

Impact of Higher Education on Socio- Cultural Empowerment of Women: A Case Study of Dharwad District

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Abstract

Women empowerment is a concept that enables women to enhance their status in their family as well as in society and helps to take active participation in every sphere of social aspects. In terms of socio-economic situations and right to entitlement, it is widely acknowledged that women are the weaker and marginalized members of our society. Women's education, in particular, is currently at the focus of development debate. Higher education gives women the ability to make their own decisions. Higher education entails the complete development of a person's personality India is the world's second-largest country in terms of population. However, when we compare the current status of Indian women to that of women in other nations, we can see that the situation is far from good. Women in India encounter a variety of obstacles to achievement, including illiteracy, domestic abuse, a lack of drive and support, and so on. It is critical for the country's harmonic development that women walk hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder with men. The main goal of this study is to emphasize the importance of education, especially higher education, in women's empowerment. Based on a cross-sectional study among 510 women of the Dharwad District, an effort has been made to find out whether some socio-cultural factors like education, family type, and earning opportunity influence women's decision-making capacity, and thereby, their empowerment or not. Along with this, the secondary data gathered from the government and non-government offices is also made use of.

Keywords: Empowerment, Higher Education, Decision making, Equality, Earning.

INTRODUCTION

Education plays a critical role in women's economic empowerment. Education empowers girls to achieve more in their social, career, economic and family lives. Women's education is a multi-faceted factor that can be held responsible for the low rate of education among women in India. The factors like social, demographic, political and economic are the backbone of low or high literacy rate. Women empowerment is a pivotal part of any society, state, or country. It is a woman who plays a dominant role in the basic life of a child. Women are an important section of our society. Education as a means of empowerment of women can bring about a positive attitudinal change. It is, therefore, crucial for the socioeconomic and political progress of India.

Women Empowerment through Education

In all societies, states or countries, women's empowerment is important. It is so essential for India's

socio-economic and political development. The Indian Constitution permits the state to take positive action to encourage women to empower themselves.

Study Area

Dharwad district being the study area extended its geographical area between 15°02' North latitude to 15°42' North latitude and 74°43' East longitude to 75°35' East longitudes. It has an area of 4263 square km, with a population of 18, 47,023(as per 2011 census) and the density of the population is 433 persons per square km. The district is bounded by Belagavi district in north, Haveri district in south, Gadag district in east and Uttara Kannada district in south west. As compared to the state it has an average literacy rate of 80 percentage, which is higher than the other districts of the state.

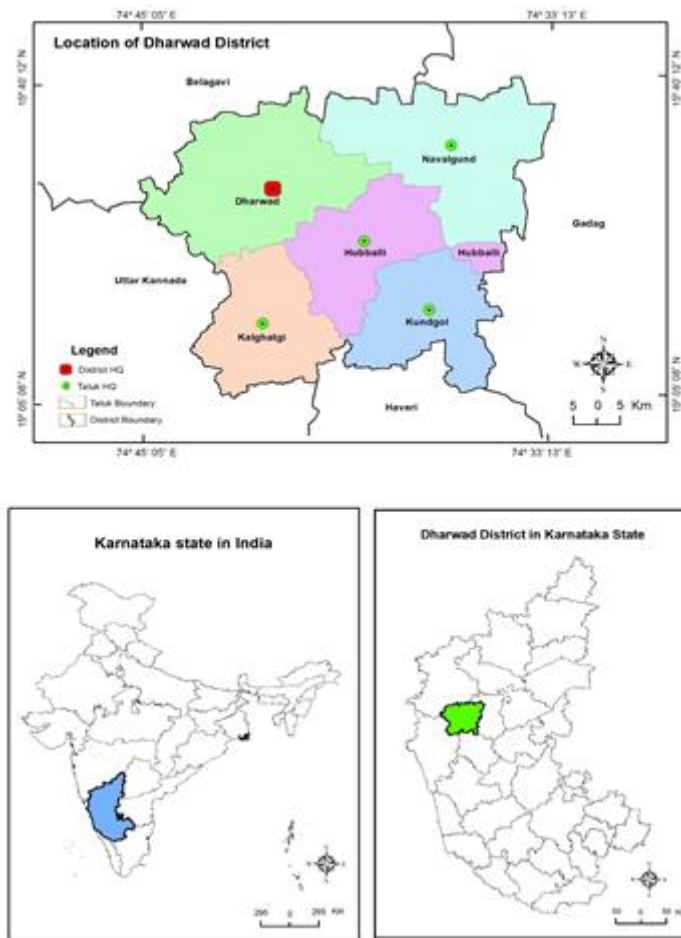


Fig. 1

Objectives

The major objectives of present study are as follows:

1. To Study the socio – economic and political status of women in the study area.
2. To assess the educational level of women in rural and urban areas.
3. To analyse the role of higher education in women empowerment.

Hypothesis

1. Women’s view on equality is determined by their level of education.

Data Collection

The present study is based on both the primary and secondary sources. Secondary data is gathered from the government and non-government offices and primary data has been collected from field survey through questionnaires, from 510 respondents.

Methodology

Both quantitative as well as qualitative methods have been employed in the study to arrive at meaningful conclusions. Based on selected parameters, the data has been collected from various sources. The collected data has been compiled, tabulated and results have been analysed. **Chi-square test technique is used to test of the formulated hypothesis**

Type of Family of the Respondents

Out of total number of respondents 30.38 percent belong to the nuclear families and the remaining 34.10 percent of them belong to the joint families. Percentage of extended family respondents is 24.49. Compared to other types of families number of respondents from single families is very less i.e. only 11.00 percent. Speaking of the education level of the respondents, 9.61 percent of them are illiterate and 8.68 percent have studied up to fourth standard. 10.70 percent of the respondents have studied up to seventh standard. The percentage of women who have studied up to S.S.L.C. is 18.45. Another important noticeable factor is that only 15.81 percent of the women have the education level up to PUC and just 16.90 percent have degree education level. Another interesting fact is that 8.99 percent of them have opted for Diplomas and 7.13 percent have opted for post-graduation. Apart from these, only 3.72 percent of them have completed other courses.

When the family-wise level of education of the respondents is considered, majority of the respondents i.e. about 18.88 percent degree holders are from nuclear families and 7.14 percent of them have completed the post-graduation. Surprisingly, the number of respondents who have studied up to PUC is high in this category which is 19.39 percent. In joint families, 15.45 percent are degree holders and 6.82 percent have completed P.G. 36.11 percent of the respondents have only S.S.L.C. level of education. In extended families 13.29 percent are Degree holders and 5.70 percent have completed P.G. As observed in this study area, only 16.90 percent of the respondents have their Bachelor's Degree and merely 7.13 percent of them have P.G. Degrees. Further, percentage of degree holders is higher in single families i.e. 23.94 percent compared to respondents from other type of families. Even percentage of respondents who have completed the post-graduation is also higher in single families i.e. 11.27.(Table 1 and Fig. 2).

