

# *Evaluating the Contemporary Necessity for Women to Pursue Driving Education in Kerala*

**Abstract:** This research investigation assesses the need for driving education for women in the modern era in Kerala. The primary goal of this study was to investigate factors like the necessity of pursuing driving education and examine its implications in various domains. Studying the various factors related to the necessity of women pursuing driving education helps to foster self-independence in women, empower women in society, make changes to the socio-cultural norms and beliefs of society about women, and address gender disparities in pursuing driving education. Driving education is an important technical skill that everyone should need to gain, including women, just as it is for men in the contemporary era. This ensures that individuals don't have to depend on others for their personal needs. Driving education is not merely a technical skill that enables one to operate a vehicle, but also a way to be independent and confident in society. It serves as a vital tool for empowerment and societal participation. It equips women with the confidence to step beyond their comfort zone.

**Keywords:** Driving education, women empowerment, pursue, necessity, barriers, era, disparity

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Driving is the act of controlling and operating a vehicle from one spot to another. It involves the requirement of controlling speed, directions, etc., with respect to also following the traffic rules and regulations of each country. Proficiency in handling, such as taking good decisions in different traffic situations and controlling vehicles, are essential aspects to consider while driving. So, driving encompasses different factors like technical skills, judgement, and commitment towards safety and responsibilities.

Historically, driving was predominantly meant for men rather than women. The country of Saudi Arabia has a strict ban on women driving from the perspective of cultural and societal aspects. Later, the overturn of the ban results in societal changes in the country. In the modern era, there are changes in social and cultural norms so that women have equality, and it is rapidly growing in every field or domain, including transportation.

This leads to the necessity for women to pursue driving education as a means to gain empowerment and mobility.

The main objective of this research is to analyse and evaluate the contemporary necessity of driving education for women. Since development is rapidly growing in social, economic, and cultural aspects, and in the case of gender equality, women are still facing barriers to accessing driving education in various parts of the world.

The study delves into how driving education benefits a woman, especially a woman who is a mother of a newborn or those in similar circumstances. Learning to drive equips mothers with the ability to transport them and their infants into hospitals in case of emergencies. In fact, acquisition of driving education liberates women so that they don't need to rely on their husbands or relatives for their personal needs. The research is conducted by collecting relevant data from representatives of society and analysing it.

The main objectives of research include:

- To evaluate the relationship between gender and the belief that receiving driving instruction is important
- To inquire into the causes of not getting a driver's license

- To look into how cultural and societal norms influence women's participation in driving education.
- To assess how environmental factors influences and developments in technology affect the need for women to pursue driving skills.
- To examine the role of community and family support influence women's decision to pursue driving education.

### **1.1 Reasons for the Increase in Women Drivers**

1. Increased access to driving helps to empower women to face challenges in life and foster independence.
2. Driving education becomes one of key factor which helps to change the societal attitudes towards women in all domains.
3. Increased access to driving schools influence women to gain driving education and obtain license.
4. Driving skills make women that they don't need to depend on others for their personal needs.
5. Learning to driving provides women a sense of security and safety especially travelling alone

### **1.2 Benefits of women's Pursuing Driving Education**

1. Driving education helps to foster self-independence and mobility by without depending on others for their needs.
2. Driving skills enlarges employment opportunities as in the field of driving and increases confidence
3. Driving education is another key factor to break the chains of gender disparities and to foster gender equality in all aspects.
4. Self-driving minimises women's seeking help from others.
5. Driving education foster confidence, explore new opportunities and to get out from their comfort zone and use their potential in its entirety.

### **1.3 Challenges of Women Pursuing Driving Education**

1. Financial constraint may be one of the factor which affect or limit women's opportunities to learn driving education and obtain a license.
2. Women's may feel discomfort due to lack of women instructors. So they reluctant to access driving education from men, where many of driving schools are run by men.
3. Women's motivation may be affected by lack of societal and family support.
4. Women may experience safety issues.
5. It may be difficult for them to find driving schools to enrol in their area.

