

Awareness of Reproductive Rights Among Highly Educated Females of Islamabad

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Abstract

This study sought to determine how well-educated women have awareness regarding their reproductive rights. Decision making and awareness of reproductive rights is still a labyrinth among the highly educated women among the Pakistani women. The advancement of women's reproductive health and rights has been designated as a top priority by both the World Health Organization and the United Nations. The study underlined the basic research question of the awareness level of the reproductive rights. The study opted the qualitative research design. The respondents of the study were married women from the Islamabad. Therefore, the researcher gathered the data from 10 respondents through the purposive sampling technique. The data was collected through the face to face to interview guide. The data were analyzed through the thematic analysis technique. The findings of this study most of the women know their reproductive rights and they practices easily, few of them are not aware of their reproductive rights. The study has recommended that there is dire need for the government to

takes initiative regarding the reproductive rights of women through media and the other platforms.

Key Words: Awareness, Reproductive Rights, Highly Educated Females

Introduction

The protection of women's reproductive rights is one of the keys focuses of the World Health Organization as well as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The advancement of women's reproductive health and rights has been designated as a top priority by both the World Health Organization and the United Nations. There are several concerns that need to be addressed, including the availability of contraception, the treatment of obstetric fistula, the avoidance of sexual assault, the management of menopausal symptoms, and more. Advocating for women's reproductive rights is crucial since it prevents and benefits them from discrimination in the workplace, in relationships, and in the larger community. (Nelson, 2003)

Every woman has the inherent right to access effective methods of birth control freely and legally. Because of the intricate connection between this right and women's health and social status, as well as the formidable societal institutions of religion, state control and administrative sluggishness, and private profit, this right is best understood and validated through the eyes of economically disadvantaged women. And it is through the experiences of economically disadvantaged women that this right is most understood and verified. This is because of the interconnected web of circumstances that undermines women's health and economic security. Assuming current trends in global population growth continue, the world's resources and infrastructure will be exhausted well before the turn of the century. However, as women, recognize this as a systemic issue. However, our physical selves are treated as mere commodities in the games of international politics, religious dogma, patriarchal dominance, and corporate competition. To put it plainly, hardly one expected this turn of events. The likelihood of a project's success is diminished if it ignores the perspectives and needs of women. In discussions regarding the growth of the world's population, the subject of women's right to reproduction inevitably arises. (Meyer,1997)

The present study is a qualitative investigation on the level of knowledge about reproductive rights held by college-educated women in Islamabad, Pakistan. In this study, gathered information through conducting interviews with a variety of respondents.

Research Question

1. What are the factors that influence the educated women regarding their reproductive rights in Islamabad?
2. How do the educated women to know their reproductive rights at present time?

Objectives of the Study

1. To highlight whether the educated women have awareness about their reproductive rights?
2. To explore the different reproductive medical treatments by educated women.
3. To describe the women independence regarding their reproductive choices.

Significance of the Study

Proponents of women's reproductive rights will often cite the law and the government's responsibility to women as evidence for their claims. It's because males have dominated political power for centuries. In their struggle to obtain protections and advancements for women's reproductive health, advocates for women's rights have been compelled to hunt for solutions in political sectors that are not generally regarded to be political. The reason for this is that feminists do not have enough power in politics to affect change. People's complaints are accorded more weight and the attention of political leaders when they are couched in terms of legal rights. In this Case This is exemplified by the following: As an example: It is possible to sue a government in either a national or international court, and both types of courts have the power to hear and decide such cases. (Asch, 1988)

Advocates for better reproductive health for women may sometimes resort to the courts to protect women's rights and interests and encourage governments to fulfil their legal responsibilities. There being no other way out of this predicament, we have no choice except to pursue legal action. People's testimonies before war crimes trials, detailing how they were mistreated by their governments, were a major factor in the growth of the worldwide human rights movement in the decades following World War II. Governments can no longer use the excuse of "national sovereignty" to avoid accountability for human rights violations committed on their territory.

Review of the Literature

According to the findings of Frohmader's (2014) research, sexual and reproductive health care is a human right recognized by all nations. They support the many human rights laws that have been passed at the local, state, and federal levels. People need to be free from harassment, abuse, and intimidation so they can make their own choices about their bodies, sexuality, health, relationships, and whether or not to start a family (Luna. 2009). People should be free from fear of reprisal if they seek information about their sexuality and reproductive health, and they should have access to all of the necessary information, support, and tools to make their own decisions about these/ topics (Asch, 1988). Crucial to this liberty is an absence of torture as well as of other forms of physical violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect. Those who advocate torture or other inhumane forms of punishment or treatment have no place in a civilized society.

