

CAUSES OF LOW LITERACY RATES IN BACKWARD AREAS OF TEHSIL JALA PUR PIRWALA-MULTAN- PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT- *The objective of this research paper is to investigate the causes of low literacy rates in the less developed and backwards areas and its impacts on the socio-economic status of the people in these areas. For this purpose, a 30 items questionnaire was developed to collect primary data from 100 families through convenient sampling method. Our findings show that uneducated people have less chances of employment, skeptical about their future and are involved in honored killing. Government should open new schools, particularly for girls and generate employment to motivate people to send their children to schools. Media should also play its role to educate people about the importance of literacy.*

Key words: *Low literacy rate, honored killing, unemployment, superstition*

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1 INTRODUCTION:

1.1. Background of study:

Nicholis Stern (2001) found the main cause of low literacy was that there was low enrollment in the schools. According to the researcher 64% of Pakistani population lives in the rural areas and the main source of income in these less developed areas is agriculture. Due to which most of the children spend their times with their parents in the fields. The second reason of low literacy rates is that there are fewer schools in such areas and the number of children is more. Due to which schools don't admit all children in the schools. The third reason of not sending the girls to schools is that parents are reluctant to send their daughters to schools because these schools have co-education. The parents don't think it good to sit male and female students together in the schools. So girls are not allowed to attend the schools and they cannot do well for the progress of the country and nation.

According to M.A Choudhry (2005) due to lack of education there is no development in FATA and some areas of southern Punjab. Government does not spend enough money on the education. Only 2% of GDP is allocated for the education. Due to lack of education the feudalism is prevailing in such areas which is another problem and hindrance in the way of education. According to Economic survey of Pakistan (2006) whereas according to some independent agencies there is less than 70% gross enrollment and the drop out ratio before the completion of 5th class is more than 50%. The main reason of this huge dropout is less allocation of budget on the education. But according to international standards 4% of the GDP should be allocated to education in Pakistan.

The key to success for any nation lies in the development of education sector. As the education is promoted in the nation, this reduces the illiteracy rate that ultimately reduces the unemployment, which is one of the biggest curses on any nation (Ahmad, Arshad, & Ahmad, 1991). The education sector in Pakistan is overlooked by the government ministry of education and the provincial

governments, whereas the development of curriculum and financing is done with the assistance of federal government. In the past few decades' literacy rate has been developing continuously, which eventually helps the development of the entire nation.

1.2. Statement of the Problem:

This research study is carried out to investigate the causes, impacts and solutions of low literacy rates in the less developed areas of tehsil Jalalpur Pirwala, Multan.

1.3 Objectives of study:

The main objectives of the study are given below.

- ▶ To study the literacy rates in the last few decades.
- ▶ To investigate the causes of low literacy rates in the less developed and backwards areas of Pakistan.
- ▶ To measure the impacts of low literacy rates on socio-economic status of the people in backward areas.
- ▶ To determine the factors which are hindrance in the way of female education in such areas.
- ▶ To give the suggestions to improve the literacy rates in backward areas.

1.4 Significance of the study:

This study has great importance for social workers, political leaders and parents to understand the problem about female education in education department. Moreover, recent data regarding female education will be collected in this study. This study will investigate the major reasons of girls for not going to schools which is very crucial issue and needs to be addressed in policy making for the future.

1.5 Delimitation of study:

Due to shortage of resources and time constraint, this research study is delimited to less developed areas of tehsil Jalal pur Pirwala, Multan.

2 LITRATURE REVIEW:

A research study was conducted by Hashmi N et al (2009) in which they found many reasons for low literacy rates in the less developed areas. They also found a relation between the literacy rates and the development of the people in that areas. According to them 52% of the population is consisted of females. Pakistani society is male dominated. This factor is more sever in southern Punjab. All the decisions are taken by fathers' brothers and husbands. They are also responsible for bread and butter. Such fathers are against the female education. Due to which females are deprived from the education and they cannot do well for the development of their family. According to such parents the main reasons of not sending the girls to schools are given below.

