

GENERAL AWARENESS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS AMONG POST GRADUATE FEMALE STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT STREAMS- A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT :

The present study aimed to know the General awareness of women's rights among post graduate female students of different streams. The data were collected from 150 Female from Science, Commerce and Arts of the Dayalbagh University, Dayalbagh. Agra, UP. awareness of women's rights was measured by self-made awareness test. Data were treated by Mean, SD and t-test. The findings of study reveal that the Among the postgraduates of various streams, female students of Science stream had high general awareness of women rights. Awareness in women is not satisfactory. Reason behind it could be that students only learn the facts they don't utilize it in real life. Other important findings are also discussed.

KEYWORDS: Women's rights and post graduate female students

INTRODUCTION

As we cannot assume life without a heart similarly, we cannot think a societal improvement without the participation of women. When we refer to smritis, we notice that women were equal to men. Metrai did sastrarth (debate) on Brahm. However, in olden times we found that-
"Yatra naaryastu poojyante ramnte tatra devta."

It means that where women are respected there God resides. After Vedic period condition of women became worst. Although changes in our society are taking place but still it is not satisfactory. Only in theory they are respectable but in practice, still a lot of women are the subjects of cruelty, ill treatment and all sorts of misbehavior. Many different types of rights are described in the Constitution. Rights given in Indian constitution are as follows-The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. India has also ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. The main thing among them is the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1993.

The Department of Women & Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development has prepared a "National Policy for the Empowerment of Women" in the year 2001. The goal of this policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women.

Rajiv Gandhi said that we cannot strengthen the roots of democracy if we do not take cooperation from women; he felt that status of women in society is a yardstick of nation's advancement. So, he supported for women reservation in Panchayat, Assemblies and parliament also. Women constitute a majority of world population but there is still no society in which the women enjoy full equality with men.

Education is an only way through which women can become aware of women rights. As it is recommended by *National Policy on Education* "Education is one of the means to promote women empowerment which is a landmark in the approach to women's education of illiterate.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR WOMEN

ARTICLES	PROVISIONS
Article 14	The state shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of laws within the territory of India.
Article 15(1)	The state shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, sex, caste, place of birth or any of them.
Article 15(2)	No citizen shall, on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subjected to any disability, liability restriction or condition about: - i. Access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment; or ii. The use of wells, tanks bathing Ghats, roads and places of public of resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of general public.
Article 16(2)	No citizen shall, on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the state. No citizen shall, on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the state.
Article 16(3)	Enables the state to make provisions for women. This obviously intends to meet their special needs on account of their peculiar characteristics as women, such as the need for maternity leave before or after childbirth etc. The Court while interpreting any law should keep in mind that women constitute a weaker section of the society and this is true of any society.

1.1 EMERGENCE AND JUSTIFICATION OF STUDY

As Vivekanand had said “That country and that nation that do not respect women have never become great, nor even be in future” Women are considered as weaker gender not only from physical point of view but also from sociological aspect also. We should not forget that the legal languages use the term “**he**” which also includes “**she**” which reflects the importance in real life. The status of women in different human societies of the world is not different. In all most all the present end contemporary societies it is discriminatory.

Shahnaj parveen (2007) concluded her research *General Awareness of Rural Women in Bangladesh* with these words “The study indicates that the majority of the rural women, are not aware of general rights.”

Many studies have been done for women rights in India like Brown Jennifer’s study (2002): Women’s Land Rights in West Bengal: A Field Study. Survana sheela’ study (2002)- Violence against women in India. Rustagi Preet’s study (2002)- Identifying Gender Backward Districts using selected Indicators. Das Jogesh’s study (2006) Women’s Human Rights in North- East India. Thakare Surendra sukhram I (2006) Crime against women : An Indian scenario. Ramesh Asha (2007) Facilitating the Fulfilment of State Obligations Towards Women’s Equality. National Commission for Women, Govt. of India (2008). Manavar b. twinkle’s study (2009) The feminist approach and the fictional world of Nayantra sahgal: A critical study. Some foreign studies have also been found like **Community Agency for Social Enquiry, (2000)** Assessing knowledge of human rights among the general population and selected target groups. Tangata komibana’s study (2002) General awareness of universal human rights. Paul Chaney’s study (2003): Women and Constitutional Change in Wales. Gemma Carney’ study (2004) From Women’s Rights to Gender Mainstreaming: An Examination of International Gender Norms in the Republic of Ireland. Parveen Shahnaj’s study (2004) Gender Awareness of Rural Women in Bangladesh. Nkealah Naomi’s study (2006): The question of women;s