Table 1. Dharwad District: Type of Family of the Respondents

Level of Education	Nuclear Family	Joint Family	Extended Family	Single family	Total
Illiterate	62 (15.88)	48 (10.91)	12 (2.89)	2 (0.41)	124 (26.61)
Third/Fourth Std	18 (4.59)	38 (8.64)	42 (13.29)	14 (9.86)	112 (8.68)
Primary	30	50	42	16	138

	(7.65)	(11.36)	(13.29)	(11.27)	(10.70)
S.S.L.C.	56 (14.29)	110 (25.00)	56 (17.72)	16 (11.27)	238 (18.45)
P.U.C.	76 (19.39)	44 (10.00)	60 (18.99)	24 (16.90)	204 (15.81)
Diploma	34 (8.67)	38 (8.64)	32 (10.13)	12 (8.45)	116 (8.99)
Degree	74 (18.88)	68 (15.45)	42 (13.29)	34 (23.94)	218 (16.90)
PG	28 (7.14)	30 (6.82)	18 (5.70)	16 (11.27)	92 (7.13)
Other	14 (3.57)	14 (3.18)	12 (3.80)	8 (5.63)	48 (3.72)
Total	392 (30.38)	440 (34.10)	316 (24.49)	142 (11.00)	1290 (100)

Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

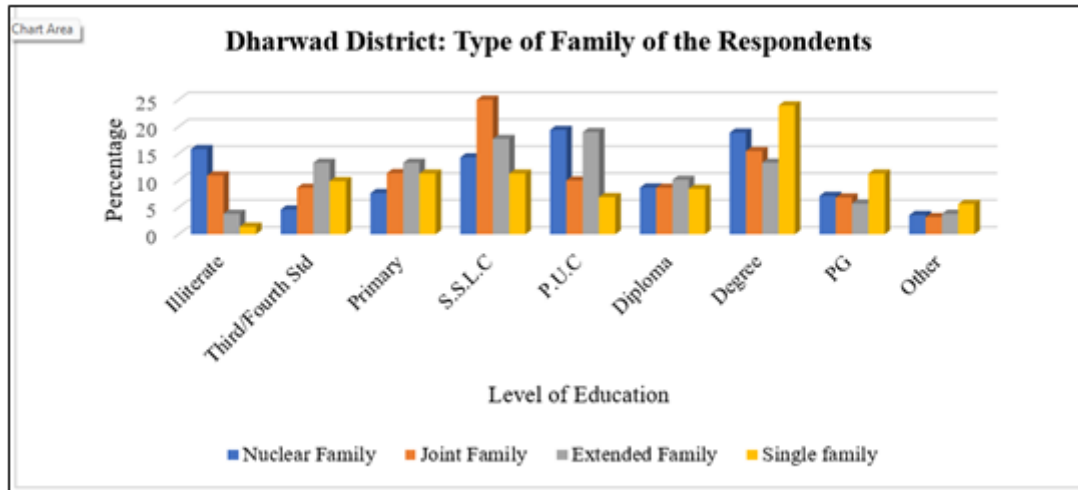


Fig. 2

Current Marital status of the Respondents.

When an effort was put to know the current marital status of respondents. 16.43 percent unmarried or single. Among these 24.53 percent are illiterate. The respondents those who are married, 38.75% in this group 24.00 percent of the respondents have studied up to SSLC. 16.74 percent of respondents are widows. Among they respondents 25.00 percent of studied up to SSLC. There are some of respondents 13.64

Level of Education	Un Married	Married	Widow	Divorced	Separated	Other	Total
Illiterate	52 (24.53)	42 (8.40)	6 (2.78)	10 (5.68)	12 (10.00)	2 (3.03)	124 (9.61)
Third/Fourth Std	26 (12.26)	30 (6.00)	22 (10.19)	24 (13.64)	10 (8.33)	-	112 (8.68)
Primary	10 (4.72)	52 (10.40)	40 (18.52)	18 (10.23)	2 (1.67)	16 (24.24)	138 (10.70)
S.S.L.C.	12 (5.66)	120 (24.00)	54 (25.00)	26 (14.77)	14 (11.67)	12 (18.18)	238 (18.45)
P.U.C.	34 (16.04)	86 (17.20)	30 (13.89)	28 (15.91)	20 (16.67)	6 (9.09)	204 (15.81)
Diploma	12 (5.66)	26 (5.20)	24 (11.11)	30 (17.05)	18 (15.00)	6 (9.09)	116 (8.99)

percent of degree holders have divorced. Among these respondents 17.05 percent have completed Diploma. 9.30 percent of respondents are separated from their spouses. In this group 23.33 percent of respondents are degree holders. (Table 2 and Fig.3)

Degree	44 (20.75)	90 (18.00)	24 (11.11)	24 (13.64)	28 (23.33)	8 (12.12)	218 (16.90)
PG	14 (6.60)	40 (8.00)	8 (3.70)	12 (6.82)	12 (6.82)	6 (9.09)	92 (7.13)
Other	8 (3.77)	14 (2.80)	8 (3.70)	4 (2.27)	4 (2.27)	10 (15.15)	48 (3.72)
Total	212 (16.43)	500 (38.75)	216 (16.74)	176 (13.64)	12 (09.30)	66 (05.11)	1290 (100)

Table 2. Dharwad District: Current Marital status of the Respondents.

Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

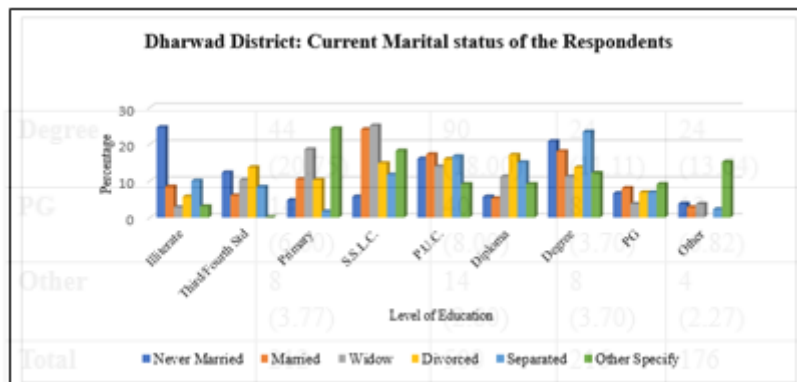


Fig. 3

pinion about the intellectual equality between men and women

23.56 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that men and women are intellectually equal. Among the other respondents 27.59 percent also accepted that men and women are equal. In this group also most of all respondents are degree holders. There were some of the respondents who were not ready to express their view as their percentage is 27.59. Among them 21.25 percent have studied up to PUC. It is very much disappointing to know that even in today’s modern world there are women who believe that men are superior as 15.96 percent of the respondents expressed this opinion. Among these, majority i.e. 24.27 percent have studied up to SSLC only. Some women i.e. 5.27 percents of the respondents were arguing that women cannot become equal and opposed the idea of equality of the men and women. Most of these women have very low level of education i.e. below PUC. (Table No 3 and Fig. 4)

The hypothesis, ‘women’s view on equality is determined by their level of education’ is tested with the help of Chi-square method. The Chi-square value is 122.831 and the P value is .000 which indicates that there is close relation between the women’s view on equality and their level of education. Highly educated women believe in equality while the women with lower levels of education opine that men are superior to women.

