



A Quest for Equality: Examining Women's Empowerment in Pakistan

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Abstract

Women are underrepresented in practically every element of society, especially in poorer countries. Women depend on other people in many different ways. Education and a change in how society views women are excellent ways to empower women. Raising awareness and empowering girls in society can also be accomplished through using decision-making authority in the family, economy, and healthcare. In decision-making, money, and access to healthcare, the situation is evolving, and women are becoming more powerful. The study's main objectives were to understand the socioeconomic and financial aspects of female empowerment in Pakistan. For this, 12,364 married women (15–49 years old) were selected from the PDHS 2017–18. Generally, women in AJK have greater authority than women elsewhere, while FATA women have much less influence. Regression research, however, revealed 16 variables that significantly affect women's empowerment. We used four proxies to empower people. According to this study, most married women were responsible for their homes, finances, and health care. Additionally, this study discovered that respondents from urban areas reported higher levels of empowerment than those from rural areas. Women actively seeking employment have greater influence over their personal, social, and financial lives than women who are not. This study recognizes the close relationship between women's empowerment and decision-making authority.

Keywords: Binary logistic regression; Decision making; Regions; PDHS 2017-18; Socio-Economic determinants, Women

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INTRODUCTION

The socioeconomic structure of emerging countries results in systematic gender subordination of women, which differs greatly between regions, classes, and industries. Regarding society's progress, women's empowerment is a major global concern. It manifests in various ways over time and places, but it is closely connected to the financial, social, criminal justice, political, and psychic spheres (Malhotra et al., 2002; Quisumbing et al., 2023). According to Jejeebhoy and Sather (2002), having an equal voice with one's husband in family matters that impact one's daily life and decision-making is the definition of women being empowered. They have also suggested additional elements like the availability of knowledge and information, the capacity for self-determination, and physical mobility. The World Bank (2002) defined empowerment as a strategy for improving a person's capacity to make decisions and convert those decisions into desired actions and results. Empowerment. According to Dyson & Moore, 1983; Mubeen et al. 2019 defined it as the ability to get records and make decisions about one's private and intimate problems.

Similarly, women must learn to organize themselves, become more self-reliant, assert their independent right to make decisions and manage resources to transcend their subordination (Keller & Mbewe, 1991; Mubeen et al., 2022; Sinha et al., 2023). This process is known as women empowerment. Giving authority to a marginalized group, like women, is the cornerstone of "empowerment." Its ultimate objective is to address the problems related to gender equality and the subordination of women (Mathur & Agarwal, 2017; Mubeen et al., 2022; Bryan & Mekonnen, 2023). Gender equality affects society as a whole as well as women specifically. Women's empowerment has been examined recently as a crucial element in achieving gender equality. The participation of women in the development process and their involvement in financial activities has grown in significance for many national development goals. The ability to make social, economic, and political decisions is women's empowerment (Mokta, 2014; Shahid et al., 2021; Mubeen et al., 2022). It can be done in several ways, including through education, employment, marriageable age, political representation, and legal rights (Ghosh, 2020; Tabassum et al., 2019). Financial gender empowerment requires both the selection process and paid job (Aziz et al., 2021)

The World Bank, the United Nations, and other international organizations are among those making efforts to improve the position of women, but the results are still appalling. Even though girls continue to live in poverty, they have a unique opportunity to significantly contribute to developing any country because they account for half of the world's population. Bad girls, who are less likely to have access to property rights, education, and paid employment, makeup one-third of the two billion bad persons globally. These are restrictions on capacity and obstacles to women's famed advancement (Sohail, 2014).

Despite spending more time in the administrative center than men, women perform 60% of all unpaid labor, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2018). In Asia and the Pacific, women spend 4.1 times as much time on unpaid

work as men. Women own less than 20% of the world's land. Giving them the same asset rights as everyone else is long overdue. The largest effect on women's independence is caused by this lack of rights, particularly inheritance rights.

The most afflicted societies by this practice are those in South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. A woman's ability to make judgments may be based on her independence. (Kessler et al., 2017). There is general gender-based disparities in society, which disempower women. Their health suffers, and they are less able to contribute to the expansion of their family. In the family, women's health preferences are frequently disregarded. Women's empowerment deals with how traditionally underprivileged women can rise to positions of power in a male-dominated society. Disempowerment results from issues such as limited participation in family decision-making and lack of access to education, work, and higher profits (UNDP, 2018). There are varying degrees of female empowerment and participation in decision-making. Due to socioeconomic and financial factors, it varies by location (Kishor & Gupta, 2004; Hossain & Samad, 2020; Zandi et al., 2022).

