EFFECTS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WORKING WOMEN IN

TRANSFORMING SOCIAL VALUES

By

Rida Riaz

Thesis submitted to the Lahore School of Economics in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MPhil Development Studies 2017 Supervised by Dr. Rashid Amjad

Co Supervisor: Dr. Ahmad Nawaz

ABSTRACT

In recent times, a considerable surge in women's empowerment through increase in their socio-economic status has been observed, which has implications for transforming the social values at large. In this backdrop, the present study aims to investigate how differences in their socioeconomic status, as measured by the household income and education levels of working women, has contributed to and in evolving these changing social values. To carry out this research study, a primary survey was conducted in the urban areas of Lahore, Pakistan and collected data on three hundred and six working-women. By employing multinomial logit model, the findings of the study confirm that the socio-economic status of working-women plays a significant role in determining and changing existing societal values. In this context, we find that women's empowerment as a result of being educated and earning income leads not only to them exercising higher bargaining power in household decisionmaking but also increases their active participation in public life but this happens mainly for those who belong to the higher income groups unlike those who are in a lower income class.