Table 3. Dharwad District: Opinion about the intellectual equality between men and women

Level of Education	Fully Agree	Agree	Cannot Say	Disagree	Fully disagree	Total
Illiterate	46 (15.13)	34 (9.55)	26 (7.30)	12 (5.83)	6 (8.82)	124 (9.61)
Third/Fourth Std	12 (3.95)	38 (10.67)	38 (10.67)	22 (10.68)	2 (2.94)	112 (8.68)
Primary	28 (9.21)	30 (8.43)	54 (15.17)	14 (6.80)	12 (17.65)	138 (10.70)
S.S.L.C.	50 (16.45)	64 (17.98)	62 (17.42)	50 (24.27)	12 (17.65)	238 (18.45)
P.U.C.	28 (9.21)	54 (15.17)	76 (21.35)	34 (16.50)	12 (17.65)	204 (15.81)
Diploma	30 (9.87)	28 (7.87)	28 (7.87)	18 (8.74)	12 (17.65)	116 (8.99)
Degree	66 (21.71)	78 (21.91)	42 (11.80)	28 (13.59)	4 (5.88)	218 (16.99)
PG	34 (11.18)	22 (6.18)	18 (5.06)	18 (8.74)	-	92 (7.13)
Other	10 (3.29)	8 (2.25)	12 (3.37)	10 (4.85)	8 (11.76)	48 (3.72)
Total	304 (23.56)	356 (27.59)	356 (27.59)	206 (15.96)	68 (05.27)	1290 (100)

Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

Pearson Chi-square	Df	P value
122.831^a	32	.000

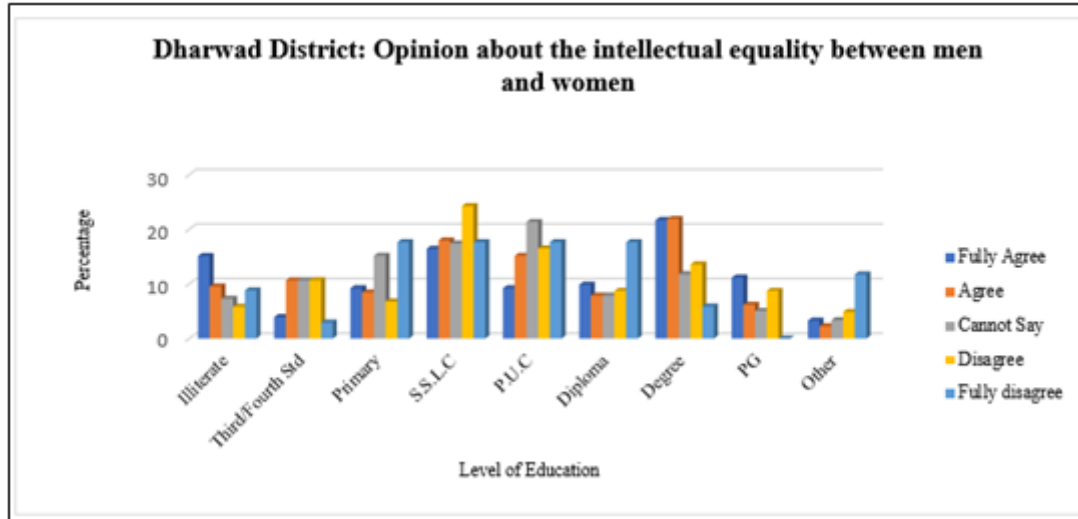


Fig. 4

Opinion about the women’s subordination to men

As far as the opinion of the respondents about the subordination of women to men, is concerned 21.24 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that women are subordinate to men. Among the other respondents, 25.7 percent also accepted that women are subordinate to man. In this group also most of the respondents have studied up to SSLC. Maximum i.e. 28.1 percent of all respondents believing that women are subordinate to men. There were some of the respondents who were not ready to express their view as their percentage is 28.21 Among them 18.13 percent of them respondents have studied up to PUC. Some respondents who believe that women are subordinate to man and their percentage is 16.12. Among these, majority i.e. 25.00 percent have studied up to SSLC in only. Some women i.e. 5.27 percents of the respondents were arguing that women’s not subordinate to man. Most of the respondents are degree holders. and their percentage is 16.07. (Table 4, Fig.5)

Table 4. Dharwad District: Opinion about the woman’s subordination to men

Level of Education	Fully Agree	Agree	Cannot Say	Disagree	Fully disagree	Total
Illiterate	46 (16.79)	28 (8.43)	32 (8.79)	8 (3.85)	10 (8.93)	124 (9.61)
Third/Fourth Std	22 (8.03)	36 (10.8)	30 (8.24)	12 (5.77)	12 (10.71)	112 (8.68)
Primary	24 (8.76)	38 (11.4)	32 (8.79)	34 (16.35)	10 (8.93)	138 (10.70)
S.S.L.C.	44 (16.06)	72 (21.6)	64 (17.58)	46 (22.12)	12 (10.71)	238 (18.45)

P.U.C.	28 (10.22)	62 (18.6)	66 (18.13)	34 (16.35)	14 (12.50)	204 (15.81)
Diploma	30 (10.95)	24 (7.23)	38 (10.44)	14 (6.73)	10 (8.93)	116 (8.99)
Degree	52 (18.98)	58 (17.4)	54 (14.84)	36 (17.31)	18 (16.07)	218 (16.99)
PG	22 (8.03)	14 (4.22)	36 (9.89)	12 (5.77)	8 (7.14)	92 (7.13)
Other	6 (2.19)	-	12 (3.30)	12 (5.77)	18 (16.07)	48 (3.72)
Total	274 (21.24)	332 (25.7)	364 (28.21)	208 (16.12)	112 (08.68)	1290 (100)

Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

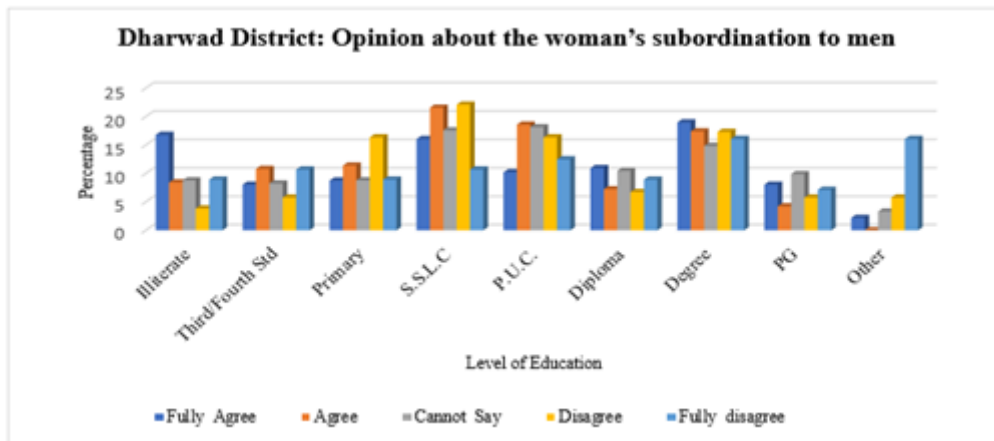


Fig. 5

Opinion about the equality of men and women

It is observed that 21.08 percent of the respondents strongly agree that women are equal to men in all spheres of life. Among the other respondents 24.96 percent also accepted it. In this group also most of the respondents have completed P.U.C level of education. There were some of the respondents who were not ready to express their view as their percentage is 28.2. Among them, 17.5 percent respondents have studied up to S.S.L.C. However, there were many women who believe that the men are superior as 19.06 percent of the respondents expressed this opinion. Among these, majority i.e. 21.95 percent have studied up to SSLC only. Some women i.e. 06.66 percent of respondents were arguing that women cannot become equal and opposed the idea of equality between the men and women. (Table 5 and Fig.6)