human rights in North Africa. Dr. Arabi Bilal's study (2006) The Women's Rights and Family Violence in Syria. Devlet yelda's study (2006) UNDP'S APPROACH TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS: THE CASE OF TURKEY. Talei Rafiah al's study (2009) Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa. Ali Edalati's study (2012): Investigating the Employed Married Women's Awareness Level of Marriage Rights: Case Study-Neiriz, Iran. Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (Sep. 2013) Women's Rights, Gender Equality, and Transition: Securing gains, moving forward. Stedman Brooke (2013) The Leap from Theory to Practice: Snapshot of Women's Rights Through a Legal Lens (Awareness campaign) Now-a-days lots of cases regarding harassment of women are increasing. It is a burning issue. After listening these types of cases women also feel insecure and fearful. The question which comes in our mind are- Are they safe in colleges? on the road? Are they safe in the buses? Even if they want to go out of the city for any competition they think twice, parents also do not give them permission due to security reason. Researcher also saw one incident in slum area. Researcher want to know that how many women have awareness of women rights which are given in constitution and society. Half of the women endure oppression and deprivation in their own family, community or in the society. Is it because women do not have awareness of rights or Is there any other reason? The beauty and charm of women are described in poems and songs also, but the suffering women hardly comes out in the literature. According to Thomas Reatures, "India is the fourth most dangerous country for women and the worst country for women among the G20 countries."

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Following objectives have been taken into consideration for the study-

1. To compare the level of general awareness of women rights among post graduate students of Science and Arts.
2. To compare the level of general awareness of women rights among post graduate students of Arts and commerce.
3. To compare the level of women of general awareness of women rights among post graduate students of Commerce and Science.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

Following Hypotheses has been framed in the light of objectives of the study-

1. There will be no significant difference in the level of general awareness about women rights between post graduate female students of Arts and Commerce.
2. There will be no significant difference in the level of general awareness about women rights between post graduate female students of Commerce and Science.
3. There will be no significant difference in the level of general awareness about women rights between post graduate female students of Science and Arts.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The Design of the study can be stated under the following heads:

4.1 METHOD OF THE STUDY

To obtain precise information, concerning the present study of Awareness of women rights Descriptive survey method has been used so that valid and general conclusions from the facts can be observed.

4.2 POPULATION

A population refers to any collection of specified group or of non human entities such as objects, educational institution, time units, geographical areas or individuals. Population of the present study had consisted female postgraduate students of arts, science and commerce streams

4.3 SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The Researcher has employed purposive simple random sampling method by choosing lottery method in the present study and 150 students have been selected from two colleges of Agra city. In this study sample has been divided to the students of three streams Arts, Commerce and Science. The units of the sample are shown in the following figure.