Tilley (2012) delves into the history of the discrimination against and sterilization of women with intellectual disability to determine how our current conception of reproductive rights has developed. A literature review is conducted on past procedures, with a focus on Western sources from the Nordic countries, Great Britain, the United States, and Canada. The majority of these books and articles are based on archival research, and many of them concentrate on debates about eugenics (Davis, 20003). But new oral history testimony obtained by the authors hints at the possibility of community-level sterilization efforts as well (Asch, 1988). Behind closed doors, parents and doctors argued passionately about the benefits and drawbacks of these procedures. The essay expands on these testimonials from real people and the appeal to end the "roaring quiet" that has characterized the debate up until now. There has to be more

empirical inquiry to recover the experiences of women who have been sterilized so that we may understand the historical and contemporary settings of reproductive choice and capacity decisions. This is crucial for developing a complete picture of the factors that affect fertility and sexual orientation.

"There is a glimmer of hope, albeit a very small one, in the fact that birth rates have been found to decrease in societies where women have more political and social authority, places where women have more access to birth control and male partners are more understanding of their partners' need for independence on this subject. In particular, the fact that lower birthrates are observed in nations where women have greater access to contraceptive care and political and social power. It's safe to assume that 11 out of 12 mothers would feel utter despair if nine of their infants or toddlers suddenly died." (Kilians, 1997).

Human Rights Watch argues that the "right to life," "freedom from torture," "health," "privacy," "education," and "equality" are all interwoven with "women's sexual and reproductive health." Numerous studies have been carried out to ascertain if a woman's economic status influences her capacity to exercise her reproductive rights. Reproductive justice was initially coined as a response to these broader social and economic issues. Those who fight for reproductive justice often argue that only the wealthy can actually afford to use their legally guaranteed access to abortion and contraception. Campaigners for reproductive rights have voiced similar concerns. (Pillai, 2018)

(Suzanne Staggenborg, 2017) In their book "Battles Over Abortion and Reproductive Rights," present a more nuanced conception of reproductive justice. This idea acknowledges that despite a woman's access to reproductive health care, she may still be unable to fully exercise bodily autonomy due to factors outside of her control. To repeat, reproductive justice acknowledges the several factors beyond a woman's access to reproductive health care that contribute to her ability to exert control over her reproductive health. Reproductive justice seeks to guarantee that all women are given unrestricted freedom of choice when it comes to their own reproduction. The foundation of the reproductive justice movement is the idea that questions of sexual and reproductive health and rights need to be considered in the broader framework of our society. (Luna, 2009).

"White pro-choice activists, according to the AP, have "focused largely on abortion and neglected the reality that reproduction is promoted for some women and discouraged for others." It's unacceptable that some women are encouraged to have children while others are aggressively discouraged from doing so." (Mullally, 2005)

Rule of law requires that everyone understand and exercise the rights guaranteed to them under the law. The right to life and the right to health are just two of the many human rights that are affected by issues around reproductive health and rights. Still, getting the word out about these benefits is difficult. This study from Islamabad, Pakistan looked at the value of educated females' knowledge of SRHR to comprehend the situation there (Joachim, 2007). Despite this, it is nevertheless challenging to disseminate information regarding these entitlements. Due to the importance of the topic, this research investigated educated females' awareness of sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Islamabad, Pakistan. (Luna, 2009).

Research Methods

The current study has been conducted in the capital territory, Islamabad. The researcher has employed the qualitative research design to understand and comprehend the awareness of the reproductive rights of the women. The data was collected through the purposive sampling from the women ranging from the age of 24 to 40 years married girls and women. The sample size of the study was educated women from QAU. The researcher collected the data through the interview guide and thematic analysis. Women with higher levels of education are more likely to embrace new ways of living and technological advancements, including advanced methods of birth control and reproductive rights, according to research. In the case of awareness of reproductive rights, this is especially true.

After considering the available time and resources, researcher decided to make an initial attempt to contact 10 respondents from Quaid-I-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad-Pakistan, took the lead in participant recruitment for. Most of these interviews occurred at a specific QAU location, and the interviewees were given a list of questions and some time to prepare before being questioned.

