

## **Scientific careers of women after marriage in NE India with especial reference in Manipur**

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Men and women can never be equal. It is started from God's creation. They are different in structure, strength and performances in all respects of life except in power of brain. Females get somewhat equal attitude with males from family and society from childhood up to adult just before marriage. Every action regarding education and social status goes parallel in males and females in this span. We can notice the sudden strategic change in social, educational or scientific performances of females just after marriage, but no change in that of males. The parallel line goes abruptly down in that of females. Of course there seems to have no or little change in the performances of women working in universities where scientific facilities are there. Women working in colleges especially in Manipur cannot perform further scientific works as there is no facility in the colleges. The main causes of degradation in the scientific performances of females after marriages are physiological (nature's gift), social status and hand in hand shortage of facilities.

The physiological changes cannot be escaped. We have to upgrade the social status of women and at the most the scientific facilities in the Science Colleges so that women can utilize their valuable time duration in the colleges in scientific works after taking respective classes so that there can be some scientific performances if not up to the level of men.

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### **I. Introduction**

The universe itself is ruled by males. From prehistoric times, may be even from stone ages, men were taking care of their families, regarding protection from wild enemies, search for food for the family, making of houses, cultivation etc., while females were taking care for the household works and their babies. This habit is not man-made. It is a gift of nature. Women have to give birth to the young ones and look after them. But in this 21<sup>st</sup> century women cannot obey only the gift of nature, but have to compete men in all respects, of course the gift of nature is compulsory for women. There are innumerable causes for women to come out in the society with raising hands.

The vast socio-economic and cultural diversity of the north-east region of India remains a largely unexplored area of academic research. Within it, the status of women continues to be a neglected aspect (Sindhu Phadke, 2009). But the performances of women pursuing scientific careers seem to be degraded after marriage. Here some possible causes of the degradation and possible remedies are being discussed.

### **II. Experiences and discussion**

In the society we can notice a number of harassments given to women which cannot be counted. It starts even before birth. Abortion of fetus which is termed as feticide is done usually in case of female fetus. Some which can be mentioned in relation to the context, which is harassment given to women pursuing scientific career can be discussed. Before marriage, females are free to do their will at the same level as males. Females perform equal or even better performances than males before entering couple lives. But after marriage, women seem to have no or little performances scientifically. Caplan demonstrates that while many women believe that when they fail it is their fault, their fate is more likely to be sealed by their encounter with the male environment, and by the manner in which they are tossed about by it. She aims to help women avoid self-blame and understand the real sources of their problems (By Paula J. Caplan, 1993). The causes of the outcome of differences in the scientific careers of women before and after marriage in NE India with especial reference in Manipur can be from the following reasons:

- 1. Household works:** Women after marriage have to look after the whole household works of their family. In this case it is difficult to come out even from the family to the workplace. Each and every member of the family must have division of labor and must not take the bride as the servant of the family. In Manipur, there is no servant system in majority of the families.

Usually the elders take brides to serve the whole family members. We must educate our sons to the same extent as our daughters with the household works so that the problems we are facing may be decreased in the next generation.

**2. New environment:** It takes time to suit to the new family's environments.

Every member of the family will look into her loopholes and try to abuse her. If they are not satisfied they will even blame her mother and father. In this case, her mind will be disturbed and cannot give concentration in her scientific works although she gets some time to go to workplace. It is impossible to make all the elders content. Elders must know her difficulties and must have tolerance as they have to their daughters. When we become the elders of our families, our youngsters must not receive the attitude we got from our elders.

**3. To keep the love alive:** In the meantime, disturbances in scientific performances will become harsher if there is misunderstanding between she and her husband, not only in engaged marriages, but also in love marriages.

The misunderstanding may arise mostly from mother-in-law and sister-in-laws in most cases. Anyway it is the most difficult thing for a woman to win her husband's love. Only marriage cannot bind the couple. It is the most difficult thing to keep the love alive. If the relation is not good, scientific concentration will not be there. Although may be seated in front of the working table, but in her mind it will come all the quarrels of her family. She must try her best to make the family members content to win the love of the family. But there are some limitations. The only thing we can do is that when we become the elders of the family, we should not do any wrong step we got from our elders.

**4. Physiological change:** Women cannot escape the gift of nature, giving birth to young ones. Naturally, due to the physiological change, women are weak and engaged to look after the baby and cannot give attention to scientific works for some time. In this case, naturally women have drawback in scientific works. After some time she will resume to her normal work, but not up to the standard. This physiological change will bring change in all her outlooks. Many women could not see their baby's lovely gestures in trying to finish their scientific research works. Actually the fate of babies of working women as a whole are not good.

**5. Social status:** Women and science is very much related with women and society. Measures for gender equity are being taken up in all parts of the world. Women have played traditionally a strong role in nurturing the young mind (Rohini Godbole, 2004). Worldwide initiatives are to be taken up to strengthen the performance of the women. The social status of women is still very lower in Manipur in comparison to that of other states and countries.

Women cannot do many things in the society. Above all the nature's gift and household works, now-a-days women have to protect the males of Manipur from the clutches of many abnormal things going on in the society by the name of Meira Paibeas (Meira-torch, paibeas-those who are handling, meaning "women handling torch"). In this case it seems the whole responsibilities for the present world are put on top of the head of the women. Whereas, men think women as a machine to give birth to young ones. This can be evidenced from the fact that men marry another woman if the first do not give birth to a child. Even if the first wife gives birth to a number of children, men can marry as many as new wives at their will. They don't bother about the shocks of their first wives. Of course this is not the case for all persons. But the frequency becomes more day by day. The status of women continues to be a neglected aspect in the seven North-eastern states of India, viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Maghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura (Sindhu Phadke, 2009). Out of the seven states the situation in Manipur is the worst.

**6. Working facilities:**

In spite of all the above difficulties, women will come to the workplace and try to perform normal duties. In this case, if there is enough working facilities as in the universities, women can keep up scientific career up to some extent if not up to the standard as before marriage. But in the colleges, where there are no scientific working facilities, usually women have to stop scientific works, taking only the classes. The performances of women in science in the developed countries are nearly at the same level as that of men (Women in science, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia). If the government has special attention to science colleges and keep working facilities, women can somewhat participate in the scientific world.

### **III. Conclusion**

By birth, females cannot escape the gift of nature. The only thing we can do is to rectify the next generation. We cannot rectify our in-laws and husbands, but we can rectify ourselves and our sons. By the way

we rectify the next generation or not, no scientific works cannot be done if there is no working facilities in the colleges. In this case the central and state government are the sole responsibilities.

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