ABSTRACT

THESIS: Gender Inequality in Education in Saudi Arabia

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In our research the prime objective was to investigate how female students feel about gender inequality in Saudi Arabia. We could not find any relevant data in the literature and for this reason we have to collect primary data for our research. After designing a questionnaire and determining a desired sample size we started collecting data. We felt that the biggest challenge for us was to collect data within a very tight time and resource constraints. We had no other alternate choice but to select internet survey and encounter sampling as methods of collecting data. It is well known that both internet survey and encounter sampling are not entirely a random sampling and often can generate bias. This means we need to do bias correction when we use sample statistics for estimating the population parameters. Most of the variables that we consider in our study are qualitative in nature where sample proportions act as estimates of population proportion. But we did not find any bias correction technique for sample proportion when the data come from internet survey and/or encounter sampling. We believe that the most significant contribution of our research is the development of a new bias correction technique for sample proportion which is derived as Theorem 3.2 in Chapter 3. For further analysis of data we employ logistic regression models and diagnostics for the validity of our results. Most of our respondents were married and have children. Most of the respondents have education higher than high school but less than university bachelor degree. Most of them are unemployed. Most of them feel that they are treated
equally in their own family and at workplace, although they feel severe discrimination in wages. Almost all of the women who have a job prefer to work under a female boss. Although Saudi Arabia is ruled by very strict religious law, according to our research 28.62% of women face sexual harassment. Most of the women feel that more jobs for women will improve gender inequality. Logistic regression analyses reveal that there are evidences of gender inequality in the family, at the workplace, and more severely in wages. Variables which influence these inequalities are whether a woman has a job or not, their age, marital status, number of children, and knowledge regarding gender inequality. We also observe that influential outliers sometimes make a huge impact on the fit of the model and resulting conclusions.