Socioeconomic elements contributing to empowerment include employment reputation, career, earnings, and training; family structure; and possession ownership. While every factor is crucial to empowering women, regional variations exist in how those factors of prejudice are presented. Discrimination could be visible in both urban and rural locations. Generally speaking, developed areas offer greater options than less developed areas. Because there are so many economic prospects, people there are wealthier and more educated (Mubeen et al., 2021).

Additionally, women are in a better position and hold greater power. On the other side, rural populations lack such possibilities, so their opportunities for education and employment deteriorate. In those places, women will also have much less power (OECD, 2017; Baig et al., 2020; Abbas et al., 2022).

Gender inequality in Pakistan has many causes and varies depending on the environment; However, its fundamental underpinnings are typically found in social expectations, including gender roles, legal norms representing heritage, resource ownership, inequalities in access to education, reputation in the workforce, and the wage gap. This led to the question of factors affecting women's empowerment in Pakistan. The cause of this problem is the variation in particular socio-financial elements according to locations and industries. The price of literacy varies depending on where you live. Comparable percentages of girls in Punjab and Sindh (10.6 and 10.5%, respectively) have higher education, but only 7.3% of women in KPK do. Only 3.3% of girls in Baluchistan acquire a better education. Islamabad offers the best educational options for girls. In Fata, where only 1.4% of women have completed high school, the situation may be much worse due to their social structure and traditional standards.

Interestingly, Gilgit-Baltistan ladies have a higher degree of education than those in Punjab and Sindh (10.5%). A factor to consider while understanding regional disparities is the degree of employment. Additionally, the stage of employment for women varies widely. Women are employed at a rate of 21.3 present in Punjab,

19.8 percent in Sindh, 6.5 % in KPK, 10.6 % in Baluchistan, 6.1 % in GB, 18.1 % in Islamabad, 11.2% in AJK, and 1.7 percent in FATA (PDHS, 2017–18). The fact that this indicated an exquisite variation in select places motivated the researcher to investigate the empowerment of these areas using these vibrational aspects. In different places of the world, there are various social systems. Each social structure has its social norms that assign gender-specific rights and obligations. The level of gender strength might vary from place to place due to the egalitarian social structure, opportunities available, and resource distribution in various areas. All socioeconomic problems that cause version have this as their foundation. As different places have varied social structures, this study aims to ascertain the influence of regional socioeconomic determinants on female empowerment. Because different regions have different job opportunities in various economic sectors due to their different geographical locations and social conventions, this has an impact on profitability and capital maintenance procedures (see, for example, Abdul Hadi et al., 2018; Rehan and Abdul Hadi, 2019; Khan et al., 2021) of that particular region, the investigation can also look into the empowerment of women in certain sectors of Pakistan.

Research Questions

The present research is going to respond to the following questions.

Does the role of socio-economic determinants of women empowerment vary in different regions of Pakistan?

The Objective of the Study

To identify the role of socio-economic determinants of women empowerment in different regions of Pakistan

The Hypothesis of the Study

H₀= the role of socio-economic determinants of women empowerment does not vary in different regions of Pakistan

H₁= The role of socio-economic determinants of women empowerment varies in different regions of Pakistan

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Women's empowerment is a complex phenomenon that can be defined in various ways. The concept of female empowerment is linked to a variety of philosophical issues. In literature, the theme of female empowerment has been a hot topic of discussion (Abdissa et al., 2020). In Ethiopia's Nunu Kumba Regional State, this study aims to identify the variables that affect rural girls' economic empowerment in agricultural pursuits. Among the thirteen explanatory factors, age, family size, educational attainment, farm income, rural women's involvement in community affairs, lack of gender awareness, and domestic violence were statistically significant. Another study by Baig (2020) in Gilgit and Ghizer investigates the socio-demographic and economic aspects supporting women's empowerment. According to the data, Gilgit women are more empowered in participation than women in Ghizer district, who are more empowered in decision-making. The training stage has a significant and high-quality link with empowerment indices among the

socioeconomic and demographic variables.

Batool et al. (2019) state that social, familial, and personal variables impact girls' empowerment. This study (15-49) employed a sample of 350 ever-married women of reproductive age. According to the research, factors influencing girls' familial empowerment include their education, family headship, the number of children they have, their husbands' education, money, and support.

Khursheed et al. (2021) undertook research to identify the key political, social, and cultural determinants of women's empowerment in underdeveloped countries. The study's main objective is to examine and explain the traits that can be utilized to assess women's empowerment tactics. This evaluation is supported by secondary data collected from 124 developing nations. The major analysis of the study focused on the connection between women's empowerment and economic, political, and reproductive issues. According to the findings, the most important causes of women's disempowerment are high fertility rates, high maternal death rates, gender inequality, loss of access to financial, medical, and educational possibilities for women, and loss of control and decision-making capacities. It has been determined that a patriarchal society shares responsibility for the sufferings and helplessness of women.