- Education is better only for the males. So girls should not be sent to schools.
- Schools location is not suitable for their daughters and sisters.
- Schools are located at large distances.
- Due to financial problems the males are allowed to get education.
- Society does not think it good to educate the girls.
- They are against the female jobs. So they don't send their daughters to schools.

Due to such thinking the majority of the females are deprived of education. There is not much income in such families and poverty prevails in such families.

According to Bari F (2010) there are many reasons due to which there is less literacy rate and low development in the backward areas. Among these factors the one factor is terrorism and this factor has effected to large extent specially the female education. According to her research 52% of the females and 54% of the males had been affected badly due to terrorism in the schools. Due to these activities they left the schools and in this way prosperity, growth and development

of the families and areas were stopped badly. In Swat 120 male schools and 80 female schools were demolished and the students were forced to leave the schools. There are many other reason of the students that are out of schools. Among these reasons less enrollment and high dropout at primary level are at priority level. There are many schools in which there are risky buildings, lack of equipment, shortage of teachers, and teachers' harsh attitude with the students (Government of Pakistan 2013).

Awan (1987) found that 50% death rate in children has been reduced in the last 20 years because of mother's in education. Because of mother education there are 4 million children are alive now-a-days. Women education is important like those of man education for the progress of a country. Women and man are two wheels of the society cart. We cannot run it if one of wheels is out of order or defective. In the same way if women are not given well education then our country will be unable to make progress. 50 percent of our population is consisted of woman. If 50% population is not provided with education, then how we can expect that our literacy rate will be 100% in the next years. In the past it was considered that if we give education to women, they will ignore their duties in the homes. They will not be able to be good house wives. If woman will do job, then her home duties will be badly affected. So on these grounds woman education was low. An educated married girl was supposed to be self-connected. She will read novels only. She will disobey her parents / husband. But now days the situation is totally different. In the present time women education is admitted everywhere.

Pakistani rulers have ignored the education field from day one. No research has been made to improve the system. Very little amount has been allocated to this field. There are so many flaws in this education system. Our literacy rate is worse even south Asia which is about 58%. Our curriculum is out of date which does not meet with the present needs. No effort has been made to revise it so that it may

compete with the society. Our education system is facing stagnation quality of our teachers is much low. They are not familiar with innovative teaching techniques. There is no innovation in this community.

There are a large number of problems that the females are facing in the society. In most of the families the females have to do home activities in the home. Due to which they cannot do best in the schools. There is no time for the female teachers to prepare the lessons in the homes so that they cannot teach well in the class. She has to cook food for her family. She has to perform all the responsibilities in the home. (Riasat at al 2005).

3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The research methodology in this study include research design, population and sample of the study, construction and validation of research instruments, method of data collection and statistical tools used for the analysis of data. The detailed description of the research procedure for collection of required information from the respective respondents was given below:

3.1 Development of Research Instruments:

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, both types of research instruments (questionnaires and structured interview schedules) were developed, validated through testing and administered for getting required information from the respective respondents. This is because they were found to be the most appropriate and suitable to answer the research questions posed. Details of each research instrument were given below:

3.2 Reliability and Validity Research Instruments

Following strategy was adopted for validation of the questionnaires:

3.2.1 Pilot Testing

To determine the validity, suitability and reliability of items, a pilot testing of the research instruments must be carried out. In research studies, the term pilot testing refers to determine feasibility studies of particular research instruments, carried

out in advance before conduct of the major study. The main function of pilot testing is to check the design of the research instrument, works in practice and to identify and amend problematic questions for refining. Any problems relating to the content, wording, layout, length, instructions or coding can be uncovered in pilot study and can be amended accordingly. It also uncovers issues relating to the sample size, non-response rate and cost of administering. A good research relies on validity and reliability of its instruments and the procedure adopted to conduct the study. If the methods employed are not valid and reliable, the data is at best worthless, and at worst, misleading. Research instruments were to be pilot tested before data collection, so that accurate and reliable information can be collected from the respondents.

