

Chapter 6

State of Women's Education in Rural and Urban West Sikkim: Field Studies on Villages and Towns

- **State of Women's Education in the Villages under study**
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CHAPTER – 6

STATE OF WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN RURAL AND URBAN WEST SIKKIM: FIELD STUDIES ON VILLAGES AND TOWNS

This chapter is based on empirical work conducted both in rural and urban areas of West Sikkim. The chapter is divided into three parts. First part deals with the state of women's education in rural West Sikkim, second part deals with the state of women's education in urban West Sikkim and the last part is a comparative study between the rural and urban areas under study regarding the state of women's education. To represent the rural areas, I have studied two villages viz. Timburbong *busty* and Bariakhop *busty* and to represent the urban areas, I have studied two town areas viz. Geyzing *bazaar* and Nayabazar.

6.1 State of Women's Education in the Villages under study

The empirical work reveals educational scenario especially the state of women's education in the two villages under study.

Literacy Status:

The literacy status of people of Timburbong *busty* and Bariakhop *busty* is presented in table 6.1.1.

Table 6.1.1: Distribution of the People in Villages under study according to their Literacy Status

Name of the Villages	Illiterate			Literate			Total No. (%)
	Male No. (%)	Female No. (%)	Total No. (%)	Male No. (%)	Female No. (%)	Total No. (%)	
Timburbong	110 (16.13)	225 (30.08)	335 (23.43)	572 (83.87)	523 (69.92)	1095 (76.57)	1430 (100)
Bariakhop	131 (24.08)	196 (38.89)	327 (31.20)	413 (75.92)	308 (61.11)	721 (68.80)	1048 (100)
Total	241 (19.66)	421 (33.63)	662 (26.72)	985 (80.34)	831 (66.37)	1816 (73.28)	2478 (100)

Note: Male 1226 (49.48%), Female 1252 (50.52%), Total 2478 (100.00%)

It is observed from table 6.1.1 that, in two villages altogether there are 1816 literate (73.28%) and 662 (26.72%) illiterate individuals. The sex wise literacy shows that, among males 241 (19.66%) are illiterate and 985 (80.34%) are literate. Whereas among the females only 831 (66.37%) are literate and 421 (33.63%) are illiterate. Among the two villages, Timurbong occupy the higher literacy position (76.57%) whereas Bariakhop occupy the lower position (68.80%) in this respect. Similarly, the higher female literacy position (69.92%) is occupied by Timurbong *busty* whereas Bariakhop *busty* occupy the lower position (61.11%) in this respect.

Literacy Standard:

The literacy standard of the villagers is presented in Table 6.1.2

Table 6.1.2: Literacy Standard of the Villagers under study

Particulars	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Literacy Standard			
Read and write Only Total	34 (3.11)	47 (6.52)	81 (4.46), (3.27)
Male	5 (0.87)	29 (7.02)	34 (41.98), (2.77)
Female	29 (5.54)	18 (5.84)	47 (58.02), (3.75)
Primary Total	435 (39.73)	308 (42.72)	743 (40.91), (29.98)
Male	248 (43.36)	191 (46.25)	439 (59.08), (35.81)
Female	187 (35.76)	117 (37.99)	304 (40.92), (24.28)
Secondary Total	480 (43.84)	275 (38.14)	755 (41.57), (30.47)
Male	228 (39.86)	138 (33.41)	366 (48.48), (29.85)
Female	252 (48.18)	137 (44.48)	389 (51.52), (31.07)
Senior Secondary Total	96 (8.77)	64 (8.88)	160 (8.81), (6.46)
Male	56 (9.79)	41 (9.93)	97 (60.63), (7.91)
Female	40 (7.65)	23 (7.47)	63 (39.38), (5.03)
Graduate/Post Graduate Total	50 (4.57)	27 (3.74)	77 (4.24), (3.11)
Male	35 (6.12)	14 (3.39)	49 (63.64), (4.00)
Female	15 (2.87)	13 (4.22)	28 (36.36), (2.24)

The above table shows that, among the literate persons of the two villages, majority (41.57%) have education upto secondary level. Out of total 1816 literate population, 81 (4.46%) can read and write only but they do not have any formal educational degree. 743 (40.91%) have education upto primary, 755 (41.57%) have upto secondary, 160 (8.81%) upto senior secondary and only 77 (4.24%) upto graduate or post graduate level. The table reveals that, the number of literate females is less than that of males in every level except at secondary level. At secondary level, there are 366 (48.48%) male literates compared to 389 (51.52%) female literates. The number of females who can read and write but without having any formal education is also more (47 i.e. 58.02%) than the males (34 i.e. 41.98%) in the villages. The literacy standard of higher level (in total) is disheartening in the villages.

Enrolment of the Village Children:

In the two villages there are a total of 847 (92.17%) continuing students out of 919 children of school going age. The following table presents the distribution of students pursuing their studies in various schools and various classes.

Table 6.1.3: Distribution of the Village Children of School Going Age and their Enrolment Pattern

Name of the villages	Total school going age children			Total continuing students		
	Boys No. (%)	Girls No. (%)	Total No. (%)	Boys No. (%)	Girls No. (%)	Total No. (%)
Timurbong	264 (49.53)	269 (50.47)	533 (100)	247 (93.56)	264 (98.14)	511 (95.87)
Bariakhop	212 (54.92)	174 (45.08)	386 (100)	186 (87.74)	150 (86.21)	336 (87.05)
Total	476 (51.80)	443 (48.20)	919 (100)	433 (90.97) (51.12)	414 (93.45) (48.88)	847 (92.17)

Note: Percentages are calculated as per total children of school going age.

Table 6.1.3 presents that, among the continuing students 433 (51.12%) are boys and 414 (48.88%) are girls. Of the remaining 72 (7.83%) non school going children, 43 are boys and 29 are girls.

Distribution of the Students in the Villages according to their Class:

In the two villages, there are a total of 847 (92.17%) continuing students who are pursuing their studies in various classes which Table 6.1.4 is showing.

Table 6.1.4: Class-wise Distribution of the Village Students

Classes	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
I to III Class			
Total	146 (54.28)	123 (45.72)	269 (31.76)
Boys	73(50)	72(58.54)	145 (53.90)
Girls	73(50)	51(41.46)	124 (46.10)
IV & V Class			
Total	97 (55.11)	79(44.89)	176 (20.78)
Boys	52(53.61)	46(58.23)	98 (55.68)
Girls	45(46.49)	33(41.77)	78 (44.32)
VI to VIII Class			
Total	122 (61)	78 (39)	200 (23.61)
Boys	44(36.07)	41(52.56)	85 (42.5)
Girls	78(63.93)	37(47.44)	115 (57.5)
IX & X Class			
Total	76 (76.77)	23 (23.23)	99 (11.69)
Boys	42(55.26)	10(43.48)	52 (52.53)
Girls	34(44.74)	13(56.52)	47 (47.47)
XI & XII Class			
Total	40 (65.57)	21 (34.43)	61 (7.20)
Boys	18(45)	11(52.38)	29 (47.54)
Girls	22(55)	10(47.62)	32 (52.46)
Graduate & P.G.			
Total	30 (71.43)	12 (28.57)	42 (4.96)
Boys	18(60)	6(50)	24 (57.14)
Girls	12(40)	6(50)	18 (42.86)
Total	511 (60.33)	336 (39.67)	847 (92.17), (100)

The table shows that out of 847 continuing students, 269 (31.76%) enrolled upto class III, 176 (20.78%) upto class V, 200 (23.61%) upto class VIII, 99 (11.69%) upto class X, 61 (7.20%) upto class XII and only 42 (4.96%) upto graduate or post graduate level. Thus it is evident that 52.54 per cent of the students belong to primary

level, 35.3 per cent to secondary level, 7.20 per cent to senior secondary level and only 4.96 per cent to college and university level. In the primary level, out of 445 students, 243 (54.61%) are boys and 202 (45.39%) are girls. While in secondary level, out of 299 students 137 (45.82%) are boys and 162 (54.18%) are girls. Whereas in senior secondary level out of 61 students, 29 (47.54%) are boys and 32 (52.46%) are girls. In college and university level out of 42 students, 24 (57.14%) are boys and only 18 (42.86%) are girls. Thus it is clear that the enrolment of girls' upto senior secondary level is quite impressive, even in secondary and senior secondary level their enrolment is more than boys, but in higher level of education their enrolment is lower.

Dropout:

Any child who has withdrawn from school before completing the last grade of the stage of education in which he or she studying, is generally understood as a case of drop out. Dropout rate is an essential indicator to know the status of education. Therefore efforts have been made to find out the number of dropout of different schools of the villages. Detained students or repeaters also after 2/3 years lose interest or confidence and become dropout. The number of dropout children at various stages of education in rural areas is given below.

Table 6.1.5: Distribution of Dropout / Detained Students of the Villages under study in the year 2007

Classes	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timburbong (Dropout only) No. (%)	Bariakhop (Dropout/ Detained) No. (%)	
I – V Class			
Total	06 (66.67)	45 (73.77)	51 (72.86)
Boys	04 (66.67)	28 (62.22)	32 (62.75)
Girls	02 (33.33)	17 (37.78)	19 (37.25)
VI – VIII Class			
Total	03 (33.33)	16 (26.23)	19 (27.14)
Boys	01 (33.33)	10 (62.5)	11 (57.89)
Girls	02 (66.67)	06 (37.5)	08 (42.11)
Total	09 (100)	61 (100)	70 (100)

Source: School Record

The school record of the number of dropouts of only one year (2007) shows a very satisfactory picture that the number of dropout / detained girls were less (27) than the boys (43) in villages. In class I to V level, there were 62.75 per cent dropout or detained boys against 37.25 per cent girls and in class VI to VIII level, there were 57.89 per cent boys against 42.11 per cent dropout or detained girls in the villages under study.

Male and Female Respondents of Rural West Sikkim:

Social Status:

To get an overview on women education in Sikkim, to examine their status, problems and prospects with regard to education, I have tried to get information from different persons of the villages. For that, sample study of 40 per cent of the total households of each village area was done and the sample number again divided into two broad categories of males and females. In that way, from Timburbong village, I selected 53 men and 53 women and from Bariakhop village 43 men and 43 women as respondents and I interviewed them on related aspects. Respondents chosen are from heterogeneous background and categorised under different heads like parents and guardians, teachers, government servants, professionals, influential persons and continuing girl students. Their response is presented in the following manners – statistically i.e. through tables and in descriptive manner. The social status of the respondents are furnished in table 6.1.6 and 6.1.7

Table: 6.1.6: Distribution of the Village Men according to their Social Status

Status	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timburbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Fathers & Guardians	23 (43.40)	9 (20.93)	32 (33.33)
Teachers, Govt. Servants & Professionals	22 (41.51)	23 (53.49)	45 (46.88)
Influential Persons	8 (15.09)	11(25.58)	19(19.79)
Total	53 (100)	43(100)	96 (100)

Table 6.1.6 presents that among 96 (100%) male respondents, 32 (33.33%) are fathers and guardians, 45 (46.88%) are male teachers, government servants and

professionals, 19 (19.79%) are influential persons including businessmen, contractors, panchayat members etc.

Among the 96 (100%) female respondents chosen from the villages, 38 (39.58%) are housewives and mothers, 25 (26.04%) are female teachers, government servants, professionals and influential persons, 33 (34.38%) are continuing students. Their distribution according to status is given in the following table.

Table: 6.1.7 Distribution of the Village Women according to their Social Status

Status	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Mother & Housewives	26 (49.06)	12 (27.91)	38 (39.58)
Teachers, Govt. Servants professionals & Influential persons	17 (32.08)	8 (18.60)	25 (26.04)
Continuing girl students	10 (18.87)	23 (53.49)	33 (34.38)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Age Group:

To get the opinion of different types of people, respondents from the villages were chosen from different age groups. Table 6.1.8 and 6.1.9 are showing their age group.