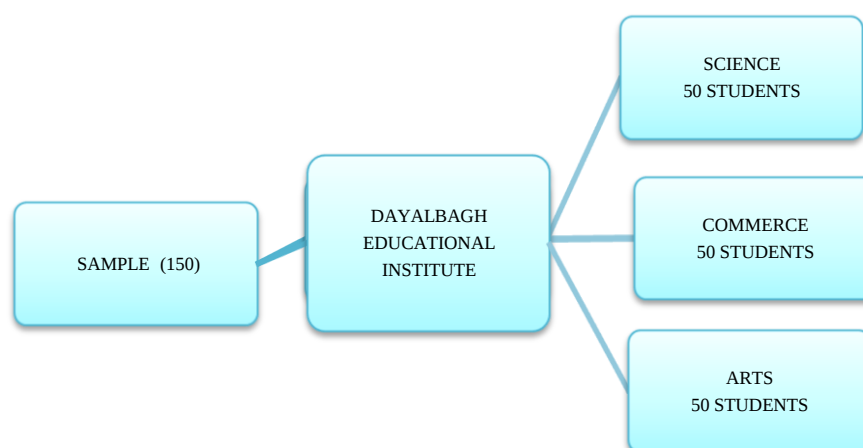


Figure: 1. Exhibiting Sample selection

4.4 TOOLS OF THE STUDY

To achieve the objectives of the present study, the researcher has employed a self-made questionnaire which is consisting of demographical information for identifying the awareness of the undergraduate female students.

4.5 STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

Mean, Standard deviation, skewness, kurtosis and t-test was used for study. To check split half reliability Pearson product moment was used.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The major aim of the present investigation is to study the general awareness among post graduate female students keeping in view the main objectives and the variables under study.

The investigation has analyzed the data under the following sections:

5.1 To study the level of general awareness of women rights among post graduate female science students.

5.2 To study the level of general awareness of women rights among post graduate female commerce students.

5.3 To study the level of general awareness of women rights among post graduate female Arts students.

5.4 To compare the level of general awareness of women rights among post graduate female Students of various streams. (Science, commerce and arts stream).

5.1.0 Findings related to Study of the Awareness of women rights of science group

To know the nature of distribution of obtained scores for Science group, the mean, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis of the scores of women rights were computed, and result was further checked by smooth frequency curve.

Table 1. Exhibiting descriptive statistics for the distribution of scores of Science Stream

Variable	N	Mean	S. D.	Skewness	Kurtosis
Women Rights	150	56.26	10.36	-0.095	1.02

The table 1 shows that the mean value of scores of Women Rights is found 56.26. The standard deviation of score is found to 10.36. The score of Women Rights in Science group is found to be negatively skewed and leptokurtic in nature.

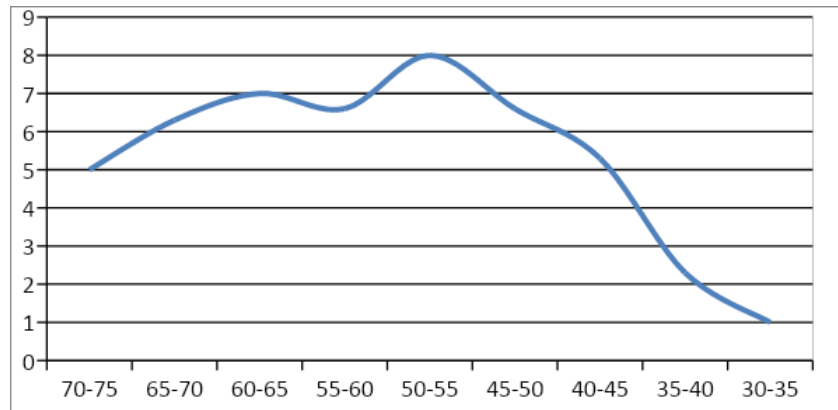


Fig. 2 Graphical representation of distribution of science students

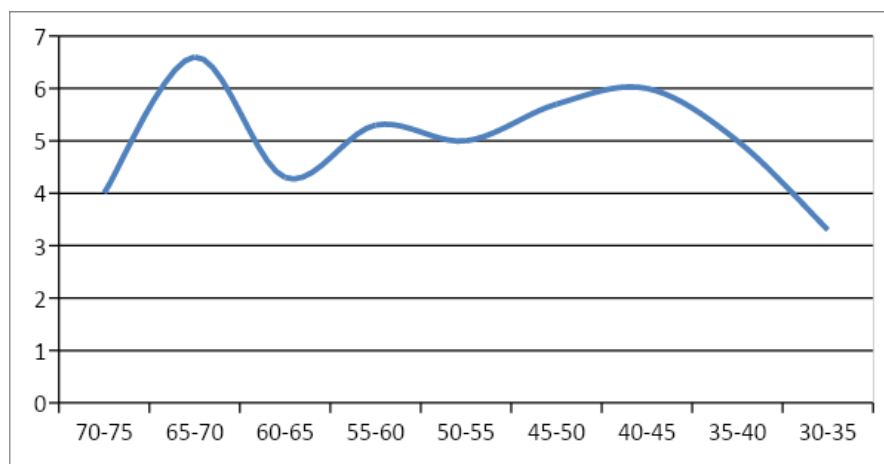
5.2.0 Findings related to Study of the Awareness of women rights of commerce group

