

Authoritarianism and Women's Rights in Pakistan

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Introduction

Every individual is entitled to have some rights irrespective of the fact whether or not he or she is provided with these rights. The basic human rights may include the right to get knowledge (including formal education), the right to express opinion, the right to get health facilities, the right to get employment, the right to get subsistence, the right to secure the life and property, the right to choose marriage partner, and so on. Ideally, both the men and women should be entitled to have equal rights but the facts do not support this ideal.

The transgression of the rights of women has a long history. The patriarchal and traditional societies are more likely to infringe upon the rights of women. "Pakistan is a patriarchal society. Socio-cultural traditions define a woman's role as a mother, daughter, wife, and sister in relation to a male" (Ahmed and Zia 1989, p. 4). The identity of women as individuals is not recognized. In general, women are inferior partner. "Pakistan's present constitution (1973) provides for the equality of rights for all, regardless of sex, and includes special provision, to ensure women's full participation in all spheres of life, besides protection of women and children's rights in the family" (UNICEF, Government of Pakistan, and NIPS 1988, p. 77). But in practice women are treated as second class citizens, deprived in almost all the areas of life.

In Pakistan, the educational status of women is among the lowest in the world. According to 1981 census report, only 37.3 percent of the urban females and 7.3 percent of the rural females were literate. Among 0.16 percent post-graduate population, females constituted 24.6 percent of the whole. There is no separate university for women and the girls whose parents do not like co-education are unable to get university education.

Parents (who are the ones who have to make the investment) perceive the "costs" of educating girls to be high and the benefits to accrue not to themselves but to others. On the cost side, not only do parents have to pay for books, uniforms, and sometimes school fees; in the case of girls, they may also have to pay for chaperoning and/or transport to the school.... Finally, and perhaps most importantly, a girl's time is likely to be more valuable than a boy's around the household; she may be needed to look after younger children, fetch water and fuelwood, tend the livestock and help responsibilities in rural Pakistan. On the benefit side, parents may feel, particularly if they are poor, that it makes more sense to invest more in their sons' education, since sons are much more likely than daughters to get a job and look after them in their old age (The World Bank 1989, p. 3).

The males consider female education as useless and wastage of time and money. Especially technical and professional education of women is not encouraged. There is also under-utilization of educated women as most of the educated women are not allowed to get employment. "Working women in particular face sharp criticism from the mass media, and are accused of neglecting the house or the children.

Working women are supposed to alienate their husbands and antagonize their mother-in-law, for all of the society's evils are attributed to her having broken old traditions" (Mumtaz and Shaheed 1987, p. 24).

There are stereotyped notions about the working women which discourage the female employment. Working women are not considered as good mothers, good wives, good daughters and good house-keepers. Home is considered as actual sphere of activities for women rather than the

office. In the presence of such notions no woman can think about the employment especially when she is dependent upon males for the so-called respectful status in the family and in the society at macro level.

Women are also considered as unable to give opinion in decision-making. They are considered inferior physically as well as psychologically. It is a general conception about the female that:

She is emotional and hence inefficient, she is easily swayed by extraneous forces and therefore not dependable, and she is ignorant and thus not in a position to be consulted. Because of all of the above, she must be kept secluded 'for her own good', never be entrusted with any significant financial or economic matters and consequently, never be allowed to take any decisions regarding anything, including her own life (Mumtaz and Shaheed 1987, p. 27).

Women are only to listen and obey. They have no right to argue in any matter. Women are to produce as many children as their husbands want. As the male-child is preferred by the family, the wife is to give birth to a number of girl-children until a male child is born. In most of the cases, she has no right to decide about the interval between the births of children, about the number of children, and about the adoption of family planning techniques.

Marriage of the girl may be said as the most important event in her life but mostly she is not asked for her opinion. "The large majority of marriages are thus even today arranged by the parents, apparently in more than 90 percent of cases, albeit with the consent of the partners" (Klein and Nestvogal 1986, pp. 67-68). Women have no right to choose their life partner themselves and such an act is considered as disrespect to the family.

Although the social attitude is continually negative towards the female employment, women can found in some areas of employment. But "women remain concentrated in the low-skilled, low-paid jobs at the lower rung of the ladder.... They are rarely found at the supervisory level in the public or the private sector" (Ahmed and Zia 1989, p. 10). Women are continually discriminated against in appointment to higher administrative and decision-making posts. "There are hardly any women at the effective policy or decision-making level.... Ways are also found to relegate them to posts which are considered 'suitable' for them, and which carry less responsibility or authority" (Ahmed and Zia 1989, p. 12). That is why there are very few women as judges, office executives, and administrators.