Table: 6.1.8: Age Group of the Village Men

Age group	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Upto 25 years	10 (18.87)	5 (11.63)	15 (15.63)
25-50 years	31 (58.49)	33 (76.74)	64 (66.67)
Above 50 years	12 (22.64)	5 (11.63)	17 (17.71)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Table: 6.1.9: Age Group of the Village Women

Age group	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Upto 25 years	18 (33.96)	27 (62.79)	45 (46.88)
25-50 years	26 (49.06)	12 (27.91)	38 (39.58)
Above 50 years	9 (16.98)	4 (9.30)	13 (13.54)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Table 6.1.8 presents that among 96 (100%) male respondents 15 (15.63%) belong to age group upto 25 years, 64 (66.67%) belong to age group between 25 to 50 years and 17 (17.71%) belong to age group of above 50 years.

Table 6.1.9 presents that among the female respondents 45 (46.88%) belong to age group of 25 years, 38 (39.58%) belong to age group of 25 to 50 years and 13 (13.54%) belong to age group of above 50 years.

Educational Status:

I have interviewed persons from various educational backgrounds. Table 6.1.10 shows male respondents' educational status whereas table 6.1.11 shows female respondents' educational status.

Table: 6.1.10: Distribution of the Village Men according to their Educational Status

Educational Status	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timurbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No.(%)	
Illiterate	4 (7.55)	-	4 (4.17)
Primary	6(11.32)	7 (16.28)	13 (13.54)
Secondary	19 (35.85)	20 (46.51)	39 (40.63)
Senior Secondary	12 (22.64)	8 (18.60)	20 (20.83)
Graduate / Post Graduate	12 (22.64)	8 (18.60)	20 (20.83)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Table: 6.1.11: Distribution of the Village Women according to their Educational Status

Educational Status	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timurbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No.(%)	
Illiterate	4 (7.55)	2 (4.65)	6 (6.25)
Primary	12 (22.64)	2 (4.65)	14(14.58)
Secondary	23 (43.40)	26 (60.47)	49(51.04)
Senior Secondary	9 (16.98)	12 (27.91)	21 (21.88)
Graduate / Post Graduate	5 (9.43)	1 (2.33)	6 (6.25)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Among the male respondents, 4 (4.17%) are illiterate persons, 13 (13.54%) have education upto primary level, 39 (40.63%) upto secondary level, 20 (20.83%) upto senior secondary level and 20 (20.83%) upto graduate or post graduate level.

Whereas among the female respondents, 6 (6.25%) are illiterate females, 14 (14.58%) have education upto primary level, 49 (51.04%) upto secondary level, 21 (21.88%) upto senior secondary level and 6 (6.25%) upto graduate or post graduate level.

Marital Status:

Among the village respondents, 78 (81.25%) are married males whereas 54 (56.25%) are married females and 18 (18.75%) are unmarried males against 42 (43.75%) unmarried females. Table 6.1.12 and 6.1.13 gives the details of the marital status of the male and female respondents respectively.

Table: 6.1.12: Marital Status of the Village Men under study

Marital Status	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timurbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No.(%)	
Married	43(81.13)	35 (81.40)	78 (81.25)
Unmarried	10(18.87)	8 (18.60)	18 (18.75)
Total	53(100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Table: 6.1.13: Marital Status of the Village Women under study

Marital Status	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timurbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No.(%)	
Married	35 (66.04)	19 (44.19)	54 (56.25)
Unmarried	18 (33.96)	24(55.81)	42 (43.75)
Total	53(100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Perceptions of the Rural Respondents towards Women's Status, Rights and Empowerment, Women's Educations, Employment and other related issues:

Views of the Village Males and Females regarding Dignity and Status of Women in Society:

Patriarchy exists in India. In Indian society, access to education for females largely depends upon the attitude of the male members towards the status of women.

Fortunately, Sikkim is a State where the status of womenfolk is better than their counterparts of some other parts of India. Women enjoy more freedom in Sikkim. In the present study, I tried to find out the opinions of some village males and females regarding the status of women in their society. Their views are presented in table 6.1.14

Table: 6.1.14 Views of the Village Men regarding the Dignity and Status of Women

Status	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timurbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No.(%)	
Inferior	8 (15.09)	12 (27.91)	20 (20.83)
Equal	42 (79.25)	2(4.65)	44 (45.83)
Superior	3 (5.66)	29 (67.44)	32 (33.33)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Table 6.1.14 reveals that among 96 (100%) village males, 20 (20.83%) are of the opinion that the status of women is inferior to men, whereas 44 (45.83%) think that women enjoy equal status with men, but 32 (33.33%) males are of the opinion that women are superior to men.

To understand the women's awareness regarding their own position, opinion of village women were taken which is furnished in table 6.1.15

Table: 6.1.15: Views of the Village Women regarding the Dignity and Status of Women

Status	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Inferior	15 (28.30%)	14 (32.56%)	29 (30.21%)
Equal	36 (67.92%)	27 (62.79%)	63 (65.63%)
Superior	02 (3.77%)	02 (4.65%)	04 (4.17%)
Total	53 (100%)	43 (100%)	96 (100%)

The above table shows that out of 96 (100%) females, 29 (30.21%) think that their position is inferior to men, 63 (65.63%) think that they hold equal position as men and 4 (4.17%) believe that their status is superior to males.

Attitudes of the Village Men on Women's Rights and Empowerment:

In a patriarchal society like India, the attitudes and opinions of males may have an impact on the status of women. Thus it is important to know their attitudes

regarding women's rights and empowerment. When village men were asked about it, they gave their opinions. Their opinions are furnished below.

Table: 6.1.16: Distribution of the Village Men under study with regard to their opinion on Women's Rights and Empowerment

Opinions	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timburbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No.(%)	
Participate in family decision making	51 (96.23)	43 (100)	94 (97.92)
Right to choose husband	48 (90.57)	42 (97.67)	90 (93.75)
Right to cast votes	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)
Right to choose profession	50 (94.34)	43 (100)	93 (96.88)
Equal share in parental property	43 (81.13)	40 (93.02)	83 (86.46)
Represent in local govt. bodies	52 (98.11)	42 (97.67)	94 (97.92)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Note: Multiple responses included

The table reveals that 100 per cent village men support women's right to cast votes whereas equal percentage(97.92%) of village men are of the opinion that women should participate in family decision making process and they should represent in local government bodies, while 96.88 per cent village men think that women should enjoy the right to choose own profession, 93.75 per cent village men are of the opinion that women should have the right to choose their husband but only 86.46 per cent village men agreed to give equal share of parental property to the female members of their family. The men who do not consent to give equal share of parental property to the female members have given the reason that after marriage women are included in their in- law's family and therefore there is no need to give them equal share.

Views of the Village Men and Women towards Co-education:

Most of the schools in Sikkim are run by the State Government and are co-educational. Hence to know the perception of males towards co-education is important. Village men were asked in this regard and their opinion is given below.

Table: 6.1.17 Village Men's Perception towards Co-education

Perceptions	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timburbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No.(%)	
Favourable	46 (86.79)	39 (90.70)	85 (88.54)
Favourable on condition	2 (3.77)	1 (2.33)	3 (3.13)
Not favourable	5 (9.43)	3 (6.98)	8 (8.33)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Table 6.1.17 shows that, 85 (88.54%) village men do not have any objection in sending their children to co-educational schools, while 3 (3.13%) males are in favour of co-education but on certain conditions. 8 (8.33%) males do not favour co-educational system at all. Here with the help of some opinions, perceptions have been measured as favourable, favourable on conditions and unfavourable.

Similarly, village women have given their opinion on co-educational system which is given in table 6.1.18

Table 6.1.18: Village Women's Perception towards Co-Education

Perceptions	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timburbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No.(%)	
Favourable	41(77.36)	37 (86.05)	78 (81.25)
Favourable on condition	06 (11.32)	06 (13.95)	12 (12.5)
Not favourable	06 (11.32)	-	06 (6.25)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

In the villages, majority of the women (81.25%) favour of co-educational system, whereas 12 (12.5%) women support this system but on certain conditions, while 06 (6.25%) of them do not favour this system.

Views of the Village Men and Women towards Women's Employment:

'Participation of women in economic activities is high in Sikkim. The women, especially in the rural areas, are involved in agricultural operations from sowing to harvesting. It has been their responsibility, traditionally, to collect fuel wood and fodder for the family, and fetch water from *dharas* (springs) in vessels which they carry in a *doko* (basket) on their backs. They are responsible for all domestic tasks including the caring for domestic animals. Women also work as paid agricultural labourers, construction workers and take part in economic activities like selling of vegetables in the market place. They contribute to the income of the family also

through their traditional skills in spinning and wearing.' (Lama: 2001: 34) 'The number of women in government jobs is more in Sikkim than that of men.' (ibid: 33). If women of both rural and urban participate in income generating activities, their status will change. Now the question is how many males and females are agreed with women's employment outside their homes or locality. Efforts have been made to find out the answer of this question.

Table: 6.1.19 Opinion of the Village Men regarding Women's Employment outside Locality

Opinions	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Agreed	44 (83.02)	38 (88.37)	82 (85.42)
Agreed on conditions	4 (7.55)	3 (6.98)	7 (7.29)
Not Agreed	5 (9.43)	2 (4.65)	7 (7.29)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Table 6.1.19 shows the opinions of village men regarding women's employment outside their locality. The table discloses the fact that 7.29 per cent of village men are not interested in sending their girls outside their locality for employment whereas majority of them (85.42%) have approval of it. 7.29 per cent village men support women's employment outside locality but on certain conditions.

When woman respondents were asked about their opinion towards their employment outside their locality, 77.08 per cent of total village women approve of it. 15.63 per cent village women also in favour of it but on certain conditions, while 7.29 per cent of them totally disapprove of women's employment outside locality. Women's opinion towards their employment outside locality is furnished in the following table.

Table: 6.1.20: Opinion of the Village Women regarding Women's Employment outside Locality

Opinions	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Agreed	39 (73.58)	35 (81.40)	74 (77.08)
Agreed on conditions	9 (16.98)	6 (13.95)	15 (15.63)
Not Agreed	5 (9.43)	2 (4.65)	7 (7.29)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Objectives of Women Education: Village Women's View:

When village women were asked about their opinion regarding the objectives of their education, they stated their views. The following table presents their views. Only the most important objective according to them has collected from each female.

Table 6.1.21 Opinion of the Village Women regarding the Objectives of Women Education

Views	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
To acquire knowledge	6 (11.32)	6 (13.95)	12 (12.5)
To get employment	13 (24.53)	16 (37.21)	29 (30.21)
To get a good husband	1 (1.89)	1 (2.33)	2 (2.08)
To increase the family status	10 (18.87)	5 (11.63)	15 (15.63)
To make themselves independently	15 (28.30)	12 (27.91)	27 (28.13)
To educate the children	8 (15.09)	3 (6.98)	11 (11.46)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Note: Single response included

Among the village women, majority (30.21%) of them think that the main objective of female education is to get employment, 28.13 per cent of them think that to make woman independent, education is important, 15.63 per cent are of the opinion that the role of women education is to increase the family status, whereas 12.5 per cent believe that to acquire knowledge is the main objective of women education, 11.46 per cent think that the basic aim of women education is to educate their children and according to 2.08 per cent women, better education may help them to get a good husband.