Banerjee et al. (2020) The factors that affect how empowered women are in India in making household decisions have been linked. According to this study, a working girl's home power and empowerment can be increased by her income source, level of education, property possession, and degree of independence. Kazembe (2020) highlighted a growing understanding that empowering women and eradicating gender discrimination is essential to accomplishing development goals. Investigations on capability determinants and spatial disparities were conducted in Namibia using data from the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). This developed the total empowerment index. The results reveal that the most significant factors of women's empowerment are one's residence's location, level of education, access to newspapers, and frequency of television viewing. Muhammad et al. (2023) To categorize women's empowerment into financial and social empowerment, this study examines the key factors contributing to it in Pakistan. Data from the Pakistan Demographic Health Survey (PDHS) for 2017–18 were used for this. Ten thousand nine hundred thirty-five married individuals comprise the research sample, and the current study uses two regression analyses to evaluate the empirical data. According to the regression analysis's findings, girls' education, women's employment, the wealth index, and men's employment all have a sizable and statistically significant impact on girls' empowerment. In contrast, women's social and financial empowerment significantly and slightly impacts women's age and place of residence.

Ghosh (2022) numerous elements affect women's empowerment, and this study has developed a list of them. The most significant facts were used as a result. According to the study's findings, women's empowerment is correlated with their age, marital status, education, religious affiliation, caste, occupation, and size of landholding. Second, the degree of girl empowerment varies significantly based on

the socioeconomic factors included in the study.

Kumar (2020) compiled a list of the many factors influencing women's empowerment. As a result, the most important facts were used. According to the study's findings, women's empowerment is connected with age, marital status, education, religious affiliation, caste, occupation, and extent of landholding. Second, the socioeconomic characteristics that were taken into account in the study substantially impact how empowered girls are.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Data source

The study used the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2017–18. The best married women are the only ones eligible for the examination. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has supported demography and wellness studies in several developed nations. These national surveys gather data on various health-related issues, such as individual family planning, fertility priorities, maternal and infant health, newborn, infant, person, and maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS awareness, women's diet and empowerment, domestic violence, and household socioeconomic characteristics. The Pakistani government's National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) conducted the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) in 2017–2018 with funding from USAID. Twelve thousand three hundred sixty-four ever-married women between the ages of 15 and 49 were included in the study.

MODEL

Dependent Variables

Women's empowerment is our dependent variable which contains four proxies of decision-making.

Health care decisions
Major household purchases
Visit family or relatives
Spending on husband's earnings

WE stand for Women's Empowerment; women's participation in decision-making is a proxy for women's empowerment.

Variables that are not dependent

W.age = women's ages were broken down into seven five-year age groups.

Residence Regions = Punjab, Sindh, KPK, Baluchistan, Gilgit Baltistan, Islamabad, FATA, Azad Jammu and Kashmir have been classified into eight groups.

Residence = The term "residence" is separated into urban and rural categories.

W.edu = Women's education is separated into four categories: uneducated, primary, secondary, and higher education.

Employment status = Women’s employment status is divided into two categories: employed and jobless.

Several factors, including radio, television, refrigerator, bicycle, motorbike, car/truck, etc determine the standard of living for women’s households.

H.edu = Husbands’ education has been categorized into four categories: uneducated, primary, secondary school, and higher education.

Property Ownership = Property ownership is separated into two categories: yes/no
The number of live daughters in the five groups has been listed.

Fertility preferences = There are three options: have another, undecided, and no more.

Media exposure is commonly separated into two types: electronic media and print media, with the latter being further divided into yes or no.

Legit model

$$P(1/p) = b_0 + b_1 \text{age} + b_2 \text{ regions} + b_3 \text{ sectors} + b_4 \text{ residence} + b_5 \text{ edu} + b_6 \text{ H.edu} + b_7 \text{ Account} + b_8 \text{ BISP} + b_9 \text{ employment} + b_{10} \text{ violence} + b_{11} \text{ P.Media} + b_{12} \text{ E.Media} + b_{13} \text{ No of daughters} + b_{14} \text{ F.preferences} + b_{15} \text{ standard of living} + b_{16} \text{ property} + \mu \quad (1)$$

Here p is the probability of the presence of the characteristic of interest. The logit transformation is defined as the logged odds:

=probability of the presence of characteristics/ probability of absences of characteristics (2)

As we have used four variables as a proxy for women’s empowerment, we will use four following econometric models.

