

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Introduction and Background

This paper focuses on oppression of women which is caused by lack of education, and the beliefs (Giddens, 2006). Female oppression is a social practise that is perpetuated by sexual stereotyping from the time of childhood through to adult life. In South Africa about 45% of adult population is illiterate and it is more common in females than males and also more common in rural areas (Qokolweni) than urban areas (Southridge Park) (Malherbe *et al*, 2000:120).

Statement of the problem

Women and men might have the same opportunities in modern societies but the stigma and stereotype against women still exists, hence women are still expected to be house wives and raise children while men are expected to work. The female residents from Qokolweni and Southridge Park are exposed to different backgrounds and experiences caused by patriarchy. The reason for investigating is to found out who are more exposed to patriarchy and those who are less affected by it and how education influences patriarchy.

Aim of the study

The aim of the study is to investigate what influence does level of education has on patriarchy

Objectives

To evaluate the effect of patriarchy on women's lives.

To investigate the role of education on people's lives

To investigate the root cause of illiteracy among women

Motivation of the study

Patriarchy is a system that prevails in every institution and education is a system that is presumed to bring liberation to people. Education system can minimise patriarchy

because the society that is highly populated by educated and wealthy people, patriarchy rarely exist. In contrast, society that is highly populated by uneducated people there is dominance of patriarchy.

Theoretical framework

Gerda Lerner (1987) argues that women were key to the maintenance of human society and community, but with a few exceptions, social and legal power was wielded by men. Victorian domesticity refers to the lived experience of private life where women were kept away from the public sphere in most ways (Abrams, 2014). Additionally, Karl Marx's contention was that property was owned by males, who needed heirs (offspring) to whom they could pass it on.

The role of Patriarchy with its effect on the society

Historically, patriarchy has manifested itself in the social, legal, political, religious, and economic organization of a range of different cultures. Moreover, Male power in a patriarchy can be found in family, community, and society. Additionally, women must be seen as inferior, naturally weaker, emotionally dependent, generally less capable, less intelligent, and less worthy. Their work is equally considered "lower." (Wood, 2013: 155). Mahtab (2007) states that, girls have to cope with lack of educational opportunities because their parents think education is primarily necessary for the male children. In a patriarchal society, a woman, from her childhood, does not get equal chance with a boy to develop her qualities.

Research Methodology

The study utilised closed ended and open ended questionnaires because it only required yes or no questions. The questionnaires were self-administered. The researcher distributed 100 questionnaires to the respondents, 50 questionnaires were distributed in Qokolweni residents and another 50 were distributed among South ridge park residents. Furthermore, there were 40 questions within each questionnaire and four sections, section A comprises of demographic profile, section B comprises of the role of patriarchy and its effect on women, section C includes the significant role of education and, lastly, section D is about the causes of lack education of among women and the influences on their social status. The study utilized both the qualitative

and quantitative method. The researcher used SPSS to analyse the data that was collected from the respondents, and the researcher also used Excel as another form of analysing data

Results

Level of education (Southridge)

Level of education of the respondents	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative frequency
Lower than Grade 1	1	2 %	1
Grade 1-4	1	2 %	2
Grade 5-7	3	6 %	5
Grade 8-10	2	4 %	7
Grade 11-12	8	16 %	15
Tertiary	9	18 %	24
Post graduate	26	52 %	50
Total	50	100 %	

Table 1 above demonstrates the level of education of the respondents from Southridge Park. 26 of the respondents are post graduates which makes them to be the majority, followed by 9 respondents who reported that they are in tertiary

Level of education (Qokolweni)

The level of education of the respondents from Qokolweni. There are more respondents with higher education than those who did not make it to Grade 12 and tertiary. 32% of the respondents are post graduate and 10% of the respondents are in tertiary.

Findings of the study

Southridge Park- had more post graduates compared to Qokolweni residents, urban areas are well informed with a lot of resources sources surrounding the area. 86% of the respondents said education can minimise the prevalence of patriarchy. Moreover, participants elaborated that there is a difference between educated women and the uneducated when it comes to respect, wellness and birth control. These findings supports Hanmer (2013), view's that 43% of women without an education have no say in decisions regarding their freedom of movement compared to 17% of those with higher education. In all regions, women with higher education do not only get to compete for better jobs but also tend to be much healthier and have fewer children. The researcher observed that in households where women were not allowed to make final

decisions, males were present and were married participants. Nevertheless, respondents said patriarchy does not hinder women from getting education were 76%, those who replied 'yes' were 24% said patriarchy does hinder women from being educated.

Conclusions and recommendations

In conclusion, participants from Southridge Park have more knowledge about patriarchy than people from Qokolweni. Qokolweni residents reported that they were more affected by Patriarchy than the Southridge Park the African upbringing is shaped and influenced by culture and religion which supports patriarchy and made both of these societies to be common. The study also discovered that patriarchy affected old people than the young the most, this is because they were less educated, and they viewed patriarchy as something that is normal and made the society to be smooth although it limited their potential. There is a high level of educated people in Southridge Park than in Qokolweni, hence there are more working residents.

In addition, participants reported that females are holding prominent positions in organization that were believed to be for men, the society is gradually transforming. It is patriarchal ideology which makes us feminine and masculine, which assigns different roles, rights and responsibilities to women and men. But those so called 'masculine' and 'feminine' qualities are human qualities and not specific to either men or women. Since all works are done by both men and women, there is no reason to differentiate works on the basis of sex. Moreover, not only women should be educated, because if only one gender does the other one remains having patriarchal ideology.