

CHALLENGES FACED BY LADY PRINCIPALS IN SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

While there are Opinions for more women liberation women play a key role in numerous fields. They hold executive positions in many institutions. They administrate their posts in a very excellent manner. This is found in Tamils populated areas too. There are many lady principals in Sri Lanka schools. It is so in Jaffna schools too. Many factors influence them while they carry out their duties as principals. Most of these challenging are gender based. There are no differences between male and female principals in administration regulation and financial regulation. (money / salary, legal or administrative matters). Even though they we can observe them facing many challenges. This study is based on schools in the Jaffna district. There are about seventy lady principals in five educational zones in Jaffna district. Comparatively there challenges are more than male principals in school management. Hence, there is a need for a study of challenges faced by lady principals. This study may lead to identify the barriers, and find suitable approaches or techniques to overcome and put forward due suggestions. This survey is done among a limited number of lady principals numbering sixty three. Data for this survey is collected by questionnaire, interviews and observations and analyzed on qualitative finding. Data is tabulated, graphed from the statistics collected and interpreted.

Keywords: Lady Principals, Managing Schools, Challenges

INTRODUCTION

It is clear that women play a vital role in social development at present. Women work equally with men. They work in sectors like Education, medicine, Engineering, Defense, Administration etc. They also show good performances. Everyone knows their achievements in private sectors too.

At this instance many ladies are being selected to principal posts on their passing the competitive examinations. More than seventy female principals work in five zonal education offices of Jaffna district.

The lady principals who are in charge of schools perform their duties like planning, systematizing, decision making, encouraging, organizing controlling evaluating etc as they are responsible for managing their schools. They need to know their students.

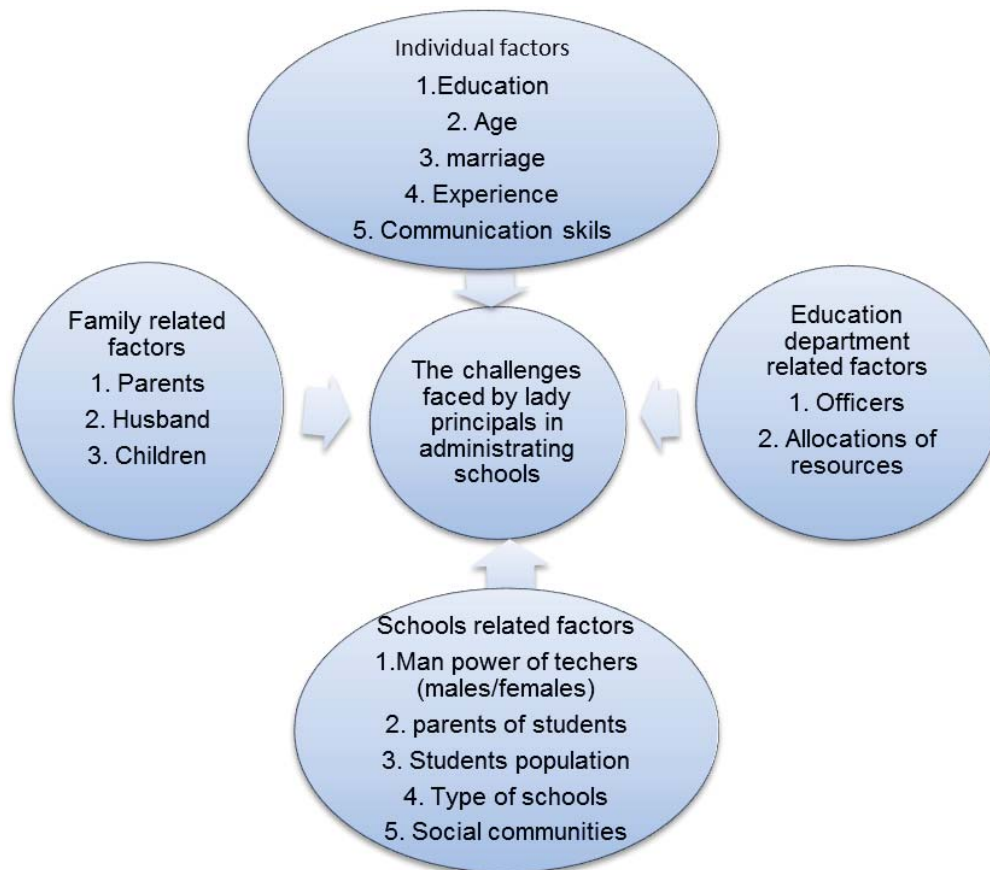
These are really very difficult tasks and pare way challenges. There may be hue and cry for women liberation but still we see symptoms of women suppression. It is undeniable, that there are still barriers for women's activities among traditional Tamil societies. Women are not given equal status in the society and it is acceptable beyond doubt. Women principals face many difficulties in their school society and administration as well as in families. These difficulties arise out of gender. These factors are really challenges to women principals in school management.

Hence, identifying their challenges, and their causes and suggesting possible ways to overcome such matters will be an apt. In this way this survey "on the barriers to lady principals in administrating their school", has become the topic for research.

METHODOLOGY

This is a survey research. This sort of survey is usually done find out the factors related with problems, and the relationships of them. This method of survey was chosen as it suits to survey the challenges faced by women principals. The information collected is made into date, and observed in a quality based manner. The collected information are analyzed with the help of computers and illustrated using graphs, and tables.

Concept Diagram



Sampling

In the Jaffna district, there are five zonal Education offices namely, Jaffna, Valikamam, Vadamaradchy. Then maradchy and the Islands. There are altogether 240 schools. Out of these, there are women principals in 73 schools. They are all with principal grades. In this survey, 63 lady principals come under this survey of "stratified Random sampling" (Krejecie and Morgan, 1970.)

Tools of Data Collection

- Questionnaire – For female principals
- Interview – partly
- Observation sheet

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This is an important part of the study. The result obtained by analyzing the data collected and what they are become important of this survey.

From the sample data collected from female principals the challenges faced by them are brought out. These challenges cause bad effects in gender wise. There fore it is deemed that the women principals have barriers in carrying out their duties efficiently.

There are still constraints to women in Jaffna societies. They are expected to be confined under certain pressures beginning with parents and then with their husbands and ever by others. This is the same with the women principals to in their administration as principals.

Their want Educational knowledge, marital status, communication skills, age, experience all influence their duties.

In their families, the systems of nuclear or expended family matters, professions of husbands, cooperation of husband's number of children, and age, responsibilities in the families all have impacts.

Under the matters related with school, the gender, of teachers, academic and professional Qualifications of teachers their support, patters of school societies and committers, students population and gender, have effect.

Apart from these, mentality of officers of education offices, quota of resources to schools to make remarkable challenges in administrating their schools.

CONCLUSION

Lady principals have many challenges in school management. The prominent parts in these are taken gender wise. The fundamental causes to all these are being social patterns and systems in Tamil culture. The challenges are individual, family, school department and society based. These challenges affect not only the lady principals but also whole schooling population and their performances. Hence, it is prominent duty of the societies to identify and overcome these challenges, and find suitable approaches to pave way of smooth administration of women principals.

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