

Analysis of the Causes of Drop out among Girls' Students in Balochistan

Shah Khalid Baloch¹ Dr. Ahmed Ali Brohi² Abdul Wahid Zehri³

Abstract:

In fact drop out from school among girls is a universal issue. In most countries girls drop out from school for various reasons such as socio-economic factors, early marriages, school related factors, pregnancy, religious factors, cultural factors and ailing health. The aim of this study is to identify why girls drop out from school in Balochistan. An interview schedule was used in collecting data from the respondents. 100 respondents were non-randomly selected from a pool of girl's primary and secondary schools in Quetta city, in this regard twenty primary schools and twelve secondary schools were selected for study. Data was analyzed using percentages. The main reasons and factors of drop out from school among girls students in Balochistan revealed from the results of the study are poverty, distance from home to school, poor health, early marriages, non-availability of educational facilities, lack of parents interest, teachers violent behavior and difficult curriculum. The findings of the study may help to policy makers, planners of education department, teachers and parents to take serious actions for controlling drop out and increasing enrollment rate specifically at the primary and secondary level in Balochistan.

Key Words: Causes, Drop out, Girls, School,

-
1. Lecturer, Gender Development Studies Department University of Balochistan, Quetta. E-mail: khldbaloach@gmail.com
 2. Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro.
 3. Lecturer, IMS, University of Balochistan, Quetta

Analysis of the Causes of Drop out among Girls' Students in Balochistan

Introduction:

Education is considered the key of socio-economic development of nations. Education makes enable to girls and women to save and improve their lives. Education empowers girls to make their own decisions about their lives and to influence their relatives and as well as society positively. It provides them a greater authority and control of their lives and also provides them with perception and skills to contribute for the betterment and welfare of their societies (Hussain *et al*, 2011). Education is a fundamental right for all humans and has now become a standard to measure the social growth of nations. It is definitely a key to the political, social and economic development. In the recent history, it has become an outstanding phenomenon. The education policy is forever on the top of national priorities today. The recent flared circumstance of global intolerance is also believed to be linked with literacy. Literacy rates have been verified with research to be associated with the economic progress of the country. The literate societies are more earning today. They have greater social and political constancy. So literacy is a significant aspect globally (Siddique *et al*, 2011).

UNICEF (2004) report reveals that girls' education show the way of equitable development, better living services and standards, better child health and effective input in governance. In spite the clear advantages of education to national development, research findings illustrate that girl's dropout rate from schools higher than that of boys. Education in general and Education for All (EFA) in particular, is one of the top priorities of government of Pakistan. But, beside this policy or priority the dropout rate of girl's from schools is increasing day by day. In Pakistan, various socio-economic, religious, cultural and school related factors are not giving fair chance to girls regarding to their active participation in the educational sector (Khan *et al*, 2011). In Pakistan, the overall dropout rate is 50 percent for both girls and boys. Whereas, the dropout rate of girls is higher than boys, because the girls' dropout rate is 56 percent while the dropout rate of boys is only 44 percent (NCHD UPE-P, 2010). This gender gap means that millions more girls than boys are dropping out of school each year. UNICEF (2003) illustrated an irritating report from sub-Saharan Africa where the number of girls is out of schools increased from 20 million in 1990 to near 24 million in 2002. The report also showed that

Shah Khalid Baloch et al

approximately 83 percent girls are out of school globally mainly live in South Asia, Sub- Saharan Africa, East Asia and Pacific.

An important reason for the low participation of girls in education and their dropout from school among the disadvantaged sections of the population is that girls from a very early age begin to take care of their younger siblings and to house-hold work to relieve their parents to go out for work. So, such girls indirectly generate income, beside this some social and cultural factors play an important role in inhibiting the participation of women in education. Early marriage, frequent pregnancy affects the enrolment rates and become the reasons for dropout of girls and sometimes due to our cultural and social heritage parents are often reluctant to send their daughters to boys' school, especially from middle level and above. The lack of separate institutions for girls is also a reason of girls' dropout and therefore inhibits girls' participation in education. The lack of women teacher and instructress similarly hinders the progress and do not suit girls in rural areas as they are needed for work either at home or in fields at the same time, hence their low participation in school education (Sharma, 2006). The unattractive school environment, especially in mixed schools, lack of physical facilities for sitting in class and the discriminating attitudes of teachers towards girls and as well as in co-education school settings the violent behavior of male teachers against girls students like sexual harassment etc, also adversely affect the participation of girls in education and finally become reason for their dropout from school (Ahmed, 1985).