6. Time constraints are also a challenge for them while pursuing driving education.
7. Lack of motivation may impact their confidence to gain driving training.

## **2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The influence of the lifting of the driving prohibition on women's work and mobility in Saudi Arabia is examined in the study "Self-driven Women: Gendered Mobility, Employment, and the Lift of the Driving Ban in Saudi Arabia" [1] by Inmaculada Macias Alonso, HaRyung Kim, and Alessandra L. González. It investigates, via qualitative analysis of how Saudi women's newly acquired driving rights impact their access to jobs and social engagement. In contextual transformation, the study depicts the relationship between gender, mobility, and economic empowerment. By revealing these relationships, it offers important new perspectives on how women's roles are changing in Saudi society after the driving prohibition.

The impact of gender driving stereotype threat on female drivers' performance and its underlying mechanisms are examined in the study "The Influence of Gender Driving Stereotype Threat on the Driving Performance of Female Drivers and Its Mechanism" [2] by Jingjing Song, Xiaoqing Song, Jing Bai, and Yanfen Liu. The

research studies the psychological processes as well as how perceptions about women's prowess impact real driving performance. This study gives insights into the need to lessen the gender disparities and to ensure gender equality in driving community.

In the paper "Early maladaptive schemas and women with driving fear" [3], which is authored by William Macedo Fiuza and Rossane Frizzo deGodoy inquire into the factors that influence the fear with driving among women's. The Study is regrading of how early maladaptive schemas influenced in the development of fear associated with driving among women. By studying the psychological barriers, it points up the significance of conveys such schemas to enhance the participation of women in driving education. Overall, this study makes a significant contribution to the perception and lessens driving-related fears among women.

In "Traffic Compliance: Effect of More Women Behind the Wheel: Pride or Prejudice?" [4] by M. Castro-Nuño and Lourdes López-Valpuesta, the study examines the impact of increased female drivers on traffic compliance. Through empirical analysis, it explores whether societal attitudes towards women driving influence traffic behaviour. Findings suggest a nuanced relationship, with factors such as gender norms

and individual attitudes shaping compliance levels. The study underscores the importance of considering societal perceptions and gender dynamics in traffic safety initiatives. Castro-Nuño and López-Valpuesta's research provides valuable insights into the intersection of gender, societal attitudes, and traffic behaviour.

The study explores the effects of eliminating the ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia in "The Positive Effects of Allowing Saudi Women to Drive Cars" [5] by Turki Hassan Abualola. It investigates the social, economic, and cultural advantages of women's greater mobility and freedom through qualitative study. The results emphasise increased economic empowerment, increased societal inclusion, and increased labour engagement. Abualola's research questions established gender norms and emphasises the transformative power of gender-inclusive policy. The study gives more valuable insights into the information regarding the sociocultural aspects of women's mobility to ensure gender parity and societal growth in Saudi Arabia.

In the article "A Woman Is Driving, Give Way, and Other Sh\*t Women Drivers Have To Hear," [8] expresses a woman's journey of learning to drive in the middle of gender stereotypes despite facing challenges such as rude comments by persevering under her father's guidance. While this is going on, in order to address the problems,

the article "Women harassment and bullying Driving" [7] discusses difficulties that women face when driving, such as from male drivers. These highlights highlight the need for strategies for promoting gender equality in driving education that women face today.

The book "Lady Driver: Stories of Women Behind the Wheel" [9] offers captivating descriptions of women who trained as drivers by revealing their struggles with domestic violence and societal stigma. The book explores how driving education empowers them and provides mobility. It critiques notions of empowerment and the valuation of labour within feminist discourse."

### 3. METHOD

#### 3.1 Study Design

This research employs a survey design to explore the contemporary necessity for women to pursue driving education. It is used to collect data and get findings on factors such as how driving education helps women perceive the importance of women's empowerment, its importance in the modern era, and barriers among individuals belonging to different genders and different age groups. Data are analysed using tests such as chi-square, t-test and one way ANOVA.