On the whole, women have low status. They are dependent upon males for all their basic needs. "They are themselves socially conditioned to accept this as their proper status, and thus help to uphold and perpetuate this attitude" (UNICEF et al. 1988, p. 77). Women are traditionally inferior. Although there are constitutional provisions about the basic equality and complementarity between sexes, women are still at disadvantageous position.

Conservation has steadfastly ensured inconsistencies between law and practice. In practice, women have been denied their religious and constitutional rights to own and inherit property, earn a living, acquire education, make decisions regarding their lives including marriage and such matters as free physical movement outside the house, and choosing the means to limit their family size (UNICEF et al. 1988, p. 78).

The low status of women, a consequence of transgression of the rights of women by males, and to some extent by females themselves, is socially and culturally accepted. Therefore, any attempt to raise the status of women as equal to men by giving the rights to women might be considered as a threat to the status quo.

The personality orientation of the individuals might be a crucial factor to the provision of rights to women. The personality of individual affects his values, attitudes, and behavior. Individuals having different personalities are likely to have different perceptions about the same issue. Therefore, it may be assumed that the individuals having different personality orientations have different opinion about the provision of rights to women. The focus of this study has been the personality orientation of the writers and their opinion about the provision of rights to women.

From Hagen's (1963) point of view, the individual having authoritarian orientation may be less confident about his decision-making using his own initiative. Thus he may avoid decision making in order to avoid the risk of failure. To avoid decision making it is necessary that he should avoid unresolved situations because unresolved situations always bring some issues to be decided. The individual with authoritarian orientation is also characterized as not open to experience because

experience creates unresolved situations which he wants to avoid. Therefore, he remains stuck to the traditional ways of life, culturally and socially accepted patterns of behavior, and existing hierarchy of statuses in the social system. In this way he perpetuates the status quo.

It has already been said that the transgression of rights of women and consequently low status of women, is a significant element of existing social system in Pakistan. The provision of rights to women may arise a new situation which might result in elimination of male dominance. For example, provision of right to get employment to women means economic independence of women which leads to social independence of women. To allow higher education, and especially professional education, to women means enabling them to compete men in employment markets and again to give them (women) economic independence. Similarly giving them right to give opinion in decision making means recognizing their equal status. Same is the case with the right to choose the marriage partner. Keeping in view these examples it may be assumed that the provision of rights to women will be a threat to the status quo.

The individual who has authoritarian orientation may be assumed to be less likely to have favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women because he is characterized by perpetuating the status quo. He may perceive the provision of rights to women as a threat to the male dominance, hierarchy of statuses, and the status quo as whole. He may conceive it as emergence of an unresolved situation which requires decision-making and the individual having authoritarian orientation has already been characterized by avoiding decision-making due to the fear of failure. The elimination of male dominance may be a new experience for him which he wants to avoid because experience means risk of failure. In this situation he is more likely to rely on traditional life patterns which are culturally as well as socially approved. Thus he resists the provision of rights to women and has unfavorable opinion about the provision of rights to women.

Research Procedure and Measurement of Variables

The universe for the present study was comprised upon male writers residing in the Lahore city. A sample of 100 respondents was drawn by using simple random technique, out of which 90 could be interviewed. A structured interview schedule was used as tool of data collection.

After the data collection, all the data were given scores. In scoring the independent variable, that is, authoritarian orientation of the writers, maximum score, that is 2, was given to the response category which represented the highest level of authoritarian orientation (i.e., to a great extent) while the score 1 was assigned to relatively low level of authoritarian orientation (i.e., to some extent). The score zero was given to the category that denoted the least level of authoritarian orientation (i.e., not at all). The scoring scheme for the dependent variable, that is, writers' favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women, was quite inverse to that of independent variable. The highest score, that is 2, was given to the response category denoting the more favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women (i.e., not at all). Score 1 was assigned to the response category expressing relatively less favorable opinion (i.e., to some extent) and the score zero was allotted to the category denoting the least favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women (i.e., to a great extent).

