

## Does A Socio-Cultural Dynamic Impede Female from Getting Higher Education? A Cross Sectional Analysis of Bacha Khan University Charsadda

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### Abstract

A cross sectional based study was conducted with the sole aim to explore the Pukhtun's societal dilemma i.e., female getting higher education (Dependent variable) with respect to sociocultural hindrances (independent variable) through perceptual based dynamics at Bacha Khan University Charsadda. A sample size of 306 female respondents was selected from total 1500 registered female students in 2020 as per Sekeran criteria. A structured questionnaire encompassing from all the study attributes was pre-tested and major mistakes with regards to reliability were overcome through three Likert scale procedure. Further, the data was analyzed through descriptive and inferential statistics. The study concluded that gender inequalities among familial decisions pertaining to educational attainment of female instead of male members were preferred and empowering women through education is still in vein due to the persistence of *Pukhtoonwali*. The parents were more sensitive regarding female higher education, as due to the perseverance nature of female students exploitation by the teachers, students and administration in terms of sexual harassment and so many others latent manifestations could lead the parents not to enroll their daughters at universities. Co-education is a threat to Pashtun's honor is another tumbling factor in the study area which need to be addressed by the application of awareness program through collaboration of print and electronic media to eliminate the negative stigmatization and stereotypical beliefs which is put forwarded by the virtue of traditionalism and conservatism will ensure to dethrone the partisan character of such norms from the society.

**Keywords:** Early marriage, Female Higher education, Pukhtunwali, gender discrimination