Reasons for not continuing Higher Education: Village Women's View:

Village women below graduate level education were asked to give reasons for discontinuing their studies. They stated various reasons for it. Single response was taken from each of them which is furnished in table 6.1.22

Table 6.1.22: Reasons for Not Continuing Education upto Graduate Level - Village Women's Opinion

Reasons	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Felt no attraction	03 (7.89)	04 (21.05)	07 (12.28)
There was no educational institute at the vicinity	01 (2.63)	-	01 (1.75)
Parents do not encourage	07 (18.42)	04 (21.05)	11 (19.30)
Due to physical sickness	07 (18.42)	-	07 (12.28)
Had no ability to bear expenses	06 (15.79)	-	06 (10.53)
Engaged in familial works	09 (23.68)	02 (10.53)	11 (19.30)
Early marriage	03 (7.89)	06 (31.58)	09 (15.79)
Parent's death	01 (2.63)	01 (5.26)	02 (3.51)
Got job opportunity and left study	01 (2.63)	02 (10.53)	03 (5.26)
Total	38 (100)	19 (100)	57 (100)

[Note: Females below graduate level education are only included, continuing students are not included]

Among the village women below graduate level, same per cent i.e. 19.30 per cent blame either their parents negligence or loads of familial works as a hindrance, 15.79 per cent women got married at a very early age and left studies, equal percentage (12.28%) have shown the reason of either physical sickness or their lack of interest in studies, 10.53 per cent could not continue high studies because of poor economic condition of their family, 5.26 per cent are of opinion that they got lots of job opportunities and could not realise the importance of higher studies, 3.51 per cent could not continue their studies because of their parent's death and according to 1.75 per cent women, lack of educational institution became a constraint to continue their further studies.

Views of the Village Women regarding Satisfaction of Self Educational Attainment:

Village women were asked whether they are satisfied with their self educational attainment or not. Their response is given below.

Table 6.1.23: Opinion of the Village Women regarding their Satisfaction of Self Educational Attainment

Opinions	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timurbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No.(%)	
Satisfied	25 (58.14)	8 (40)	33 (52.38)
Not satisfied	18(41.86)	12 (60)	30 (47.62)
Total	43 (100)	20 (100)	63 (100)

Note: Continuing Students are not included

According to the table 6.1.23, more than 50 per cent of village women (52.38%) are satisfied with their educational attainment, whereas 47.62 per cent are not satisfied with their educational attainment.

Suggested Level of Formal Education for Girls and Boys by the Village Men and Women:

In the present study, I asked the village men about their aspirations towards education of boys and girls. Women were also asked about their suggested level of education for girls. Their opinion is stated in the following tables.

Table: 6.1.24: Level of Formal Education for Girls and Boys as Suggested by the Village Men

Suggested level of education	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Primary For Boys	-	-	-
For Girls	-	01 (2.33)	01 (1.04)
Secondary For Boys	5 (9.43)	2 (4.65)	07 (7.29)
For Girls	11 (20.75)	07 (16.28)	18 (18.75)
Senior Secondary For Boys	6 (11.32)	4 (9.30)	10 (10.42)
For Girls	14 (26.42)	12 (27.91)	26 (27.08)
Graduate For Boys	34 (64.15)	21 (48.84)	55 (57.29)
For Girls	25 (47.17)	15 (34.88)	40 (41.67)
Post Graduate For Boys	8 (15.10)	16 (37.21)	24 (25)
For Girls	3 (5.66)	8 (18.60)	11 (11.46)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

Table 6.1.24 shows that village men suggest higher education for boys than girls. 57.29 per cent suggest graduate level for boys compared to 41.67 per cent men who suggest the same level of education for girls. While 25 per cent men suggest post graduate level education for boys and only 11.46 per cent men suggest that for the girls.

Table 6.1.25: Level of formal Education for Girls as Suggested by the Village Women

Suggested level of education	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Primary	-	-	-
Secondary	12 (22.64)	04 (9.30)	16 (16.67)
Senior Secondary	16 (30.19)	07 (16.28)	23 (23.96)
Graduate	21 (39.62)	13 (30.23)	34 (35.42)
Post Graduate	04 (7.55)	19 (44.19)	23 (23.96)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

The table reveals that majority of village women (35.42%) think that graduate level education is necessary for girls in the contemporary period. Equal percentage i.e. 23.96 per cent have suggested senior secondary level or post graduate level, 16.67 per cent think that secondary education is enough for girls. But none of them have suggested upto primary level education for girls.

Reasons for Son Preference for Higher Education over the Daughters as Identified by the Village Men:

Village men were asked whether they had noticed gender-wise discrimination for higher education within their society. The views of only those who gave positive response were taken into consideration. They have given several reasons for this type of practice but only a single response according to the weightage has been entertained and presented in the following manner:

Table: 6.1.26: Reasons for Son Preference –Opinion of the Village Men

Reasons	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timburbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Sons are more meritorious than daughters	1 (7.69)	4 (11.76)	5 (10.64)
Sons will earn much money and look after their parents	5 (38.46)	17 (50)	22 (46.81)
After marriage daughters will not be included in parents' family	7 (53.85)	13 (38.24)	20 (42.55)
Girls do not need higher education	-	-	-
Total	13 (100), (27.66)	34 (100), (72.34)	47 (100)

[Note: Only those males are included who believe that son preference for higher education exists within their society]

Among the village men who believe that people of their locality prefer boys than girls for higher education, majority of them (46,81%) are of opinion that it is due to the belief that at the old age generally sons look after their parents and that is why parents prefer their sons for higher studies. 42.55 per cent opine that as the daughter leave their parental home after marriage, therefore parents do not find it important to give their daughter more education than sons. Only 10.64 per cent men think that people bear the notion that sons are more meritorious than daughters, therefore they prefer sons than daughters for higher study.

Opinion of the Village Women regarding their Gender Situation:

Regarding the village women's opinion about their gender situation, questions were asked. Their perception is furnished below in table 6.1.27

Table: 6.1.27: Opinion of the Village Women on their Gender Situation

Perceptions	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timburbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No.(%)	
Satisfied	40 (75.47)	30 (69.77)	70 (72.92)
Not satisfied	13 (24.53)	13 (30.23)	26 (27.08)
Total	53 (100)	43(100)	96 (100)

The above table uncover the fact that majority of village women (72.92%) have positive feeling on their gender situation. But 27.08 per cent of them have negative feeling on their gender situation.

Reasons of Positive Feeling of the Village Women with regard to their level of Education:

Village women whose response was positive regarding their feeling on gender situation were asked to show reasons in support of their answers. Their reasons with regard to their educational level have been recorded in the following table. A single response has been accepted from each respondent.

Table: 6.1.28: Reasons of Positive Felling of the Village Women with regard to their Level of Education

Reasons	Levels of Education					Total No. (%)
	Illiterate No. (%)	Primary No. (%)	Secondary No. (%)	Senior Secondary No. (%)	Graduate/Post Graduate No. (%)	
Women get lots of privileges from their society	1	6	17	8	4	36(51.43)
Women are loved by men	1	1	1	2	-	5(7.14)
Women are the best creation of God and they are bestowed the ability to produce children	4	3	15	3	4	29(41.43)
Total Respondents	6 (8.57)	10 (14.29)	33(47.14)	13(18.57)	8(11.43)	70(72.92), (100)

The table reveals that, among the 70(72.92%) village women who have positive feeling on their gender situation, 36(51.43%) women from different educational backgrounds (1- illiterate,6- till primary level,17 -till secondary level,8 –till senior secondary level,4-till graduate or post graduate level)think that women enjoy lots of privileges from their society, 5(7.14%) women(1-illiterate,1-till primary level,1-till secondary level,2-till senior secondary level) have given the reason that women are loved by men and that is why they feel honoured to be a female and 29(41.43%) women (4-illiterate,3-till primary level,15-till secondary level,3-till senior secondary level,4-till graduate or post graduate level) think that they are the best creation of God and are bestowed the ability to bear children.

level,4-till graduate or post graduate level) think that they are the best creation of God and are bestowed the ability to bear children.

Reasons of Negative Feeling of the Village Women with regard to their Level of Education:

Village women, whose response was negative regarding their feeling on gender situation, were asked to show reasons behind their feelings. A single response has been accepted from each respondent.

Table: 6.1.29: Reasons of Negative Feeling of the Village Women with regard to their Level of Education

Reasons	Levels of education					Gross Total No. (%)
	Illiterate No. (%)	Primary No. (%)	Secondary No. (%)	Senior Secondary No. (%)	Graduate/Post Graduate No. (%)	
Women are exploited by men	-	1	6	3	-	10(38.46)
Women are not treated with proper dignity	-	3	2	-	-	6(23.08)
Parents consider them as burden	-	1	4	-	-	5(19.23)
Society is patriarchal	-	1	-	-	-	1(3.85)
Women have less opportunity for their development	-	1	1	2	-	4(15.38)
Total Respondents	-	7(26.92)	13(50)	5(19.23)	1(3.85)	26(27.08),(100)

10(38.46%) village women from various educational backgrounds(1-till primary level,6-till secondary level,3-till senior secondary level) have negative feeling as they think that women are exploited by men in the society, 6(23.08%) women (3-till primary level,2-till secondary level,1-till graduate or post graduate level) believe that they are not treated with proper dignity, 5(19.23%) women (1-till primary level,4-till secondary level) have given the reason that parents view a girl child as a burden, 1 (3.85%) village woman with primary level education thinks that society is patriarchal, therefore, women are always deprived of all the facilities and 4(15.38%) women (1-till primary level,1-till secondary level,2-till senior secondary level) have negative feeling as they think they have less opportunity for their development.

Opinion of the Village Men and Women regarding Women's Educational Position within the Society:

I asked the village men about their opinion regarding the overall educational situation of women in their locality. Their opinion is presented in the following table.

Table: 6.1.30: Opinion of the Village Men on Women's Educational Position within the Society

Opinions	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timurbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Women's are lagging behind	43 (81.13)	34 (79.07)	77 (80.21)
Women's are not lagging behind	10(18.87)	9 (20.93)	19 (19.79)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

The table shows that, 80.21 per cent village men think that women of their society are lagging behind from the men in the field of education, while 19.79 per cent do not support the same viewpoint.

To examine the awareness of women regarding their overall educational position in the society compared to men, women were also asked same kind of questions and their reply is furnished below.

Table: 6.1.31: Opinion of the Village Women on their Educational Position within the Society

Opinions	Name of the Villages		Total No.(%)
	Timurbong No.(%)	Bariakhop No.(%)	
Women's are lagging behind	34 (64.15)	27 (62.79)	61 (63.54)
Women's are not lagging behind	19 (35.85)	16 (37.21)	35 (36.46)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

63.54 per cent village women opine that women of their own society are lagging behind from men in the field of education, while 36.46 per cent women opine that women are not lagging behind from men in the field of education.

Barriers against Women Education as Identified by the Village Men and Women:

Village men who think women are educationally backward than men, were asked to show the reasons responsible for that. The table below discloses the various reasons identified by the village men as educational hindrance of women.

Table: 6.1.32: Educational Barriers Faced by Women as Identified by the Village Men

Barriers	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timburbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Parents are not conscious about the importance of girls' education	23 (53.49)	13 (38.24)	36 (46.75)
Girls themselves are not interested to get formal education	03 (6.98)	05 (14.71)	08 (10.39)
Due to poverty	5 (11.63)	4 (11.76)	9 (11.69)
Marriage before completion of education	4 (9.30)	9 (26.47)	13 (16.68)
Lack of institutional opportunity for girls	8 (18.60)	3 (8.82)	11 (14.29)
Total	43 (100)	34 (100)	77 (100)

[Note: Only those males are included who perceived educational backwardness of women of their society, single response accepted]

According to majority of the village men (46.75%), lack of parents' consciousness regarding their daughters' education acts as barrier to women's education, 16.68 per cent of them think that women are educationally backward because they get married at a very early age, before completion of a minimum level of education, whereas 14.29 per cent have identified that lack of institutional opportunity especially for women is the main reason, 11.69 per cent village men think that poor economic condition is the main hindrance to women education while 10.39 per cent think that it is due to the lack of interest of the girls themselves towards their educational achievement.

