

The dual role of women in raising family social status through education: A perspective of Edward Wilson's nurture theory

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ABSTRACT

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Most women agree that their responsibilities and position within the family are crucial to what women do today. The purpose of this study is to identify the influence of education on the improvement of the social status of women and their families, as well as how education is a key factor in social mobility in Nurture theory. This study employs a qualitative method with 60 random participants to examine the impact of education on improving women's and their families' social status, as well as its role in social mobility based on Nurture theory. The findings reveal that education enhances social and economic status, provides better job opportunities, and serves as a role model for future generations. However, social and cultural barriers continue to limit women in balancing careers and family life. This study highlights the importance of expanding access to education and challenging gender stereotypes to support women's roles in society.

Keywords: dual role of women, family, social status, nurture theory

INTRODUCTION

One of the most life-changing forces today is the role women play in lifting their family's social standing through education. When women have the chance to go to college or pursue higher learning, it doesn't just change their lives it can change the lives of everyone around them. Governments have caught on to this, and programs aimed at helping women access education have made a huge difference. According to UNESCO, educated women tend to earn more, boost their household income, and even contribute up to 10% to a country's overall economic growth. But it's not just about money. In their communities, educated women especially those balancing work and family often become role models. They inspire other women to aim higher to keep learning and to get involved in their neighborhoods. They become living proof that education isn't just a personal achievement it's a tool for change. And that influence doesn't stop with them. Moms who've had access to education are more likely to encourage their kids to pursue school seriously, setting the stage for their children to climb the social ladder too.

On a more personal level, education gives women a stronger voice at home. They're more involved in decisions about things like family finances, healthcare, and their kids' education. Plus, they often bring a more open, democratic style to parenting, which helps their kids grow into confident, curious, and capable adults. And let's not forget women with higher education usually

have better job opportunities, which means they can provide their families with better healthcare, schooling, and an overall better quality of life. At the end of the day, when a woman gets an education, it's not just her life that changes it's her family's, her community's, and in many ways society's too.

Women's participation in this era is not only fighting for equal rights but also carrying out the mandate to continue development in their nation. The participation carried out by women involves two roles, namely the role in tradition and the role in transition. In the traditional role, women position themselves as children, as wives, as mothers, and as someone who takes care of household chores. In the transition role, women play a role in the process of community development, as career women, and participate in improving the economy. The involvement of women has spread widely in all aspects of life and certainly influences family life (Tyagi et al., 2021). The phenomenon that can be seen is the number of women who help their families to improve the social status of their families either through economics or education. Circumstances that force them to enter the job market. To achieve a job that can raise the family status, they must adjust to achieve a higher level of education. The majority of people agree that the role of women today is inseparable from their role and position in the family. In the past, women were only confined to a position as a companion to their partner and as a babysitter.

In contrast to today, women are more advanced, educated, and modern so that they can concurrently position as housewives or children and also participate in producing extraordinary works outside the home. In the past, the division of labor was still carried out by looking at the physical activity required. Men are responsible for providing for the family and women are responsible for taking care of the house. But if women are constantly at home and doing housework, they will not get their own money which functions as a power and indicator of social status. In cultural development, this concept is used to underlie customs that sometimes limit individual development. Women must stay at home, girls must yield to their brothers, women are forbidden to have higher education, women must receive low wages, women can work as long as they carry children, and women must be able to manage household affairs. All of these statements appear in society because society looks down on women. This injustice then gave birth to the perception that the purpose of being born women was to do lowly jobs and continue to be lowly creatures. How much work is done will only be considered lowly work. The ancient way of thinking of society assumes that the existence of women will always exist after men (Aziz, 2023).