Table 5. Dharwad District: Opinion about the equality of men and women

Level of Education	Fully Agree	Agree	Cannot Say	Disagree	Fully disagree	Total
Illiterate	42	24	24	30	4	124
	(15.44)	(7.45)	(6.59)	(12.20)	(4.65)	(9.61)
Third/Fourth Std	18	34	40	18	2	112
	(6.62)	(10.56)	(10.9)	(7.32)	(2.33)	(8.68)
Primary	18	42	44	20	14	138
	(6.62)	(13.04)	(12.0)	(8.13)	(16.28)	(10.70)
S.S.L.C.	40	66	64	54	14	238
	(14.71)	(20.50)	(17.5)	(21.95)	(16.28)	(18.45)
P.U.C.	26	70	50	42	16	204
	(9.56)	(21.74)	(13.7)	(17.07)	(18.60)	(15.81)
Diploma	26	18	46	16	10	116
	(9.56)	(5.59)	(12.6)	(6.5)	(11.63)	(8.99)
Degree	74	32	62	36	14	218
	(27.21)	(9.94)	(17.0)	(14.63)	(16.28)	(16.99)
PG	22	28	22	18	2	92
	(8.09)	(8.70)	(6.04)	(7.32)	(2.33)	(7.13)
Other	6	8	12	12	10	48
	(2.21)	(2.48)	(3.30)	(4.88)	(11.63)	(3.72)
Total	272	322	364	246	86	1290
	(21.08)	(24.96)	(28.2)	(19.06)	(06.66)	(100)

Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

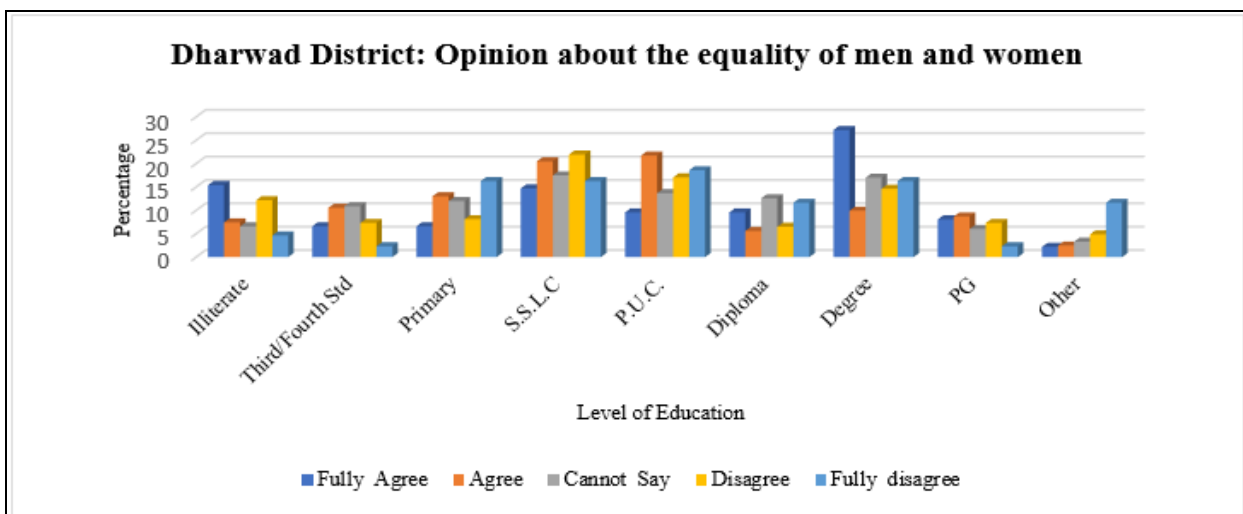


Fig. 6

Awareness of the respondents about equal rights of women

When the respondents were asked whether they are aware of the equal right have equal rights with men or not. 58.29 percent of them have accepted that they are well aware. Among these respondents 20.48 percent are degree holders Remaining 41.70 percentage of the respondents were not ready to accept that women have equal rights with men. Among these respondents 18.96 percent have studied up to PUC only.

Opinion about the husband taking care of children

It was an interesting to find out the respondents opinion about the husband help in taking care of children, 22.94 percent of the respondents were happy to express that their husbands consistently help them in taking care of their children. Majority of them i.e.17.57 percent are illiterate. 38.60 percent of them told that their spouses help in taking care of children sometimes Majority of them i.e.22.09 percent have studied up to SSLC. 25.89. of them told that their husbands never helped them. Among them 19.16 percent of respondents have studied up to SSLC. Apart from these 12.55 percent of the respondents did not answer this question. (Table 6 and Fig. 7)