#### 3.2 Participants

The participants of this research study include individuals aged 18 and above, of different genders, and from diverse locations, ensuring a balanced representation and understanding the point of view of all individuals from their perspective to the contemporary necessity for women to pursue driving education. By including individuals from diverse geographical locations, age groups, and genders, we provide insights from the viewpoint of many people.

#### 3.3 Data Collection

The research study utilises Google Forms, a platform provided by Google, to collect data from participants. The questionnaire consisted of multiple-choice and yes-or-no questions. The data is collected from people residing in different locations in Kerala.

### 4. RESULT

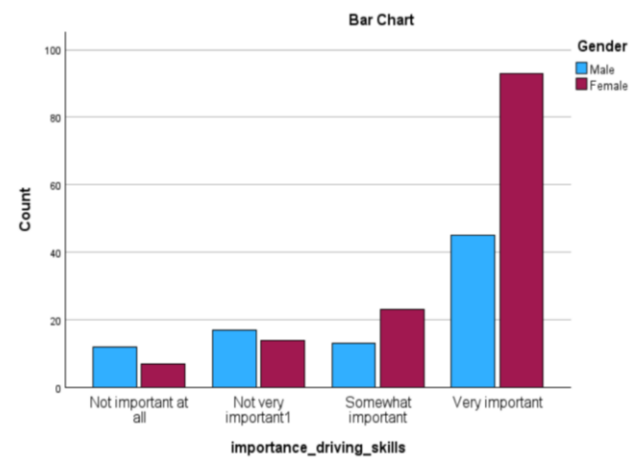


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the significant association between gender and the perceived importance of driving skills, which is tested and revealed by the chi-square test. As chart shows, female respondents highly perceived the importance of driving skills compared to males in this era.

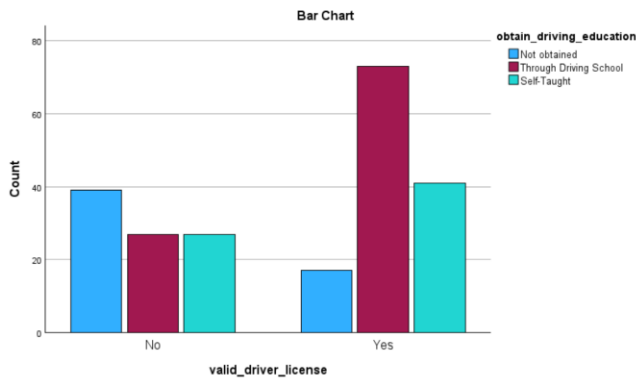


Figure 2

Figure 2 shows the significant association between method of obtaining driving education and possession of a valid driver's licence, which is tested and revealed by the chi-square test. As chart shows that the method of obtaining driving education also influences the possession of a driver's licence.

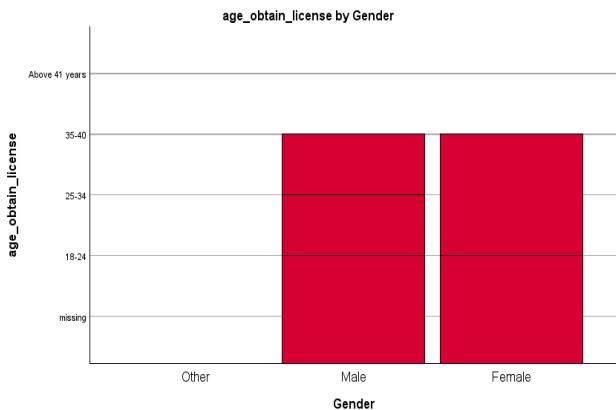


Figure 3

Figure 3 depicts the significant difference in the age of obtaining a driver's licence between genders, which is revealed by an independent sample t-test. The finding suggests that there is significant difference in the age at which individuals obtain licences among different gender groups.