Previous studies have focused more on structural aspects, such as policy and economics, in discussing the increasing role of women (Berik & Rodgers, 2009; Ewig, 2010; Busse & Spielmann, 2006; Cornia & Martorano, 2012; Rodríguez & Jayadev, 2018; Zahrawati et al, 2021). However, studies that integrate Edward Wilson's Nurture theory, which emphasizes the influence of the social environment in shaping individual behavior and potential, are still limited. This research has a high urgency in the social, economic, and educational context. The change in women's roles from traditional roles to more modern transitional roles shows that women not only play the role of caregivers and housekeepers but are also as active contributors to community development and the improvement of family social status. The purpose of this study is to identify the influence of education on the improvement of the social status of women and their families, as well as how education is a key factor in social mobility in Nurture theory.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs qualitative research methods to gain an in-depth understanding of the dual role of women in improving their family's social status through education. This method was chosen for its ability to explore participants' experiences, perspectives, and the contextual factors influencing their roles in detail. The research was conducted in Bojonegoro Regency and involved 60 purposively selected informants, comprising women who balance work and household responsibilities and possess at least a high school diploma or a bachelor's degree. Data collection was carried out using in-depth interviews to uncover the informants' personal experiences and participatory observation to observe their activities and social interactions in their natural settings. To ensure the reliability and accuracy of the findings, data triangulation was conducted by comparing information obtained from interviews, observations, and relevant literature. The analysis followed Miles and Huberman's (2014) interactive model, which includes data reduction, where raw data is simplified and categorized into key themes; data display, where the organized data is presented in narratives or visual formats for better interpretation; and conclusion drawing and verification, where the findings are interpreted and validated through iterative comparisons with the raw data and triangulated sources. This approach provides a comprehensive and credible examination of women's dual roles and their contributions to family social mobility.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Women's Dual Role and Women in Social Perspective

Women are associated with a term from various sides. This term is attached to the position of the media realm, namely injustice. Efforts to explain that women are always affiliated with the universe, therefore, conceptually, symbolically, and linguistically, there is a connection between feminism and ecological problems. The definition of women is always associated with physical and psychological problems. Physically, women are human beings with one of the sexes who are characterized by having reproductive organs in the form of ovaries, having eggs or ovaries, and having breasts that allow women to get pregnant, give birth, and breastfeed. Meanwhile, when viewed from a psychological perspective, women are defined as inherent feminine traits (Nurhayati, 2014). Women are the jewels of life. At every turn of his life, God always bestows beautiful gems that are captivating. The soul in a woman becomes a biographical cup for her life, her mother, and her children. Women are like the pillars of the state and someone who influences the development of world intelligence. Buddhism sees the figure of the mother as the gateway to human life. The instinct possessed by women must always be maintained so that it is always clean for the home of other souls. The pearls inherent in women's bodies must also be maintained so that the source of life is also maintained. Women always have dynamics, as if they are an inexhaustible source of inspiration. The spread of discussions that discuss issues in women is a norm when compared to problems that discuss men's issues. This tendency arises because women's lives are always considered unique and different, so they are always emphasized in all aspects of life. The struggle of women activists to achieve equality and justice has been carried out for a long time but has not been able to raise their dignity so that they can be equal to men.

During the interviews, all the resource persons were asked the question, "Are women very valuable?" and unanimously agreed with the statement. One of the participants explained, "Women are like diamonds. Even if they're scratched a little, their value will decrease, but they are still precious, and not everyone can have them". Another informant, who was a woman, added

with a smile, “Being a woman is something to be proud of. We have the freedom to express our emotions, whether we're crying, angry, or scared, without the same judgment that men face.” She went on to explain, “Society expects men to be strong, and they are often taught that showing emotions like fear or sadness is a sign of weakness. For us women, it's different; we are allowed to feel and express ourselves more openly”.

The existence of globalization makes the job market more complex and has an impact on the better status and employment opportunities for women. Although the participation rate of women in the workforce has increased dramatically, it is still found that many women work in the informal sector. This is certainly related to the dual role of women as a mother who is responsible for child and household affairs, as well as her role as a female worker (Soelistiyono & Chuan, 2023). The participation referred to here is not only fighting for equal rights but also voicing its function in the development of society in Indonesia. Women's participation includes the role of tradition as well as the role of transition. The role of tradition is the role of women as wives, mothers, children, and household managers. Meanwhile, the transitional role is the role of women as workers, members of society, and development agents. The tendency of women to become careerwomen sometimes has many implications, such as a decline in family ties, an increase in the number of juvenile delinquents, and so on. The number of women job seekers will increase in various parts of the world. The unfair treatment inflicted on women will give birth to the perception that women are born only to do a limited number of jobs with a lower employment status with the same low reward. Based on the census in 1971, the role of foreign workers in development has shown a gap in participation when compared to men. Women experience discrimination not only in the domestic sector but also in the public sector as well. Discrimination in the economic field can be observed from the difference in wages given to male and female workers. Female workers usually receive smaller wages or salaries than male workers. This gap is seen in several categories such as education level, working hours, business fields, and experience in the world of work. The lower a woman's education, the lower the salary she receives.