Women of the villages also have identified some of the factors responsible for their educational backwardness. Their opinion is given in table 6.1.33

Table: 6.1.33: Educational Barriers Faced by Women as Identified by the Village Women

Barriers	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timburbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Parents are not conscious about the importance of girls' education	15 (44.12)	14 (51.85)	29 (47.54)
Girls themselves are not interested to get formal education	02 (5.88)	03 (11.11)	05 (8.20)
Due to poverty	09 (26.47)	03 (11.11)	12 (10.67)
Marriage before completion of education	04 (11.76)	07 (25.93)	11 (18.03)
Lack of institutional opportunity for girls	04 (11.76)	-	04 (6.56)
Total	34 (100)	27 (100)	61 (100)

[Note: Only those females are included who perceived women's educational backwardness in their society. Single response accepted]

The table reveals that according to 47.54 per cent village women, parents' lack of consciousness about the importance of girls' education is the main reason for women's educational backwardness, 18.03 per cent hold that the early marriage of girls' before attaining a minimum educational degree as a reason, 10.67 per cent think that poverty as the main reason, whereas 8.20 per cent think that girls themselves show lack of interest in their studies, while only 6.56 per cent women have identified that lack of institutional opportunity especially for girls as barrier to women education.

Suggestions for Upholding Women's Educational Status by the Village Men and Women:

To find out the solution of backward status of the women, village men and women were asked to suggest some remedial measures. Their suggestions are presented in the following tables. Single suggestion has been accepted.

Table: 6.1.34: Suggestions of the Village Men to Uphold the Women's Educational Status

Suggestions	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Motivational programmes for parents	17 (32.08)	12 (27.91)	29 (30.21)
Motivational programmes for girls	06 (11.32)	10 (23.26)	16 (16.67)
More educational institutions for girls	10 (18.87)	12 (27.91)	22 (22.92)
Free of cost education at every level	13 (24.53)	04 (9.30)	17 (17.71)
Stop early marriage	07 (13.21)	05 (11.63)	12 (12.50)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

[Note: Single suggestion accepted]

Table 6.1.34 presents that according to 30.21 per cent village men, motivation programmes for parents are very essential to improve the situation, 22.92 per cent have suggested that more educational institutions for girls are required, 17.71 per cent have suggested that education should be free of cost at all levels, 16.67 per cent think that motivational programmes for girls are needed, while 12.50 per cent village men are of opinion that there should be restrictions on the marriageable age of girls before attaining a minimum educational degree.

Table: 6.1.35: Suggestions of the Village Women to Uphold the Women's Educational Status

Suggestions	Name of the Villages		Total No. (%)
	Timurbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Motivation programmes for parents	17 (32.08)	13 (30.23)	30 (31.25)
Motivation programmes for girls	06 (11.32)	10 (23.26)	16 (16.67)
More educational institutions for girls	10 (18.87)	05 (11.63)	15 (15.63)
Free of cost education at every level	15 (28.30)	03 (6.98)	18 (18.75)
Stop early marriage	05 (9.43)	12 (27.91)	17 (17.71)
Total	53 (100)	43 (100)	96 (100)

[Note: Single Suggestion accepted]

The table shows that, according to 31.25 per cent village women, motivational programmes for parents would be beneficial, 18.75 per cent of them have suggested free of cost education at every level, 17.71 per cent have suggested that early marriage should be stopped before attaining a minimum educational degree, 16.67 per cent women have suggested motivational programmes for girls, while 15.63 per cent have given emphasis to establish more educational institutions for girls.

6.2 State of Women's Education in the Towns under study

The empirical study reveals educational scenario of the towns under study especially the state of women's education in the towns.

Literacy Status:

The literacy status of people of the towns under study i.e. Geyzing *bazaar* and Nayabazar is presented in table 6.2.1

Table 6.2.1 Distribution of the People in Towns under study according to their Literacy Status

Name of the Towns	Illiterate No. (%)			Literate No. (%)			Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Geyzing	8(4.26)	23(12.85)	31(8.45)	180(95.74)	156(87.15)	336(91.55)	367
Nayabazar	22(14.67)	43(30.94)	65(22.49)	128(85.33)	96(69.06)	224(77.51)	289
Total	30(8.88)	66(20.75)	96(14.63)	308(91.12)	252(79.25)	560(85.37)	656

Note: Male: 338(51.52%), Female: 318(48.48%), Total: 656(100.00%)

It is observed from table 6.2.1 that in two towns altogether there are 560 (85.37%) literate and 96 (14.33%) illiterate individuals. The sex-wise literacy shows that, among males, 30 (8.88%) are illiterate and 308 (91.12%) are literate. Whereas among the women only 252 (79.25%) are literate and 66 (20.75%) are illiterate. Among the two towns, Geyzing occupy the higher literacy position (91.55%) whereas Nayabazar occupy the lower position (77.51%) in this respect. Similarly the higher female literacy position is occupied by Geyzing (87.15%) whereas Nayabazar occupy the lower position (69.06%) in this respect.

Literacy Standard:

The literacy standard of the town areas is presented in Table 6.2.2

Table: 6.2.2: Literacy Standard of the Town Dwellers under study

Particulars	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Literacy Standard			
Read and write only Total	13(3.87)	17(7.59)	30(5.36) (4.57)
Male	5(2.78)	5(3.91)	10(33.33) (2.96)
Female	8(5.13)	12(12.5)	20(66.67) (6.29)
Primary Total	58(17.26)	94(41.96)	152(27.14) (23.17)
Male	29(16.11)	58(45.31)	87(57.24) (25.74%)
Female	29(18.59)	36(37.5)	65(42.76) (20.44)
Secondary Total	158(47.02)	92(41.07)	250(44.64) (38.11)
Male	84(46.67)	52(40.63)	136(54.4) (40.24)
Female	74(47.44)	40(41.67)	114(45.6) (35.85)
Senior Secondary Total	67(19.94)	17(7.59)	84(15) (12.80)
Male	37(20.56)	10(7.81)	47(55.95) (13.91)
Female	30(19.23)	7(7.29)	37(44.05) (11.64)
Graduate / Post Graduate Total	40(11.90)	4(1.79)	44(7.86) (6.71)
Male	25(13.89)	3(2.34)	28(63.64) (8.28)
Female	15(9.62)	1(1.04)	16(36.36) (5.03)

The above table shows that, among the literate persons of the town areas, majority (44.64%) have education upto secondary level. Out of total 560 literate population, 30 (5.36%) can read and write only but they do not have any formal educational degree. 152 (27.14%) have education upto primary, 250 (44.64%) upto

secondary, 84(15%) upto senior secondary and only 44 (7.86%) upto graduate or post graduate level. The table also reveals that, the number of literate women in every level is very less than that of men. Moreover, their number is very negligible in the higher level i.e. graduate and post graduate level. Only the number of women who do not hold any formal educational degree but can read and write is more than that of men. It is clear that the literacy standard of higher education (in total) is not at all promising in the towns.

Enrolment of the Town Children:

In the two town areas there are a total of 237 children of school going age. The following table shows their pursuit of education.

Table: 6.2.3: Distribution of the Town Children of School-Going age and their Enrolment Pattern

Name of the Towns	Total school-going age children			Total continuing students No.(%)		
	Boys No. (%)	Girls No. (%)	Total No. (%)	Boys No. (%)	Girls No. (%)	Total No. (%)
Geyzing	72(55.38)	58(44.62)	130(100)	68(94.44)	55(94.83)	123(94.62)
Nayabazar	63(58.88)	44(41.12)	107(100)	59(93.65)	43(97.73)	102(95.33)
Total	135(56.96)	102(43.04)	237(100)	127(94.07) (56.44)	98(96.08) (43.56)	225(94.94)

Note: Percentages are calculated as per total children of school going age.

The above table reveals that, out of 237 children of school-going age, 225 (94.94%) are pursuing their studies. Among them 127 (56.44%) are boys and 98 (43.56%) are girls. Of the remaining 12 (5.06%) non-school-going children, 4 are boys and 3 are girls.

Distribution of the Students in the Towns according to their class

In the two town areas of West Sikkim there are a total of 225 (94.94%) continuing students. Distribution of these students according to class is presented in the following table.

Table 6.2.4: Class-wise Distribution of the Town Students

Classes	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
I to III class Total	26 (42.62)	35(57.38)	61 (27.11)
Boys	13(50)	29(82.86)	42 (68.85)
Girls	13(50)	6(17.14)	19 (31.15)
IV & V class Total	10 (30.30)	23(69.70)	33 (14.67)
Boys	7(70)	7(30.43)	14 (42.42)
Girls	3(30)	16(69.57)	19 (57.58)
VI to VIII Class Total	22 (50)	22(50)	44 (19.56)
Boys	10(45.45)	10(45.45)	20 (45.45)
Girls	12(54.55)	12(54.55)	24 (54.55)
IX to X class Total	18 (64.29)	10(35.71)	28 (12.44)
Boys	11(61.11)	5(50)	16 (57.14)
Girls	7(38.89)	5(50)	12 (42.86)
XI & XII class Total	26 (78.79)	7(21.21)	33 (14.67)
Boys	16(61.53)	5(71.43)	21 (63.64)
Girls	10(38.48)	2(28.57)	12 (36.36)
Graduate & Post Graduate Total	21 (80.77)	5(19.23)	26 (11.56)
Boys	11(52.38)	3(60)	14 (53.85)
Girls	10(47.62)	2(40)	12 (46.15)
Total	123 (54.67)	102(45.33)	225 (94.94) (100)

The table shows that out of 225 continuing students, 61 (27.11%) enrolled upto class III, 33 (14.67%) upto Class V, 44 (19.56%) upto Class VIII, 28 (12.44%) upto Class X, 33 (14.67%) upto Class XII and 26 (11.56%) upto graduate or post graduate standard. Thus it is evident that 41.78 percent of the students belong to primary level, 32 per cent to secondary level, 14.67 per cent to senior secondary level and 11.56 per cent to college and university level.

In the primary level, out of 94 students, 56 (59.57%) are boys and 38 (40.43%) are girls. While in secondary level out of 72 students, 36 (50%) are boys and 36(50%) are girls. Whereas in senior-secondary level out of 33 students, 21 (63.64%) are boys and 12 (36.36%) are girls. In college and university level out of 26 students 14 (53.85%) are boys and 12 (46.15%) are girls. Thus it is clear that though the

enrolment of the girls in primary and secondary level is satisfactory, but their enrolment rate differs widely from the boys in senior secondary and college level.

Dropout:

To find out the number of dropout in town areas under study, the record of dropout and detained students of Geyzing Senior Secondary School and Nayabazar Junior High School was collected. In the Government Senior Secondary School, Geyzing, both girls and boys study upto Class VIII level and from Class IX onwards only girls study there. Because of the absence of any secondary school in Nayabazar town, children can study here only upto class VIII. For further study children can join Zoom Secondary School which is approximately 6 kilometres from Nayabazar or they can join Jorethang Senior Secondary which falls under South district of Sikkim but at very near proximity from Nayabazar (1 kilometre) town. The number of dropout / detained students of the towns under study in the year 2007 are presented below.

Table 6.2.5: Distribution of Dropout/Detained Students of the Towns under study in the year 2007

Classes	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
I to V Class			
Total	15 (71.43)	11(47.83)	26(59.09)
Boys	04(26.67)	06(54.55)	10(38.46)
Girls	11(73.33)	05(45.45)	16(61.54)
VI to VIII Class			
Total	06(28.57)	12(52.17)	18(40.91)
Boys	01(16.67)	06(50)	07(38.89)
Girls	05(83.33)	06(50)	11(61.11)
Total	21(100)	23(100)	44(100)

Source: (Report of S.S.A. + School Record)

The record of the number of dropout / detained students of the town areas in the year 2007 reveals a dismal picture that, the number of dropout girls or detained girls (27) is more than the boys (17). In class IV to V level, there were 38.46 per cent dropout or detained boys against 61.54 per cent girls and in class VI to VIII level, there were 38.89 per cent boys against 61.11 per cent dropout or detained girls in the towns under study.