After quantifying the data, a scale was constructed in order to classify the writers as having high authoritarian orientation or low authoritarian orientation, as well as to categorize them as having highly favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women or less favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women. For distribution of the scores, for both the independent and dependent variables, in high and low categories, the arithmetic means were calculated separately. The mean score for the independent variable was computed as 11.17 and for the dependent variable it was computed as 25.33. All the respondents having scores more than 11.17 in case of independent variable and more than 25.33 in case of dependent variable, were placed in high categories. While all the remaining respondents having scores less than 11.17 for the independent variable and less than 25.33 for the dependent variable were placed in low categories.

The Product Moment Correlation (Pearson's r) test was applied in order to test the statistical significance of the findings.

Research Hypothesis

It was hypothesized in the present study that "the more the authoritarian orientation of the writers, the lesser their favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women".

An individual with authoritarian orientation may be characterized as tradition oriented, submissive to authorities, afraid of unresolved situations, and dictator in a sense that he does not want to argue for his perceptions and beliefs. In other words such an individual wants to maintain the status quo. Unresolved situations involve him in decision-making and decision-making is accompanied with risk of failure. The individual having authoritarian orientation does not want to be a failed person thus he finds it safer to act in accordance with existing traditions and norms which were transferred to him from the authorities. Consequently the individual with authoritarian orientation perpetuates the status quo.

The existing status of women has a long history of transgression of rights of women. Most of the societies were and are male-dominated societies. Women are considered as second class citizens. Women are dependent upon men, economically as well as socially. Men are considered superior and women as inferiors. The existing status of women is traditional and normative. In such an atmosphere having a favorable opinion towards the provision of rights, which are being curtailed by men, to women is likely to threaten the status quo. Thus an individual who is authoritarian in his orientation and perpetuates the status quo by his beliefs, ideas, and behavior, may not have a favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women. He may perceive the provision of rights to women as emergence of an unresolved situation. Thus to avoid the unresolved situation and responsibility of making some decisions using his own initiative, he remains stuck with traditions and normative pattern of life in which women have very limited rights and the existing status of women is a guarantee of the smooth flow of social life. As the individual with authoritarian orientation may be characterized with having non-creative imaginations, he may consider women as inferiors just because the women are biologically frail. He may feel the provision of rights to women as a threat to his dominance and status. He does not want to see the woman equal to him because individual at equal status always argues prior to accept any statement, command, or behavior and the individual having authoritarian orientation does not want to argue. On the basis of the preceding discussion it might be hypothetically assumed in the present study that there may be a negative relationship between the authoritarian orientation of the writers and their favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women.

Authoritarian Orientation

The authoritarian personality is "a personality type characterized by extreme conformity, rigidity, suppression of emotional feelings, submissiveness to authority and arrogance toward those considered inferiors" (Theodorson, G.A. and A.G. Theodorson 1969, p. 21). A writer with an authoritarian personality orientation is likely to be more conformist, rigid, and tradition-oriented with regard to the writing style. He might be submissive in literary circles but very arrogant in his family life. An individual having authoritarian orientation:

perceives the phenomena of the world as forming a system whose operation is not orderly and not capable of analysis. Hence he is high in need dependence. He also perceives the world as not valuing him highly and sees power as residing in position rather than resulting from accomplishment. Because of the rage and the need to curb it which these perceptions generate in him, he is high in need submission-dominance and low in need succorance-nurturance. He is low in need autonomy and achievement and probably low also in need order (Hagen 1963, p. 119).

A writer with authoritarian orientation may be less apt to write in some new creative style. He may prefer it to write in prevalent style to get popularity. He may believe in columns of astrology just because these columns provide him moral courage. Such a writer may avoid criticism. He may

perceive human misery as an important element of the best literature and human behavior as not amenable to analysis. He may be a supporter of legal or social restraints upon writers. A scale consisting of thirteen items was designed in order to measure the independent variable, i.e., authoritarian orientation of the writers, with the help of following indicators.

1. Not Open to Experience

The writers with authoritarian orientation try to avoid the unresolved situations because in unresolved situations they may have to make judgements while they are low in need autonomy. They might not give way to new experience due to the fear of failure. They might not introduce some new styles in their writings and follow the prevalent style because they know that it is successful and popularity originating. They may also have tendency to tread on their style without introducing any change. They may support existing life patterns in their writings such as arranged marriage.

2. Non-creative Imagination

As the individuals having authoritarian orientation may perceive the world as serving the purpose of some willful power and out of their own control, they may have more fatalistic and non-creative imaginations. Writers with such a personality may believe in the influence of fate in appreciation of their writings. They may consider some castes better than others by birth.