Khan *et al*, (2011) reported that in Pakistan the reasons for girls dropout from schools before the completion of primary education. It is quite obvious that the poverty is a main reason for girls leaving schools. The poor economic conditions of the parents are also force girls to remove them from schools and engage them in household chores. In Balochistan, the illiteracy rate of girls is very high and majority of female population is out of school. Education is a right and many children are deprived from this basic right across Pakistan, but the state of literacy, particularly of females is bleak in Balochistan with as much as 70% girls dropped out of school. The statistics paint a gloomy picture, with less than 2 % rural women educated and only 26 % overall female literacy in the province (Shah, 2014).

Analysis of the Causes of Drop out among Girls' Students in Balochistan

The problem:

Education has been formally recognized as a human right after the agreement of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 (UNICEF & UNESCO, 2007). The article 25-A in the constitution of Pakistan also guarantees the right to free and compulsory education to all children of age five to sixteen years in Pakistan. It is the responsibility of state including federal government and provincial governments to provide free and compulsory education to all children without any discrimination. The government of Pakistan is also a signatory of international commitment of MDGs which includes free and compulsory primary education to all children in this regard Pakistan has declared education in general and education for all (EFA) in particular, its top priority (PILDAT, 2011). In spite of various policies and programs still the illiteracy is one of the serious issues of the world, UNICEF (2004) report illustrated that around 121 million children are out of school for different reasons and approximately 65 million of them are girls, in Pakistan the level of literacy is very low and only just touch 57 percent including 45 percent females and 69 percent males. And particularly in the rural and tribal areas of Pakistan this situation is more alarming (Saqib & Ahmad, 2014). This is a serious problem that needs quick action if the nation is to advance technologically, considering the numerous and intergenerational advantages derivable in the education of the girl child. It is the main aim of this research study, therefore, to identify the causes why girls dropout of school in Balochistan and as a result, based on the findings offer counseling strategies that could be implemented in order to confirm the rate of drop out from school among girls in Balochistan.

Methodology:

The methodology adopted in this research study is descriptive survey design. The study is limited to Quetta city because of time and resource constraints. The study is limited to only girls' schools and the targeted population of the study is merely girls' students. The study sought to determine the causes for dropping out from school among girls in Balochistan. The target group of this study comprised all girls who dropped out of school and re-enrolled in schools of Quetta city. Twenty primary schools and twelve secondary schools were used for the study. A sample of 100 students was selected through convenience sampling technique. The instrument for the data collection used

Shah Khalid Baloch et al

was an interview schedule on reasons for dropping out of schools. Data was analyzed using percentages.