Male and Female Respondents of Urban West Sikkim:**Social Status:**

In the town areas of West Sikkim, a sample study of 40 per cent of the total households of each town area under study was conducted and again the sample number was divided into two broad categories of males and females. In that way, I selected 18 men and 18 women from Geyzing town and 13 men and 13 women from Nayabazar town as respondents and they were asked on related aspects. Their heterogeneous background and perceptions are presented statistically and also in descriptive manner. Table 6.2.6 shows the social status of the respondents.

Table: 6.2.6: Distribution of the Town Men according to their Social Status

Status	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Fathers & Guardians	4(22.22)	3(23.08)	7(22.58)
Teachers, Govt.Servants & Professionals	10(55.56)	6(46.15)	16(51.61)
Influential Persons	4(22.22)	4(30.77)	8(25.81)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

Table: 6.2.7: Distribution of the Town Women according to their Social Status

Status	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Mothers & Housewives	3 (16.67)	3(23.08)	6(19.35)
Teachers, Govt. Servants, Professionals & Influential persons	11(61.11)	7(53.85)	18(58.06)
Continuing girl students	4(22.22)	3(23.08)	7(22.81)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

Among the 31 (100%) male respondents, 7 (22.58%) are fathers and guardians, 16 (51.61%) are male teachers, government servants and professionals and rest 8 (25.81%) are influential persons.

Whereas table 6.2.7 shows that among the total 31 (100%) female respondents 6 (19.35%) are mothers and housewives, 18 (58.06%) are female teachers, government servants, professionals and influential females including business women, panchayat members etc. and 7 (22.81%) are continuing girl students.

Age Group:

To get the opinion of different types of people, respondents from the town were chosen from different age groups. Their age group is given in table 6.2.8 and 6.2.9.

Table 6.2.8: Age Group of the Town Men

Age Group	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Upto 25 years	2(11.11)	3(23.08)	5(16.13)
25-50 years	14(77.78)	8(61.54)	22(70.97)
Above 50 years	2(11.11)	2(15.38)	4(12.90)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

Among the males, 5 (16.13%) are belong to the age group upto 25 years, 22(70.97%) are between 25 to 50 years and 4(12.90%) are above 50 years of age.

Table 6.2.9: Age Group of the Town Women

Age Group	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Upto 25 years	3(16.67%)	4(30.77%)	7(22.58%)
25-50 years	13(72.22%)	7(53.85%)	20(64.52%)
Above 50 years	2(11.11%)	2(15.38%)	4(12.90%)
Total	18(100%)	13(100%)	31(100%)

Among the females, 7 (22.58%) belong to age group upto 25 years, 20(64.52%) belong to age group of 25 to 50 years and 4 (12.90%) belong to age group above 50 years.

Educational Status:

Both the male and female respondents are from different educational background. Their educational background is given in table 6.2.10 and 6.2.11.

Table: 6.2.10: Distribution of the Town Men according to their Educational Status

Educational Status	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Illiterate	-	-	-
Primary	1(5.56)	2(15.38)	3(9.68)
Secondary	6(33.33)	3(23.08)	9(29.03)
Senior Secondary	8(44.44)	3(23.08)	11(35.48)
Graduate/Post Graduate	3(16.67)	5(38.46)	8(25.81)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

Among the male respondents 3 (9.68%) have education upto primary level, 9 (29.03%) upto secondary level, 11 (35.48%) upto senior secondary level and 8 (25.81%) upto graduate or post graduate level.

Table: 6.2.11 Distribution of the Town Women according to their Educational Status

Educational status	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Illiterate	-	-	-
Primary	2(11.11%)	2(15.38%)	4(12.90%)
Secondary	3(16.67%)	6(46.15%)	9(29.03%)
Senior Secondary	5(27.78%)	2(15.38%)	7(22.58%)
Graduate/Post Graduate	8(44.44%)	3(23.08%)	11(35.48%)
Total	18(100%)	13(100%)	31(100%)

Among the females chosen, 4 (12.90%) have education upto primary level, 9(29.03%) have upto secondary level, 7 (22.58%) upto senior secondary level and 11 (35.48%) upto graduate or post graduate level.

Marital Status:

Out of 31 (100%) males 24 (77.42%) are married and 7 (22.58%) are unmarried whereas as among 31 (100%) females, 22 (70.97%) are married and 9 (29.03%) are unmarried females. Their marital status is given below in table 6.2.12 and 6.2.13

Table: 6.2.12: Marital status of the Town Men under study

Marital Status	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	
Married	13(72.22)	11(84.62)	24(77.42)
Unmarried	5(27.78)	2(15.38)	7(22.58)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

Table: 6.2.13: Marital status of the Town Women under study

Marital Status	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Married	12(66.67)	10(76.92)	22(70.97)
Unmarried	6(33.33)	3(23.08)	9(29.03)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

Perceptions of the Urban Respondents towards Women's Status, Rights and Empowerment, Women's Education, Employment and other related issues:

Views of the Town Males and Females towards Dignity and Status of Women:

Town men and women of different social status were asked about their opinion regarding women's social status compared to men in the society. Table 6.2.14 and 6.2.15 shows their opinion in this respect.

Table: 6.2.14: Views of the Town Men towards the Status and Dignity of Women.

Status	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Inferior	2(11.11%)	-	2(6.45%)
Equal	15(83.33%)	11(84.62%)	26(83.87%)
Superior	01(5.56%)	02(15.38%)	03(9.68%)
Total	18(100%)	13(100%)	31(100%)

Out of 31 (100%) town men of heterogeneous categories, only 2(6.45%) are of opinion that women are inferior to men, 26 (83.87%) think that women enjoy equal status with men but 3 (9.68%) men think that women are superior to men.

Table: 6.2.15: Views of the Town Women regarding the Status and Dignity of Women

Status	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Inferior	02(11.11)	-	02(6.45)
Equal	13(72.22)	11(84.62)	24(77.42)
Superior	03(16.67)	02(15.38)	05(16.13)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

Among the 31 (100%) women of town areas, only 2 (6.45%) think that their position is inferior, whereas 24 (77.42%) believe that they enjoy equal position with men and 5(16.13%) women think that they have superior status than men.

Attitude of the Town Men on Women's Rights and Empowerment

Similarly like village men, town men were also asked about their opinion on women's rights and empowerment. Table 6.2.16 shows their opinion in this respect.

Table: 6.2.16: Distribution of the Town Men under study with regard to their Opinion on Women's Rights and Empowerment

Opinions	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Participate in family decision making	15(83.33)	13(100)	28(90.23)
Right to choose husband	15(83.33)	10(76.92)	25(80.65)
Right to cast votes	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)
Right to choose profession	16(88.89)	11(84.62)	27(87.10)
Equal share in parental property	12(66.67)	11(84.62)	23(74.19)
Represent in local govt.bodies	18(100)	12(92.31)	30(96.77)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

[Note: Multiple responses included]

The table shows that, 100 per cent town men support women's right to cast votes whereas 96.77 per cent support that women should represent in local government bodies, 90.23 per cent of them support women's participation in family decision making process, 87.10 per cent support that women should have the right to choose their own profession, 80.65 per cent support the right of women to choose their husband while only 74.19 per cent town men want to give equal share of parental property to the women member of their family.

Views of the Town Males and Females towards Co-education:

Town men and women were asked about their views on co-education system. Their opinion is recorded in the following two tables.

Table: 6.2.17: Town Men's Perception towards Co-education

Perceptions	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Favourable	15(83.33)	11(84.62)	26(83.87)
Favourable on condition	3(16.67)	2(15.38)	5(16.13)
Not Favourable	-	-	-
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

In the town areas, not a single male respondent is against this system. 83.87 per cent of them do not find any negative point in this system while 16.13 per cent males favour this system provided certain facilities are available.

Table: 6.2.18: Town Women's Perception towards Co-education

Perceptions	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Favourable	15(83.33)	10(76.92)	25(80.65)
Favourable on condition	03(16.67)	03(23.08)	06(19.35)
Not Favourable	-	-	-
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

Table 6.2.18 shows that 80.65 per cent town women support co-education system; whereas 19.35 per cent women favour this system but on certain conditions, while no negative opinion has been received in this regard from the town women.

Views of the Town Males and Females towards Women's Employment:

Employment of women greatly enhances their position within society. Not only that, more employed women means more prosperity in the country. Therefore, opinions of town men and women were taken in this respect which is presented in table 6.2.19 and 6.2.20

Table: 6.2.19: Opinion of the Town Men regarding Women's Employment Outside Locality

Opinions	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Agreed	15(83.33)	10(76.92)	25(80.65)
Agreed on condition	3(16.67)	2(15.38)	5(16.13)
Not agreed	-	1(7.69)	1(3.23)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

Table 6.2.19 shows that out of 31 (100%) town men, 25 (80.65%) approve women's education outside locality, whereas 5 (16.13%) men approve of it but on certain conditions and only 1 (3.23%) person is not interested in sending female members of his family outside home or locality for the sake of employment.

Table: 6.2.20: Opinion of the Town Women regarding Women's Employment Outside Locality

Opinions	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Agreed	12(66.67)	11(84.62)	23(74.19)
Agreed on conditions	06(33.33)	-	06(19.35)
Not agreed	-	02(15.38)	02(6.45)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

Table 6.2.20 shows that, out of 31(100%)town women, 23 (74.19%) do not have any objection in sending their female family members outside home for the sake of employment, 6 (19.35%) women also approve of it but on certain conditions whereas only 2 (6.45%) women totally disapprove of it.

Objectives of Women Education: Town Women's View

Regarding the objectives of women education, different opinions came from the town women. Only the most important objective according to them has been recorded.

Table: 6.2.21: Opinion of the Town Women regarding the objectives of Women Education

Views	Name of the Towns		Total
	Geyzing	Nayabazar	
To acquire knowledge	2(11.11%)	-	2(6.45%)
To get a service	5(27.78%)	-	5(16.13%)
To get a good husband	-	-	-
To increase the family status	-	3(23.08%)	3(9.68%)
To make themselves independent	8(44.4%)	7(53.85%)	15(48.39%)
To educate the children	3(16.67%)	3(23.08%)	06(19.35%)
Total	18(100%)	13(100%)	31(100%)

Note: Single response included

The table shows that 48.39 per cent town women give importance to education mainly to become independent, 19.35 per cent of them think that to educate the next generation, women education is essential, 16.13 per cent give importance to education mainly to get employment, 9.68 per cent think that education of the female members always increase the family status and only 6.45 per cent town women think that the aim of women education is to acquire knowledge.

Reasons for not continuing Higher Education: Town Women's View:

Town women who do not have education upto graduate level were asked to show the reasons behind that. Their reply is given in the following table.

Table: 6.2.22: Reasons for not Continuing Education upto Graduate Level – Town Women's Opinion

Reasons	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Felt no attraction	-	-	-
There was no educational institute at the vicinity	02(33.33)	01(12.5)	03(21.43)
Parents do not encourage	-	02 (25)	02(14.28)
Due to physical sickness	-	-	-
Had no ability to bear expenses	-	02(25)	02(14.28)
Engaged in familial works	01(16.67)	-	01(7.14)
Early marriage	01(16.67)	-	01(7.14)
Parent's death	-	-	-
Got job opportunity and left study	2(33.33)	3(37.5)	5(35.71)
Total	6(100)	8(100)	14(100)

[Note: Females below graduate level education are only included, continuing students are not included.]

