

**RESEARCH PAPER****Problems and Challenges Faced by Married Students to Continue their Study at University Level****¹Dr. Syeda Samina Tahira* ²Dr. Erum Aslam Khan and ³Dr. Muhammad Irfan Arif**

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***Corresponding Author:** dr.samina@uaf.edu.pk**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of the study was to find out the challenges for married women to continue education at university level. Present study was descriptive in nature. The study is significant in terms of exploring the root causes of different problems faced by womanish wedded scholars while antedating advanced education after marriage. Quantitative research methodology was used to collect data. All public and private sector universities in Province Punjab were the population of the study. Researcher used purposive sampling technique to select the sample from population. 75 students were the sample of this study. Self-designed questionnaire was used to collect the data from sample. The data were analyses by using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. The analysis revealed that the married students faced very critical challenges at higher education in Pakistan. Among these challenges Academic Challenges, Social Challenges, Time Management challenges, Financial Challenges and Health Challenges were found to be common in the married students at higher education in Pakistan. The study has important practical implications in the field of higher education in Pakistan with the recommendations of some modifications and changes in the mechanism of higher education in Pakistan to facilitate the education of married women at higher education.

Keywords: Challenges, Higher Education, Married Women, Problems, Time Management**Introduction**

According to Adeel & Zhang (2013), education of women goods development and progress of .society, and women with education can lead better social development and profitable growth. Married students who choose to continue their studies at the university position frequently face a unique set of challenges. Some of the common problems and challenges that married students encounter include. (Shuvra, Tanvin, Mozahid & Khan, 2019).

Challenges Faced by Married Student

Married students face unique challenges when it comes to continuing their studies. Here are certain of the utmost collective challenges

Economic Constraints

Married students regularly have extra financial responsibilities such as deciding to buy lease or loan, groceries, and payments. This could make it tough to have enough money tuition charges, textbooks, and other education-related charges.

Time Management

Married students frequently must juggle a couple of responsibilities, which include work, family chores, and worrying for kids. This can make it difficult to discover time to study and entire coursework.

Constrained Social Life

Married college students may additionally experience isolated from their peers, as they will now not have as an awful lot of time to participate in extracurricular activities or socialize with classmates.

Lack of Help

Married college students may not receive the same stage of emotional and realistic aid as single students. This can consist of aid from their partner, who may not apprehend the needs of academic life.

Difficulty Balancing Priorities

Married students may struggle to balance their academic pastimes with their circle of relative's responsibilities. They'll experience responsible for neglecting their circle of relatives or sacrificing their academic dreams.

Confined Mobility

Married college students can be limited in their ability to transport to pursue academic possibilities. This will be due to financial or familial responsibilities, such as proudly owning a home or being concerned for children.

Normal, the demanding situations confronted by way of married college students require careful making plans, time control, and powerful communication with circle of relative's individuals and academic establishments to make sure educational achievement.

Loss of Social Interaction

Married students might also sense being demoted from their friends, as they'll now not have the equal stage of social interplay as unmarried students. They will now not have as a lot time to take part in extracurricular sports or social occasions.

Work-Lifestyles Stability

Married college students might also balance their paintings and circle of relative's responsibilities with their studies, which can be difficult. They ought to work element-time or complete-time to assist their own family that may restrict the time they have available for analyzing.

Trouble in Finding Appropriate Housing

Married students may also have difficulty locating low cost and appropriate housing near their college, in particular if they have kids. This may result in lengthy commutes, which could further upload to their stress and time control demanding situations.

Much Less Socialization

Married college students may additionally have restricted possibilities to socialize and participate in extracurricular activities due to their circle of relative's responsibilities. This could cause emotions of isolation and loneliness, which could affect their intellectual health and academic overall performance.