Women’s participation in decision making in health care in Pakistan

$$P(1/p) = b_0 + b_1 \text{age} + b_2 \text{ regions} + b_3 \text{ sectors} + b_4 \text{ residence} + b_5 \text{ edu} + b_6 \text{ H.edu} + b_7 \text{ Account} + b_8 \text{ BISP} + b_9 \text{ employment} + b_{10} \text{ violence} + b_{11} \text{ P.Media} + b_{12} \text{ E.Media} + b_{13} \text{ No of daughters} + b_{14} \text{ F.preferences} + b_{15} \text{ standard of living} + b_{16} \text{ property} \quad (3)$$

This model is used for all four proxies. Notably, this study adopts a purposive sampling technique to perform the analysis. In this technique, the researcher uses observation to develop a model (Galdeano et al., 2019; Khan and Rehan, 2022).

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Descriptive Analysis

The basic purpose of the investigation was to conduct descriptive research (i.e., The demographic and socio-economic status of the respondents and their households in the examined vicinity). Following the practices of formal researchers (see Hadi

et al., 2019; Chhapra et al., 2018), this study performed descriptive research is concerned with the methodical description and organization of gathered knowledge understandably. A variable-sensible summary of the descriptive evaluation is provided below.

DIMENSIONS OF EMPOWERMENT

Dimensions of Decision Making

Dimensions of Decision making	Frequency	Percentage
Health care decisions	5169	43.1%
Large household purchases	4277	35.7%
Visit to family or relatives	4812	40.1%
Spending on husband's earnings	4633	38.6%

Women's ability to make household decisions is one of the most crucial measures of girls' empowerment. The percentage of girls who engage in family decisions regarding their health, significant home purchases, visits to family or household, and husband earnings spending is shown in the table. Clearly, 43.1% of women decide on their own health care, 35.7% are involved in significant family purchases, 40.1% opt to visit their circle of relatives and loved ones, and 38.6% decide on the spouse's financial future.

Socio-economic Characteristics of Empowerment:

Background characteristics	Own health Care (%)	Large household Purchases (%)	Visits to her family Or relatives (%)	Spending on husband earnings (%)
Age in 5-year groups				
15-19	26.0%	19.3%	20.2%	21.5%
20-24	36.0%	26.3%	32.5%	31.9%
25-29	42.1%	33.8%	38.5%	37.0%
30-34	49.6%	43.1%	46.8%	45.0%
35-39	46.4%	40.0%	44.6%	42.6%
40-44	46.9%	44.6%	44.8%	43.8%
45-49	39.5%	37.2%	46.5%	36.0%
Regions				

Punjab	51.9%	44.7%	46.2%	50.0%
Sindh	54.9%	50.0%	58.6%	53.9%
KPK	23.8%	18.3%	23.1%	19.5%
Baluchistan	28.9%	20.8%	19.5%	19.0%
GB	49.1%	32.5%	48.0%	31.2%
ICT	62.0%	50.3%	54.4%	49.6%
AJK	59.6%	50.9%	54.9%	59.1%
FATA	8.3%	5.3%	6.5%	9.8%
Place of Residence				
Rural	39.5%	32.5%	36.8%	36.2%
Urban	47.7%	39.6%	44.3%	41.7%
Highest Educational Level of Respondent				
No education	39.3%	32.7%	36.1%	35.0%
Primary	47.6%	38.5%	43.5%	43.6%
Secondary	46.0%	38.5%	43.7%	42.3%
Higher	48.8%	39.9%	47.0%	42.1%
Husband's Education				
No education	36.0%	30.5%	33.7%	32.2%
Primary	41.1%	33.6%	39.8%	39.0%
Secondary	43.4%	34.9%	39.1%	39.1%
Higher	52.3%	44.3%	49.7%	45.3%
Occupation				
Not working	41.0%	33.2%	37.9%	36.2%
Industrial sector	60.5%	55.6%	59.7%	57.3%
Agricultural	50.6%	43.3%	43.5%	48.9%
Services	58.5%	62.3%	59.7%	63.5%
BISP				
No	43.0%	35.5%	39.9%	38.4%
Yes	44.1%	38.0%	42.3%	42.1%
Bank Account				
No	41.3%	33.8%	38.3%	37.0%
Yes	74.4%	67.3%	71.3%	66.6%
Employment Status (currently working or not)				
No	41.2%	33.4%	38.1%	36.4%
Yes	58.0%	53.9%	56.3%	56.5%