The low level of education will affect their position in the job and the amount of salary earned. The same thing also happens in this type of business, women who make economic efforts equal to men get lower incomes. The inequality between men and women in transitional roles is rooted in the sexual division of labor in society, namely the role of women who take care of the household and the role of men who earn a living. This sexual division of labor is detrimental to women, they seem to confine women to a subordinate position to men so that the ideals and hopes of building women as equal partners with men in all aspects will be difficult to realize. In a recent interview when asked, “What if women should play dual roles as mothers and workers?” the majority of the interviewees shared similar views. Most believed that there was nothing wrong with women juggling both roles. One of the respondents, a young man, explained, “I've seen my mother do it working and taking care of us. It's not easy, but it helps our family's finances. My father's salary alone was never enough to support the whole family”. Another interviewee, a woman, added, “I think working mothers are great. It's exhausting to work while being a mother, especially if you're working outside the home. But it's necessary for the well-being of the family”. Many participants agreed with this, acknowledging that working mothers help to ease the financial burden, especially in households with many children.

However, 13 of the interviewees expressed a different perspective, arguing that women should not have to play both roles. One respondent, a man, said, “Women should choose one role either be a mother or a worker. It's not the wife's job to earn a living”. Another woman shared

“When a woman gets married, she leaves everything to her husband. A wife should obey her husband and be skilled at managing the household and taking care of the children. If a woman works, she’s considered less attentive to her family”. These contrasting opinions highlighted a divide among the participants, reflecting traditional views on gender roles and the evolving expectations placed on women today.

Family as the Foundation of Individual Achievement and Character Development

In 1988 the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia defined the family as the smallest unit in the community. This unit is led by the head of the family and the members in it are several people who are greeted under one roof and the situation is interdependent with each other. This definition is also used in learning modules in schools. In general, a family is also defined as a group of people under one roof who have different roles. The father as the head of the family plays a role in fulfilling the family's livelihood, the mother plays a role in taking care of the integrity of the household and family members, and the child plays a role in helping the parents. It can be seen that the family is an inseparable unit. However, this definition was used in the past and does not describe the current condition of the family. The family is the smallest unit in society. Even though it is the smallest unit, the role of the family is very big for a cultured nation and state. Family is an indicator of a person's success, whether it is success in terms of economy, education, work, or others. The family is like the heart of society and the backbone that can support the community so that it will become a solid and strong society in the future (Wahid et al., 2019). To form the expected family, it is necessary to consider many things such as the quality of religion, economic conditions, educational conditions, and the ability of parents to meet all household needs. Relaxation that can damage the family life system in society has begun to appear. This relaxation can certainly damage the existing social order in society. The family should be able to be the basis for success in forming a civilized, good, ethical, and physically and spiritually healthy society.

The family plays an important role in the sustainability of education and the formation of children's behavior by societal values and norms. The role of parents is also very influential in family education because children aged 0 to 12 years still have to be guided and directed so that their personalities grow in balance. Family education plays a very active role in shaping and equipping children so that they are ready to develop in community life. In the family, education goes hand in hand with the basis of moral awareness between children and parents. As the closest environment, the family participates in the awareness, formation, and development of children's character. Through intensive communication and interaction, character education is formed that takes place in various ways. Parents can set an example such as reprimanding, asking questions, doing something, giving praise or input, and being a model for their children to follow the good deeds done. The function of the family socially is to create a safe, peaceful, happy and prosperous society that must be run by the smallest institution first such as the family. In addition to social functions, the family also has seven functions that are continuously related to the life of its successors, namely: 1.) biological function, 2.) affection function, 3.) socialization function, 4.) educational function, 5.) recreational function, 6.) religious function, 7.) protection function. These seven functions must be able to be carried out by the family in daily life.