3. Lack of Confidence

The writers having authoritarian orientation seem to be less confident than the writers having innovational orientation. Their lack of confidence may be due to the threat of failure, low need autonomy, and perceiving the world as not valuing them highly. They may be loose hearted, less explicit in their writings, afraid of failure of their efforts and depressed. They may avoid criticism by avoiding the presentation of their writings in critic circles, or by avoiding the publication of controversial writings. They may use symbolic mode of expression which is implicit kind of writing style.

4. Low Need Achievement

Need achievement is

a quality which makes an individual find satisfaction in the process of solving problems, in manipulating effectively by the exercise of his judgement and abilities a situation containing elements he has not previously dealt with, in attempting something difficult, in facing a test of his capability" (Hagen 1963, p. 105).

The writers with authoritarian orientation may feel no charm in struggle for achievement. Rather they might be satisfied upon what they possess. They may perceive their struggle fruitless and futile. They may be satisfied regarding their literary standards as well as of the whole society. They may perceive the literature as unable to bring any change in the society.

5. Conceiving the World as Arbitrary

The individual with authoritarian orientation may conceive the world as "arbitrary, capricious, not amenable to analysis, as consisting of an agglomeration of phenomena not related by a cause-and-effect network" (Hagen 1963, p. 97). The writers who are authoritarian in their orientation may

perceive the world and human behavior as not amenable to analysis. They may categorize only that literature as the best one which is in the context of human miseries and pain.

6. High Need Dominance

Need dominance is the need to dominate those who are inferiors. The individuals with authoritarian orientation may demand unquestioned obedience from the inferiors. They do not feel it necessary to give logical reasoning for their beliefs and behavior. Same is the case with writers having authoritarian orientation. They do not like to give any logic for their ideologies. They may also perceive themselves as an example for the junior writers.

7. High Need Submission and Dependence

"Need submission is a need to be ordered about by someone else even in the routine matters of life simply because it is the need to receive guidance in the making of choices or decisions" (Hagen 1963, p. 109). The writers with authoritarian orientation may be more consistent with the existing social structure. They may support the existing social structure and legal or social restraints upon writers. They may also avoid from writing about the religious beliefs because they do not want to go against the religious elites. They may write in accordance with the existing social values. They do not want to write against the will of authorities.

Rights of Women

Right is "a legitimate or socially recognized moral or legal justification for an individual to be allowed specified behavior or to demand specified behavior of others with regard to himself" (Theodorson, G.A. and A.G. Theodorson 1969, p. 350). The right of women might be defined as the legitimate or socially recognized moral or legal justification for the women to be allowed specified behavior or to demand specified behavior of others with regard to women themselves. In Pakistani society, both the religion and the constitution of the country have provided equal rights to men and women. Ideally every man and woman have an equal right to get education without any discrimination, to get health care facilities, to give vote according to his or her free will, to have and express his or her own opinion about all the affairs of life, to enjoy the recreational facilities, to get employed against every type of job without any discrimination, to choose his or her marriage partner, and so on. But in practice these rights are reserved for males. Woman is being discriminated in all areas of life. Man is dominant, decision-maker, and superior. Transgression of the rights of woman starts from her birth and continues till her death. She is deprived of education, for health care, for clothing, for food, and also for decision-making about her own life. In the present study only the rights of women, to get education, to get employment, to give opinion, to participate in decision-making about family size and spacing the children, and to choose their (women's) marriage partner themselves have been emphasized and taken as indicators to measure the level of writers' favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women on a scale consisting nineteen items.

1. Right of Women to Get Education

The provision of right to get education to women means that the women might be provided with an equal chance to be enrolled in educational institutions. Educational institution both for males as well as for females may be equally funded and facilitated. Right to get education also means equal opportunities to get every type of education including engineering and vocational training.

2. Right of Women to Get Employment

It includes the men's attitude to accept the women as equally capable workers. It is often conceived that working woman may not be a good mother or a good housekeeper. This stereotyped attitude is a major factor to the curtailment of the right of women to get employment.

3. Right of Women to Give Opinion in Decision-making

Women are usually considered inferior physically as well as mentally. Women are perceived as unable to make judgements and take decisions. Men expect that their women will follow their decision in political affairs because in general females are considered as politically unconscious while men themselves do not consult their women at the time of casting their (men's) vote. Men decide most of the affairs concerning their family life without consulting their women; for example the education of their children. Women have no right to participate in decision-making as well as to express their (women's) opinion.