Generally, these problems can make it extra difficult for married ladies to hold their better schooling. But, it's critical to understand and deal with those issues to create more supportive and accommodating surroundings for married girls to pursue their instructional dreams. Solutions inclusive of bendy schedules get right of entry to childcare, and providing aid and sources can help married girls triumph over those limitations and succeed in their academic pursuits (Bari, 2005). It provides openings to mortal beings to play vital part in society. It's notorious Chinese saying that educating a woman is educating the whole family. Progress and substance without the education of women will simply a dream. In Pakistan, like wise in the world women have established themselves as a good director, mastermind, information technology specialist (IT), schoolteacher, banker, army officers. According to Goldin (2004), education of women goods development and progress of society, and women with education can lead better social development and profitable growth. Study conducted by Bari, (2005) revealed that women education has long term benefits to the family and the society. Maters' education has significant goods on the education of their children as well as on the society. According to Murray, (2009) advanced education provides women with better health and job openings. In malignancy of the recognition about the significance of women education, there are numerous walls in the way of women to get advanced education and to contribute their maximum input. The mind set of society doesn't allow girls for advanced education that promote gender inequality and prioritizing the coffers for boys. Study conducted by Goldin (2004) revealed that wedded women face numerous problems and leave their education deficient due to different social factors (Naz, Khan, Daraz & Hussain (2012).

Wedded women are supposed to look after the house and children rather of going out for studies. Movement of womanish outside their homes is confined at the morning by their parents and misters after marriage. Women have to work and look after their hubby and children. Illiterately rate of womanish in Pakistan is further than 50 percent, and at advanced position education, the participation of women has adding trend, but their proportion is veritably small. With this background, this study was design to explore social, family problems of wedded women at advanced education. The study is significant in terms of exploring the root causes of different problems faced by womanish wedded scholars while antedating advanced education after marriage. The views and opinions of repliers contribute to explore pathway dealing with social views and stations that are handicap for women continuing their advanced education (Lloyd & Hague 2000). Overall, these challenges can make it delicate for wedded scholars to continue their studies at the university position. Still, with the right support and coffers, it's possible for wedded scholars to overcome these challenges and achieve their academic pretensions.

Hypotheses

Following were the Hypothesis of the study

- H₀1. There is no relationship between marriage and academic performance of students at university level.
- H₀2. There is no significant effect of marriage on the academic performance of students at university level.

H₀₃. There are no significant challenges faced by married students to continue their studies at university level.

Material and Methods

The study was descriptive in nature. Quantitative research methodology was to collect data. Researchers were using purposive sampling technique to select the sample from population. 75 students were samples of the study. A self-design questionnaire was used to collect the data from samples. Population of the study was married female students enrolled in public and private Universities of Province (Punjab) and City (Faisalabad). Total number of Universities in Punjab and total number of Universities in Faisalabad these are the public and private sector universities with the variation in the fee structure and number of students. Purposive sampling technique was used to select samples for the present study. Researchers selected 18 Departments of Government College Women University Faisalabad as a sample. 75 female married students from Government College Women University Faisalabad enrolled in graduate level and Postgraduate level was the sample of the study. The minimum age of the participants was 20 years and maximum age was 30 years. The study conducted at Govt. College Women University Faisalabad involved a sample of 75 married students. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data. In descriptive statistics researcher used Mean, frequency, standard deviation and percentage. Correlation was used to identify the statistically significant difference between the variables. For the analysis of the demographic variables ANOVA was used by the researcher.

Results and Discussion

Table 1
Academic Related Challenges

Sr. No	Statements	N	Mean	S. D	Sig.	Correlation
1	Marriage Effects Academic Performance	75	3.000	1.34	0.001	1
2	Low concentration during lectures	75	3.08	1.35	0.028	.447**
3	Irregular attendance to the classes	75	3.41	1.53	0.000	.126
4	Receive any support from department	75	2.17	1.436	0.000	0.11
5	Not Possible to continue studies after marriage.	75	3.49	1.36	0.006	-.173