Among the town women who do not hold graduation degree, 35.71 per cent of them got jobs before completion of their study and they lost interest for further study,

21.43 per cent of them have shown the reason that there was no educational institute at the vicinity for further studies, equal per cent i.e.14.28 per cent blame either poverty or parents' negligence and another equal per cent i.e. 7.14 per cent either got married at a very early age or engaged in familial works.

Views of the Town Women regarding Satisfaction of Self Educational Attainment:

The following table shows the opinion of town women regarding their satisfaction of self educational attainment.

Table: 6.2.23: Opinion of the Town Women regarding their Satisfaction of Self Education Attainment

Opinions	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Satisfied	9(64.29)	3(27.27)	12(48)
Not satisfied	5(35.71)	8(72.73)	13(52)
Total	14(100)	11(100)	25(100)

[Note: Continuing students are not included]

Among the town women, 52 per cent are not satisfied with their educational attainment whereas 48 per cent are satisfied with that.

Suggested Level of Formal Education for Girls and Boys by the Town Men and Women:

Town men were asked about their suggestions for the education level of boys and girls. Similarly, town women were also asked about their aspirations towards education of girls. Their suggestions are furnished in table 6.2.24 and 6.2.25.

Table: 6.2.24 Level of Formal Education for Girls and Boys as Suggested by the Town Men

Suggested level of education	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Primary			
For boys	-	-	-
For girls	-	-	-
Secondary			
For boys	1 (5.56)	1 (7.69)	2 (6.45)
For girls	1 (5.56)	-	1 (3.23)
Senior Secondary	1 (5.56)	1 (7.69)	2 (6.45)
For boys			
For girls	1 (5.56)	2 (15.38)	3 (9.68)
Graduate	11 (61.11)	7 (53.85)	18 (58.06)
For boys			
For girls	11 (61.11)	8 (61.54)	19 (61.29)
Post Graduate			
For boys	5 (27.78)	4 (30.77)	9 (29.03)
For girls	5 (27.78)	3 (23.08)	8 (25.81)
Total	18 (100)	13 (100)	31 (100)

The table reveals that, town men prefer both boys and girls for higher study, but the percentage of males (29.03%) who suggest atleast post graduate level for boys are more than the percentage of females (25.81%) who suggest the same level for girls. While majority of them suggest graduate level education for boys (58.06 %) and girls (61.29%) is essential for today's competitive world.

Table: 6.2.25 Level of Formal Education for Girls as suggested by the Town Women

Suggested level of education	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Primary	-	-	-
Secondary	-	01(7.69)	01(3.23)
Senior Secondary	-	01(7.69)	01(3.23)
Graduate	08(44.44)	09(69.23)	17(54.84)
Post Graduate	10(55.56)	02(15.38)	12(38.71)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

The above table shows that the town women's aspiration regarding education level of girls is high. More than 50 per cent (54.84%) suggest graduate level education, 38.71 per cent of them suggest post graduate level, equal per cent (3.23%) suggest either secondary or senior secondary level, but no one prefer primary level education for girls.

Reasons for Son Preference for Higher Education over the Daughters as Identified by the Town Men:

Town men who noticed son preference in their society over daughters for higher education were asked to find reasons behind that. The reasons identified by them are given in table 6.2.26.

Table: 6.2.26: Reasons for Son Preference – Opinion of the Town Men

Reasons	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Sons are meritorious than daughters	-	-	-
Sons will earn much money and look after their parents	2(28.57)	3(60)	5(41.67)
After marriage daughters will not be included in parents' family	5(71.43)	2(40)	7(58.33)
Girls do not need higher education	-	-	-
Total	7(100),(58.33)	5(100),(41.67)	12(100)

[Note: Only those males are included who believe that son preference for higher education exists within their society]

Among the town men who noticed son preference for higher studies, 58.33 per cent of them think that it is because of the fact that after marriage daughters are included in their in-law's family and therefore their parents do not want to invest money for their higher studies, while 41.67 per cent of them have identified the reason behind that preference as the belief that during old age, sons look after their parents and on the basis of this faith, parents invest money for their son's higher study over their daughter's.

Opinion of the Town Women regarding their Gender Situation:

Town women were asked about their opinion on their gender situation. Their opinion is given below.

Table: 6.2.27: Opinion of the Town Women on their Gender Situation

Opinions	Name of the towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Satisfied	15(83.33)	8(61.54)	23(74.19)
Not satisfied	3(16.67)	5(38.46)	8(25.81)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

The table shows that majority of the town women (74.19%) have positive feeling on their gender situation, while 25.81 per cent of them have negative feeling on their gender situation.

Reasons of Positive Feeling of the Town Women with regard to their level of Education:

Town women, who have positive feeling on their gender situation, were asked to give reasons in support of their answers. The various reasons according to them with regard to their educational level have been recorded in the table below. A single response has been accepted from each respondent.

Table: 6.2.28: Main Reasons of Positive Feeling of the Town Women with regard to their Level of Education

Reasons	Levels of Education					Gross Total No. (%)
	Illiterate No. (%)	Primary No. (%)	Secondary No. (%)	Senior Secondary No. (%)	Graduate/Po- -st Graduate No. (%)	
Women get lots of privileges from their society	-	-	1	2	3	6(26.09)
Women are loved by men	-	-	1	-	-	1(4.35)
Women are the best creation of God and they are bestowed the ability to produce children	-	1	6	5	4	16(69.57)
Total Respondents	-	1(4.35)	8(34.78)	7(30.43)	7(30.43)	23(74.19), (100)

16(69.57%) town women from various educational backgrounds (1-till primary level,6-till secondary level,5-till senior secondary level,4-till graduate or post graduate level) feel proud to be women as they think they are the best creation of God and are bestowed the ability to produce children, 6(26.09%) women (1-till secondary level,2-till senior secondary level,3-till graduate or post graduate level) think that women get lots of privileges from their society and only 1(4.35%) woman with secondary level education feel honoured to be a woman as she thinks that women are loved by men.

Reasons of Negative Feeling of the Town Women with regard to their level of Education:

Town women, whose response was negative regarding their feeling on their gender situation, were asked to show reasons behind that. A single response has been accepted from each respondent.

Table: 6.2.29: Main Reasons of Negative Feeling of the Town Women with regard to their Level of Education

Reasons	Levels of Education					
	Illiterate No. (%)	Primary No. (%)	Secondary No. (%)	Senior Secondary No. (%)	Graduate/Post Graduate No. (%)	Gross Total No. (%)
Women are exploited by men	-	-	1	1	-	2(25)
Women are not treated with proper dignity	-	-	2	1	-	3(37.5)
Parents consider them as burden	-	-	1	-	-	1(12.5)
Society is patriarchal	-	-	-	1	-	1(12.5)
Women have less opportunity for their development	-	-	1	-	-	1(12.5)
Total Respondents	-	-	5(62.5)	3(37.5)	-	8(25.81), (100)

3(37.5%) town women from various educational backgrounds (2-till secondary level, 1-till senior secondary level) have negative feeling as they think that women are not treated with proper dignity, 2(25%) of them (1-till secondary level, 1-till senior secondary level) believe that women are exploited by men, 1(12.5%) town woman with secondary level education has negative feeling as the parents generally look upon girl children as burdens, 1(12.5%) woman with secondary level education think that women have less opportunity for their development and another woman(12.5%) with senior secondary level education think that society is patriarchal, therefore, women are always deprived of all the facilities.

Opinion of the Town Men and Women regarding Women's Educational Position within the Society:

Town men and women were asked about their opinion regarding women's educational position with society. Their opinion is presented in table 6.2.30 and 6.2.31

Table: 6.2.30: Opinion of the Town Men on Women's Educational Position within the Society

Opinions	Name of the towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Women's are lagging behind	07(38.89)	07(53.85)	14(45.16)
Women's are not lagging behind	11(61.11)	06(46.15)	17(54.84)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

Majority of the town men (54.84%) opine that women of their society are educationally lagging behind from men, while 45.16 per cent of them do not think so.

Table: 6.2.31: Opinion of the Town Women on their Educational position within the society

Opinions	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Women's are lagging behind	13(72.22)	4(30.77)	17(54.15)
Women's are not lagging behind	05(27.78)	9(69.23)	14(45.16)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

54.15 per cent town women think that they are educationally backward than men whereas 45.16 per cent do not think so.

Barriers against Women Education as Identified by the Town Men and Women:

Town men and women were asked to give reasons for women's educational backwardness in their society. The reasons identified by them are furnished below in the following two tables.

Table: 6.2.32: Educational Hindrances Faced by Women as Identified by the Town Men

Hindrances	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Parents are not conscious about the importance of girls' education	03(42.86)	02(28.57)	05(35.71)
Girls themselves are not interested to get formal education	02(28.57)	01(14.29)	03(21.43)
Due to poverty	01(14.29)	02(28.57)	03(21.43)
Marriage before completion of education	-	01(14.29)	01(7.14)
Lack of institutional opportunity for girls'	01(14.20)	01(14.29)	02(14.29)
Total	07(100)	07(100)	14(100)

[Note: Only those males are included who perceived educational backwardness of women in their society. Single response accepted]

Table 6.2.30 shows that, 35.71 per cent town men have identified parents' lack of awareness regarding their daughters' education, 21.43 per cent men have identified poor economic condition and same per cent i.e.21.43 per cent male members have identified lack of girls' interest in studies as the main reason for their educational backwardness, 14.29 per cent men think that there is lack of educational

institute especially for girls and only 7.14 per cent think that girls get marriage at a very early age and they do not pursue their education.

Table: 6.2.33: Educational Hindrances Faced by Women as Identified by the Town Women

Hindrances	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Parents are not conscious about the importance of girls' education	03(23.08)	01(25)	04(23.53)
Girls themselves are not interested to get formal education	02(15.38)	01(25)	03(17.65)
Due to poverty	05(38.46)	01(25)	06(35.29)
Marriage before completion of education	02(15.38)	01(25)	03(17.65)
Lack of institutional opportunity for girls'	01(7.69)	-	01(5.88)
Total	13(100)	04(100)	17(100)

[Note: Only those females are included who perceived women's educational backwardness in their society. Single response accepted.]

35.29 per cent town women have identified poor economic condition, 23.53 per cent think lack of parents' consciousness is the main obstacle, equal percentage (17.65%) of town women think that either early age at marriage of girls or their lack of interest to achieve any educational degree is the main obstacle to women education, 5.88 per cent have identified lack of institutional opportunity for girls' act as hindrance to women education in their society.

Suggestions for Upholding Women's Educational Status by the Town Men and Women:

To uphold the educational position of women, town men were asked to suggest remedial measures. Their suggestion is presented in the following table.

Table: 6.2.34: Suggestions of the Town Men to Uphold the Women's Educational Status

Suggestions	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Motivational programmes for parents	06(33.33)	01(7.69)	07(22.58)
Motivational programmes for girls	05(27.78)	02(15.38)	07(22.58)
More educational institutions for girls	03(16.67)	05(38.46)	08(25.81)
Free of cost education at every level	04(22.22)	03(23.08)	07(22.58)
Stop early marriage	-	02(15.38)	02(6.45)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

[Note: Single suggestion accepted]

The table shows that, 25.81 per cent town men have suggested more educational institutions for girls, 22.58 per cent of town men have suggested motivational programmes for parents. Same percentage i.e. 22.58 per cent of them have suggested either motivational programmes for girls or free of cost education at every level may improve women's educational position. Only 6.45 per cent think that there should be restriction on the marriageable age of girls. Before attaining the minimum educational degree, marriage of girls should not be encouraged. Town women also have given suggestive measures to improve the educational standard of women. Their suggestion is given in table 6.2.35

Table: 6.2.35 Suggestions of the Town Women to Uphold the Women's Educational Status

Suggestions	Name of the Towns		Total No. (%)
	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	
Motivational programmes for parents	08(44.44)	03(23.80)	11(35.48)
Motivational programmes for girls	02(11.11)	04(30.77)	06(19.35)
More educational institutions for girls	02(11.11)	02(15.38)	04(12.90)
Free of cost education at every level	04(22.22)	03(23.80)	07(22.58)
Stop early marriage	02(11.11)	01(7.69)	03(9.68)
Total	18(100)	13(100)	31(100)

[Note: Single suggestion accepted]

According to the above table 35.48 per cent town women have suggested motivational programmes for parents, 22.58 per cent have suggested free of cost education at every level, 19.35 per cent think that motivational programmes for girls should be arranged, 12.90 per cent think that more educational institutions for girls should be established, while 9.68 per cent think that before attaining a certain educational degree, marriage of a girl should be restricted.