Table 6. Dharwad District: Opinion about the husband taking care of children

Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

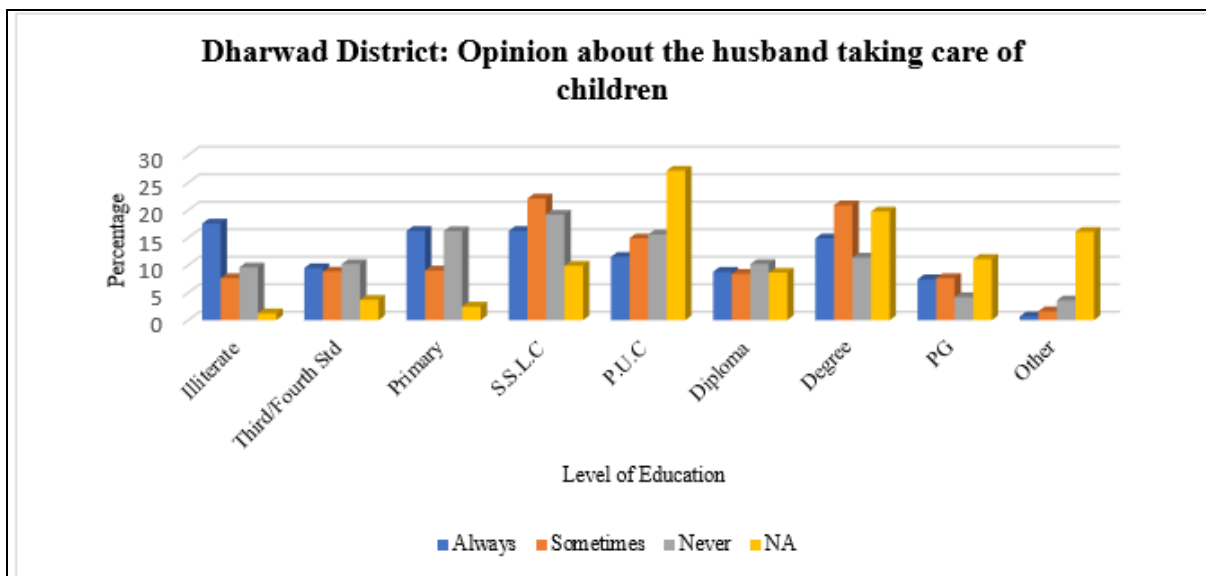


Fig. 7

Opinion about the sharing of household work with husband

A question was asked about the help of husbands in household work, 22.32 percent of the respondents said that their husbands always help in their household work. Majority of them i.e.17.36 percent are degree holders. Among the other respondents 40.00 percent said that sometimes, their husbands help them, Majority of them i.e.21.71 percent have studied up to SSLC. While 25.89. of them said that their husbands have never helped them Among them 22.75 percent of respondents have studied up to SSLC. Apart from these 11.78. percent of the respondents did not say anything about it. (Table No 7 and Fig. 8)

Table 7. Dha0rwad District: Opinion about the sharing of household work with husband

Level of Education	Always	Sometimes	Never	NA	Total
Illiterate	50 (17.36)	38 (7.36)	24 (7.19)	12 (7.89)	124 (9.61)
Third/Fourth Std	24 (8.33)	54 (10.47)	26 (7.78)	8 (5.26)	112 (8.68)
Primary	20 (6.94)	60 (11.63)	44 (13.17)	14 (9.21)	138 (10.70)
S.S.L.C.	34 (11.81)	112 (21.71)	76 (22.75)	16 (10.53)	238 (18.45)
P.U.C.	40 (13.89)	94 (18.22)	42 (12.57)	28 (18.42)	204 (15.81)
Diploma	28 (9.72)	32 (6.20)	42 (12.57)	14 (9.21)	116 (8.99)
Degree	50 (17.36)	92 (17.83)	50 (14.97)	26 (17.11)	218 (16.99)
PG	36 (12.50)	22 (4.26)	20 (5.99)	14 (9.21)	92 (7.13)
Other	6 (2.09)	12 (2.33)	10 (2.99)	20 (13.16)	48 (3.72)
Total	288 (22.32)	516 (40.00)	334 (25.89)	152 (11.78)	1290 (100)

Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

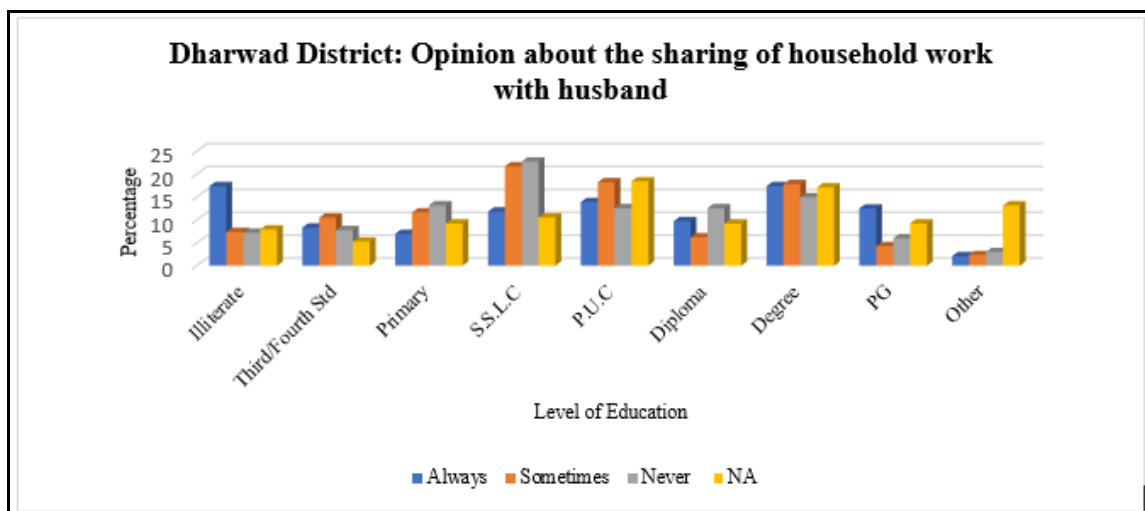


Fig.8

Watching of TV by the Respondents

22.01. of the respondents said that they watch TV regularly Among them 27.46 percent have studied up to SSLC. Among the other respondents 31.78 percent said that they watch TV frequently. In this group also most of the respondents are degree holders. As their percentage is 19.51. The respondents who occasionally watch TV accounts for about 31.00 percent, among them 21.50 percent of respondents have studied up to PUC. 15.19 percent of the respondents said that they do not watch the TV Among them 21.43 percent of the respondents are degree holders. (Table 8 and Fig. 9).

Table 8. Dharwad District: Watching of TV by the Respondents.

Level of Education	Regularly	Very often	Occasionally	Never watch	Total
Illiterate	40 (14.08)	50 (12.20)	18 (4.50)	16 (8.16)	124 (9.61)
Third/Fourth Std	20 (7.04)	48 (11.71)	34 (8.50)	10 (5.10)	112 (8.68)
Primary	24 (8.45)	38 (9.27)	48 (12.00)	28 (14.29)	138 (10.70)
S.S.L.C.	78 (27.46)	70 (17.07)	60 (15.00)	30 (15.31)	238 (18.45)
P.U.C.	46 (16.20)	46 (11.22)	86 (21.50)	26 (13.27)	204 (15.81)
Diploma	10 (3.52)	44 (10.73)	42 (10.50)	20 (10.20)	116 (8.99)
Degree	42 (14.29)	80 (19.51)	54 (13.50)	42 (21.43)	218 (16.99)
PG	14 (4.93)	20 (4.88)	40 (10.00)	18 (9.18)	92 (7.13)
Other	10 (3.52)	14 (3.41)	18 (4.50)	6 (3.06)	48 (3.72)
Total	284 (22.01)	410 (31.78)	400 (31.00)	196 (15.19)	1290 (100)

Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

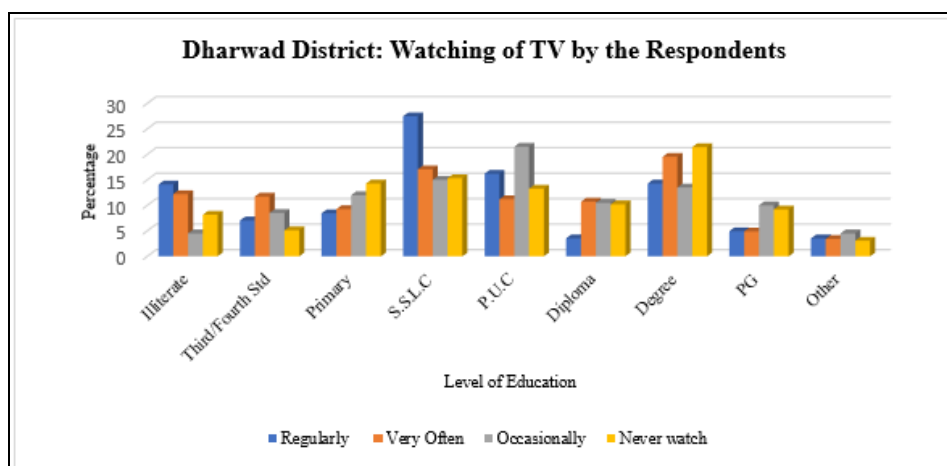


Fig. 9

When they were asked about the type of programmers they watch, 17.98 percent of respondents said they watch women’s programmes, among these respondents 12.93 percent have studied up to PUC. Some of the respondents said that they watch health programmes. In this group 21.58 percent of respondents are studied up to SSLC. The respondents i.e. 36.58 percent of them said that they watch entertainment programme. Among them 20.76 percent are degree holders. (Table 9 and Fig.10).

Table 9. Dharwad District: Programmers watched in TV

Level of Education	Women programme	Health programme	Entertainment	Other	Total
Illiterate	40 (17.24)	32 (8.42)	30 (6.38)	22 (10.68)	124 (9.61)
Third/Fourth Std	20 (8.62)	42 (11.05)	32 (6.78)	18 (8.74)	112 (8.68)
Primary	24 (10.34)	48 (12.63)	34 (7.20)	32 (15.53)	138 (10.70)
S.S.L.C.	44 (18.97)	82 (21.58)	92 (19.49)	20 (9.71)	238 (18.45)
P.U.C.	30 (12.93)	58 (15.28)	80 (16.95)	36 (17.48)	204 (15.81)
Diploma	20 (8.62)	34 (8.95)	48 (10.17)	14 (6.80)	116 (8.99)
Degree	28 (12.07)	58 (15.26)	98 (20.76)	34 (16.50)	218 (16.99)
PG	24 (10.34)	14 (3.68)	32 (6.78)	22 (10.68)	92 (7.13)
Other	2 (0.86)	12 (3.16)	26 (5.51)	8 (3.88)	48 (3.72)
Total	232 (17.98)	380 (29.45)	472 (36.58)	206 (15.96)	1290 (100)

Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

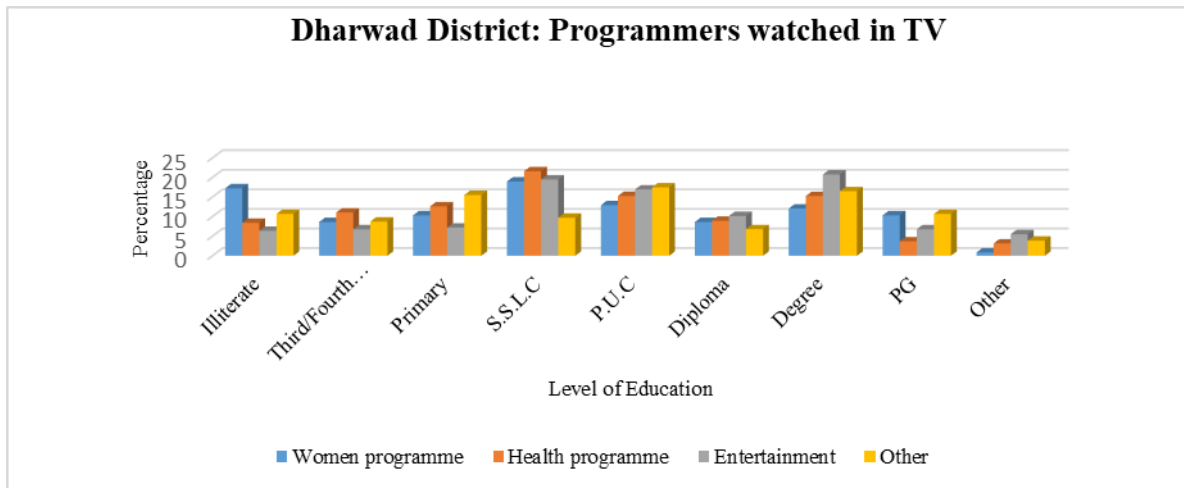


Fig. 10

As far as the interest in watching the cinema, 14.57 percent of the respondents told they often go to cinema hall to watch the movies. Among them 25.53 percent of respondents illiterate. There are some respondents who told they go to cinema hall to watch a movie once or twice in 15 days as their percentage is 20.31. In this group 19.08 percent of respondents have studied up to SSLC. And 27.59 percent of the respondents said that they go to cinema hall occasionally to watch a movie once in a month. Among these respondents 17.89 percent are degree holders. 24.03 them told that they watch movies occasionally. 23.23 percent have studied up to SSLC. The respondents who never go to cinema hall account for about 13.48 percent. Among them Among them 21.84 percent have studied up to SSLC. (Table 10 and Fig. 11)

Table 10. Dharwad District: Frequency of watching a movie.

Level of Education	Weekly	Once in 15 days	Once in a month	Once in a while	Never	G. Total
Illiterate	48 (25.53)	24 (9.16)	20 (5.62)	12 (3.87)	20 (11.49)	124 (9.61)
Third/Fourth Std	20 (10.64)	22 (8.40)	44 (12.36)	22 (7.10)	4 (2.30)	112 (8.68)
Primary	32 (17.02)	24 (9.16)	40 (11.24)	30 (9.68)	12 (6.90)	138 (10.70)
S.S.L.C.	16 (8.51)	50 (19.08)	62 (17.42)	72 (23.23)	38 (21.84)	238 (18.45)
P.U.C.	26 (13.83)	44 (16.79)	56 (16.29)	44 (14.19)	32 (18.39)	204 (15.81)
Diploma	16 (8.51)	30 (11.45)	30 (8.43)	30 (9.68)	10 (5.75)	116 (8.99)
Degree	18 (9.57)	38 (14.50)	64 (17.89)	68 (21.94)	30 (17.24)	218 (16.99)
PG	8 (4.26)	18 (6.87)	22 (6.18)	26 (8.39)	18 (10.34)	92 (7.13)
Other	4 (2.13)	12 (4.58)	16 (4.49)	6 (1.94)	10 (5.75)	48 (3.72)

Total	188 (14.57)	262 (20.31)	356 (27.59)	310 (24.03)	174 (13.48)	1290 (100)
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Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