To achieve the required objectives of the study, the designed research instrument (questionnaires) passed through several stages of selection and rejection before going to make it final shape. Each questionnaire comprised on two parts and each part consisted on various types of questions to be filled by the respondents. Every possible effort was made to arrange each item at per proper place for collecting relevant information from the respondents included in the sample

The distribution of the respondents selected for pilot testing of each category was further tabulated below:

Table 1: Distribution of Respondent for Pilot Testing

S/No	Respondents	Sample distribution		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Head teachers	10	-	10
2.	Teachers	20	-	20
Total		25	-	30

3.2.1. Questionnaire Development:

As a result of pilot testing, and after calculating reliability, only those statements were retained which were found statistically reliable. Then each question included in the questionnaires was again discussed with the supervisors of research study and further improvements were made under his guidance for developing comprehensive and reliable questionnaires for seeking relevant information from respondents. In the context of difficulties encountered and suggestions offered by the respondents, questionnaires were improved and finalized, fair typed and photocopied for further administration to collect data.

3.3 Data Collection:

The study involved collection of data from different categories of respondents serving in various teaching, training and educational institutions located in sampling areas.

After seeking permission from concerned authorities, developed research instruments (questionnaires) were administered to the respondents personally with the request to fill in at prescribed columns. The only problem faced was that some respondents were reluctant to fill in the research instruments. However, they were ensured that information provided by them would not be disclosed to anyone and will be used for the research purpose only. These research instruments were got filled and collected back personally and thus the response rate was hundred percent. The process for collecting data from the respective respondents of this study took about seven months.

3.4 Sample of Study

100 families were selected as a sample from Jalalpur Pirwala through convenient sampling.

3.5 Hypothesis of the study:

H^0 : There is no impact of literacy rate on the socio economic status of the people in the backward areas of tehsil Jalal Pur Pirwala, Multan.

H¹: There is strong impact of literacy rate on the socio-economic status of people and in the backward areas of tehsil Jalal Pur Pirwala, Multan.

3.6. Analytical technique

Data will be collected by using questionnaire. This questionnaire contains 30 items. There were five choices for the students to give answers. The questionnaire has been developed on the basis of 5-points Likert scale. We used 5-points Likert scale to analyze data and to measure the attitude of respondents. We also used percentage and mean score for the analysis of data.

1 Strongly agree

2 Agree

3 Neutral

4 Disagree

5 Strongly disagree

In this questionnaire basic information were taken from the respondents.

4 DATA ANALYSIS:

4.1 Demographic Statistics:

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents. (N: 100)

Demographics statistics		
Gender	Frequency	Percent
Female	50	50%
Total	50	50%
Marital Status:		
Married	82	82%
Widow	8	8%

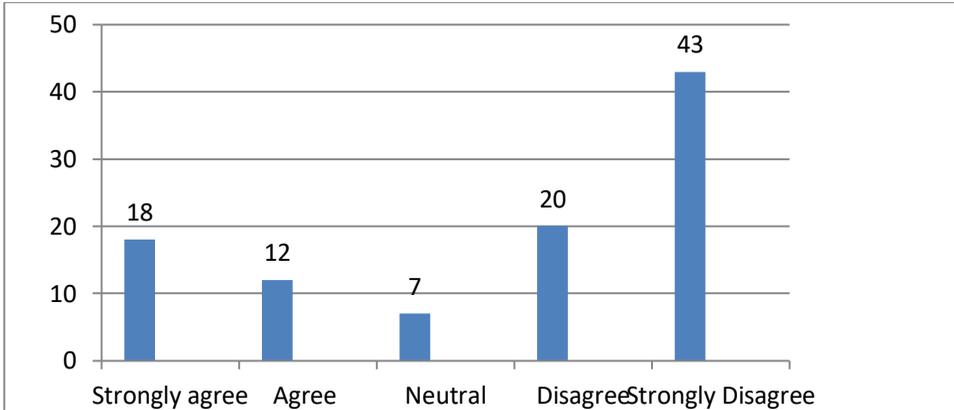
Divorced	10	10%
Total	100	100%
Monthly Income:		
Rs 8000-10000	55	55%
Rs 11000-13000	36	36%
Above Rs 130,00	9	9%
Total	100	100%
Age:		
Less than 25	31	31%
25-34	12	12%
35-44	30	30%
45-54	20	20%
Above 54	6	6%
Total	100	100%

