



## SELF CONCEPT OF EDUCATED WORKING WOMEN IN VARIOUS PROFESSIONS – A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

*Self concept is defined as a value that an individual places on his or her own characteristics, qualities, abilities and actions. Self concept is not innate but developed and constructed by the individual through interaction with the environment and reflecting on that interaction. The purpose of the study to measure the self concept of educated working women in various professions of Vidarbha Region. The sample of 435 educated working women selected randomly from Medical, Engineering Colleges and from district session courts of Vidarbha region. Data collected by descriptive survey method. Self concept questionnaire developed by Dr. V.K. Mittal was used for data collection. Mean S.D. and 't' value was used to analyse the data. The study concluded that most of the educated working women have satisfactory and low level of self concept. Educated working women were much similar in respect of their self concept.*

**KEYWORDS:** characteristics, qualities, abilities and actions.

### INTRODUCTION:

Self concept is generally refers to our perception of ourselves, how we see our abilities, attitudes, attributes, beliefs and expectations (Harter 2006, Pajaras and Schunk 2001) we could consider self concept to be our mental picture of who we are. Accordingly to Saul McLeod (2008) 'The term self concept is a general term used to refer to how someone thinks, evaluates or perceives themselves. To be aware of oneself is to have a concept of oneself.' Resenberg defines the self concept broadly as the 'totality of an individual's thoughts and feelings having reference to himself as an object.'

Self concept is the set of characteristics that the person views as being part of himself or herself. The self concept provides us our identity. It provides the sense of who we are. The self concept is actually a cluster of selves, everyone has multiple selves for instance, self concept regarding beauty, regarding physique, regarding intelligence, regarding morality etc. In short, what we feel about our self regarding different attributes is our organized self concept.

One's self concept is a collection of beliefs about oneself that includes elements such as academic performance, gender identity, sexual identity and racial identity. Generally self concept embodies the answer to who am I ? One's self concept is made up of self schemas and their past, present and future selves. It also made up of interacts. With self esteem, self knowledge and social self to form self as whole. The perception people have about their past or future selves is related to the perception of their current selves.

Self concept generally refers to the totality of a complex, organized and dynamic system of learned beliefs, attitudes and opinions that each person holds to be true about his or her personal existence. Franker states that the self concept is the basis for all motivated behavior. Self concept is not innate but it is developed by the individual through interaction with the environment and reflections of it. This aspect

indicates that self concept can be modified or changed. Women are more serious towards their career as compared to man. Educated women can easily contribute to society as well as home if they are well qualified. Women are more focused and have a unique decision making power even at senior leadership level, in the most optimal manner and at times are in a better position than man.

An educated women can manage her home more efficiently. She can look after the work of the servants. She can maintain accounts, prepares the family budget in a balanced way and keeps her kitchen in hygienic condition. She can manage the household very effectively. An educated woman proves a source of great comfort to her family.

An educated woman with the awareness of her role as citizen can play a more dynamic role in addressing the economic challenges faced by her country in the areas of agricultural production, food self sufficiency, the fight against environmental degradation, the use and conservation of water and energy. An educated women with increased earning potential is more likely to give back to the community than her male counterparts. Data released by pay scale reveals that many female dominated careers report high rates of 'Job meaning' claiming career satisfaction was more important than salary.

Educated women are an imperative in any society but the benefits to the developing world are overwhelming. Educated women contribute to the quality, size and productivity of the workforce. They can get better paying jobs, allowing them to provide daily necessities, health care and education to support the family. The ripple effect created by educating woman is unquestionable and absolutely necessary for the future of any society.

Children with educated mothers are more likely to attend school and pursue higher levels of education than their peers with uneducated mother. Educated women provide a better starting point for the next generation. Research has found that educated women are less likely to support terrorism and militancy than men of same education level. An educated woman is better equipped to increase family income and resolve family problems satisfactorily. Her family's wellbeing thus gets a big boost.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Though a great variety of studies have been designed and carried out almost all the related variables of self concept, a major portion of research is devoted to the self concept of students and comparatively less attention has been to the study of self concepts of educated women working in various professions.

Naushaba Atta Ch and Mohammad Jamil Bajwa (2011) in their study on 'the impact of education of self concept of adults' concluded that as the level of education increases the self concept of adults also increases and self concept is directly proportional to their qualification.

Bhende R.G. (2005) in his study titled as an 'Analytical Study of values, self concept, creativity and anxiety of students' concluded that Female students have more physical and moral self concept but low intellectual self concept than male students.

Khatoon Parveen (1996) carried out – 'A study of self concept and alienation in college girls in relation to education and religion' and observed that self concept of college going girls was higher than the uneducated girls in the both sample of Hindu and Muslim religion.

Sadar Jyoti (2002) in her study titled as 'A comparative study of self concept, value concept, aspiration level and achievement motivation level of adolescent students' concluded that girls have more moral self concept than boys. Boys and girls have equal social self concept and intellectual self concept.

Khatri P.P. (1973) concluded that there was no significant difference between the self concept of primary, secondary and college teachers. Gayatri Vibhinn (1980) in her research titled as self concept of women in different occupations concluded that working women have high level of self concept than housewives.