4. Right of Women to Decide About the Family Size and Spacing the Children

Although the women are affected more than the men by the family size and spacing the children biologically as well as psychologically and socially, they (women) have no right to decide about the family size or spacing the children. Most often it is the man who decides about the number of children (and mostly there is no planning), when the family needs a baby, and whether or not to practice the family planning.

5. Right of Women to Choose the Marriage Partner

Ideally women have the right of choosing their marriage partner, but in practice the family decides about the marriage partner of the girls. Although sometimes boys also have to accept the decision of family but mostly the girls are more deprived of their right to choose their (girls') marriage partner. Boy and girl are mostly not allowed to meet prior to marriage.

Findings

The respondents were asked about their age because the people of different age groups may vary in their opinion due to the variations in the magnitude of their experience. It was revealed that the respondents below the age of 30 years were 30.00 percent while 32.22 percent were aged 30 - 44. The respondents between the age 45-59 years were 24.45 percent and the remaining 13.33 percent were of the age of 60 years and above. On the basis of these data it might be said that the majority of the respondents was mature and so might be in their perceptions.

The level of education may have significant effect on the perceptions of people because education is supposed to widen the horizons of individuals. Education changes the ideas and opinions by enabling the individuals to think and analyze. Education is a major source of social change. In the present study 67.78 percent of the respondents were post-graduates with master's or with Ph.D. degree. The graduates and under-graduates were 31.11 percent of the respondents and only one respondent was found without any formal education. The high educational status of majority of the writers meant that they were able to get exposed to all kinds of persuasion and information to reorient their ideas and behavior in favor of the provision of rights to women.

Occupation gives unique experiences to the individual. Therefore the individuals having different occupations may have different opinions about the same issue. In the present study, occupation of the respondents was also asked. It was found that 31.11 percent of the respondents were teachers (mostly

in colleges) and 26.67 percent were mediamen. The students constituted 12.22 percent while 30.00 percent of the respondents belonged to miscellaneous occupations.

The respondents were also asked about their marital status because married life is entirely different from the unmarried life regarding responsibilities and rights. Married men may have practical experience of giving or curtailing the rights of women therefore may vary in their opinion. It was found that 63.33 percent of the respondents were married while the remaining 36.67 percent were unmarried.

Authoritarian Orientation of the Writers

The independent variable in the present study was the authoritarian orientation of the writers which was measured on a scale consisting of thirteen items. The responses of the respondents in the independent variable were rank ordered by the frequencies in the category of "Not at all". The writers who responded "Not at all" to the statements were considered as having least authoritarian orientation. The rank order position of the situations is shown in Table 1.

Among all the situations, the most frequently mentioned response showing least authoritarian orientation was in the area of "avoiding the publication of some writings due to the fear of inappreciation", followed by "belief in social discrimination of the characters in the writings", and then by "perceiving the literature as unable to bring any drastic change in the society". The other situations were ranked lower in order of responses showing least authoritarian orientation.

In the same way, while looking at the other end of the scale of authoritarian orientation, it could be seen that "supporting the idea of writing only in accordance with the social values" was the area in which response showing least authoritarian orientation was least frequently mentioned. It was preceded by "satisfaction about own literary standard", and then by "perceiving own writings as an example for new writers".

These data showed that a substantial number of the respondents were quite confident that they did not avoid the publication of some writings due to the fear of inappreciation. It meant that they were confident of what they had written and it might be assumed that they were also confident in other areas of life. The data also revealed that the writers did not have non-creative imagination as they did not believe in racial discrimination of the characters in the writings. The respondents were also found high in need achievement as the majority of the writers was of the view that it was possible to bring drastic changes in the society with the help of literature. On the other extreme the writers were of the view that a writer must write in accordance with the social values. It meant that the writers were submissive to the authorities and tradition-oriented or in other words, high in need submission and dependence. The writers were found satisfied about their own literary standard and they perceived their writings as an example for the new writers. It might be assumed that the writers were high in need dominance because they thought that the new writers must follow their style rather than introducing some new style.

It might be concluded on the basis of preceding findings that the publication of writings without any fear of inappreciation, not believing in the racial discrimination of characters, and perceiving the literature as able to bring drastic changes in the society were the situations where majority of the writers was found having least authoritarian orientation. It can be assumed that the element of social desirability may also be involved in the responses on these statements because in the areas of need submission -dependence and need dominance, which are the most important elements of authoritarian orientation, the writers were found having greater authoritarian orientation. A substantial number of writers were supportive to the idea of writing only in accordance with the social norms, satisfied about their own literary standard, perceiving their writings as an example for new writers, and treading on self decided writing style from the beginning till that day without doing any new experience. The responses of majority of the respondents in the categories of "To a great extent" and "To some extent" to these situations were indicative of the high authoritarian orientation of the writers.