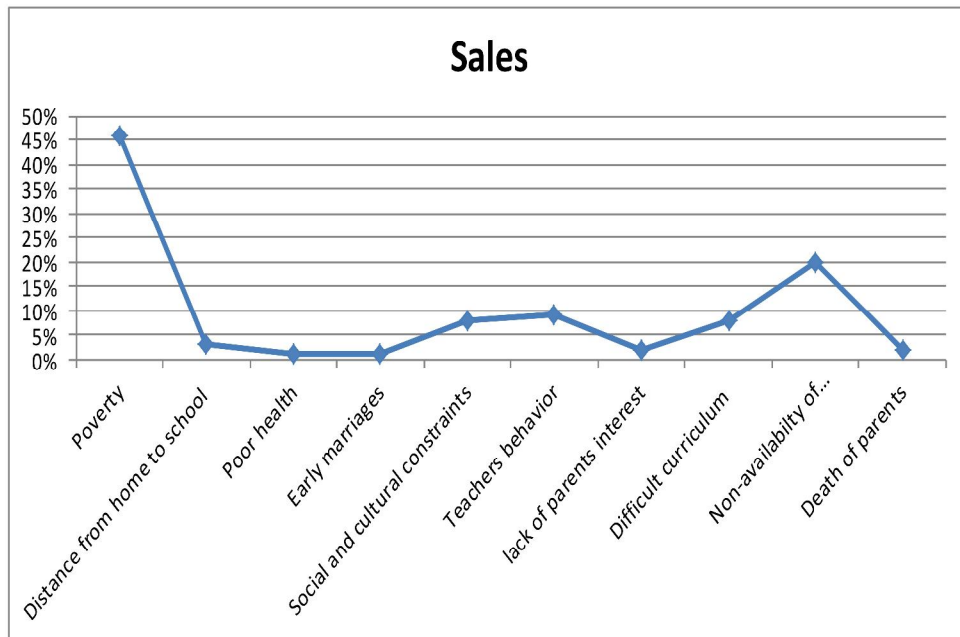
Results:

Distribution of the responses of the subjects on causes for dropping out of school

Table- 1: Causes of dropout of school by girls students.

<i>Responses</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Poverty</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>46%</i>
<i>Distance from home to school</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>Poor health</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>1%</i>
<i>Early marriages</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>1%</i>
<i>Social and cultural constraints</i>	<i>08</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>Teachers' violent behavior</i>	<i>09</i>	<i>9%</i>
<i>Lack of parents interest</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Difficult curriculum</i>	<i>08</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>Non-availability of educational facilities</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Death of parents</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100%</i>

Analysis of the Causes of Drop out among Girls' Students in Balochistan



Results and Discussions:

The data analysis illustrated that the level of poverty is highest 46% amongst the reason of dropout among the girls' students from school. The reason could be as an outcome of unemployment, insufficient education, retrenchment of workforce and poor compensation. As the data reveals that poverty is a main reason for the low participation of girls in education. The UNICEF (2004), data also indicated that poverty is a serious hindrance in the way of girls' education, therefore many girls dropout from their school the UNICEF report showed that nearly 65 million girls are out of school for various bases including poverty. The data analysis also illustrated that the level of non-availability of educational facilities is also highest (20%) is a reason for dropout of girls from their school and this reason could be as a result of discouragement, lack of quality education, wastage of time, negative image of schools and affects the educational performance of students. The data also showed that the violent behavior of teachers' also badly affects the educational performance or participation of girls in schools. The data showed that 9 percent students understand that the violent behavior of teachers' is a reason for dropout among girls' students. The data analysis showed that social

Shah Khalid Baloch et al

and cultural factors are also responsible of girls' dropout from school. The data indicated that 8% respondents consider the socio and cultural constraints as a reason for girls' dropout from school. The difficult syllabus is also a major reason of dropout of girls because the data illustrated that the level of difficult curriculum is quite high 8% amongst the reason of dropout among the girls' students this could be as a result of biased curriculum. Beside this the data analysis showed some other reasons of girls' dropout, distance from home to school is also considered a reason for girls' dropout. Data illustrated that the level of distance from home to school is somewhat high (03%) amongst the reason of dropout among girls students. The data analysis showed that some respondents (02%) answered that lack of parents' interest also become reason of dropout among girls' students. Likewise 2 % participants responded that the death of parents is also a reason of dropout of girls' students because when parents will not be alive more, in result girl children face many difficulties regarding to their education like to bear educational expenditures and absence of moral and social support. The data analysis also indicated that the poor health and early marriages are also considered reason of dropout of girls because 01% respondents replied that the poor health create hindrances for girls education and finally turn into reason of dropout among girls students. WHO (2000) observed that a student may leave education as a result of some individual/personal crisis such as illness, physical disability or accident. Equally 01% respondents answered that the early marriages is a reason of girls' dropout. Furthermore early marriages may be as a result of culture, peer influence, lack of sex education, and poverty. This result is in line with the findings of Mohammed (2000) who opined that a girl may be inhibited from school if a good marriage prospect arises. During general discussion with teachers and parents it was observed that poor academic performance of girls also become a reason of dropout among girls students beside this they also pointed out some other economic, social, cultural and religious factors which are really considered serious reasons for low participation of girls in education.