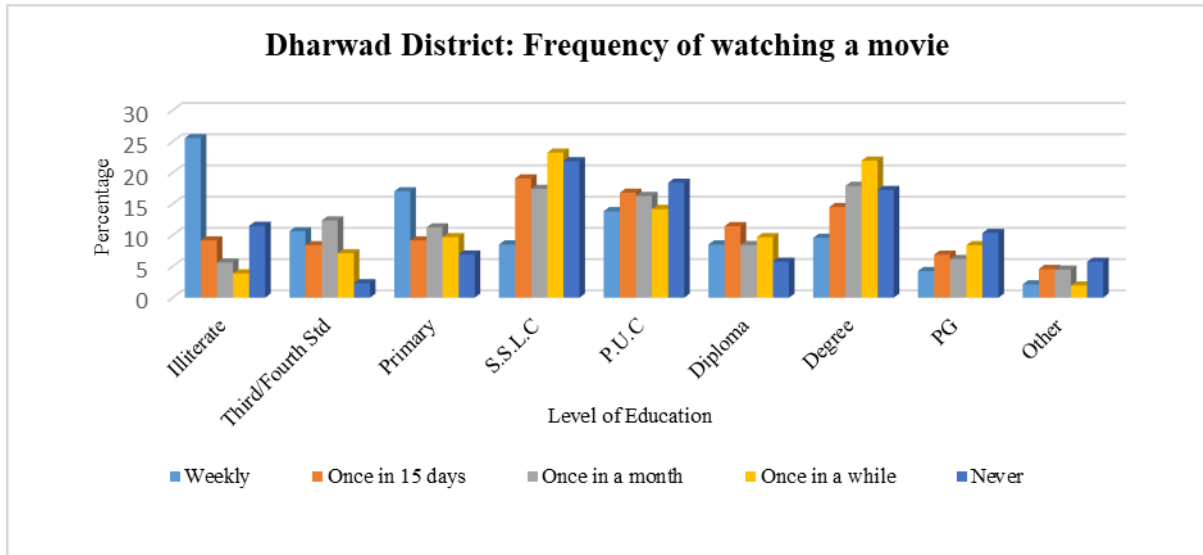


Fig 11

When an effort was put to know the type of dress the respondents prefer. 32.24 percent of respondents told that they prefer saree. Among them 21.63 percent of the respondents have studied up to SSLC. the women those who prefer chudidhar as their outfits, accounts for about 40.93 percent. Who Among these respondents, 17.05 percent have studied up to PUC. Percentage of women prefer modern dress as their outfit is 26.82. Among them, 22.54 percent of respondents are degree holders. (Table 11 and Fig.12)

Table 11. Dharwad District: Type of cloth Respondents wear

Level of Education	Saree	Chudidhar	Modern	G. Total
Illiterate	66 (15.87)	32 (6.06)	26 (7.51)	124 (9.61)
Third/Fourth Std	38 (9.13)	60 (11.36)	14 (4.05)	112 (8.68)
Primary	32 (7.69)	70 (13.26)	36 (10.40)	138 (10.70)
S.S.L.C.	90 (21.63)	84 (15.91)	64 (18.50)	238 (18.45)
P.U.C.	56 (13.46)	90 (17.05)	58 (16.76)	204 (15.81)
Diploma	24 (5.77)	58 (10.98)	34 (9.83)	116 (8.99)
Degree	54 (12.98)	86 (16.29)	78 (22.54)	218 (16.99)

PG	40 (9.62)	28 (5.30)	24 (6.74)	92 (7.13)
Other	16 (3.85)	20 (3.79)	12 (3.47)	48 (3.72)
Total	416 (32.24)	528 (40.93)	346 (26.82)	1290 (100)

Source: Field survey and personal computation
 Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

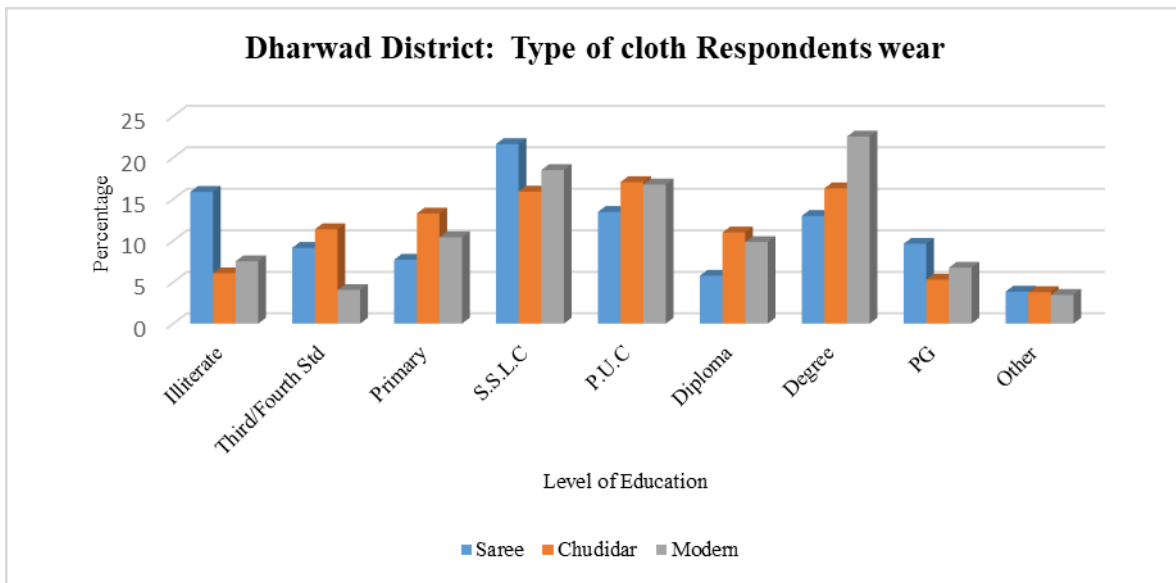


Fig.12

It was an interesting to find out that respondents activeness in social media or not, 27.75 percent of them shown their interest in WhatsApp. Among these respondents 17.88 percent are degree holders. The respondents who are active in Facebook are 29.61 percent. Among the respondents 17.80 percent have studied up to PUC. The respondents who are active in Instagram accounts for about 24.65 percent. In this group, 19.50 percent of the respondents have studied up to SSLC. The respondents who were active in some other social media constitute 17.98 percent. Among the same, 23.28 percent have studied up to SSLC. (Table 12 and Fig..13)

Table 12. Dharwad District: Use of social media

Level of Education	WhatsApp	Facebook	Instagram	Any other specify	G. Total
Illiterate	46 (12.85)	32 (8.38)	24 (7.55)	22 (9.48)	124 (9.61)
Third/Fourth Std	32 (8.94)	44 (11.52)	30 (9.43)	6 (2.59)	112 (8.68)
Primary	36 (10.06)	52 (13.61)	30 (9.43)	20 (8.62)	138 (10.70)
S.S.L.C.	56	66	62	54	238