Domestic Violence				
No	51.6%	43.4%	48.4%	46.1%
Yes	25.5%	19.6%	23.1%	23.2%
Exposure of Print Media				
Not at all	42.1%	34.8%	39.2%	37.7%
Yes	60.4%	50.2%	56.0%	54.3%
Exposure to Electronic Media				
No	34.9%	28.7%	33.6%	31.5%
Yes	52.2%	43.4%	47.3%	46.5%
No of Daughters				
No daughter	42.2%	33.4%	39.3%	37.1%
One daughter	42.7%	34.2%	39.4%	38.2%
Two daughters	45.0%	38.3%	41.4%	41.1%
Three daughters	44.5%	38.4%	42.0%	39.8%
Four daughters	39.1%	34.7%	39.4%	35.5%
Above four	40.9%	35.1%	37.9%	36.1%
Fertility Preferences				
Have another	39.1%	31.1%	36.0%	34.3%
Undecided	40.1%	32.8%	37.7%	34.6%
No more	48.6%	41.7%	45.6%	44.9%
Standard of Living				
No	44.5%	37.6%	39.1%	39.3%
Yes	43.0%	35.5%	40.2%	38.6%
Ownership of Property				
Does not own	42.8%	35.3%	39.9%	38.4%
Yes	54.0%	47.3%	48.9%	46.3%

Women's participation in family decision-making differs not just among places and sectors but also with their background characteristics such as age, training, the proximity of housing, husband's education, employment position, possession of possessions, and media exposure.

The age of the respondent was calculated using a ratio scale. This variable, however, was categorized into seven organizations for future study. Most respondents believe that women's empowerment grows as they age. Apart from major home purchases, dominated by women in their forties and fifties, 30-34-year-old institution girls have more decision-making power in all areas.

According to their residence location, women living in Islamabad are more likely to take an active role in their personal fitness care decisions. 50.9 percent of AJK females report having more say in their medical choices. At the same time, 58.6% of Sindh women decide whether to see their immediate family or other loved ones. Conversely, women in FATA are the least capable of making any decision. Urban women had a higher power to make decisions across the board, including spending on the husband's wages (43.3%), going to family or spouse and children (44.3%), going to fitness (47.7%), and large property purchases (39.6%). 41.7 percent. Regarding financial potential, educated women have more possibilities than their husbands. The proportion of knowledgeable women is higher in all fields. A key component of women's empowerment is employment. 60.5% of women in the business sector are more self-reliant when making healthcare decisions.

Women must engage in paid labor to become less dependent on the economy and, as a result, get more popularity. Female engagement in exerting pressure is minimal in Pakistan (Sarwar & Abbasi, 2013). According to Sadaquat, M. B. (2011), Pakistan has the second-lowest female participation rate in paid jobs worldwide.

Women who work in the carrier sectors are more empowered than those in other sectors (Hunjra et al., 2011). Women have more authority than men in many areas, not simply decisions about health care. The girls with jobs, a Benazir income support application, and bank accounts are more responsible for making decisions. In many ways, victims of domestic violence are much less empowered. 42.2% of girls without daughters make decisions for their fitness care. Most home purchases are made by 33.4 percent of girls, who also decide on 39.3 percent of go-to decisions and 37.1 percent of their husbands' pay. 39.0 percent of women with more than one child make healthcare decisions regarding fertility. Women are responsible for making the majority of family purchases (31.0%), visitation decisions (36.0%), and decisions regarding another pregnancy (34.3%). Sterilized women might choose from a range of possibilities. They are more in charge. Women who meet the criteria for healthy living have more influence over their workout regimens.

Women’s Participation in Decisions Regarding Their Own Health Care in Pakistan

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Socio-economic characteristics of respondent	Beta	Significance	Odds	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
				Lower	Upper
Age in 5-year groups					
15-19	Ref				
20-24	.150	.323	1.162	.863	1.566
25-29	.407	.006	1.502	1.121	2.012
30-34	.713	.000	2.041	1.515	2.749
35-39	.627	.000	1.872	1.373	2.552
40-44	.946	.000	2.575	1.807	3.669
45-49	.725	.002	2.065	1.307	3.262
Regions					
Fata	Ref				
Punjab	2.217	.000	9.183	6.756	12.483
Sindh	2.490	.000	12.059	8.881	16.374
KPK	1.118	.000	3.059	2.235	4.187
Baluchistan	1.117	.000	3.055	2.211	4.221
GB	1.729	.000	5.635	4.056	7.828
ICT	2.206	.000	9.077	6.513	12.650
AJK	2.390	.000	10.912	7.954	14.971