Table 1

Authoritarian Orientation of the Writers

Situations	Extent of Agreement							
	Not at all		To some Extent		To a great extent		Total	
	f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%
1. Avoiding the publication of some writings due to the fear of inappreciation.	53	58.89	26	28.89	11	12.22	90	100
2. Belief in racial discrimination of the characters in the writings.	52	57.78	19	21.11	19	21.11	90	100
3. Perceiving the literature as unable to bring any drastic change in the society.	50	55.56	28	31.11	12	13.33	90	100
4. Disliking the presentation of writings in critic circles.	47	52.22	25	27.78	18	20.00	90	100
5. Liking to writing in the prevalent successful style for the sake of popularity.	44	48.89	27	30.00	19	21.11	90	100
6. Perceiving own writings as supportive to the existing social structure.	34	37.78	39	43.33	17	18.89	90	100
7. Believing the influence of fate in appreciation of some writings.	31	34.44	40	44.45	19	21.11	90	100
8. Supporting the marriages arranged by family in the writings.	28	31.11	35	38.89	27	30.00	90	100
9. Perceiving human behavior is unexplainable.	24	26.67	47	52.22	19	21.11	90	100
10. Trading on self-decided writing style from the beginning till today.	23	25.55	33	36.67	34	37.78	90	100
11. Perceiving own writings as an example for new writers.	22	24.45	47	52.22	21	23.33	90	100
12. Satisfaction about own literary standard.	20	22.22	44	48.89	26	28.89	90	100
13. Supporting the idea of writing only in accordance with the social values.	15	16.67	40	44.44	35	38.89	90	100

It was evident by the data that the writers were submissive and dependent on the authorities. They were not open to experience and supportive of traditional life style. They were also dominating their inferiors. They were likely to maintain the status quo. On the other hand they were confident about their writings and also they disliked the racial discrimination. The reason for this dualism in the personality orientation of the writers may be the social desirability of the answers to the questions about their level of confidence and non-creative imaginations.

Opinion of the Writers about the Provision of Rights to Women

The dependent variable in the present study was the opinion of writers about the provision of rights to women which was measured on a nineteen point scale. The responses of the writers were rank ordered by the frequencies in the category of "Not at all". The writers who responded "Not at all" to the statements were considered as having highly favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women. The rank order position of the situations is shown in Table 2.

Among all the situations, the most frequently mentioned favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women was in the area of "perceiving it necessary for women to keep the consent of family head in view while casting their vote", followed by "supporting the increase in boys' educational institutions rather than spending money on girls' educational institutions for the sake of national development", and then by "perceiving girls' higher education as useless in their future marital life". The next most frequently mentioned area of favorable opinion about the provision of right to women was "perceiving the final decision about children's education as sole right of males". All the other situations were ranked lower in order of favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women.

At the other end of the scale, "perceiving the household women as more capable of house keeping rather than working women" was the least frequently mentioned area of favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women, preceded by "preferring the home economics education for girls rather than vocational education", then by "perceiving the women as politically unconscious generally" and then by "giving the right of decision about the girl's marriage solely to the family" and "preferring the husband as capable of making decision about the number of children".

It was revealed by the data that a significant number of respondents agreed to give those rights to women which had no direct and immediate concern with them as right to cast vote with their (women's) own consent, right to get equal level of education parallel to males, and right to decide about the education of children. Even if these rights were given to the women, there was no immediate threat to the male-dominance. On the other extreme of the scale, the writers did not agree to the idea of giving those rights to women which endangered the dominant status of males in the society. The respondents did not agree to give women the right to get employment, the right to choose marriage partner, and the right to decide about the size of the family.

