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## Attitude towards Social Change and Family Planning in terms of Community Affiliation and Inhabitation

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



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### Abstract

*The present study was conducted on an incidental-cum-purposive sample of 200 intermediate level girl students studying in constituent colleges of Siwan district under J.P. University, Chapra. The sample comprised of 100 Muslim and 100 Hindu girl students selected from both rural and urban areas. 'Attitude Scale' by Chauhan et al and 'Family Planning Attitude Inventory' developed by Paliwal along with PDS administered to assess the effect of community affiliation and inhabitation on attitude towards social change and family planning. The results indicated that community affiliation and inhabitation have significant effect on attitude towards social change and family planning. Hindu girl students hold significantly more favourable attitude towards social change and family planning than Muslim girl students. Urban girl students*

*from both communities hold significantly more favourable attitude towards social change and family planning than their rural counterparts.*

### Key Words

*Attitude, Social Change, Family, Girl.*

### Introduction

Attitudes are enduring mental representations of various features of the social or physical world. They are acquired through experience and exert a directive influence on subsequent behaviour (Breckler and Wiggins, 1989)<sup>5</sup>. It has been confirmed by different studies (Armitage and Conner, 2001;<sup>3</sup> Wallace and others, 2004)<sup>10</sup> that specific relevant attitudes predict intended and actual behaviour.

According to Ahuja (1999)<sup>2</sup>, "Social change is a change in established patterns of social relations, or change in social values, or change in structure, and subsystem operating in society".

Kuppuswamy (1986)<sup>7</sup> defines social change as the process in which there is discernible significant alteration in the structure and functioning of a particular social system. Social change is taking place in India at rapid rate. But all segments of the social system are not changing at the same pace. Social change is not taking place at the same rate in Hindu and Muslim societies. Muslims and particularly Muslim females are still adhering to their traditional and dogmatic attitudes. Traditionalism is being reflected in unbalanced population growth of the Hindus and the Muslims. Population explosion is posing serious problems before the country.

Although some studies have been carried out in the past seeking the relation of traditionalism with attitude towards different social problem, but no study has been done in the past on Muslim females of this area related to their attitude towards social change and family planning.

Keeping this in view the main objectives of this work is to see whether girl students from Muslim and Hindu communities differ or not on their attitudes towards social change and family planning due to variation on community and residential area. The study intends to test the following hypotheses:

- H<sub>1</sub>** There will be significant difference between Muslim and Hindu girl students on attitude towards social change.
- H<sub>2</sub>** There will be significant difference between Muslim and Hindu girl students on attitude towards family planning.
- H<sub>3</sub>** There will be significant difference between rural and urban girl students on their attitude towards social change.
- H<sub>4</sub>** There will be significant difference between rural and urban girl students on attitude towards family planning.

## Method

### Sample

The sample consisted of 200 intermediate level girl students. Out of this 100 students (50 rural + 50 urban) were from Muslim community (M) and remaining 100 students (50 rural + 50 urban) were from Hindu community (H). They were selected from +2 high schools of Siwan (Bihar) using incidental-cum-purposive sample technique other than the conditions of research. They were matched so far as practicable.

### Test Used

1. A PDS was used to seek the personal information about the respondents.
2. 'Hamarey Dristicon' (Attitude scale) by Chauhan *et. al.* (1982)<sup>6</sup> was used to measure attitude towards social change. This consists of 150 items and measures attitudes towards six areas (25 items for every area) including attitude towards social change. High score on this scale signifies more unfavourable attitude towards the respective dimension.
3. 'Family planning attitude inventory' by Paliwal, M.B. (1979)<sup>8</sup> has been used to measure attitude of subjects towards family planning. This is a five point Likert-type scale comprising 25 items. Higher score denotes more favourable attitude towards family planning.

## Results and Discussion

**Table 1:** Showing comparison on attitude towards social change scores.

Criterion Groups	N	Mean	SD	df	t-ratio	Level of Significance
H Students	100	57.60	20.55	198	6.89	.01
M Students	100	78.00	20.90			
RH Students	050	62.10	18.61	98	2.14	.05
UH Students	050	53.50	21.47			
RM Students	050	85.50	18.03	98	3.84	.01
UM Students	050	70.50	20.88			

(Source: Primary Data)

The analysis of attitude score towards social change of girl students (Table-1) shows that Muslim girl students have scored significantly higher than Hindu girl students; rural Hindu (RH) girl students have scored significantly higher than urban Hindu (UH) girl students, and rural Muslim (RM) girl students have scored significantly higher than urban Muslim (UM) girl students. The obtained 't' ratio for HxM; RHxUH and

RMxUM comparative groups are 6.89, 2.14 and 3.84 respectively. All the three 't' ratio are significant at .01 or .05 level. Since all the 't' ratio are significant, so all compared groups differ significantly on social change attitude scores. Since higher score denotes lower and more favourable attitude towards social change, so Muslim girls hold significantly lower attitude towards social change than Hindu girl students. In other words, Hindu girl students hold more favourable attitude towards social change than Muslim girl students is also evidenced by Table-1 that urban girl students whether they stem from the Hindu or the Muslim community hold more favourable attitude towards social change than their rural counterparts. It appears that traditionalism is loosing its grip in urban areas and as a result of this; urbanites are growing more and more change oriented whether they belong to Hindu or Muslim community. This finding supports the finding of Srivastava (1995)<sup>9</sup> who reported urban girl students holding more favourable attitude towards social change than rural girl students.

**Table 2:** Showing comparison on attitude towards family planning scores.

Criterion Groups	N	Mean	SD	df	t-ratio	Level of Significance
H Students	100	88.70	14.16	198	5.54	.01
M Students	100	77.95	13.26			
RH Students	050	82.70	14.78	98	4.68	.01
UH Students	050	94.70	10.52			
RM Students	050	72.60	13.45	98	4.41	.01
UM Students	050	83.30	10.65			

(Source: Primary Data)

The comparative analysis of attitude score on family planning (Table-2) of Hindu and Muslim girl students signifies that Hindu girl students hold more favourable attitude towards family planning than Muslim girls students because the difference between mean AFP scores of H and M girl students is highly significant ('t' ratio = 5.54) and higher mean score has been obtained by H girl students.

## Conclusion

Urbanisation has been found strengthening favourable attitude towards family planning. Urban girl students have obtained significantly higher mean AFP scores than their rural counterparts in both Hindu and Muslim communities signifying significantly more favourable attitude towards family planning. The findings related to attitude towards family planning of rural and urban girl students supports the finding of Accadi (1969)<sup>1</sup> and Balkrishna and Murhty (1968)<sup>4</sup> who reported that urbanisation and frequency of urban contact develops favourable attitude towards family planning

On the basis of above results and discussion, the following conclusions can be drawn :

1. Community affiliation and inhabitation have significant effect on attitude towards social change and family planning.
2. Hindu girl students hold more favourable attitude towards social change than Muslim girl students.
3. Hindu girl students hold more favourable attitude towards family planning than Muslim girl students
4. Urban girl students hold more favourable attitude towards social change than rural girl students
5. Urban girl students hold more favourable attitude towards family planning than rural girl students

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