Despite the higher education in the capital territory the reproductive choices are embedded in the patriarchy in Pakistan. The study will contribute either women have the choices regarding bearing child or other reproductive choices or still she is subjugated to the males in terms of reproductive decision

Results and Discussions

Women Preservation of Reproduction Rights

There are a lot of women who responded they know about how to preserve their rights about the reproductive under proper rules and regulation. The second stance according to interview guide was raised about the sexual education. The percentage of college educated women who are informed about their reproductive rights is displayed in Table 1. The report investigates how well-informed people believe highly educated women to be about their medical, legal, and personal right to sexual education and reproductive rights. How widespread is this understanding, exactly? How many educated women have used their freedom of choice when it comes to reproductive issues including pregnancy, abortion, and other parenting strategies? In a study conducted in Islamabad, Pakistan, researchers looked into the link between women's education and their knowledge of reproductive health and rights. Individuals or groups committed to increasing women's access to reproductive health services may use legal action as one strategy. When people voice their concerns in terms of their rights, their concerns are taken more seriously.

The respondents are free and open to discuss sexual education. There were a few respondents who did not know about reproductive rights. When the respondents were asked about the sexual orientation several respondents said they have complete knowledge about sexual orientation. When it comes the matter to marry the partner of your choice and indulging in sexual relations. There were number of barriers must face first of social pressure where the individual is directly or indirectly answerable to society. Secondly, the family pressure which raises question itself

for the individual. And keeping the sexual relation with any one we must have to think about norms and settled boundaries of our religion.

Awareness of women Regarding Reproductive medical treatment

Respondents' views on what constitutes a "right" and "liberty" in terms of their own thinking were therefore shown to be inconsistent. Calculating total awareness of reproductive rights can be broken down into two groups, low and high, using the median number as the cutoff point. 57% of young women were found to be aware of their reproductive rights among highly educated respondents. However, doctors had a better understanding of these protections. The 24-year-old female speaker's statement that "I am unaware of these rights and difficult for me to enumerate them" exemplifies the widespread lack of awareness among young women. Specifically, for hormonal fluctuations, doctors quoted that boys and girls approach them and talk about reproductive rights with hesitancy, so it is a need of hour to raise awareness among highly educated women's rights. Another speaker of 24-year-old statement that "I am aware of my reproductive and sexual rights provided by law of the country, however, if I will be able to avail these rights in real life is what I am not sure about due to conservative mindsets of people of Pakistan".

The vast majority of educators we spoke with admitted to us that they never bring up kids' rights to privacy, speech, and due process. When asked how important they thought reproductive rights were, 65% of young women said they were somewhat important and 35% said they were very important. According to the results of the study, 65 percent of young women have access to knowledge on these rights. Moreover half (53%) of female youth with access say that their friends are the best source of information on these rights because they can readily share it with them. Parents, healthcare providers, educators, and the media all come in behind friends.

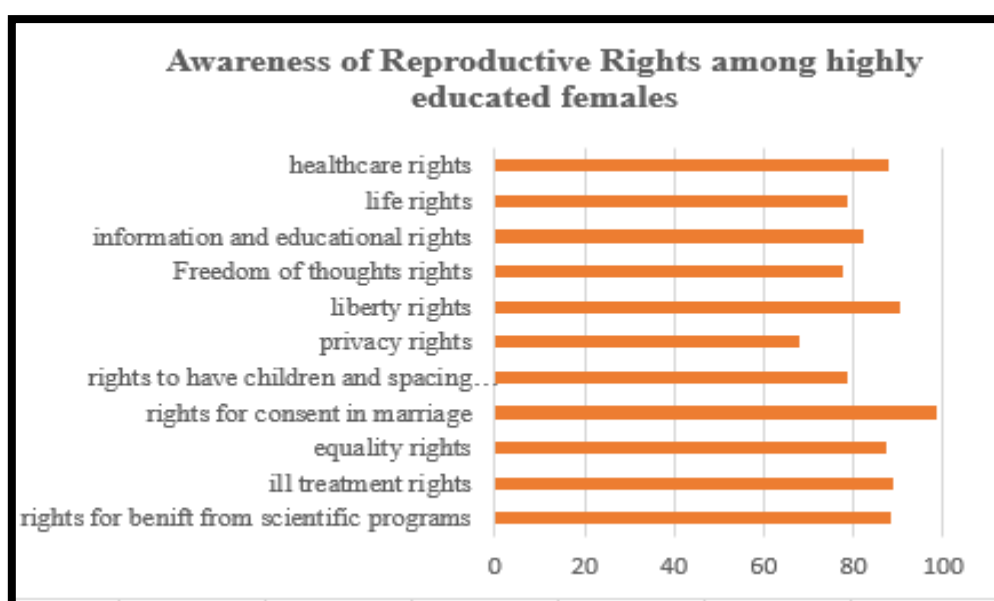


Table 1: Awareness of Reproductive Rights Among Females

Table. 1 depicts the awareness of reproductive rights among highly educated females. After observing respondent views about the awareness of reproductive rights we came to conclusion that the awareness of rights for benefit from scientific programs among highly educated females is 88.5%, Awareness of ill treatment rights is 88.9%. awareness of equality rights is 87.3%, awareness of rights of consent in marriage is 98.5%, awareness of rights to have children and spacing between them is 78.7%, privacy rights is 67.7, liberty rights is 90.3%, Freedom of thoughts rights is 77.8%, information and educational rights is 82.3%, life rights is 78.7%, healthcare rights is 87.6%.