It might be concluded that the writers had favorable opinion about the provision of some rights to women but only those rights whose provision was socially desirable. The provision of these rights to women would not change the existing social structure. The writers were not likely to have favorable opinion about the provision of those rights to women which had the potential to alter the status quo such as female employment, decision about family size, and decision about the marriage partner. Economic independence of the women meant the social independence of women thus the right of women to get employment was curtailed by the notions that working women could not be good mothers, good administrators, good decision-makers, and good house keepers. In the same way, the provision of right of choosing marriage partner and deciding about family size to women was absolutely socially undesirable. It might be considered by males as a challenge to their (men's) authority. On the other hand, a substantial number of the writers had a more favorable opinion about the provision of the right of women to get education and the right to cast the vote with their (women's) own consent. The provision of equal opportunity to get education was a socially desirable opinion and the high level of education of females might raise their value in the marriage market. Therefore the high level of favorable opinion of the writers on these issues may be explained in terms of these two factors.

Table 2

Opinion of the Writers about the Provision of Rights to Women

Situations	Extent of Agreement							
	Not at All		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%

Situations	Extent of Agreement							
	Not at All		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1. Perceiving it necessary for women to keep the consent of family head in view while casting their vote.	64	71.11	16	17.78	10	11.11	90	100
2. Supporting the increase in boys' educational institutions rather than spending money on girls' educational institutions for the sake of national development.	59	65.56	21	23.33	10	11.11	90	100
3. Perceiving girls' higher education as useless in their future marital life.	59	65.56	12	13.33	19	21.11	90	100
4. Perceiving the final decision about children's education as sole right of males.	54	60.00	31	34.44	05	05.56	90	100
5. Preferring the opinion of husband about spacing the child birth.	53	58.89	30	33.33	07	07.78	90	100
6. Not perceiving women as good administrators.	49	54.45	31	34.44	10	11.11	90	100
7. Giving the right of decision making about the family planning practice to the husband.	48	53.33	32	35.56	10	11.11	90	100
8. Perceiving female judges as not capable of making correct judgements.	47	52.22	29	32.22	14	15.56	90	100
9. Perceiving girls' education in engineering as wastage of time and money.	46	51.11	28	31.11	16	17.78	90	100
10. Preferring boy's education than that of girl's for the economic betterment of family.	45	50.00	29	32.22	14	15.56	90	100
11. Not allowing the meeting of boy and girl prior to marriage.	42	46.67	39	43.33	09	10.00	90	100
12. Not allowing the girl to choose her life partner herself.	40	44.44	35	38.89	15	16.68	90	100
13. Not perceiving the working women as good mothers.	37	41.11	37	41.11	16	17.78	90	100
14. Perceiving the home as actual sphere of activities for the women rather than office.	35	38.89	27	30.00	28	31.11	90	100
15. Preferring the husband as capable of making decision about the number of children.	33	36.67	50	55.55	07	07.78	90	100

Situations	Extent of Agreement							
	Not at All		To Some Extent		To a Great Extent		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
16. Giving the right of decision about the girl's marriage solely to the family.	33	36.67	49	54.44	08	08.89	90	100
17. Perceiving the women as politically unconscious generally.	32	35.55	41	45.56	17	18.89	90	100
18. Preferring the home economic education for girls rather than vocational education.	27	30.00	37	41.11	26	28.89	90	100
19. Perceiving the household women as more capable of house keeping rather than working women.	23	25.55	43	47.78	24	26.67	90	100

The cross classification of the data (Table 3) revealed that out of those writers who had high authoritarian orientation, 76.32 percent had less favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women compared with 25.00 percent who had less favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women but had low authoritarian orientation. On the other hand, out of those writers who had high authoritarian orientation 23.68 percent had more favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women compared with 75.00 percent who had more favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women but had low authoritarian orientation.

It was evident from the cross classification of the data that a very significant majority of the writers having high authoritarian orientation had less favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women; while on the other hand a substantial number of writers having low authoritarian orientation had more favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women.

Therefore, it might be concluded that the high authoritarian orientation of the writers led to their less favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women, and vice versa.

The Product Moment Correlation (Pearson's *r*) test in the present study showed a significant negative relationship (-0.58) between the authoritarian orientation of the writers and their favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women at 0.05 level of significance. It was further supplemented by cross classification of the data. The results of Pearson's *r* and cross classification of the data supported the theoretical expectations. It could safely be concluded that the authoritarian orientation of the individual affected their opinion about the provision of rights to women and hence they tended to perpetuate the status quo.