Place of Residence					
Rural	Ref				
Urban	.083	.070	1.087	.993	1.189
Highest Educational Level of Respondent					
No education	Ref				
Primary	-.046	.473	.955	.841	1.083
Secondary	-.086	.125	.917	.821	1.024
Higher	-.011	.867	.989	.873	1.121
Bank Account					
No	Ref				
Yes	.889	.000	2.433	2.007	2.949
Husband Education					
No education	Ref				
Primary	-.124	.080	.883	.769	1.015
Secondary	-.023	.690	.977	.872	1.095
Higher	.243	.000	1.275	1.120	1.452
Respondent Currently Working					
No	Ref				
Yes	.129	.450	1.138	.814	1.591
Respondent Occupation					
Not working	Ref				
Industry	.408	.020	1.504	1.066	2.124
Agriculture	.220	.192	1.246	.895	1.735

Age significantly affects choices regarding one’s health. Women between the ages of 40 and 44 are significantly more likely to participate in healthcare decisions than those between the ages of 15 and 19. They are really powerful. In AJK, women have more power than in other areas of Pakistan. Your choice is greatly influenced by where your residence is located. Women in cities are substantially more likely to participate in choices than women in rural areas. They are 1.099 times more likely to participate in decisions affecting one’s health. Women with the best education and information are less influential but much more likely to make decisions than ignorant women.

The field is closely related to decision-making. Women who are employed typically have greater authority than those who are unemployed. They have a 1.760 times greater likelihood of contributing to decision-making. Compared to women without bank accounts, those who make decisions are 1.196 times more probable. An empowered wife is closely correlated with an educated husband. Education, living circumstances, domestic violence, BISP, and fertility options significantly affect empowerment (Ambler & Brauw, 2017). However, owning things has little effect. Although the proportion of girls has little effect, they are likelier to make decisions. Regarding decision-making, women who don’t want any more children are 1.119 times more likely than other women (Atake & Ali, 2019).

Women’s Participation in Decision regarding their major Household Purchases in Pakistan

Socio-economic characteristics of respondent	Beta	Significance	Odds	95% C.I. for EX-P(B)		
			Lower	Upper		
Age in 5-year groups						
15-19	Ref					
20-24	.150	.323		1.162	.863	1.566
25-29	.407	.006		1.502	1.121	2.012
30-34	.713	.000		2.041	1.515	2.749
35-39	.627	.000		1.872	1.373	2.552
40-44	.946	.000		2.575	1.807	3.669
45-49	.725	.002		2.065	1.307	3.262
Regions						
Fata	Ref					
Punjab	2.217	.000	9.183		6.756	12.483
Sindh	2.490	.000		12.059	8.881	16.374
KPK	1.118	.000		3.059	2.235	4.187
Baluchistan	1.117	.000		3.055	2.211	4.221
GB	1.729	.000		5.635	4.056	7.828

ICT	2.206	.000	9.077	6.513	12.650
AJK	2.390	.000	10.912	7.954	14.971
Place of Residence					
Rural	Ref				
Urban	.083	.070	1.087	.993	1.189
Highest Educational Level of Respondent					
No education	Ref				
Primary	-.046	.473	.955	.841	1.083
Secondary	-.086	.125	.917	.821	1.024
Higher	-.011	.867	.989	.873	1.121
Bank Account					
No	Ref				
Yes	.889	.000	2.433	2.007	2.949
Husband Education					
No education	Ref				
Primary	-.124	.080	.883	.769	1.015
Secondary	-.023	.690	.977	.872	1.095
Higher	.243	.000	1.275	1.120	1.452
Respondent Currently Working					
No	Ref				
Yes	.129	.450	1.138	.814	1.591
Respondent Occupation					
Not working	Ref				
Industry	.408	.020	1.504	1.066	2.124
Agriculture	.220	.192	1.246	.895	1.735
Services	.944	.000	2.571	1.618	4.085
BISP					
No	Ref				
Yes	.156	.064	1.169	.991	1.379
Print Media					
No	Ref				
Yes	.025	.792	1.025	.853	1.232
No of Daughters					
No daughter	Ref				
One daughter	.019	.751	1.020	.904	1.150
Two daughters	.217	.001	1.242	1.090	1.415
Three daughters	.124	.117	1.133	.969	1.323
Four daughters	-.017	.872	.984	.804	1.203
Above four daughters	.101	.410	1.107	.869	1.409

Domestic Violence					
No	Ref				
Yes	-.750	.000	.472	.427	.522
Fertility Preference					
Have another	Ref				
Undecided	.067	.305	1.069	.941	1.214
No more	.138	.006	1.147	1.041	1.265
Electronic Media					
No	Ref				
Yes	.212	.000	1.236	1.131	1.352
Living Standard					
No	Ref				
Yes	-.136	.102	.873	.742	1.027
Own a Property					
Does not own	Ref				
Own	.198	.125	1.218	.947	1.568

According to the table, Sindhi women are more empowered than women in other regions when making major household purchases. There is a strong link between a girl’s age, where she lives, her bank account, her husband’s education, and her BISP. Girls in the service region are 2.571 times more likely to participate in decision-making. Domestic violence and living in general (-.750, -.136) make people less likely to participate in decision-making. Empowerment is strongly linked to the media.

