	Know	53	83.33	32	53.33	85	70.83
	Don't know	7	11.67	28	46.67	35	29.17
Death of bride within 3 months comes	Know	45	75.00	30	50.00	75	62.50



under dowry crime	Don't know	15	25.00	30	50.00	45	37.50
-------------------	------------	----	-------	----	-------	----	-------

According to Table 5, the majority of adolescent girls were aware of their rights as widows (68.33%), their portion in the property of their husbands (70.00%), and their parents' share (65.83%). In comparison to urban teenage females, who knew more about the same topics (80.00%, 75.00%, and 76.67%, respectively), rural adolescent girls knew less about the share in the property of the spouse (60.00%), share in the property of the parents (56.67%), and property rights of widows (60.00%). Garg and Srilata (2009) investigated if the girls knew about "Property rights" in their study. The question "Rights of the widow in departed husband's property brings to an end" was posed to the girls. Most adolescent females in metropolitan areas were aware of their property rights. In contrast, females in urban regions were significantly more likely to know (68% vs 52%) than those in rural areas. It was determined that the difference was important. At the .05 levels of significance, it was determined that the value of 5.333 was significant. According to Table 6, the majority of teenage females were aware of the age at which education is required (73.33%), the right to adult education (69.17%), and the right to education at any age (75.00%). In comparison to rural teenage females, urban adolescent girls knew more about the rights to adult education (85.00%), education at any age (91.67%), and the age at which education is required (56.67%, 53.33%, and 58.33%, respectively).

Table 7 shows that the majority of adolescent girls were aware of their rights to abortion (67.50%), medical care and facilities during pregnancy (75.00%), the



right to consume a nutritious diet equal to males (79.17%), and the fact that infanticide and feticide are crimes (83.33%). In comparison to rural adolescent girls, urban adolescent girls knew more about the rights to choices in pregnancy (83.33%), medical care and facilities during pregnancy (91.67%), the right to eat a healthy diet on par with men (93.33%), the right to choices in abortion (80.00%), and the crimes of infanticide and feticide (100.00%).

Table 5: Percentage distribution of knowledge of adolescent girls regarding property rights

Property rights	Response	Urban (n=60)		Rural (n=60)		Total (n=120)	
		No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Share in property of the husband	Know	48	80.00	36	60.00	84	70.00
	Don't know	12	20.00	24	40.00	36	30.00
Share in property of parents	Know	45	75.00	34	56.67	79	65.83
	Don't know	15	25.00	26	43.33	41	34.14
Property rights of widows	Know	46	76.67	36	60.00	82	68.33
	Don't know	14	23.33	24	40.00	38	31.67



Table 6: Percentage distribution of knowledge of adolescent girls regarding educational rights

Educational rights	Response	Urban (n=60)		Rural (n=60)		Total (n=120)	
		No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Age of compulsory education	Know	54	90.00	34	56.67	88	73.33
	Don't know	6	10.00	26	43.33	32	26.67
Right of adult education	Know	51	85.00	32	53.33	83	69.17
	Don't know	9	15.00	28	46.67	37	30.83
Right to education at any age	Know	55	91.67	35	58.33	90	75.00
	Don't know	5	8.33	25	41.67	30	25.00

Table 7: Percentage distribution of knowledge of adolescent girls about rights regarding pregnancy and abortion

Pregnancy and abortion rights	Response	Urban (n=60)		Rural (n=60)		Total (n=120)	
		No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Right for choices in pregnancy	Know	50	83.33	37	61.67	87	72.50
	Don't know	10	16.67	23	38.33	33	27.50
Right for medical treatment and facilities during pregnancy	Know	55	91.67	35	58.33	90	75.00
	Don't know	5	8.33	25	41.67	30	25.00
Right to eat healthy food equal to men	Know	56	93.33	39	65.00	95	79.17
	Don't know	4	6.67	21	35.00	25	20.83
Right for choices in abortion	Know	48	80.00	33	55.00	81	67.50



	Don't know	12	20.00	27	45.00	39	32.50
Infanticide and feticide is crime	Know	60	100.00	40	66.67	100	83.33
	Don't know	0	00.00	20	33.33	30	16.67

Table 8 shows that the majority of adolescent females were aware of their rights to equal pay for equal labour (83.33%), workplace safety rights (75.83%), and rights to maternity leave (80.83%). Adolescent females in urban areas exhibited a greater understanding of the rights to equal pay for equal labour (91.67%), workplace safety (86.67%), and maternity leave during pregnancy (90.00%) than those in rural areas (75.00%, 65.00%, and 71.67%, respectively). In their study, Garg and Srilata (2009) discovered that most girls in both urban and rural regions (71% and 58%, respectively) were aware of "directive concepts that concern women employees." It was determined that the knowledge gap was not large.