Dastoor H. F. (1982) in his study 'self concept of nurses in Gujrat State' concluded that 70% nurses have high level of self concept and 30 % nurses have low level of self concept. Rai G. (1983) Carried out 'A study of self concept of the prospective teachers' and concluded that prospective teachers have positive self concept. Jain, Jayanti R. (1990) observed that there was a positive relation between the high level of self

concept and girls with high academic goals. Banui, Kuotsu (1992) concluded that, the self concept of college students were significantly correlated with social and democratic values. Kaur, Sharanjeet (1992) concluded that self concept was predictor of career maturity for girls.

It is easy to infer from the above cited research findings that most of them focus on students self concept. In the light of these findings it is needed to study the self concept of educated working women in various professions of Vidarbha Region.

### OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To study the self concept level of educated working women in various profession.
- ❖ To compare the self concept of educated working women in various profession.

### HYPOTHESES

- ❖ There is excellent level of self concept of educated women working in various professions.
- ❖ There is no significant difference between the self concept of educated working women Engineers and educated working women doctors.
- ❖ There is no significant difference between the self concept of educated working women doctors and working women advocates.
- ❖ There is no significant difference between the self concept of educated working women advocates and working women Engineers.

### Method

The present study is based on survey method particularly descriptive survey research.

### Sample

The researcher selected 145 women doctors, 145 women Engineers working in various Medical and Engineering Colleges and 145 women Advocates working in various District & Sessions Courts of Vidarbha Region by using random sampling technique.

### Tool

Self concept questionnaire developed by Dr. V.K. Mittal was used to measure the self concept of educated working women Doctors, Engineers and Advocates of Vidarbha Region. The Questionnaire contained 100 questions which were divided in 11 factors of self concept. The reliability of questionnaire by split half method was .94 and by test retest method was .86.

### Statistical Techniques

Both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed for analysis of data. The descriptive statistics such as Mean and S.D. were used.

Inferential statistics such as 't' test was employed, 't' value was calculated to know the significant difference between self concept of educated women Doctors, women Engineers and women Advocates working in Vidarbha Region.

### Analysis of Data

#### Testing of Ho<sub>1</sub>

There is excellent level of self concept of educated women working in various professions.

**Table 1 : Showing the level of self concept of educated working women.**

Sr. No.	Level	Women Doctor	Women Advocates	Women Engineers
1	Excellent	09	08	11
		6.20	5.52	7.58
	Good	10	19	20
		6.90	13.10	13.80
	Satisfactory	48	65	57
		33.10	44.83	39.31
	Low	76	47	53
		52.40	32.41	36.55
	Very Low	02	06	04
		1.40	4.14	2.76

From the table 1 it is observed that most of the educated women advocates and women Engineers have satisfactory level of self concept and low level of self concept. Most of the women doctors have low level of self concept. Hence  $H_{01}$  is rejected.

It is concluded that most of the educated working women have satisfactory and low level of self concept.

**Testing of  $H_{02}$**

**Table 2 : Showing the significance of difference between self concept of educated working women Engineers & women Doctors.**

Sample Women	Number	Mean	S.D.	't' value	Level of significance
Engineer	145	245.06	16.12	.47	0.05
Doctor	145	244.13	17.66		Not Significant

Table 2 shows that at 288 df. 0.05 level of significance the calculated 't' value is .47 which is less than the table value 1.96.

Therefore it is inferred that there is no significant difference between the self concept of educated working women Engineer and women Doctors. Hence  $H_{02}$  is accepted.

It is concluded that educated working women engineers and women doctors are much similar in respect of their self concept.

**Testing of  $H_{03}$**

**Table 3 : Showing the significance of difference between the self concept of educated working women doctors and women advocates.**

Sample Women	Number	Mean	S.D.	't' value	Level of significance
Doctor	145	244.13	17.66	.69	0.05
Advocate	145	245.48	15.74		Not Significant

Table 3 shows that at 288 df 0.05 level of significance the calculated 't' value is .69 which is less than the table value 1.96.

Therefore, it is inferred that there is no significant difference between the self concept of educated working women Doctors and women Advocates. Hence  $H_{03}$  is accepted.

It is concluded that educated working women doctors and women advocates are much similar in respect of their self concept.

**Testing of Ho<sub>4</sub>****Table 5 : Showing the significance of difference between the self concept of educated working women Advocates and women Engineers.**

Sample Women	Number	Mean	S.D.	't' value	Level of significance
Advocate	145	245.48	15.74	.23	0.05
Engineer	145	245.06	16.12		Not Significant

Table 4 shows that at 288 df 0.05 level of significance the calculated 't' value is .23 which is less than the table value 1.96.

Therefore it is inferred that there is no significant difference between the self concept of educated working women advocate and women Engineer. Hence Ho<sub>4</sub> is accepted.

It is concluded that educated working women advocate and women Engineer are much similar in respect of their self concept. .

**CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION**

- Most of the educated working women have satisfactory and low level of self concept. Educated working women Engineers and women Doctors and women Advocates are much similar in respect of their self concept.

Above conclusion is much similar with the findings of Gayatri, Vibhinn (1980) who in her research concluded that there was no significant difference between the self concept of highly educated working women Engineer and women advocate, women Engineer and doctor, women advocate and women doctor and women advocate and women college teacher.

**SUGGESTIONS**

- 1] Encourage women and make them feel special and strong, Encourage them to speak up and make sure they know the value of their opinion, Celebrate their self expression.
- 2] Encourage her to be her authentic self.
- 3] Lift women up by taking a stance against negative comments.
- 4] Women must work together to empower on another in the work place.
- 5] Admire strong women, empower women with kindness and encourage them to make their aspirations a reality.

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