To know the nature of distribution of obtained scores for Commerce group, the mean, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis of the scores of women rights were computed, and result was further checked by smooth frequency curve.

Table 2. descriptive statistics for the distribution of scores of Commerce stream

Variable	N	Mean	S. D.	Skewness	Kurtosis
Women Rights	150	53.84	13.46	0.036	1.29

The table 2. shows that the mean value of scores of Women Rights is found 53.84. The standard deviation of score is found to 13.46. The score of Women Rights in group is found to be positively skewed and leptokurtic in nature can be shown in the following fig. 3.



Graph 3. Graphical representation of distribution of commerce stream

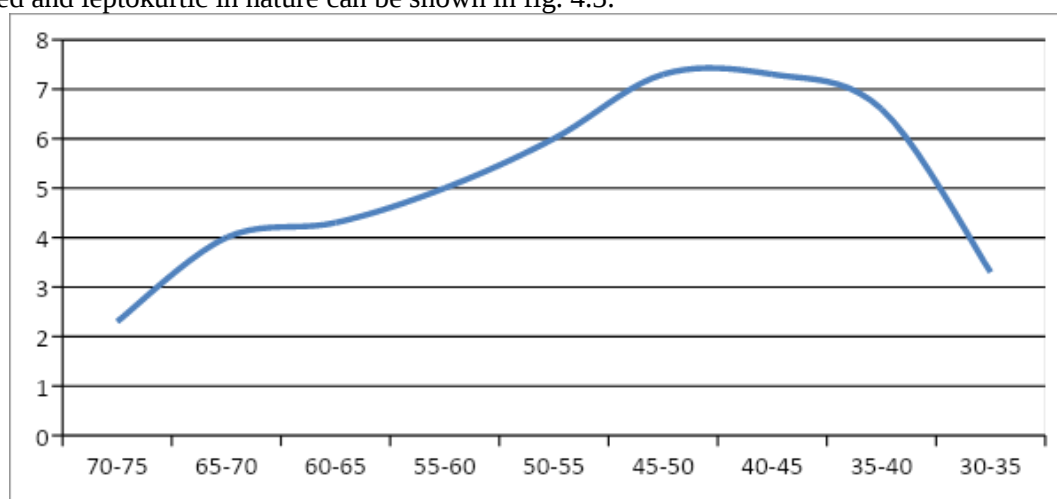
5.3.0 Findings related to Study of the Awareness of women rights of Arts group

To know the nature of distribution of obtained scores for Arts group, the frequency distribution, mean, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis of the scores of women rights were computed, and result was further checked by smooth frequency curve.

Table 3. Values of General Awareness of women rights of Arts stream

Variable	N	Mean	S.D	Skewness	Kurtosis
Women Rights	150	50.24	12.09	0.271	-0.90

The above table 3 shows that the mean value of scores of Women Rights is found 50.24. The standard deviation of score is found to 12.09. The score of Women Rights in group is found to be positively skewed and leptokurtic in nature can be shown in fig. 4.3.



Graph 4 graphical representation of distribution of Arts stream

5.4.0 To study the general awareness of women rights among post graduate female students of science, commerce and arts stream.

In order to study and compare the awareness of women rights among the various streams, the mean, SD and CR has been computed. There are three streams in the research Arts, Science, and Commerce which are compared with one another to know which stream is higher or lower in women rights awareness.

