

Gender Inequalities Within The Family and Education

Mostafa Salem Gaafar, *General Supervisor of Statistical Sector*
Ferial Abd El-Kader Ahmed, *Supervisor of Population Studies and Research Center*
Ghada Mostafa Abd-Alla and Amal Fouad Mohamed, *Expert at Population Studies and Research Center*

This study examines the role of gender within the family and in particular, the effect of education on gender roles, parental aspirations for their children (male and female) and spousal communication. The study examines parental educational levels and its consequences for the empowerment of women and child-rearing.

Highly educated husbands and wives have greater educational aspirations for both sons and daughters. However, there is evidence that even among educated couples, wives have greater educational aspirations for their daughters than their husbands. Education has an impact upon the empowerment of women. There is a greater tendency among educated women to indicate a desire to work than among illiterate and less educated women. Women's educational levels also have an impact upon the positive or negative perception of single women and the roles of men and women in society. However, the impact of education on the idea that working women cannot be good mothers is less clear. The level of a women's education increases the level of communication between the husband and the wife, which is an indicator of the level of female empowerment within the family. The level of female empowerment is more strongly influenced by the wife's education.

An increase in the educational level of both husband and wife will have a negative effect upon their attitudes towards the desired number of children. In addition, increased education for both spouses has a positive relationship towards the proportion of children that survive infancy. This study concludes with policy recommendations that focus upon the importance of education for economic development, for combating discrimination against women, increased economic opportunities for women and, in husband-wife communication relating to family planning decisions.