
The Attitude of working Women towards existing Society

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Abstract

The women were supposed to keep their activities confined to the boundaries of the house from the ancient times. With the change in time there is certainly a change in this traditional view towards women but yet “Prison wall” have not so far been demolished. A significant Change has definitely occurred with regards to women employment after independence of India. Opportunities have been created for employment of women but still a lot needs to be done. There has been also change in the attitude of people considerably and now women are not looked upon as child-bearing machine. Women has acquired a new status in the new social structure. The proposed article is designed to elicit the opinion of working women about some aspects of their life, their attitude towards work and related matters. It also assesses the attitude of society towards them in terms of the perception of working women themselves.

Key words: working women, Society, Employment of Women, Socio-Economic Changes etc.

Introduction:

During the first half of 20th century, opportunities for Indian women to participate in economic activities increased at a much slower rate as compared to the rate of increase in female population. This was the reason that women work force as percentage of the population decreased rapidly during the period of 1911 to 1951.

Women derive their ideological and moral basis for their status and their institutionalized role from the religion. The various restrictions that have been imposed and our notions about their places in the domestic and social spheres have been greatly influenced by fundamentals of religious conceptions.

Indian society is fragmented society, and it has never united its people but have caused various differentiation among people on the lines of their Caste and Class in particular and Men and Women in general. Women were considered as secondary citizens with hardly any independence provided to them. They have been exploited socially, economically, and have gone through various subjugation. Their dignity and self-respect have been destroyed by the Male dominated society. Even in current times women have no control over their earnings and can't decide the manner in which it is spent. They are the ones that are axed in any situation. The impact of women on budget, debt and repayment has remained substantially low.

The role of women in the cultural development of a society is also underestimated and underscored in India. The concerned efforts to make the language, literature, art, architecture, symbols, education, learning process etc. all male dominated and male oriented, indicate the negative value system and partisan attituded to perpetuate class structure in the society.

Objective of the study:

The main objective of the study can be described under the following points

- a) To know the view of working women regarding the structure of society
- b) To know whether these working women have any faith in the institution of marriage
- c) To know whether they have any say in choosing their life partner
- d) To know whether society is accepting a working woman with full respect and credibility.

Sampling Procedure:

Different kind of sampling techniques were used at different stages of the survey. Jehanabad district was selected through purposive sampling for the reason that it best suited the need of selecting a poor and backward district. At the very outset the working women were requested to participate sincerely in the present study which was expected to reveal many important points concerning their status, problem socio economic background and other social aspects related to them. To make the samples fairly representative, the samples were categorized in various quotas on prior judgment. 200 samples were taken to conduct the study. The samples were drawn by the use of purposive sampling method. An interview schedule was prepared to collect the information from the respondents. The respondents were selected from working women of different Mohalla residing in Jehanabad town. The interview schedule consisted many questions of a closed nature and a few were open ended. Schedule were filled up by a personal interview of the subjects.

Limitations:

Due to limited number of samples the results of research might not be replicable in other districts. Results may not be generalized for other districts due to many other constraints like Geography, Time Period, Budget and Human Resources.

Methodology

After collecting the data, the data each schedule was checked for consistency and completeness the responses were categorized and coded. The codes were transferred to the matter sheet. It was tabulated and used for analysis of the data. It is exploratory and descriptive in nature.

Literature Review

There are various studies that have aimed to examine the impact of Modernization on the status and role of working women. Some studies related to modernization and social-psychological factors have been done in western countries as well as in our country also.

Drucker (1980) in his book stated, that the labour force participation of married women under age fifty is now just as high as that of men. It is therefore unlikely to rise any further

Desai (1984) conducted a study on "Economic Opportunities in Women". He says women manages the dual roles of homemaker and worker. Though their difficulties get increased when they had to commute from long distances.

Charlotte O Kelley (1989) feels that working women have more independence than full time house wives.

Giriappe (1995) found out that female headed households have reported a better decision role in respect of all types of decision variables and females in male headed households also have reported to participate substantially.

Srilekha (2005) states that developing countries are characterized by low income illiteracy, unemployment and low standard of living. In these countries extra income earned by women are vital to cross the poverty line.

Raka Sharan (2005) conducted a survey on women workers employed in industrial and non-industrial organizations in Kanpur city. The main objectives of her study were to analyse the working conditions of women workers to measure their socio-conditions states and to study their participation in trade union activities.

Analysis and Findings

The following are the major findings from the research study

- Nearly 25 percent of the sample indicated that they are not happy with being working women, nearly 75 percent were satisfied with the status of working women in the society. So, we can conclude that there is a tendency to go for a job rather than staying back at home among women.

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	8	4
No	52	6
Total	60	100

Table : Better to be a working woman or not

- The women working as clerk, typist, steno do not want to continue with the work but are continuing because of financial support they are required to provide. The amount of pleasure and challenge derived from such jobs is comparatively less.

Occupation	Better to work	Not to work	Total
Teacher	4	0	4
Lecturers	2	6	8
Clerk , steno typist	4	8	12
Executives	2	4	6
Total	12	18	30

Table: occupation and tendency towards working /seeking a job

- Data confirms that marriage is a respected institution in the view of working women. They have all faith in this institution. 66 percent of the working women said that they were feeling better after marriage or more secure. While rest 34 percent stated that they have not been able to concentrate upon their carrier because of added responsibilities.

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	32	66
No	8	34
Total	40	100

Table: Better concentration after marriage upon carrier and more secure socially

- It was also revealed that the traditional pattern is still predominant when it comes to choosing a life partner on their own. It is parents (nearly 52%) who have the final say in choosing a life partner for their daughter. Even the mutual consultancy is very low at nearly 18 percent.

Response	No of respondents	Percentage
Own say final	1	0.5
Parent's say final	4	2.0

mutual	5	7.5
total	00	00

Table : choosing a life partner

Conclusions and suggestions

If women have to bring about improvement in their social status, they have to become more aware of their rights and become more vigilant in violation of their rights. Only then can they preserve their existing rights and improve upon them.

Women like men have a constitutional and moral right to employment and economic freedom. Any breach of this right goes against the constitutional rights of women to work and earn a basic livelihood.

Men and women are jointly responsible for rearing and raising a family. Any breach of this rule was tantamount to discrimination and exploitation.

There is also a need of rigid punishment to be implemented in all respects of degradation and humiliation to womanhood in the forms of rape, prostitution, dowry and obscenity.

Measures must be taken to allow women equal opportunities for study and training, special programme were to be undertaken to correct past imbalances in the field.

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