In my recent interview, I asked the participants, “Does your family have a great influence on your achievements, and do they fully support what you do?” Many of the interviewees responded positively, explaining how their family's support played a significant role in their

success. One participant shared, “My family has always supported me, and their encouragement has been a huge factor in my achievements. They believe in me, and that boosts my confidence”. Another participant, a mother, said, “Children's achievements must start with strong family support. Every action they take should be appreciated first, and then evaluated. This helps them grow more confident and careful with their choices, which later leads to external success”.

However, not all interviewees agreed with this perspective. One interviewee, expressed a different viewpoint, saying, “Sometimes, it’s not the family that helps, but rather the family that hinders. For example, when my parents divorced, it was hard to hear them constantly arguing. I felt torn and disconnected from one of them. In situations like that, family support doesn’t mean much because, ultimately, it’s the child who decides their future”. Another respondent echoed similar thoughts, emphasizing how challenging it is to thrive when family dynamics are disruptive.

Educational Levels and Their Impact on Career and The Importance of Social Status in Community Life

The 1945 Constitution states that every citizen has the right to education and teaching. This shows that there is a learning obligation that provides opportunities and requires learning to every child at least up to the age of 13. According to Law Number 20 of 2003 Chapter 1 Paragraph 1, the definition of education is a conscious and structured effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process with the hope that students can actively participate in developing their potential, have good and intelligent personalities, have noble character, and have the skills that they and the community need (Ninik, 2012). The essence of education is the process of interaction between educators and students to achieve goals, namely, guiding students to master educational goals. This interaction can take place in the family, school, or community environment. Judging from education and the way education enters society, it can be concluded that education is a humanitarian and humane process. The emergence of the term humanity means that we are talking about the traits that humans have. Humanization means a process of shaping human beings to have a humane, mature, and complete spirit. The formation of character is the orientation of education. Each level of education will be evaluated and monitored carefully so that it is clear about a person's positive potential so that it can be developed even better. The point of this character is how he thinks and the way he treats someone. Educational paths are the arena that students must go through in order to develop themselves through a series of educator processes that are in line with educational goals. Philip H. Coombs divides education into three parts, namely formal education or education in schools, informal education or education outside schools that are not institutionalized, and non-formal education or education outside institutions that are institutionalized (Wulandari, 2022).

Participants in the study, which included 60 resource persons, were split into two groups: 30 people who have pursued or are seeking higher education (Category A) and 30 people who have only completed high school or vocational school (Category B). Higher education was highly valued by Category A resource persons, who pointed out that it improved their own personal growth and the social position of their families. Regardless of socioeconomic background, many people felt that going to college made one appear to be from a wealthy or successful family, especially with scholarships available. They also supported the link between education and upward social mobility by viewing higher education as a means of achieving better employment prospects and more pay.

Category B resource persons, on the other hand, had differing opinions. Some wanted to go to college, but were unable to do so because of financial limitations or personal obligations, so they chose to concentrate on their jobs. They maintained that effort and talents, not academic credentials, were what made education valuable in the business. Additionally, several questioned why women should pursue higher education, voicing worries that social norms would still limit women to domestic responsibilities like childcare and housework even in the face of greater intellectual attainment. These contrasting viewpoints highlight the intricate connection that exists in society between gender roles, social standing, and education.

Social status comes from the Latin word *stare* which means to stand. Then the meaning of status is equated with the term "position". A person's status is a position or position that he achieves in a group about other people or members of the community around him or her. In addition, social status is also defined as the position of an individual that can be seen regardless of the individual. Social status is an objective that gives rights and obligations to a person who occupies the position. To be able to measure the high or low social status of a person, it can be seen by the general public where they live because social status cannot be separated from other individuals. It can be concluded that in daily life sometimes we are not sensitive to the differences in social status that exist in society. They will automatically put a person in a certain position based on the things that the local community upholds. All speakers agreed that social status is indispensable in community life. They strive to continue to improve their social status because they conclude that the higher a person's social status, the more benefits they get.

The Perspective of Women Who Have Dual Roles in Raising Their Family's Social Status Through Education and Its Relation to The Nurture Theory

I conducted interviews with 60 women in Bojonegoro for this study. They range in educational background from high school to university and balance the duties of homemaker and worker. According to the results, the majority of respondents believe that education is essential to raising their family's social and financial standing. They all concur that women today bear two responsibilities: taking care of the home and providing for the family financially. Numerous individuals emphasized the difficulties they encounter as a result of persistent patriarchal norms. They pointed out that men are typically viewed as the main breadwinners in society, while women are frequently restricted to household duties. This perception is slowly changing, though. Compared to women with lower educational attainment, several respondents with higher education levels stated that they have greater options to find employment and support their families. "We can obtain better jobs with education, and we are more respected in the family and society when we earn our income". one respondent clarified. "We work to show our children that women can contribute outside the home; we don't work just for the money", another person remarked.