4.2: Analysis of statements:

Table 2: Causes of crimes in the society

Statement	Levels	Frequency	Percentage	Mean score
The crimes in the society are due to the uneducated people of the less educated areas.	Strongly Agree	18	18%	2.42
	Agree	12	12%	
	Neutral	7	7%	
	Disagree	20	20%	
	Strongly Disagree	43	43%	

Figure 1 Causes of crime rates



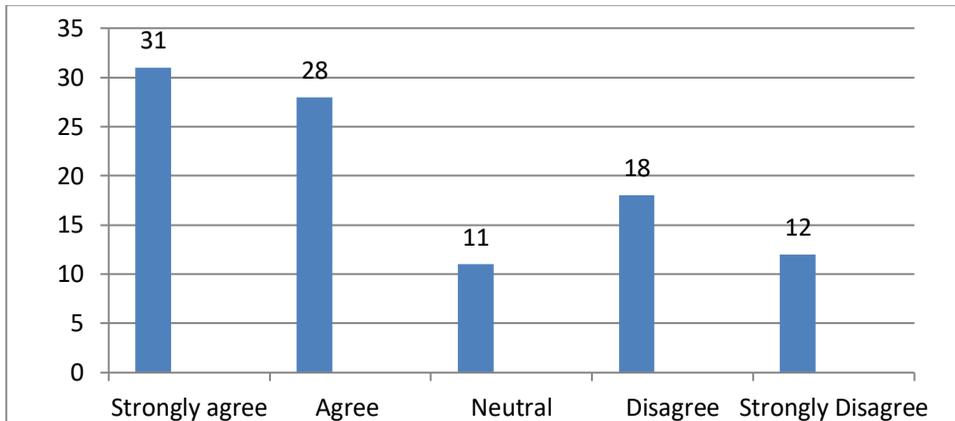
Explanation:

10 % of the participants are strongly agree & agree with the statement. 20 % of the participants are neither agree nor disagree with the above mentioned statement. On the other hand, 20 % of people from the selected areas are either disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. The mean score of the statement i.e The crimes in the society are due to the uneducated people of the less educated areas is 2.42.

Table 3: Superstitions

Statement	Levels	Frequency	Percentage	Mean score
Superstitions are commonly prevailing in uneducated people of backward and less developed areas.	Strongly	31	31%	3.48
	Agree			
	Agree	28	28%	
	Neutral	11	11%	
	Disagree	18	18%	
	Strongly Disagree	12	12%	