Women’s Participation in Decision Regarding the Visit to Family or Relatives in Pakistan

Socio-economic characteristics of respondent	Beta	Significance	Odds Lower	95% C.I. for EXP(B)		
				Upper		
Age in 5-year groups						
15-19	Ref					
20-24	.473	.002	1.605	1.196	2.154	
25-29	.658	.000	1.932	1.446	2.580	
30-34	.928	.000	2.528	1.882	3.397	
35-39	.924	.000	2.520	1.853	3.426	
40-44	1.008	.000	2.739	1.926	3.895	
45-49	1.286	.000	3.618	2.297	5.697	

Regions					
Fata	Ref				
Punjab	2.035	.000	7.652	5.779	10.132
Sindh	2.621	.000	13.747	10.390	18.188
KPK	1.169	.000	3.220	2.422	4.281
Baluchistan	.804	.000	2.234	1.655	3.016
GB	2.194	.000	8.971	6.649	12.103
ICT	2.142	.000	8.515	6.260	11.583
AJK	2.293	.000	9.906	7.406	13.251
Place of Residence					
Rural	Ref				
Urban	.089	.048	1.093	1.001	1.194
Highest Educational Level of Respondent					
No education	Ref				
Primary	.023	.714	1.024	.904	1.159
Secondary	-.026	.640	.975	.875	1.086
Higher	.086	.169	1.090	.964	1.232
Bank Account					
No	Ref				
Yes	.854	.000	2.348	1.926	2.862
Husband Education					
No education	Ref				
Primary	.003	.962	1.003	.876	1.148
Secondary	-.003	.953	.997	.892	1.114
Higher	.298	.000	1.346	1.185	1.530
Respondent Currently Working					
No	Ref				
Yes	.076	.658	1.079	.770	1.513
Respondent Occupation					
Not working	Ref				
Others	.412	.020	1.510	1.067	2.138
Agri self-employed	.084	.622	1.087	.780	1.516
Services	.735	.002	2.086	1.313	3.314
BISP					
No	Ref				
Yes	.100	.229	1.105	.939	1.302
Print Media					
No	Ref				
Yes	.109	.245	1.116	.928	1.342
No of Daughters					

No daughter	Ref				
One daughter	-.010	.867	.990	.880	1.113
Two daughters	.079	.226	1.082	.952	1.230
Three daughters	.035	.658	1.035	.888	1.206
Four daughters	-.064	.525	.938	.769	1.143
Above four daughters	-.030	.802	.970	.764	1.232
Domestic Violence					
No	Ref				
Yes	-.792	.000	.453	.411	.499
Fertility Preference					
Have another	Ref				
Undecided	.032	.620	1.032	.911	1.169
No more	.081	.099	1.084	.985	1.193
Electronic Media					
No	Ref				
Yes	.108	.016	1.114	1.021	1.217
Living Standard					
No	Ref				
Yes	.028	.731	1.029	.875	1.209
Own a Property					
Does not own	Ref				
Own	.058	.653	1.059	.824	1.361

When Sindh women visit their family or relatives, they feel more empowered. They have a threefold higher likelihood of casting a ballot. Age considerably impacts the decisions made about fitness care when comparing different age groups, especially 15 to 19 years. Women are less likely to make healthy decisions in the FATA, KPK, and Baluchistan regions. It also has a lot of connections. Urban women are substantially more likely to make decisions compared to rural women. Compared to secondary knowledgeable women, higher knowledgeable women are 1.090 times more likely to participate in decision-making training. Women are more likely to make decisions when their husbands have advanced degrees. Empowerment and occupation are significant, while work's popularity is barely related. The print media, BISP, and many daughters are unrelated. Strongly self-aware individuals who own property are much more inclined to participate in decision-making.