For this the researcher has made combination of these streams as:

1. Awareness of women rights between post graduate female students of Science and Commerce Stream.
 2. Awareness of women rights between post graduate female students of Commerce and Arts Stream.
- 5.4.3. Awareness of women rights between post graduate female students of Arts and Science Stream.

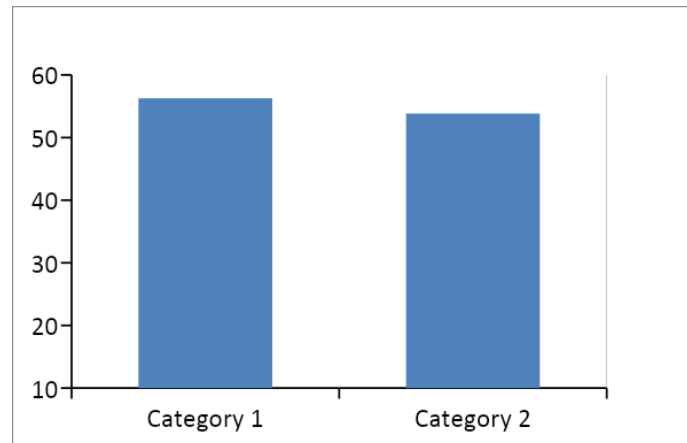
5.4.1 Women rights awareness between science and commerce of post graduate female students

Table 4. Statistical values of general awareness scores between science and Commerce stream

GROUP	N	Mean	SD	C-Ratio	Level of significance
SCIENCE	50	56.6	10.86	0.99	P<0.05
COMMERCE	50	53.84	13.46		

GENERAL AWARENESS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS AMONG POST GRADUATE FEMALE....

The above table 4 shows that the mean value of Women Rights scores obtained by post graduate female students of Science and Commerce are 56.6 and 53.84 respectively, which depict that the girls of Commerce have lower mean value and subsequently indicate low Women Awareness. The Standard deviations of two groups are 10.86 and 13.46. Commerce group is more heterogeneous in terms of Women Awareness than the Science stream. Calculated CR- value for two streams is 0.99. The CR value for Women Awareness in girls of Commerce is less than the table value i.e. 1.98 at 0.01 and 2.63 at 0.05 significant levels, hence it is concluded that there is no significant difference in the girls of Science and Commerce female students as in the following figure 5-



Graph 5. Showing the Comparison between Awareness of Arts and Science streams

5.4.2 Women rights awareness between post graduate female students of commerce and arts stream

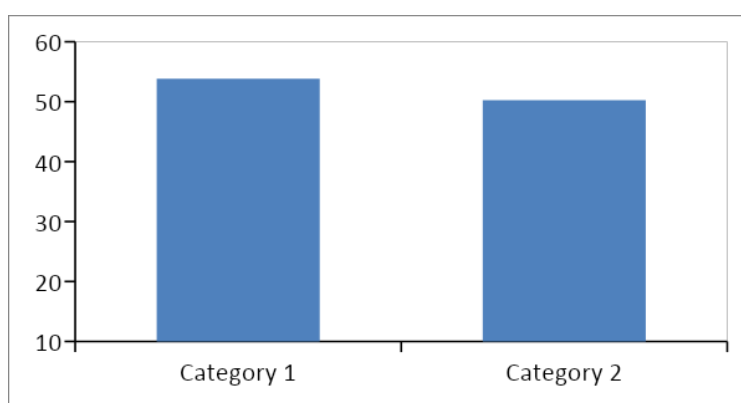
The following results were obtained from the data collection to know the difference between commerce and arts female students towards the Women rights awareness.

Table 5. Statistical values of women rights awareness scores between commerce and Arts stream students.

Group	N	Mean	SD	C-Ratio	Level of significance
Commerce	50	53.84	13.46	1.41	P<0.05
Arts	50	50.24	12.09		

The above table shows that the mean value of Women Rights scores obtained by post graduate female students of Commerce and Arts are 53.84 and 50.24 respectively, which depict that the girls of Science have lower mean value and subsequently indicate low Women Awareness.