6.3 State of Women's Education in Rural and Urban West Sikkim: A Comparison of Villages and Towns under study

Literacy Status:

Literacy status of both the villages and town areas under study reveals that, in both the villages and town areas the number of literate population is more than illiterate population. Among altogether 656 people in towns, 560 (85.37%) are literate and 96 (14.63%) are illiterate. In villages, among 2478 people, 1816 (73.28%) are literate and 662 (26.72%) are illiterate. Among the total males, in town areas, 308 (91.12%) are literates and among the total females, 252 (79.25%) are literate females.

Therefore almost 12 per cent (11.87%) gender gap in literacy has been noticed in urban areas, whereas in village areas, among the total males, 985 (80.34%) are literates and among the total females, 831 (66.37%) are literate females. Therefore almost 14 per cent (13.97%) gender gap in literacy rate has been noticed in village areas which is 2 per cent more than the towns.

Table 6.3.1 shows that, out of two villages undertaken, Timburbong represents quite satisfactory position regarding literacy status of both male and female population. Very negligible gap in literacy has been observed between Timburbong village (76.57%) and one of the town areas under study i.e. Nayabazar (77.51%). In fact the female literacy status is a little more in Timburbong village (69.92%) than Nayabazar town (69.06%).

Table: 6.3.1: Literacy Status of the Villagers and Town dwellers under study: A Comparison

Literacy Status	Name of the Villages			Name of the Towns		
	Timburbong No. (%)	Bariakhop No. (%)	Total rural No. (%)	Geyzing No. (%)	Nayabazar No. (%)	Total urban No. (%)
Illiterate						
Total	335 (23.43)	327 (31.20)	662 (26.72)	31(8.45)	65(22.49)	96 (14.63)
Male	110 (16.13)	131 (24.08)	241 (19.66)	8(4.26)	22(14.67)	30(8.88)
Female	225 (30.08)	196 (38.89)	421 (33.63)	23(12.85)	43(30.94)	66(20.75)
Literate						
Total	1095 (76.57)	721 (68.80)	1816 (73.28)	336(91.55)	224(77.51)	560 (85.37)
Male	572(83.87)	413(75.92)	985 (80.34)	180(95.74)	128(85.33)	308 (91.12)
Female	523(69.92)	308 (61.11)	831 (66.37)	156(87.15)	96 (69.06)	252 (79.25)
total	1430(57.71)	1048(42.29)	2478(100)	367(55.95)	289(44.05)	656(100)

Literacy Standard of the People in the Villages and Towns under study:

The literacy standard of both villages and towns shows that among the literates, majority have education upto secondary level i.e. 41.57 per cent in villages and 44.64 per cent in towns. At secondary level, the number of women literates in villages (51.52%) is more than that of men (48.48%). At senior secondary level, women in towns are more advanced (44.05%) than their village counterparts (39.38%). But at graduate and post graduate level, the percentage of woman literates is equal (36.36%)

in both the villages and towns. In the villages and towns, the literacy standard of higher education (in total) is not promising. Literacy standard at graduate and post graduate level (in total) is 4.24 per cent in villages compared to 7.86 per cent in towns and the number of female literates at the higher level is very less than that of male literates.

Enrolment of the Children of the Villages and Towns under study:

The empirical study shows that the total percentage of continuing students are more in towns (94.94%) than villages (92.17%) . In villages, there are 48.20 per cent school going age girls in comparison to 43.04 per cent school going age girls in towns. Among them, 93.45 per cent are continuing girls in villages against 96.08 per cent continuing girl students in towns. Timburbong village shows the highest percentage of girl students (98.14%) among all the village and town areas under study who are continuing their study.

Class-wise Distribution of the Students of the Villages and Towns under study:

Enrolment of the girl students at various levels of education is less than the boys both in villages and towns, though in villages, enrolment of girls in class VI to VIII and XI - XII level is more than boys. In towns also, from class IV to VIII, girls' enrolment is more than the boys. In higher level i.e. graduate and post graduate level, the enrolment of the girls both in villages and towns is less than the boys but comparatively it is more in towns.

Dropout of the Villages and Towns under study:

From the school record and the report of S.S.A, it is evident that in the year 2007, the number of dropout girls or detained girls in villages is less than boys in both primary and elementary level, whereas in town areas the total number of detained girls or dropout girls is more than the boys' upto elementary level.

Respondents of the Villages and Towns under study:

Since the present study is based on educational status of Sikkimese women, a sample study of 40 per cent of the total households of each study areas was conducted. Again the sample number was divided into two broader categories of

males and females. In that way, the respondents from two villages and two town areas were chosen. They were asked various questions on related aspects. The respondents chosen from villages and towns of West district of Sikkim were from different social background. They were categorised under the following status- i)Parents and guardian,ii) teachers, government servants, professionals iii) influential persons and iv) continuing girl student. Altogether 96 males and 96 females were chosen from two villages and altogether 31 males and 31 females were chosen from two towns. Respondents' age-group wise three categories have been maintained- upto 25 years age, age group between 25 to 50 years and above 50 years age group. Respondents from villages and towns were chosen from different educational background and from different marital status group.

Perceptions of the Respondents of the Villages and Towns under Study towards Women's Status, Rights and Empowerment, Women Education, Employment and other related issues:

Views of the Village and Town Respondents regarding Dignity and Status of Women:

Male respondents were asked about their opinion towards the dignity of women. 20.83 per cent village men compared to 6.45 per cent town men are of the opinion that women are inferior to men, where as 45.83 per cent village men against 83.87 per cent town men think that the position of women is equal to men, while 33.33 per cent village men and 9.68 per cent town men believe that women are superior to men.

Among the female respondents 30.21 per cent village women compared to 6.45 per cent town women think that their position is inferior to men, whereas 65.63 per cent village women and 77.42 per cent town women think that they enjoy equal status with men, while 4.17 per cent village women compared to 16.13 per cent town women believe that their position is superior to men.

Attitudes of the Village and Town Men under study on Women's Rights and Empowerment:

Male respondents of each study areas were asked about their opinion on women's rights and empowerment. The study shows that 100 per cent males from both village and town areas support women's right to cast vote. 97.92 per cent village

men compared to 90.23 per cent town men think that women should participate in family decision making process. 97.92 per cent village men compared to 96.77 per cent town men are of opinion that women should represent in local government bodies. 96.88 per cent village men against 87.10 per cent town men support that women should enjoy their rights to choose their own profession, 93.75 per cent village men against 80.65 per cent town men support women's right to choose their husband, 86.46 per cent village men against only 74.19 per cent town men agree to give equal share of parental property to the female members of their family.

Views of the Village and Town Respondents under study towards Co-Education:

Male and Female respondents of villages and towns expressed their opinion regarding co-educational system. 88.54 per cent village men and 83.54 per cent town men express positive opinion regarding co-education, whereas 3.13 per cent village men and 16.13 per cent town men are in favor of this system but on certain conditions, while 8.33 per cent village men do not favour this system at all.

Among the female respondents, 81.25 per cent village women against 80.65 per cent town women favour co-educational system, 12.5 per cent village women and 19.35 per cent town women support this system provided certain facilities are available, while only 6.25 per cent village women totally oppose co-education system.

Views of the Village and Town Respondents under study towards Women's Employment:

85.42 per cent village men against 80.65 per cent town men agreed to send female members of their family outside their home or locality for the sake of employment.

7.29 per cent village men compared to 16.13 per cent town men consent to send female members of their family outside their home or locality but on certain conditions, whereas 7.29 per cent village men and 3.23 per cent town men do not approve of it.

Among the female respondents 77.08 per cent from village areas and 74.19 per cent from town areas approve of women's employment outside their home or locality, 15.63 per cent village women against 19.35 per cent town women also approve of it

but on certain conditions, while 7.29 per cent village women and 6.45 per cent town women do not approve of women's employment outside home or locality.

Objectives of Women Education: Village and Town Women's View:

Majority of the village women (30.21%) think that the main objective of women education is to acquire jobs which is the opinion of only 16.13 per cent town women. Town women (48.39%) gave priority to education mainly to make themselves independent and this is the viewpoint shared by 28.13 per cent of village women too.

Reasons for Not Continuing Higher Education: Village and Town Women's View:

Same percentage of village women (19.30 %) blamed either their parents or loads of familial works as a hindrance to continue their studies, which is supported by 14.28 per cent and 7.14 per cent town women respectively. 15.79 per cent village women against 7.14 per cent town women said that they got married before completion of their study. Same per cent (12.28%) of village women said that they themselves were either not interested in studies or their physical sickness became obstacles in their studies. Majority of the town women (35.71%) said that they got job opportunity and therefore, left study, which is the opinion of only 5.26 per cent village women. 10.53 per cent village women felt that poor economic condition of their family was responsible for not continuing education.

Views of the Village and Town Women regarding Satisfaction of Self Educational Attainment:

52.38 per cent village women against 48 per cent town women are satisfied with their self educational attainment whereas 47.62 per cent village women against 52 per cent town women are not satisfied with their educational attainment.

Suggested Level of Formal Education for Girls and Boys by the Village and Town Respondents under study:

Among the village men, 57.29 per cent have suggested graduate level education for boys and 41.67 per cent have suggested the same level for girls, whereas 58.06 per cent town men have suggested graduation level for boys and 61.29 per cent have suggested the same level for girls. Upto post graduation level for boys is suggested by 25 per cent village men against 29.03 per cent town men. 11.46 per cent village men

against 25.81 per cent town men have suggested post graduate level education for girls.

35.42 per cent village women against 54.84 per cent town women have suggested graduate level education for girls, while 23.96 per cent village women and 38.71 per cent town women have suggested upto post graduate level education for girls.

Reasons for Son Preference for Higher Education over the Daughters as Identified by the Village and Town Men under study:

46.81 per cent village men against 41.67 per cent town men opine that people prefer their sons for higher studies because they think that at their old age their sons will take all sorts of responsibilities, 42.55 per cent village men compared to 58.33 per cent town men believe that this type of preference is due to the fact that after marriage daughters are included into their in-laws' family and therefore their parents do not want to invest money for their higher studies, while 10.64 per cent village men think that this preference is because of the notion that sons are more meritorious than daughters.

Opinion of the Village and Town Women regarding their Gender Situation:

72.92 per cent village women and 74.19 per cent town women have positive feeling on their gender situation, while 27.08 per cent village women against 25.81 per cent town women have negative feeling on their gender situation.

Reasons of Positive Feeling of the Village and Town Women with regard to their Level of Education:

36(51.43%) village women (1- illiterate,6 -primary level,17-till secondary level, 8-till senior secondary level,4-till graduate or post graduate level) and 6(26.09%) town women (1-till secondarylevel,2-till senior secondarylevel,3-till graduate or post graduate) have positive feeling on their gender situation as they think that women get lots of privileges from their society, 5(7.14%) village women (1- illiterate,1-till primary level, 1-till secondarylevel,2-till senior secondary level) and 1(4.35%) town woman (having secondary level education) feel honoured to be women as women are loved by men.29(41.43%) village women (4- illiterate,3-till primarylevel,15-till secondaryleve l,3-till senior secondary level, 4-till graduate or post graduate level)

and 16(69.57%) town women (1-till primary level,6-till secondary level,5-till senior secondary level, 4-till graduate or post graduate level) think that women are the best creation of God and are bestowed the ability to produce children.

