Societal attitudes towards women’s work

What is the issue?

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- The country and society focus more on educating girls.
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- Little has been done on helping them become financially independent and productive members of the country’s workforce.
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What are the recent findings?

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- The National Sample Survey 2014-15 found that for every 100 men enrolled in higher education (college and above) there were only 85 women.
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- National Family Health Survey 2015-16 shows that the proportion of working women, who were paid for their work, has fallen four percentage points over the past decade.
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- Another research reported that over 60 per cent of households in India had only one wage earner each.
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- The numbers have highlighted the idea of "overqualified Indian housewives"
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What are the prevailing attitudes in Indian society?

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- Fatherly duties to a daughter don’t go beyond educating her.
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- Women's careers depend on the requirements of the families they marry into.
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- Once she becomes a mother, she will have to give up working.
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- The onus of taking care of a child entirely lies on the mother.
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What is the way forward?

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- Government’s schemes like the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save girl child, educate girl child) should be implemented taking into consideration the societal attitudes.
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- Paternity leaves should be provided on par with maternity leaves to enable and ensure that both the sexes participate in child care.
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- The society has come a long way from confining women at homes to educating them.
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- However, there's still a long way to go beyond education and embrace women's choices, goals, careers, aspirations, independence, etc.
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- Limiting them with familial and child birth responsibilities should be changed with growth of the society.
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Source: Business Standard

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