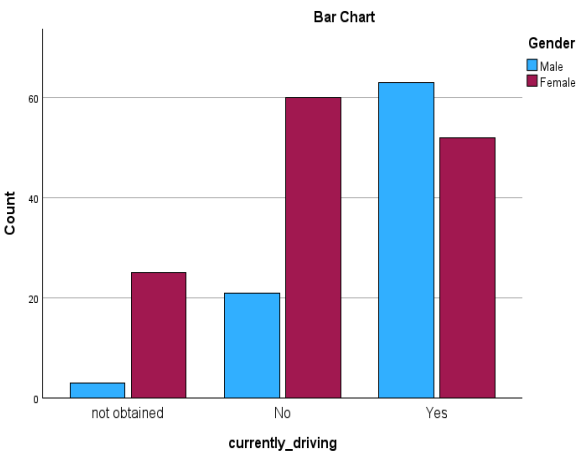


Figure 4

Figure 4 illustrates the significant association between gender and the likelihood of currently driving after obtaining a driver's licence, which is tested and revealed by the chi-square test. As chart shows, female respondents exhibit a lower propensity to currently drive compared to male respondents. This shows there is disparity in the likelihood of driving after acquiring a driver's licence among different genders.

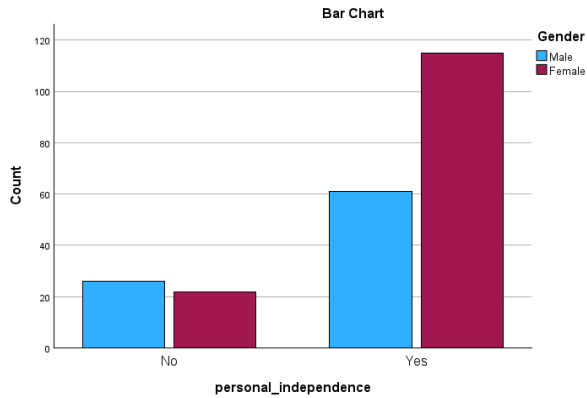


Figure 5

Figure 5 shows the significant association between gender and the belief in the importance of driving skills for personal independence, as revealed by the chi-square test. Male respondents were less likely to perceive driving skills as crucial for personal independence as compared to females.

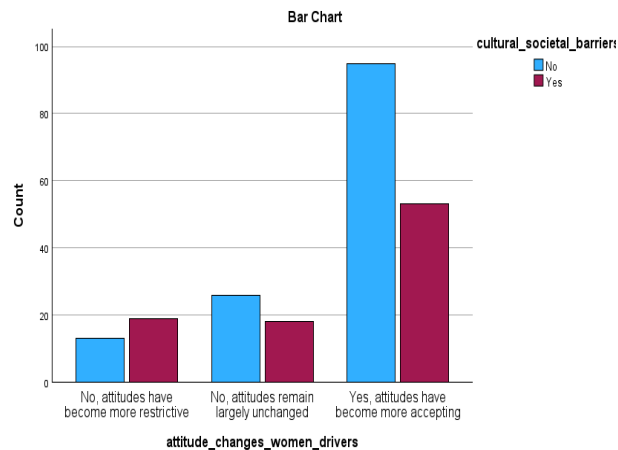


Figure 6

Figure 6 depicts the significant association between cultural or societal barriers and attitude changes towards women drivers, as determined by the chi-square test. Respondents facing cultural or societal barriers which is more

inclined to observe the shifts in attitudes towards women drivers. This underscores the influence of cultural or societal factors on perceptions of licence among women drivers.

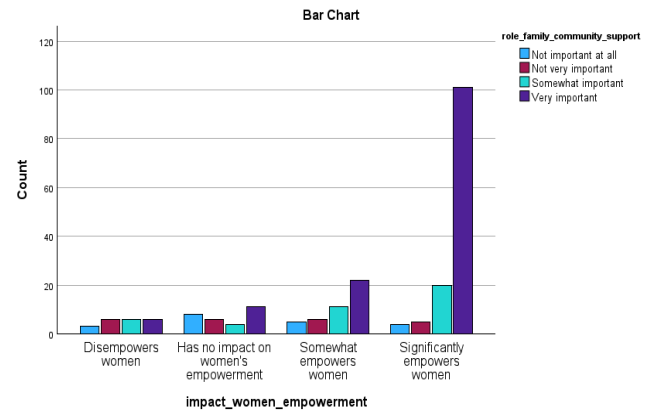


Figure 7

Figure 7 portrays the significant association between the role of family and community support and the perception of women's empowerment through driving education, as determined by the chi-square test. The findings show that the support of family and community plays a crucial role in women's perception of self-empowerment through driving education.