Educated Women Decisions Making about Reproductive Rights

The authors of this study asked structured research mentioned above in the article that was asked by participants. At the end of the day, 10 interviews were done. The questions were used to inquire into the nature of the connection between these three elements: first, understanding one's reproductive rights, second, having ready access to quality healthcare, and third, making use of effective methods of family planning. When asked how much they agreed or disagreed with each of the three dimensions, participants could only respond with a "yes", "no" or "don't know". We polled the population with these questions to get a clearer picture of how many people knows about their reproductive rights.

Women decision making include different type of things which include: to have children or not. The reproductive women have completed right to have or night it might include the wish of both partners not only the male partner. These women have completed right for taking decision and consent about surgical procedure. When the women are undergoing through especially surgical procedure, they have fully right to be asked about the consent to move forward towards such process. The educated and uneducated women have legal right of abortion when they want to go with or not. and keeps full right to receive proper medication to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

Discussions

Conclusion

The world's resources and infrastructure will be depleted women see this as a systemic problem. The bodily forms inhabit, however, viewed as nothing more than pawns in the games of geopolitics, religious dogmatism, and patriarchal supremacy. An alternative, more nuanced view of reproductive justice is offered by Suzanne Staggenborg and Marie B. Skoczylas. To exercise agency, individuals must be safe from threats of violence, abuse, or intimidation. The torture advocates have no place in a civilized society. The purpose of this essay is to reclaim the stories of women who have been sterilized in order to better comprehend the contexts of reproductive capacity and choice, both historically and currently. Findings from a study conducted in Islamabad, Pakistan examined the value of educated women's understanding of reproductive health and rights. Legal action is a possible strategy for those who seek to improve women's access to reproductive health services. When expressed in terms of legal rights, people's objections are given more consideration. The examples below illustrate this point. A government can be taken to court on a national or international level.

The purpose of this research is to analyze how liberals' understanding of their reproductive rights affects their choices towards family planning. Our research subjects came from Quaid-I-Azam University (QAU) in Islamabad, Pakistan. Females between the ages of 24 and 40 with a high level of education were 57% more likely to know about their reproductive rights. However, medical professionals had a more thorough comprehension of these safeguards. Most teachers told us they never discuss children's constitutional protections of free expression, privacy, and due process.

Suggestions

Following are the suggestions for the awareness of reproductive rights among females of Islamabad based on this study:

- Using the SMART approach, research, data, and our programming expertise, we will advocate with governments and civil society to ensure that policies are in place to protect females' reproductive rights.
- It is important to assist local communities in advocating for legislation that will better satisfy their requirements for reproductive health care for females.
- In order to advance reproductive rights on a global scale, it is necessary to bring together authorities, heads of state, and medical specialists in order for them to discuss pertinent issues, come up with potential solutions, and collaborate.
- Encourage local governments and communities to participate in the process of allocating additional resources reproductive rights initiatives in regions with the greatest need.
- Women should raise their voices to inform, persuade, and accelerate global movements to ensure that everyone has complete control over their own lives and bodies.

Interview Guide

These are the questions that were asked to determine the level of knowledge regarding reproductive rights:

- Were you aware that you are free to seek out, receive, and discuss any and all information on sexuality that you wish to?
- Are you aware that under the law you have the right to receive prenatal therapy from a licensed medical practitioner?
- Do you realize that it is your right to be educated about sexuality? And your body is a part of you that deserves respect just as much as the rest of you does.
- You have complete control over your sexual orientation and decisions pertaining to it. Are you aware that you have the right to marry whoever you choose and indulge in any sexual activity you think appropriate?
- Are you aware that you can decide for yourself whether or not to have children? Regarding the basic human right to procreate, how do you feel about the legalization of abortion?
- Do you recognize your right to provide informed consent before undergoing any surgical procedures?

- Are you aware that you have the opportunity to receive infertility treatment and medication to prevent sexually transmitted diseases?

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