Figure 2 Superstition

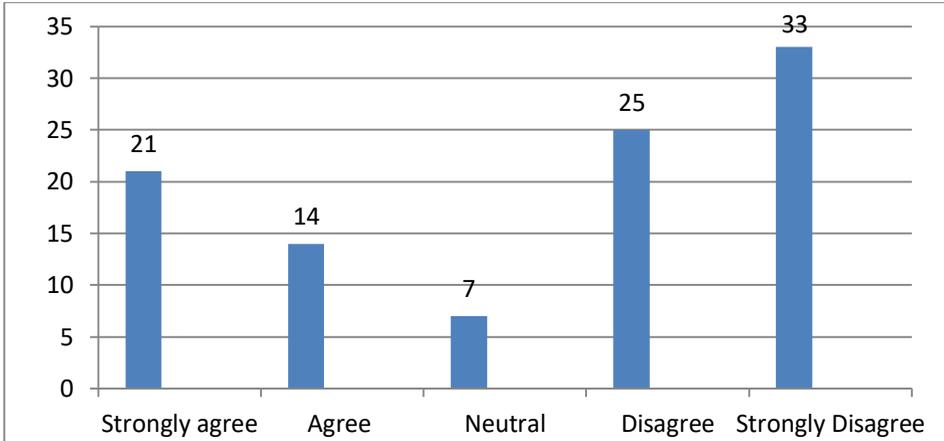
**Explanation:**

10 % of the participants are strongly agree & agree with the statement. 20 % of the participants are neither agree nor disagree with the above mentioned statement. On the other hand, 20 % of people from the selected areas are either disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. The mean score of the statement i.e Superstitions are commonly prevailing in uneducated people of backward and less developed areas is 3.48.

Table 4: Honor killing

Statement	Levels	Frequency	Percentage	Mean score
Honor killing frequently occurs in such less developed and low literacy areas.	Strongly	21	21%	2.65
	Agree	14	14%	
	Neutral	7	7%	
	Disagree	25	25%	
	Strongly Disagree	33	33%	

Figure 3: Honour killing



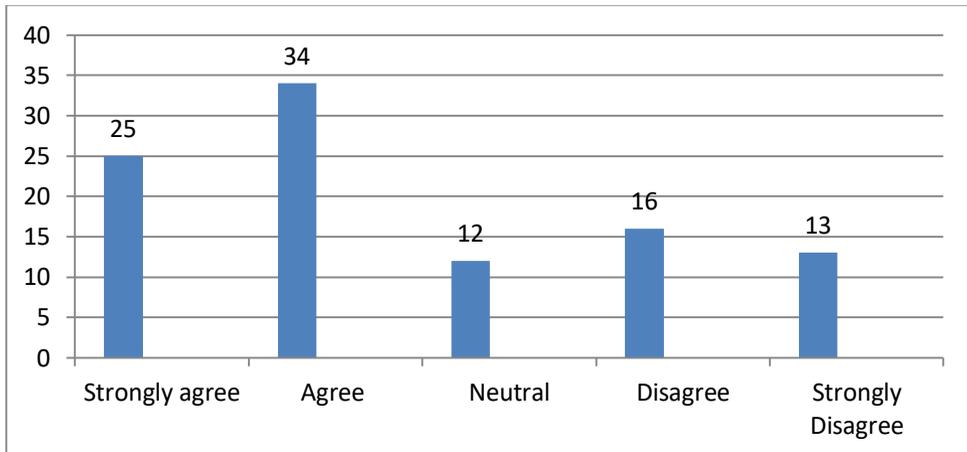
Explanation:

10 % of the participants are strongly agree & agree with the statement. 20 % of the participants are neither agree nor disagree with the above mentioned statement. On the other hand, 20 % of people from the selected areas are either disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. The mean score of the statement i.e., honor killing frequently occurs in such less developed and low literacy areas is 2.65.

Table 5: Difference in the SES of educated and uneducated people

Statement	Levels	Frequency	Percentage	Mean score
There is much difference in the SES of educated and uneducated people in the society.	Strongly	25	25%	3.58
	Agree			
	Agree	34	34%	
	Neutral	12	12%	
	Disagree	16	16%	
	Strongly Disagree	13	13%	