The Standard deviations of two groups are 13.46 and 12.09. Arts group is more heterogeneous in terms of Women Awareness than the Commerce stream. Calculated CR- value for two streams is 1.41. The CR value for Women Awareness in girls of Arts is less than the table value i.e. 2.63 at 0.01 and 1.98 at 0.05 significant levels, hence it is concluded that there is no significant difference in the girls of Commerce and Arts female students as in figure given below.



Graph 6: Showing the Comparison between awareness of Commerce and Arts stream

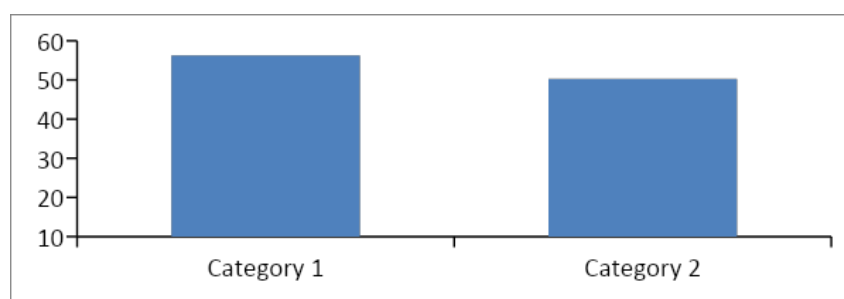
Women rights awareness between post graduate female students of arts and science students

The following results were obtained from the data collection, to know the difference between Commerce and Arts stream towards the Women rights awareness.

Table 6. Statistical values of women rights awareness scores between Arts and Science stream students

GROUP	N	MEAN	SD	C-RATIO	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Arts	50	50.24	12.09	2.62	P<0.05
SCIENCE	50	56.26	10.86		

The above table 6 shows that the mean value of Women Rights scores obtained by post graduate female students of Arts and Science are 50.24 and 56.26 respectively, which depict that the girls of Arts have lower mean value and subsequently indicate low Women Awareness. The Standard deviations of two groups are 13.56 and 11.22. Arts group is more heterogeneous in terms of Women Awareness than the Science stream. Calculated CR- value for two streams is. The CR value for Women Awareness in girls of Arts is less than the table value i.e. 2.63 at 0.01 and 1.98 at 0.05 significant levels, hence it is concluded that there is significant difference in the girls of Science and Arts female students as in figure given below.



Graph 7: Showing the Comparison between the Postgraduate Awareness of Arts and Science stream

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1 Findings related to Objective: “To study the level of Women Awareness of Science stream female students”

The mean value of Women Awareness scores of science stream was found 56.26 showing average level of Awareness of Women Rights. The score of Women Rights in Science group is found to be negatively skewed and leptokurtic in nature.

2 Findings related to Objective: “To study the level of Women Awareness of Commerce stream female students”

The mean value of Women Awareness scores of commerce stream was found 53.28 showing average level of Awareness. The score of Women Rights in Science group is found to be positively skewed and leptokurtic in nature.

3 Findings related to Objective: “To study the level of Women Awareness of Arts stream female students”

The mean value of Women Awareness scores of commerce stream was found 50.24 showing average level of Awareness. The score of Women Rights in Science group is found to be positively skewed and leptokurtic in nature.

4 Findings related to Objective: Comparison of general awareness among postgraduate female students of science, commerce and arts stream.

1. Among the postgraduates of various streams, female students of Science stream had high general awareness of women rights.
2. Awareness of Commerce stream was higher than Arts stream and lower than Science stream.
3. Arts stream had lower level of awareness than Science and commerce both the streams.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing findings of the study, it can be concluded that although general awareness of women rights among female students is increasing but still it is not satisfactory.

Awareness in women is not satisfactory. Reason behind it could be that students only learn the facts they don't utilize it in real life. Students learn rights for the sake of exams but don't regulate it. Yadav, Vinita's (2013) study found that general awareness of women rights among girl students studying in different professional courses is lesser than expected level. Thus, it can be said that awareness should be increased in female students. Knowledge of women rights is very important for them, so that they can live safe life, which is their most important right.

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