Setting an example for the future generation was a recurring subject among the responders. "I want my daughters to see that a woman can be a good mother and a successful professional", one mother said. They must understand their options as they grow up. "I want my children to be proud of me, to know that their mother worked hard not just for them but also for herself", said another, echoing a similar feeling. The vast majority of participants stressed the importance of education in altering how society views women's roles. They contend that in addition to imparting knowledge, higher education cultivates an attitude receptive to social advancement. Many said that getting more education leads to better-paying jobs, which raises the standard of life for their family.

“I could buy a house, send my kids to better schools, support my siblings, and help my family live more comfortably when I got a well-paying job”, one respondent said.

But there are difficulties along the way. A few participants emphasized the social constraints individuals encounter when juggling job and family obligations. One participant said, “We are frequently judged. They claim that if we devote too much of our attention to our jobs, we are neglecting our kids. They claim that we are squandering our education if we remain at home. It's an ongoing battle”. The respondents concurred that improving family welfare and reaching a higher social status require both work and education, notwithstanding these obstacles. In the future, several of them said, women will no longer be viewed as inferior to males. One participant came to the conclusion that “we are individuals with dreams, ambitions, and the capacity to make a difference we are not just wives and mothers”. We have the ability to transform our own lives and the lives of people around us via education. All things considered, these women are nevertheless hopeful that they may contribute more to the betterment of their communities and families with the right training and assistance, eventually opening the door to a more just society.

Edward Wilson's Nurture Theory, which highlights the impact of social and environmental influences on an individual's development, can be linked to the study's findings, which underline the value of education in raising the social standing of women and their families. Wilson contends that although biology influences human behavior, a person's identity and actions are largely determined by their environment, society, and learned behaviors. The study's subjects, who are juggling two jobs and two responsibilities as housewives, show how socialization and learned behavior affect their views of gender roles and their goals. Many women with higher education levels think that education offers the chance to challenge gender stereotypes, advance their family's social and economic standing, and foster personal development. Their answers show how social norms are changing and how women are gaining the confidence to define their positions outside of conventional boundaries. This is consistent with the idea of nurture theory, which holds that people are shaped by their experiences and environment rather than being constrained by strict, predetermined roles.

In addition, Wilson's concept of environmental influence is reflected in the idea that these women are attempting to serve as role models for their kids and demonstrate that women can be successful in both the home and workplace. Women have the power to change the social landscape by continuing to defy expectations, opening up new opportunities and role models for next generations. Education becomes a vital instrument for social mobility, and the potential to improve family welfare and move up the social ladder through it shows the transformational power of nurturing surroundings. But the challenges they encounter—like juggling work and home life and coping with patriarchal criticism—also highlight the enduring influence of conventional social standards. Though education and shifting social views are slowly changing this narrative, these culturally embedded conventions still have an impact on how women's roles are viewed. Therefore, this study illustrates Wilson's Nurture Theory by showing how education and changing social contexts nurture individual potential, enabling women to redefine their roles and achieve greater social mobility.

CONCLUSION

This study dives into how education shapes women's roles in society, especially as they juggle responsibilities at home and in the workplace. For most of the participants, education is seen as a game-changer it not only boosts their family's social and financial standing but also

creates opportunities to contribute outside the home. Higher-educated women emphasized how education improves employment opportunities, garners respect from family and society, and provides an example for the next generation, demonstrating that women can succeed in both professional and caregiving roles. In addition, the study highlights the challenges that women encounter. When they prioritize their work, many face social pressures that falsely accuse them of neglecting their families. It can feel like an uphill battle for them to strike a balance between job and domestic responsibilities. The result of research recommends women's educational opportunities, establishing work-life balance-promoting laws, and starting public awareness efforts to dispel gender stereotypes as the next steps. These actions may open the door to a society in which women are not constrained by conventional standards and are free to follow their aspirations at work and at home.

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