Figure 4: Difference in the SES of educated and uneducated people

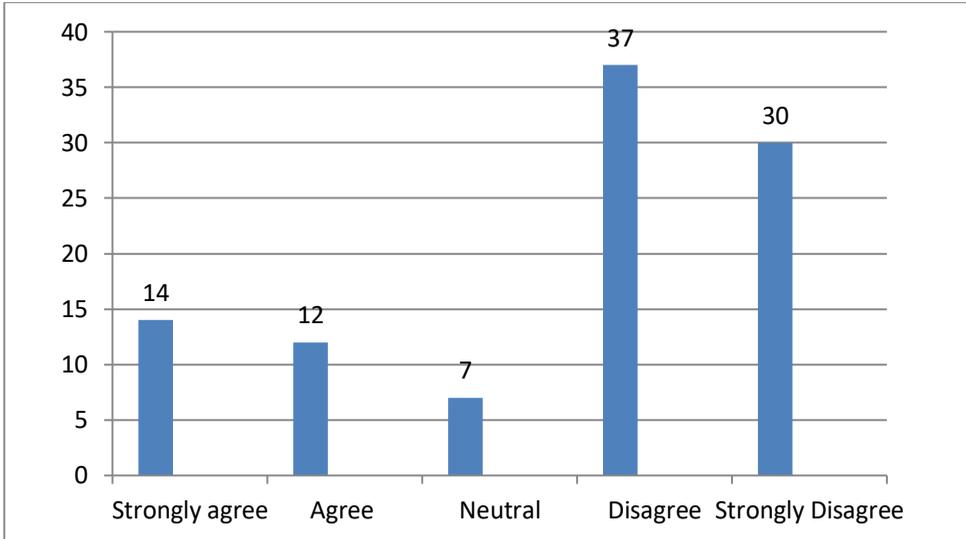
**Explanation:**

10 % of the participants are strongly agree & agree with the statement. 20 % of the participants are neither agree nor disagree with the above mentioned statement. On the other hand, 20 % of people from the selected areas are either disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. The mean score of the statement i.e, there is much difference in the SES of educated and uneducated people in the society is 3.58.

Table 6: Social evils like drugs robbery, smuggling and unemployment

Statement	Levels	Frequency	Percentage	Mean score
Social evils like drugs robbery smuggling unemployment are the result of lack of education in the society.	Strongly	14	14%	2.43
	Agree	12	12%	
	Neutral	7	7%	
	Disagree	37	37%	
	Strongly Disagree	30	30%	

Figure 5 Social evils like drugs, robbery, smuggling and unemployment



Explanation:

10 % of the participants are strongly agree & agree with the statement. 20 % of the participants are neither agree nor disagree with the above mentioned statement. On the other hand, 20 % of people from the selected areas are either disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. The mean score of the statement i.e Social evils like drugs robbery smuggling unemployment are the result of lack of education in the society is 2.43.

5. Summary of results:

Literacy plays an important role in the development of human beings. This study was conducted to know the causes of low literacy rates in the less developed and backwards areas and to know the impacts of low literacy rates on the economic and social status of the people in these areas. For this purpose, a questionnaire was developed as research tool to collect primary data from the respondents. Survey method was used. There are 30 Statements in this questionnaire. All the backward areas of tehsil jalal pur pirwala were included in population. 100 families were

slected as a sample using convenient technique. Some findings of this study are in the form of mean scores. Uneducated people have less chances of employment as compared to educated people in the society (Mean Score 3.84). Superstitions are commonly prevailing in uneducated people of backward and less developed areas (Mean Score 3.48). Honor killing frequently occurs in such less developed and low literacy areas (Mean Score 2.65). There is much difference in the SES of educated and uneducated people in the society (Mean Score 3.58). Government should provide jobs to educated people. In this way there will be motivation among the uneducated people to get education. Because uneducated people think they literate people are unemployed so why they spend money and time on education and there is low literacy rates in such areas. Government should set up new schools in the backward areas so that people may get education. Separate schools for girls should be opened. Media should play its role to educate people about the importance of literacy

