

**Critical analysis of the factors responsible for dropout of female students at  
university level in Karachi Pakistan.**

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**ABSTRACT**

This article analyze the current situation of enrollment and drop outs of female students at university level in Karachi, Pakistan It also highlights the factors responsible for dropout from the universities. This Study works on primary as well as secondary data. Data is collected from the female drop out students of the Women University through questionnaire. Moreover, secondary data is collected from the university registrar. This study reveals that awareness about female education has been increasing over the years. This has led to increased number of female enrollment at university level. However, there is still a very big gap between female and male students. Dropout rate in female students is more than the male students. Factors responsible for female dropouts includes privilege to male over female, harassment, increase in fee, low income of parents, early marriages, migrations, insensitivity towards gender harassment, increased transportation expense, family pressure, lack of proper guidance, and counseling service and department placement without interest.

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Key words: Dropouts, Female, University, inflation, harassment

**Introduction**

Education is a significant tool in developing a nation. It is inevitable for socioeconomic development of country. People invest in education to build the future. Good education fosters the process of growth and development. Education integrates the societies with environment. (report of the secretary general ,2003).It facilitates the millennium development goals and help in eradicating poverty and improving the living standards. Lot of efforts have been made to empower the women through providing equal opportunity and access to property, wealth and education By the 20th century world scenario has been changed as women have greater access to educational programs at all levels. Female education has been taken as key indicator for the development of nation. World Bank economists also viewed that female education is a developmental instrument in world (Brent, 2005).

### **Literature Review**

UNICEF (2004) report also indicates that girls' education leads to more equitable development, stronger families, better services, better child health and effective participation in governance. Despite all these benefits of female education, mostly developing countries are facing the problems of dropout at all levels of education. Pakistan is also suffering with this issue. It is established fact that females make the half population of the Pakistan. As a reasonable number of population females can contribute effectively for the progress of society. It is only possible if they are educated because through education they will aware about their effective role and responsibilities. According to Khalid (1975) education can make the females effective participants of society. Through their education they can participate in decision making of society. They can become agent of social change to fight against hunger, poverty, diseases and all social evils. Overall educated females can become productive asset for the nations. They can become good mothers, views, sisters, daughters and citizens. According to holy prophet (pbuh) seeking knowledge (education) is obligatory for all Muslims (male & female). (Hadith) Hence • education can help the females to take initiative for their development and betterment of lives (Basset, 1978).It empower the female as uneducated females are mostly ruled (Young, 1952). Education can help the females to know their rights and responsibilities and sense of right path identification in society (Lobo, 1974). The future must not belong to those who bully women. It must be shaped by girls who go to school and those who stand for a world where our daughters can live their dreams just like our sons.(Obama's Address, in United Nations General Assembly, 2012). Female education can eliminate the violence against women (Khoja-Moolji & Shenila, 2015 and Khan & Hafiz, 2013). Female education can empower the females in their practical lives and this empowerment can enhance the chances of national and international development of nations (Stromquist, 2015). Despite of all above mentioned facts, comparatively in developing countries students' dropout rate is very high. (Graeff-Martins ,2006) Through different studies lot of causes were explored though causes of dropout for both male and female may differ. Hence financial aspect of families mainly contribute in dropout issue (Grant and Hallman 2006). Hence customary attitude, strict cultural values, early marriages, parents' discrimination towards female education, economic conditions etc become the main reasons of low female education in developing and particularly in Pakistan

(Human Development Report, 1998). Overall in Pakistan dropout rate is very high that affect the enhancement of literacy rate, individual betterment and national development. While focusing the importance of female of education this study was conducted to explore the causes of dropout of female education at graduate level

### Objectives of Study

Following objectives were focused during this study:

To identify the obstacles for females getting education at university level.

To find out the facilities for females at university level.

To understand the role of parents, spouse and society affecting female education at university level.

### Methodology

Quantitative approach is used in this study. Purposive sampling technique is used. This Study works on primary as well as secondary data. Data is collected from the female drop out students of the department of education Women University through questionnaire. Moreover, secondary data is collected from the university registrar. Obtained data is analyzed through percentages. Data for four years is used and analyzed.

### Results and Discussion

Record of Dropout students

STATUS	PROGRAM	2020	2021	2022	2023
ENROLLED	ADE	6	24	11	15
	B.ED(H)	34	53	58	38
APPEARED	ADE	6	24	11	15
	B.ED(H)	34	53	58	38
PASSED	ADE	6	24	11	15
	B.ED(H)	34	53	58	38
DROPOUT	ADE		2	6	2
	B.ED(H)	1	2	8	2

Source: University Registers

### Reasons to Dropout from University

S.No	Items	%
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Poverty is the reason of drop out	80
Getting marriage early	90
Family pressure as custom oand tradition not to obtain higher degree	80
Environment is unsaved	74
Household responsibility	81
Girls are less privilege as compare to boys	80
More number of dependents in family	61
Parents' illiteracy causes to drop out of the girls	55
High rate of inflation	60
Transportation issue	62
Transfer posting of parents	52
Pregnancy of students	89
Harassment at university	66
Threatening behavior of course mates causes to dropout of girls from college.	55
Negative role of media (Electronic and Social) causes to dropout of girls from college.	78

Source: Questionnaire

Causes of drop outs from the data priority wise are as follows,

- Candidate got married and not allowed to continue education.
- Pregnancy
- Financial Burdon
- Family pressure
- Household problem
- Role of media
- Environment
- Official transfer posting of parents to other city.

#### **Recommendations to reduce the drop outs.**

- Counseling sessions organized by the department of Education.
- Payment of tuition fee in installment
- Award of scholarship on merit cum need basis
- Exchange of student delegations to other accredited universities
- Relaxation in attendance on genuine reasons
- Make up classes

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