Table 9 shows that most adolescent girls were aware of legal protections for themselves or others and the ability to report domestic abuse (73.33%). They also knew that harassing, abusing, brutalizing, or cruelly treating women at home was illegal (77.50%). Compared to rural adolescent girls, urban adolescent girls experienced more harassment, maltreatment, brutality or cruelty and even the threat of assault intimidation against women in the home (93.33%). Furthermore,



urban adolescent girls had less access to legal provisions to protect oneself/others and to complain against domestic violence (90.00%).

According to Table 10, the majority of adolescent girls were aware of their rights to report eve-teasing (71.67%), rights for prostitution-involved women (55.00%), and rights against forced prostitution (70.83%). Adolescent girls in urban areas had higher rates of rights against forced prostitution (80.00%), rights for prostitution-related women (60.00%), and rights to report eve-teasing (85.00%) than those in rural areas (61.67%, 50.00, and 58.33%, respectively).

Conclusion:

It is possible to say that adolescent girls in rural and urban areas have significantly different levels of knowledge about fundamental rights such as the right to education, health, property, marriage, dowry, pregnancy and abortion, wages and employment, domestic violence, prostitution, and eve teasing. This conclusion is based on this study's findings and other reviews of the relevant literature. Women's rights education materials for schoolgirls who are already enrolled in school and intervention programs for women who are not currently enrolled in school are required to increase awareness, particularly in remote areas.

Table 8: Percentage distribution of knowledge of adolescent girls regarding employment and wages rights

Employment and wages rights	Response	Urban (n=60)		Rural (n=60)		Total (n=120)	
		No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Right for equal remuneration for equal work	Know	55	91.67	45	75.00	100	83.33
	Don't know	5	8.33	15	25.00	20	16.67
Right for hazard safety at the workplace	Know	52	86.67	39	65.00	91	75.83
	Don't know	8	13.33	21	35.00	29	24.17
Right for maternity leave during pregnancy	Know	54	90.00	43		97	80.83
	Don't know	6	10.00	17	28.33	23	19.17

Table 9: Percentage distribution of knowledge of adolescent girls regarding domestic violence

Rights against domestic violence	Response	Urban (n=60)		Rural (n=60)		Total (n=120)	
		No.	Percent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
		Harassment, maltreatment, brutality or cruelty and even the threat of assault intimidation on women	Know	56	93.33	37	61.67
	Don't know	4	6.67	23	38.33		22.50
In a home is a crime							
Legal provisions to protect oneself/others and to complain against domestic violence	Know	54	90.00	34	56.67	88	73.33
	Don't know	6	10.00	26	43.33	31	26.67



Table 10: Percentage distribution of knowledge of adolescent girls regarding prostitution and eve-teasing

Rights against prostitution and eve-teasing	Response	Urban (n=60)		Rural (n=60)		Total (n=120)	
		No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
		Rights against forced prostitution	Know	48	80.00	37	61.67
	Don't know	12	20.00	23	38.33	35	29.67
Rights for women involved in prostitution	Know	36	60.00	30	50.00	66	55.00
	Don't know	24	40.00	30	50.00	54	45.00
Rights to complain against eve-teasing	Know	51	85.00	35	58.33	86	71.67
	Don't know	9	15.00	25	41.67	24	28.33



References

Census of India, 2011.

Garg and Srilata (2009). Women's rights awareness of urban and rural adolescent girls of Saurashtra: A comparative study. *Indian J. Soc. Sci. Res.*, **6** (1): 113-117

Madan, R. (2000). Education and employment: Agents of women's empowerment Abstract of International Women's Conference on Women's status: Vision and reality held at New Delhi. (27 Feb.- 2 March) p.183.

Rashid, S.F. (2006). Emerging changes in reproductive behaviour among married adolescent girls in an urban slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh, *Reproductive health Matters*, 14 (27). Sex of India Iloveindia:

UNICEF India Statistics. Volunteer Ramblings: Status of Women in India [http://volunteer thoughts blogspot.com/ 2005/09/status of women in India in over all.html](http://volunteerthoughts.blogspot.com/2005/09/status-of-women-in-india-over-all.html)

WEBLIOGRAPHY

<http://www.braceducation.org/adp.php> [www.iloveindia.com/population of - of India / sexratio. Html](http://www.iloveindia.com/population-of-india-sexratio.html)