Conclusion:

This research study highlighted the reasons for dropout from school amongst girls' students in Balochistan. The conclusion drawn from the study findings that poverty, non-availability of educational facilities, socio- economic status, parents educational realization, early marriages, social and cultural belief, lack of female teachers', teachers' unnecessarily aggressive behavior, syllabus and

Analysis of the Causes of Drop out among Girls' Students in Balochistan

poor health as regards the reasons of dropout among girls' students in Balochistan.

Recommendations:

In the light of study findings the following measures are suggested,

1. Education for girls should be made free in all parts of the province. Besides, incentives such as free supply of stationary, books, uniforms, mid-day meals and scholarships should be provided majority of the girls who hail from the poor sections of society.
2. Considering the socio-cultural norms and values separate schools for girls should be established wherever there is a demand for them.
3. The school environment should be more attractive especially for girls so that girls to participate in the education as per present demand of society.
4. Schools for girls should be established at easy walking distance from their homes, where this is not possible, than conveyance facilities and hostel arrangement should be provided.
5. Special campaigns should be launched to change the negative behavior of society towards girls' education.
6. The time schedule for the girls should be made flexible so that girls can attend school when they get free from their domestic activities.
7. Proper counseling programs should be initiated for parents to educate them about the need and importance of girls' education.
8. The relevant and common curriculum for girls and boys should be introduced to have equal learning opportunities.
9. Authorities should take the notice of teachers' aggressive or violent behavior and especially all forms of sexual harassment and bullying should be discouraged.
10. Girls who are not performing well academically remedial classes should be arranged for them.

References:

- Ahmed, Karuna. (1985). "*The Social Context of Woman's Education in India*, New Frontiers in Education Vol.XV.No. July-September
- Hussain, Ashiq., Salfi A. Naseer. & Khan M. Tariq. (2011). "*Causes of Students, Dropout at Primary Level in Pakistan: An empirical study*" International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Vol.1 No.12, September
- Khan, A. Gulbaz., Azar, Mohammad. & Shah, S.Asghar. (2011) "*Causes of Primary School Dropout among Rural Girls in Pakistan*, Working Paper Series (SDPI)
- NCHD 2010, *National Commission for Human Development, Islamabad, Pakistan*, <<http://www.nchd.org.pk>> accessed 2 Jan. 2011.
- PILDAT, (2011), "*Right to Free and Compulsory Education in Pakistan*" Pakistan Institute and Transparency, Islamabad Pakistan, 2011
- Saqib, Mohammad, & Ahmed, S. Mudasir. (2014). "*Root Causes of Low Female Literacy in FATA Pakistan (A Case Study of Jalozai Camp)*, International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences March, Vol.4, No.3
- Shah, A. Syed, "*Female Literacy Hits New Low in Balochistan*" Dawn Newspaper Karachi, DEC 31, 2014
- Sharma, Nirmala, (2006) "*Women and Education Issues & Approaches*" Alfa Publications New Delhi-110 002 (INDIA)
- Siddique, Bilal. Ahmed, Gulraiz. Zafar, Sohaib & Masood, Zubair. (2011) "*Causes of Low Literacy Rate in Pakistan*" NFC Institute of Engineering & Fertilizer Research Faisalabad Pakistan (Research Project)
- UNICEF, (2003), "*Girls Education Progress Analysis and Achievement in 2002*" Medium-term Strategic Plan 2002-2005, UNICEF, New York, USA, 2003
- UNICEF, (2004), "*The State of the World's Children, Girls Education and Development*, 4, 34-35 UNICEF, New York, USA, 2004
- UNICEF & UNESCO, (2007), "*A Human Rights, Based Approach to EDUCATION FOR ALL*" UNICEF, New York, USA, 2007