Reasons of Negative Feeling of the Village and Town Women with regard to their Level of Education:

10(38.46%) village women (1-till primary level,6-till secondary level,3-till senior secondary level) and 2(25%) town women(1-till secondary level,1-till senior secondary level) have negative feeling on their gender situation as they think that women are exploited by men, 6(23.08%) village women (3-till primary level,2-till secondary level,1-till graduate or post graduate level) and 3(37.5%) town women(2-till secondary level,1-till senior secondary level) think that women are not treated with proper dignity,5(19.23%) village women (1-till primary level,4-till secondary level) and 1(12.5%) town woman with secondary level education have given the reason that parents view a girl child as a burden,1(3.85%) village woman with primary level education and 1(12.5%) town woman with senior secondary level education think that society is patriarchal, therefore, women are always deprived of all the facilities, according to 4(15.38%) village women (1-till primary level,1-till secondary level,2-till senior secondary level) and 1(12.5%) town woman with secondary level education, there is less opportunity for women's development.

Opinion of the Village and Town Respondents regarding Women's Educational Position within the Society:

80.21 per cent village men against 45.16 per cent town men opine that educationally women are lagging behind from men, while 19.79 per cent village men compared to 54.84 per cent town men believe that women are not educationally lagging behind.

63.54 per cent village women against 54.15 per cent town women think that women are educationally lagging behind, whereas 34.46 per cent village women and 45.16 per cent town women said women are not educationally backward than men.

Barriers against Women Education as Identified by the Village and Town Men:

46.75 per cent village men and 35.71 per cent town men have identified parents' lack of awareness regarding their daughters' education as the main constraint to women's education, 10.39 per cent village men and 21.43 per cent town men think that the carelessness of the girls themselves regarding their education is the main obstacle to women's education, 11.69 per cent village men and 21.43 per cent town men think that poverty is the main reason for women's backward position in education, 16.88 per cent village men against 7.14 per cent town men have identified the low marriageable age and its social acceptance as the barrier to women's education, 14.29 per cent village men and same per cent of town men have identified lack of institutional opportunity for girls' as the main hindrance to their education.

Among the women of the study areas 47.54 per cent from village areas and 23.53 per cent from town areas think that lack of parents' consciousness and their ignorance is the main educational barrier to them, whereas 8.20 per cent village women against 17.65 per cent town women made the girls responsible for their own backward position, 10.67 per cent village women and 35.29 per cent town women have identified poor economic condition of the family as the main reason, 18.03 per cent village women and 17.65 per cent town women think that girls get married before attaining certain educational degree and stop studying; 6.56 per cent village women and 5.88 per cent town women have pointed out that there is lack of institutional opportunity for girls.

Suggestions for Upholding Women's Educational Status by the Village and Town Respondents:

30.21 per cent village men and 22.58 per cent town men have suggested that there should be motivational programmes for parents to uphold the educational position of women, 16.67 per cent village men against 22.58 per cent town men have suggested motivational programmes for girls, 22.92 per cent village men compared to 25.81 per cent town men are of the opinion that more educational institutions for girls are required. 17.71 per cent village men against 22.58 per cent town men have said that education should be free of cost at every level, while 12.50 per cent village men and

only 6.45 per cent town men have suggested that marriage of girls before attaining certain educational degree should be banned.

Women respondents also have suggested some measures. 31.25 per cent of them from village areas and 35.48 per cent from town areas have suggested motivational programmes for parents, 16.67 per cent village women against 19.35 per cent town women have said that programmes for girls should be arranged to motivate them, 15.63 per cent village women and 12.90 per cent town women think that more educational institutions for girls may improve their educational position, 18.75 per cent village women and 22.58 per cent town women have suggested that education should be free of cost at every level while 17.71 per cent village women compared to 9.68 per cent town women have suggested that there should be restriction on the marriageable age of girls before completion of minimum level of education.

6.4 Findings

From the foregoing analysis it is evident that both village and town areas under study have literacy status higher than the national average but there is vast difference between the village and town areas. The total literacy in villages is 73.28 per cent whereas it is 85.37 per cent in town areas. Vast difference has been noticed in case of women literacy status also. In the town areas, total women literacy status is 79.25 per cent whereas it is only 66.37 per cent in village areas. Among the four places under study, Geyzing which is a town area occupies highest position in literacy rate for both males and females which is 95.74 per cent and 87.15 per cent respectively. The literacy status of the village Bariakhop is the lowest. Male literacy rate is 75.92 per cent compared to 61.11 per cent female literacy rate.

Majority of the educated people in the villages have education upto secondary level (41.57%). Their literacy standard in the senior secondary level (8.81%) and graduate or post graduate level (4.24%) is very negligible. The literacy standard of the town areas also shows that among the literates, the majority have education upto secondary level (44.64%). Their literacy standard in the senior secondary level (15%) and graduate or post graduate level (7.86%) is a little better than the village areas. Women literacy standard of both rural and urban areas is not so good. Among the women literates in the villages and towns, the majority have education upto secondary

level i.e. 51.52 per cent and 45.6 per cent respectively. At this level, the number of village women is more than that of village men. At the higher level i.e. graduate or post graduate level, there are 36.36 per cent women literates in the villages and same per cent women literates in the towns have the degree, though the percentage greatly differs from the men of respective places.

There are total 545 girls in the four study areas who belong to school-going age, among them 443 girls are from village areas and 102 girls are from town areas. Out of 847 children from village areas who are continuing their studies, 433(51.12%) are boys and 414(48.88%) are girls and out of 225 children from town areas who are continuing their studies, 127(56.44%) are boys and 98(43.56%) are girls. Among the school going age girls of respective places, Bariakhop village shows the lowest percentage (86.21%) of girls who are continuing their studies while Timburbong village has the highest percentage (98.14%) of girls who are continuing their studies and this percentage is also higher than the two town areas. In Geyzing town, 94.83 per cent and in Nayabazar town 97.73 per cent girls are continuing their studies.

Enrolment of the girls in various level of education is less than the boys both in the villages and towns. But enrolment of village girls in class VI to VIII and XI-XII level is more than village boys whereas in town areas from class IV to VIII, girls' enrolment is more than boys. It is evident that girls' enrolment in graduate or post graduate level is less than boys in both the villages and towns of West Sikkim. However, in the towns, after elementary level, total number of girls is less than boys whereas in the villages, after elementary level, atleast in XI-XII level, girls are more than boys. In the villages, some children join school late but all the families atleast send their children to school. The reason may be the facilities children get in government schools-free books, uniform, rain court, mid-day meal, school bag etc.

In the year 2007, number of dropout or detained girls is less than the boys in two areas under investigation- one village and one town area. Geyzing town shows greater number of dropout girls or detained girls at elementary level and at Timburbong also the number of dropout girls are more than boys in classes VI, VII and VIII, though the difference is very negligible. It has been observed that due to poor economic condition of the family or lack of consciousness of parents' regarding education, their children stop going to school before completion of the minimum level

of education. Children who come from distant places also sometimes lack interest to continue their studies because of communication problem.

Regarding the opinion of respondents on the status of women, majority of the village men (45.83%) and town men (83.87%) are of the opinion that women share an equal status with men. While 33.33 per cent village men and 9.68 per cent town men think that women have superior position than men; 20.84 per cent village men against only 6.45 per cent town men perceive women as inferior to men.

Female respondents who hold positive response regarding their status in comparison to men, 65.63 per cent belong to village areas and 77.42 per cent belong to town areas. 4.17 per cent village women against 16.13 per cent town women believe in their superior status in comparison to men. While 30.21 per cent village women and only 6.45 per cent town women perceive their status as inferior to men.

The study reveals the attitude of men regarding women's rights and empowerment. All the male respondents approve women's right to cast votes. 97.23 per cent village men and 90.32 per cent town men said that women should take part in family decision making process. 93.75 per cent village men against 80.65 per cent town men approve women's right to choose husband. 96.88 per cent village men and 87.10 per cent town men express positive feeling regarding women's right to choose their profession. 86.46 per cent village men against only 74.19 per cent town men think that daughters should get equal share in parental property. 97.92 per cent village men and 96.77 per cent town men support women's representation in local government bodies. Therefore it can be said that the attitude of village men towards women's rights and empowerment is more positive than town men.

The study reveals that in all areas under investigation, the majority of males and females favour co-educational system in schools. 88.54 per cent village men against 83.54 per cent town men and 81.25 per cent village women against 80.65 per cent town women approve of it. 3.13 per cent village men against 16.13 per cent town men also favour this system but on certain condition. Only 8.33 per cent village men do not favour this system. 12.5 per cent village women against 19.35 per cent town women favour this system but on certain conditions. However, 6.25 per cent village women do not favour this system. Those who have unfavourable attitude regarding

co-education system believe that if boys and girls study together in a same institution, there is a greater chance of moral degradation.

85.42 per cent village men and 80.65 per cent town men are in support of women's employment outside home, whereas 77.08 per cent village women and 74.19 per cent town women are in favour of employment of women outside their home.

Majority of total town women (48.39%) believe that the main objective of women education is to make themselves independent. 28.13 per cent village women also hold the same belief. While, according to a large section (30.21%) of females of village areas, education of women is a necessity because it helps them gain employment

More than half of the total village woman respondents (52.38%) who do not have graduate degree are satisfied with their educational attainment and more than 50 per cent (52%) town women are not satisfied with their educational attainment.

All the respondents are of opinion that education is essential for both sexes. The study reveals that both the village men and town men give a slightly more preference to boys for higher education. Majority of the female respondents from the villages and towns suggest upto graduate level education for girls.

Some male respondents have noticed a preferential treatment towards boys in the society where higher education is concerned. More than 50 per cent of town men think that it is mainly because of the feeling that after marriage, girls would not be included in their parents' family. 42.55 per cent village men think the same. Rest of the town men think that it is mainly because people believe that a son will look after them at their old age, while 46.81 per cent village men also think so. 10.64 per cent males from village areas think that the notion is present because of the belief that boys are more meritorious than girls.

Female respondents who have positive feeling on their gender situation, 72.92 per cent of them from various educational backgrounds are from village areas and 74.19 per cent of them from various educational backgrounds belong to town areas. Rests of them have negative feeling on their gender situation. Those who have negative feeling on their gender situation have shown various reasons in support of their answers. Among them, exploitation made by men to women, parents partial treatment towards girl children, patriarchal society etc. are some of the reasons.

A large section of village men (80.21%) think that women are educationally lagging behind while more than 50 per cent (54.84%) town men are of the opinion that women are not educationally lagging behind. Among the female respondents, a large section of them from village areas (63.54%) and town areas (54.15 %) accept their backward position with regard to education compared to men.

Among the town men who are of the opinion that women are educationally backward than men, 35.71 per cent find that it is due to the parents' unawareness, equal per cent (21.43%) blame girls' lack of interest and poverty for women's educational backwardness. While 14.29 per cent village men and same per cent town men think that lack of institutional opportunities for girls' act as a barrier. 46.75 per cent village men think that due to parents' lack of consciousness women become educationally backward while others have shown various other reasons responsible for women's educational backwardness.

47.54 per cent village women compared to 23.53 per cent town women respondents have identified parents' lack of consciousness as a hindrance to women's education. A large section (35.29%) of town women have identified poor economic condition of the family as responsible for discontinuing of further studies and this viewpoint is supported by 10.67 per cent village women.

Majority of village men (30.21%) and women (31.25%) have suggested motivational programmes for parents to uphold the educational position of women. Majority of town women (35.48%) also have suggested the same while majority of town men (25.81%) have recommend more educational institutions for girls.