Table 3

**Authoritarian Orientation of the Writers
by Their Opinion about the Provision of Rights to Women**

Level of Favorable Opinion about the Provision of Rights to Women	Level of Authoritarian Orientation					
	High		Low		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
More Favorable	09	23.68	39	75.00	48	53.33
Less Favorable	29	76.32	13	25.00	42	46.67
Total	38	100.00	52	100.00	90	100.00

Conclusions

After going through the whole study, the researcher has reached the conclusion that a substantial number of respondents had authoritarian orientation, either to a great or to some extent, on the issues where they had to submit and depend upon someone or otherwise to dominate someone. They did not show authoritarian orientation on the issues in which social desirability was involved. In those situations, the responses of the writers indicated the least authoritarian orientation.

It has further been concluded that most of the respondents did not agree to give those rights to women which threatened the status quo while a substantial number of the writers had a more favorable opinion about the provision of those rights to women which had some social desirability or value. Generally it was found that the writers were less likely to provide equal rights and status to women. The negative relationship between the authoritarian orientation of the writers and their favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women was significant. It supported the theoretical considerations. Therefore it has also been concluded that the high authoritarian orientation led to less favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women.

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Authoritarianism and Women's Rights in Pakistan

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The Pakistani society is characterized with authoritarian male domination and transgression of women's rights. This study of randomly selected 90 writers of Lahore reveal that generally a substantial number of respondents have authoritarian personality orientation but not on the socially desirable issues. A vast majority of the respondents do not agree to give those rights to women which threaten the *status quo* (i.e., right to get employment, to choose marriage partner, and to decide about the family size) but have more favorable opinion about the provision of socially desirable rights to women (i.e., right to get education and to cast vote with their own consent). The significant negative correlation (-0.58) between the authoritarian orientation of the writers and their favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women support the theoretical formulations developed from Hagen's (1963) theory of social change.

Authoritarianism and Women's Rights in Pakistan

Abstract

In the existing social structure of Pakistan, men have a dominant position. In order to remain dominant, they want to maintain the status quo which is considered to be threatened in case of provision of rights to women. The writers' community is said to be more informed, conscious, intellectual, and sensible section of any society. They have a noble cause to educate the laymen and change their (laymen's) ideas, beliefs, values, and norms in order to facilitate the national development. In this sense, their personality orientation, their opinion about the provision of rights to women, and the extent and nature of relationship between these two variables was very much important to be measured.

The study was conducted within the framework of theory of innovational and authoritarian personalities developed by Hagen (1963). The research hypothesis in this study was:

The more the authoritarian orientation of the writers, the lesser their favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women.

The universe for the present study comprised upon the writers residing in the Lahore city. A sample of 100 respondents was drawn randomly, out of which 90 could be interviewed. Interview Schedule was used as the tool of data collection.

The data was quantified and the Product Moment Correlation test was applied in order to measure the extent and nature of the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. The computed value of r was -0.58. This depicted a significant negative relationship between the authoritarian orientation of the writers and their opinion about the provision of rights to women.

It was found that majority of the writers was of the age of 30 years and above, hence matured enough in their perception. It was also found that majority of them was postgraduate and married. The most frequently mentioned occupation was teaching followed by mediamanship.

After going through the whole study, the researcher reached the conclusion that a substantial number of respondents had authoritarian orientation, either to a great or to some extent, on the issues where they had to submit and depend upon someone or otherwise to dominate someone. They did not show authoritarian orientation on the issues in which social desirability was involved.

It was further concluded that most of the respondents did not agree to give those rights to women which threatened the status quo and had more favorable opinion about the provision of socially desirable rights of women. They had a less favorable opinion about the provision of the right of women to get employment, the right to choose marriage partner, and the right to decide about the family size. On the other hand, a substantial number of the writers had a more favorable opinion about the provision of the right of women to get education and the right to cast the vote with their (women's) own consent. The significant negative relationship between the authoritarian orientation of the writers and their favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women supported the theoretical considerations. Therefore, it was also concluded that high authoritarian orientation may lead to less favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women.

Authoritarianism and Women's Rights in Pakistan

Summary

The focus of the present study was to find out the impact of authoritarian orientation of the writers upon their opinion about the provision of rights to women. The research hypothesis was "The more the authoritarian orientation of the writers, the lesser their favorable opinion about the provision of rights to women". Hagen's (1963) theory of social change provided theoretical foundations for the study. The theoretical assumptions were supported by the subsequent empirical evidence. The universe of the present study consisted of the writers residing in the Lahore city. A randomly selected sample of 90 writers was interviewed. The Product Moment Correlation test was applied in order to measure the extent and nature of the relationship between the authoritarian orientation of the writers and their opinion about the provision of rights to women. The research hypothesis was upheld and a significant negative relationship was found between the two variables.

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