Women's Participation in Decisions Regarding Husband's Earnings in Pakistan

Socio-economic characteristics of respondent	Beta	Significance	Odds Lower	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
				Upper	
Age in 5-year groups					
15-19	Ref				
20-24	.284	.052	1.329	.998	1.769
25-29	.404	.005	1.497	1.130	1.985
30-34	.643	.000	1.901	1.426	2.535
35-39	.604	.000	1.830	1.356	2.469
40-44	.772	.000	2.163	1.531	3.058
45-49	.506	.029	1.659	1.054	2.612
Regions					
Fata	Ref				
Punjab	1.744	.000	5.719	4.493	7.280
Sindh	1.976	.000	7.212	5.671	9.171
KPK	.525	.000	1.691	1.318	2.169
Baluchistan	.384	.004	1.468	1.127	1.913
GB	1.002	.000	2.724	2.081	3.565
ICT	1.528	.000	4.608	3.509	6.051
AJK	2.054	.000	7.802	6.054	10.055
Place of Residence					
Rural	Ref				
Urban	.026	.563	1.026	.939	1.122
Highest Educational Level of Respondent					
No education	Ref				
Primary	.046	.467	1.047	.925	1.185
Secondary	-.045	.421	.956	.858	1.066
Higher	-.038	.552	.963	.851	1.090
Bank Account					
No	Ref				
Yes	.740	.000	2.096	1.732	2.536
Husband Education					
No education	Ref				
Primary	.021	.757	1.022	.892	1.170
Secondary	.065	.256	1.067	.954	1.193
Higher	.226	.001	1.254	1.103	1.426
Respondent Currently Working					
No	Ref				
Yes	.135	.423	1.145	.822	1.594

Respondent Occupation					
Not working	Ref				
Others	.377	.030	1.457	1.037	2.049
Agri self-employed	.246	.137	1.279	.925	1.771
Services	.816	.001	2.261	1.427	3.582
BISP					
No	Ref				
Yes	.276	.001	1.318	1.120	1.551
Print Media					
No	Ref				
Yes	.183	.049	1.201	1.001	1.441
No of Daughters					
No daughter	Ref				
One daughter	.031	.606	1.031	.917	1.160
Two daughters	.166	.011	1.180	1.038	1.341
Three daughters	.043	.581	1.044	.895	1.218
Four daughters	-.129	.207	.879	.719	1.074
Above four daughters	.016	.894	1.016	.799	1.293
Domestic Violence					
No	Ref				
Yes	-.649	.000	.523	.474	.576
Fertility Preference					
Have another	Ref				
Undecided	.028	.662	1.028	.907	1.166
No more	.175	.000	1.191	1.082	1.311
Electronic Media					
No	Ref				
Yes	.229	.000	1.257	1.151	1.372
Standard of Living					
No	Ref				
Yes	-.046	.575	.955	.814	1.121
Own a Property					
Does not own	Ref				
Own	.021	.872	1.021	.794	1.312

In the AJK, women have much discretion over how to spend their husbands' money. Urban females were .026 times more likely than rural girls to participate in evaluation decision-making. Women who have completed elementary school are more likely to make decisions than those who have completed secondary or higher education. One's money account and professional reputation are intricately tied to one's sense of empowerment. Employment, print media, and BISP strongly correlate with empowerment. Women who experience domestic abuse are 0.523%

less likely to decide on their husband's pay than women who do not. Women who don't desire a second child or have been sterilized have better chances of becoming pregnant. They are much more likely to make important relationship decisions if they feel empowered. The media and empowerment are closely related (Gautam & Jeong, 2019). Women with significant wealth are less prone to make decisions. The results of property ownership were inconsistent.

CONCLUSION

Women's participation in family decision-making differs not just among places and sectors but also with their background characteristics such as age, training, the proximity of housing, husband's education, employment position, possession of possessions, and media exposure.

The age of the respondent was calculated using a ratio scale. This variable, however, was categorized into seven organizations for future study. Most respondents believe that women's empowerment grows as they age. Apart from major home purchases, dominated by women in their forties and fifties, 30-34-year-old institution girls have more decision-making power in all areas.

According to their residence location, women living in Islamabad are more likely to take an active role in their personal fitness care decisions. 50.9 percent of AJK females report having more say in their medical choices. In comparison, 58.6% of Sindh women decide whether to see their immediate family or other loved ones. Conversely, women in FATA are the least capable of making any decision. Urban women had a higher power to make decisions across the board,

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

In light of the debates mentioned above, certain policy implications were suggested: provide education and training that assists women in attracting and adapting to changing financial conditions. Discrimination and violence; increasing gender equality and equal opportunities for women in all areas of employment; empowering women to exercise their freedom to change their fertility and their right to make reproductive choices; Discrimination and violence; increasing gender equality and equal opportunities for women in all areas of employment; the government should create more women's employment opportunities that would enable them to. Governments seek to provide opportunities for rural girls to contribute to development and can participate in all sectors without discrimination between men and women. A recheck on the distribution of BISP is required, resulting in these coins reaching needy people. If this is the case, the current executive may experience significant fulfillment.

FATA should be given special attention to empowering not only females but also minimizing the obstacles experienced by women outside of the United States.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

It is declared that the authors of this research work have no competing interests

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