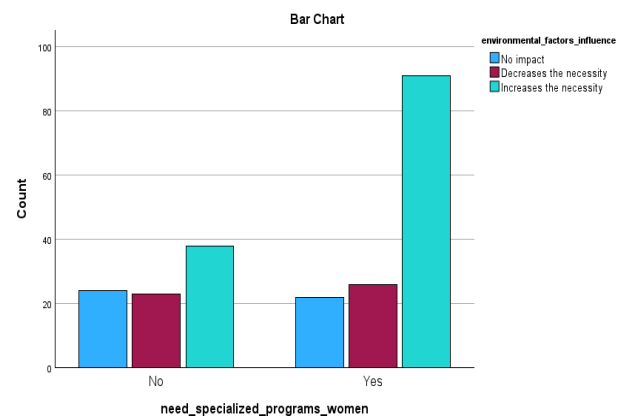


Figure 8

Figure 8 indicates a significant association between environmental factors and the belief in the necessity of specialised driving education programs for women, which is revealed by chi-square test.

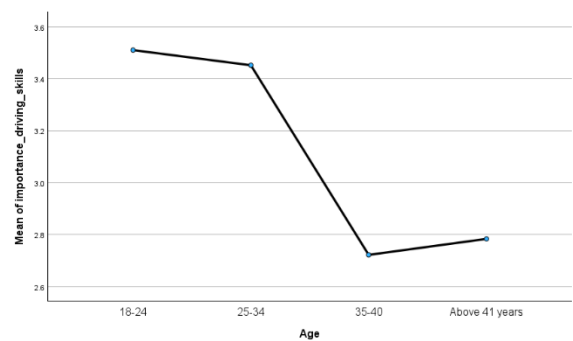


Figure 9

Figure 9 portrays a significant difference in the perception of importance of gaining driving education among different age groups, which is revealed by the results of a one-way ANOVA test. The findings suggest that age influences the attitudes towards the importance of gaining driving education.

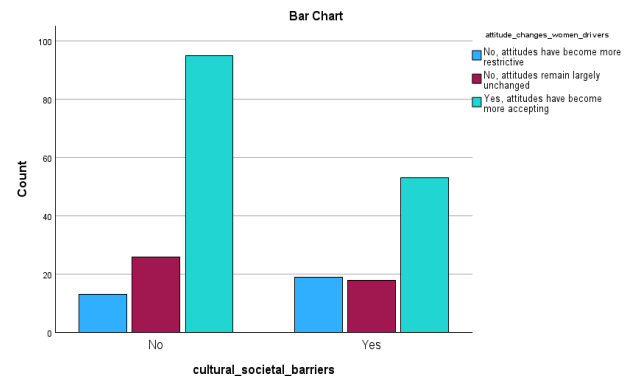


Figure 10

Figure 10 illustrates that there has been a significant shift in socio-cultural attitudes

towards women pursuing driving education in recent years. This finding indicates a notable change in society's perceptions and the increased acceptance of women drivers.

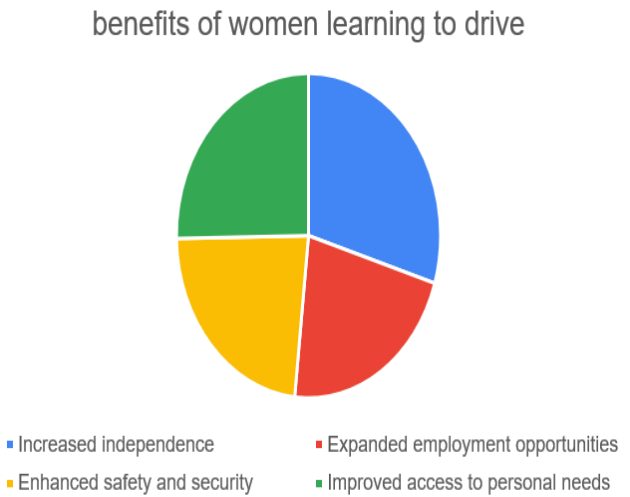


Figure 11

The pie chart [figure 11] shows the benefits of women pursuing driving education. 30% of respondents highlighted "Increased independence" as the main advantage. "Increased employment opportunities" came in second at 22%, "Better access to personal needs" at 25%, and "Improved safety and security" at 23%.