6. FINDINGS OF STUDY:

Education is more important than wealth to be useful member of the society (Mean Score 3.86). People respect more the educated people than a wealthy person in the society (Mean Score 3.66). The crimes in the society are due to the uneducated people of the less educated areas (Mean Score 2.42). Uneducated people have less chances of employment as compared to educated people in the society (Mean Score 3.84). Superstitions are commonly prevailing in uneducated people of backward and less developed areas (Mean Score 3.48). Honor killing frequently occurs in such less developed and low literacy areas (Mean Score 2.65). There is much difference in the SES of educated and uneducated people in the society (Mean Score 3.58). Women should be given freedom for study and job (Mean Score 4.03). Social evils like drugs robbery smuggling unemployment are the result of lack of education in the society (Mean Score 2.43). You are aware of your duties regarding the welfare of the society (Mean Score 3.15). Your family is

aware about health precautions (Mean Score 2.5). You advise your children about the cleanliness of surroundings (Mean Score 2.76). You visit the nearest the hospitals very soon when you fell ill (Mean Score 3.22). Some diseases occur due to ghosts (Mean Score 2.17). You visit peers whenever you are ill and get charms (Mean Score 2.37) Charms can be helpful to cure the disease (Mean Score 2.37). You are well aware of seasonal disease (Mean Score 2.63). Your local elected representatives (MPAs and MNAs) visit your areas to provide you basic health facilities (Mean Score 2.69). You elect your representatives (MPAs and MNAs) without any external pressure (Mean Score 2.52). You show responsibilities when vaccination team visits your area (Mean Score 3.3). It is easy for uneducated people to get a job with handsome salary package (Mean Score 2.61). You earn your livelihood in an easy way (Mean Score 3.17). Tax should be paid according to income (Mean Score 2.37). Girls should be allowed to study in the schools and colleges (Mean Score 3.89). You can easily fulfill the basic needs of your family (Mean Score 3.17). Your income is higher than your expenses (Mean Score 2.19). You can easily avail the loan facilities from the banks (Mean Score 2.42). Your children are the victims of child labor (Mean Score 2.76). Your female family members (Sisters, wife mother daughters) work in fields to support their families (Mean Score 3.55). Dowry (jaheez) is a good custom and it should be given to daughters (Mean Score 2.5).

7.CONCLUSIONS:

From this research study it is concluded that there is much difference in SES of educated and uneducated people in these backward areas. Crimes have been reported in small numbers in this area. Some families are against the female education and they are of the view that girls should not be job holder. People from these areas have less sense of disease precautions. They prefer charms instead of medicines and they visit peers instead of doctors. They are unable to support their

families as their income is less than their expenses. Child labor is also there. Dowry is also a custom in these areas.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Government should provide jobs to educated people. In this way, there will be motivation among the uneducated people to get education. Because uneducated people think they literate people are unemployed so why they spend money and time on education and there are low literacy rates in such areas.
- The findings of this study show that there are many superstitions in the life of uneducated people. So in order to remove these superstitions they should be educated.
- Government should legislate on the honor killing. There is flexibility in law due to which the honor killing in less educated areas are prevailing.
- Awareness should be created about the social evils.
- Government should provide health facilities to such less developed areas.
- People should be educated that they should visit nearest public hospitals when they fell ill instead of visiting peers.
- Government should set up new schools in the backward areas so that people may get education. Separate schools for girls should be opened.
- Adult literacy centers should be opened to educate the parents.
- Government should give scholarships to the students so that they may be motivated. Parents should be arrested if they don't send their daughters to schools.
- Health cards should be given to poor people of less developed areas so that they may avail health facilities in private hospitals.
- Media should play its role to educate people about the importance of literacy.

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CONTRIBUTION OF AUTHORS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This research work was carried between collaboration of two authors.

Author 1: Farzana Kausar is an M.Phil scholar at Department of Education, Institute of Southern Punjab. She designed the study, collected and analyzed data. She also wrote first draft of the manuscript under the supervision of author 2.

Author 2: Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Awan has his first Ph.Ds in Economics from Islamia University of Bahawalpur-Pakistan and second in Business Administration from University of Sunderland, U.K. He contributed in this research paper by way of guiding author first about title selection, data collection and statistical technique. He edited and gave final shape to the manuscript. In order to know about his fields of research please look at his Web of Science Researcher ID [M-9196 2015 or his profile at Google scholar.](#)

Both authors read the manuscript carefully and declared no conflict of interest with any person or institution