Table 2
Social Related Challenges

Sr. No	Statements	N	Mean	S. D	Sig.	Correlation
1	Cannot Balance your family responsibility with your study.	75	3.82	1.329	0.000	.124
2	Do Not Receive enough emotional support from your husband	75	3.97	1.27	0.000	.249*
3	Your spouse respects your opinion	75	3.77	1.44	0.000	.032
4	Hardly Receive support from yours in law- in pursuing your higher education goals	75	3.46	1.605	0.004	-.106
5	Stress due to university and house responsibility	75	3.78	1.40	0.08	.455**

Table 3
Time Management Related Challenges

Sr. No	Statements	N	Mean	S. D	Sig.	Correlation
1	Extra time for personal activities	75	3.00	1.47	0.072	-.156
2	House responsibility effect university timing	75	3.36	1.57	0.000	.162
3	Can Complete course work and assignment on time	75	3.41	1.40	0.000	-.084
4	Family member helps you manage your time	75	3.50	1.54	0.205	-.009
5	Not Enough support system to manage time and achieve educational goals	75	3.45	1.39	0.000	-.080

Table 4
Finance Related Challenges

Sr. No	Statements	N	Mean	S. D	Sig.	Correlation
1	Spouse cannot manage your finances	75	3.94	1.34	0.070	.024
2	Take out alone or used credit to finances expenses	75	3.12	1.55	0.000	.038
3	Effect financial situation as a couple	75	3.45	6.21	0.000	.160
4	Save money and manage expenses effectively	75	3.24	1.50	0.000	.023
5	Facing issues to pay your fee	75	3.84	1.46	0.008	.340**

Table 5
Health Related Challenges

Sr. No	Statements	N	Mean	S. D	Sig.	Correlation
1	Sleep disorder while pursuing while higher education	75	3.22	1.49	0.204	-.030
2	Mental health challenges while pursuing higher education such as anxiety and stress	75	2.88	1.70	0.04	.359**
3	Experience any pregnancy related complications	75	2.600	1.43	0.000	.295*
4	Not Enough time to exercise or out healthy needs	75	3.01	1.61	0.204	-.078
5	Experience any nutritional deficiency while studies	75	3.45	1.49	0.000	.157

Tables show a significant relationship between Marriage Effects and Different Challenges at Higher Education faced by female married students. It means that the married students at higher education face academic related challenges, Social related challenges, Time management challenges, Financial Challenges and Health related Challenges.

Conclusion

The study highlighted critical challenges faced by married students at higher education in Pakistan. Among these challenges Academic challenges, Social Challenges, Time Management challenges, Financial Challenges and Health related Challenges were found to be common in the married students at higher education in Pakistan. The results

revealed that the marriage effects academic performance of married women at higher education, the lack concentration during lectures, shows irregular attendance to the classes, cannot continue studies after marriage, cannot maintain balance between family responsibility study, hardly receive support from their in law- in pursuing their higher education goals, feel stress due to university and house responsibility, cannot manage Extra time for personal activities, their house responsibility effect university timing, cannot complete course work and assignment on time, their Spouse cannot manage their finances, they have to take out alone or used credit to finances expenses, Have sleep disorder while pursuing while higher education, have Mental health challenges while pursuing higher education such as anxiety and stress, Experience any pregnancy related complications, have not enough time to exercise or out healthy needs and may experience any nutritional deficiency while studies

Recommendations

In reviewing the findings of the questionnaire, there are certain implications specific to our university and a few for other higher education institutions.

- One of the recommendations is to offer courses with a more blended teaching approach rather than the traditional mode of face-to-face in-class teaching.
- Distance instruction, hybrid courses or accessible courses are other possibilities that could be presented to wedded students.
- At the university level there is a need for educators and administrators to cultivate cultural awareness about family role commitments married female students encounter during their course of study.
- A greater asset in creating program flexibility, actual systems of statement in maintenance and facilities such as adolescent care and therapists could contribute towards positive completion of the degree.
- Hiring capable counselors who comprehend the culture is vital for the establishment of appropriate counseling facilities for all students and precisely when dealing with matters related to wedded students.

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