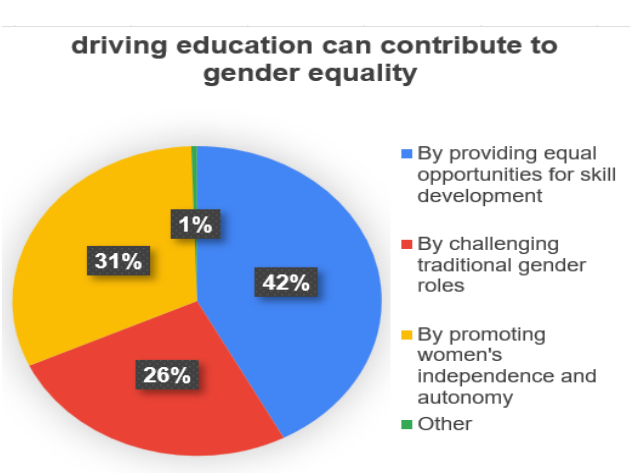




Figure 12

The pie chart [Figure 12] shows the ways in which gender equality can be enhanced through women pursuing driving education. According to the data collected, among respondents, 42% indicated offering equal opportunities for skill development, while 31% indicated promoting women's independence and autonomy, and 26% highlighted its significance in challenging traditional gender roles in achieving gender equality.

driving education helped women to travel at night

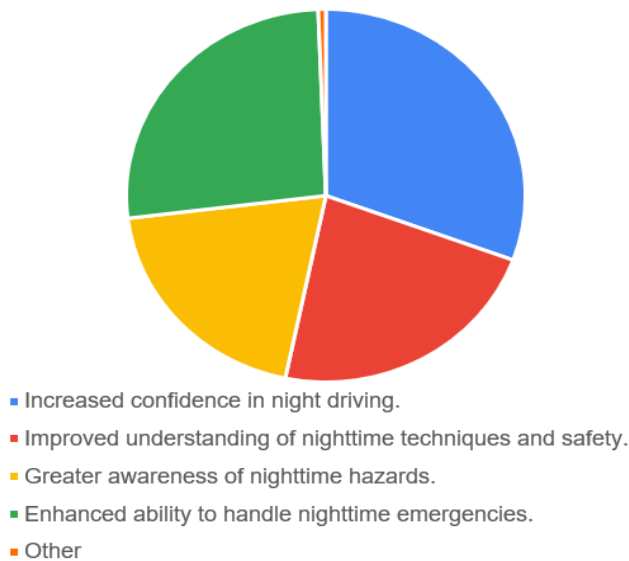


Figure 13

The pie chart [figure 13] illustrates how driving education helps or benefits women to travel at night. 31% of respondents highlighted "increased confidence in night driving" as the main advantage. "Improved understanding of nighttime techniques and safety" came in second at 23%, "Enhanced ability to handle nighttime

emergencies" at 26%, and "Greater awareness of nighttime at 20%. So, access to driving helps women travel at night.

## 5. CONCLUSION

It is evident from the analysis of this study that women in the modern era must pursue driving education. According to the study, women should pursue driving education because driving is vital in today's world and driving is perceived as important, which in turn leads to women feeling more empowered and independent. The study also examines other factors related to driving, such as societal inclusion, empowering women, and fostering their independence. In fact, increasing women's access to driving education can play a significant role in improving gender equality and changing public perceptions of female drivers. Having access to driving instruction will help people become more independent of others, overcome obstacles, and develop their sense of self-worth.

## 6. REFERENCES

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