P.U.C.	56 (15.64)	68 (17.80)	30 (9.43)	54 (21.55)	204 (15.81)
Diploma	16 (4.47)	46 (12.04)	32 (10.06)	22 (9.48)	116 (8.99)
Degree	64 (17.88)	56 (14.66)	60 (18.87)	38 (16.38)	218 (16.99)
PG	38 (10.61)	8 (2.09)	32 (10.06)	14 (6.03)	92 (7.13)
Other	14 (3.91)	10 (2.62)	18 (5.66)	6 (2.59)	48 (3.72)
Total	358 (27.75)	382 (29.61)	318 (24.65)	232 (17.98)	1290 (100)

Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

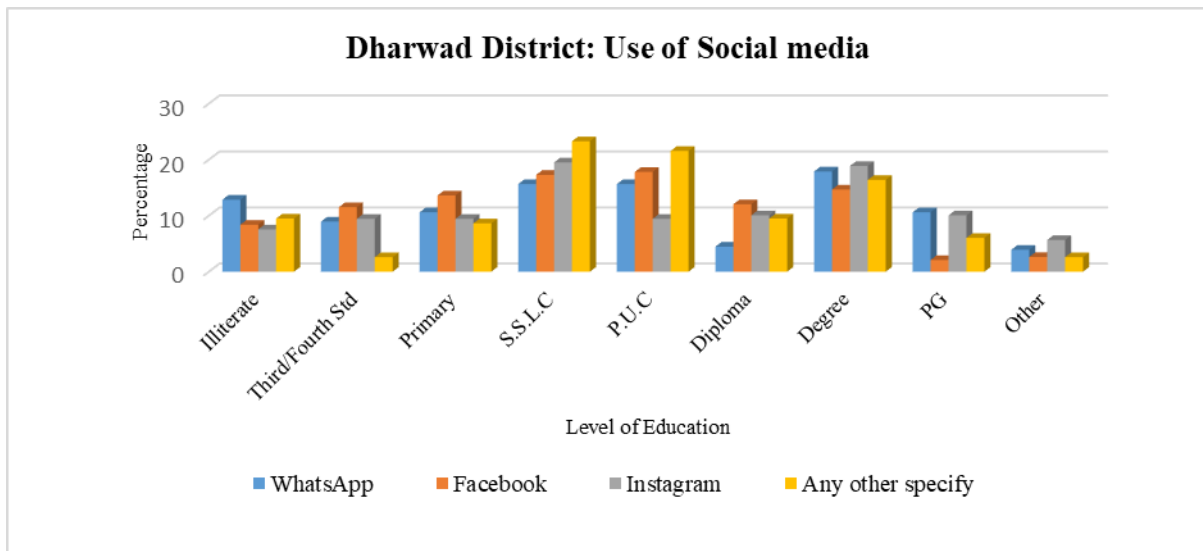


Fig. 13

When an attempt was made to know the respondents opinion about freedom of making reels and posting it on social media platforms, 33.17 percent have told that they have freedom of making reels and posting it on social media platforms. Among the respondents 20.56 percent are degree holders. The 41.39 percent of respondents told that they do not have freedom of making reels and posting it in social media platforms. In this group, 17.23 percent of respondents have studied up to SSLC. Some of the respondents are not interested in making reels and posting it in social media. and their percentage is 25.42. Among these respondents 26.83 percent have studied up to SSLC. (Table 13 and Fig.14)

Table 13. Dharwad District: freedom of making reels for social media

Level of Education	YES	NO	Not interested	G. Total
Illiterate	56 (13.08)	52 (9.74)	16 (4.88)	124 (9.61)
Third/Fourth Std	38 (8.88)	54 (10.11)	20 (6.10)	112 (8.68)

Primary	30 (7.01)	72 (13.48)	36 (10.98)	138 (10.70)
S.S.L.C.	58 (13.55)	92 (17.23)	88 (26.83)	238 (18.45)
P.U.C.	76 (17.76)	84 (15.73)	44 (13.41)	204 (15.81)
Diploma	44 (10.28)	50 (9.36)	22 (6.71)	116 (8.99)
Degree	88 (20.56)	80 (14.98)	50 (15.24)	218 (16.99)
PG	24 (5.61)	38 (7.12)	30 (9.15)	92 (7.13)
Other	14 (3.27)	12 (2.25)	22 (6.71)	48 (3.72)
Total	428 (33.17)	534 (41.39)	328 (25.42)	1290 (100)

Source: Field survey and personal computation

Note: Figures in bracket indicate respective percentage.

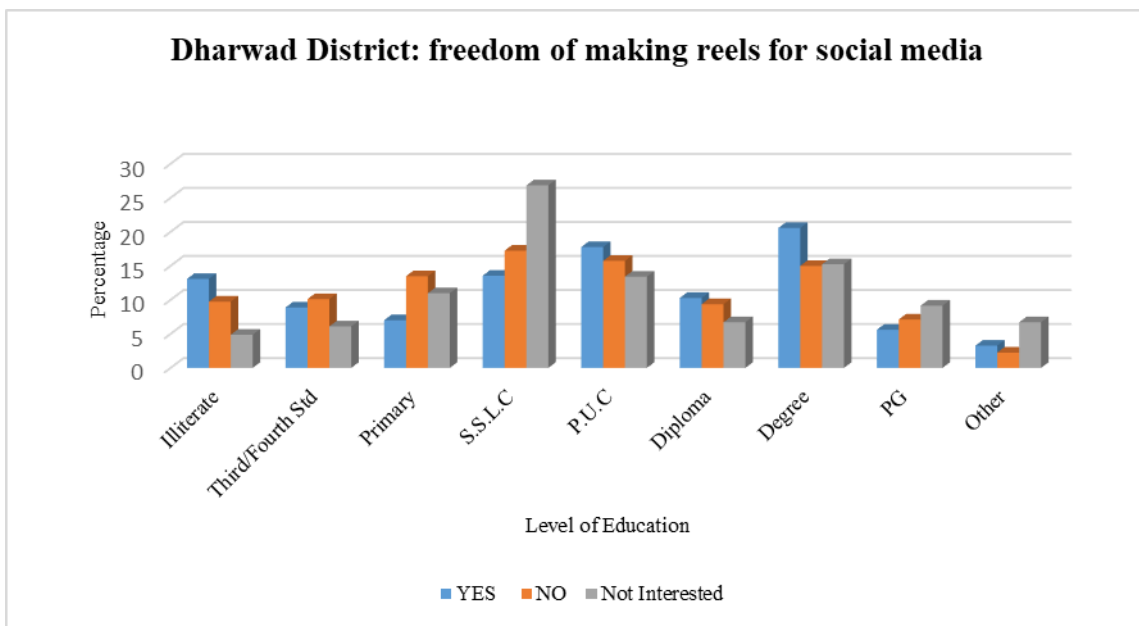


Fig.14

Conclusion:

The present study reveals that level of women’s education play a major role in their empowerment. Women with the lower level of education still have that orthodox opinion that women are subordinate to men and women cannot become independent while the highly educated women think that men and women are equal and they expect that their spouses should help them in house hold chores.

Another interesting observation of the study is that though most of the women are active in social media, half of them have no freedom of making reels etc and posting it on media. As the education is the only key for empowering the women in all respects there is a need to take effective measures to improve the level of women’s education in the district which is still lower compared to that of men.

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