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WORKING WIVES AND HOUSEWIVES IN GULBARGA CITY:A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract:- The working wives and housewives have their own problems at work place as well as in their families. Comparatively, working wives have more status in family and society as proved by many of the studies. As such, the present study was made to know about the status of working wives and housewives in Gulbarga city and Gulbarga city is located in Karnataka. Totally 400 respondents including 200 working wives and 200 housewives was made using interview schedule. The paper disclosed that working wives have more status and even problems compared to housewives.

Keywords: Working Wives and Housewives , Sociological Analysis

INTRODUCTION

Education and employment has brought about self-reliance, confidence and a sense of identity among women. As a result of being educated and employed, they are now better turned out, outgoing, open to new ideas, well informed and aware of their rights and surroundings. They can identify and cope with their problems better as they have lot of exposure and access to the world. They are much of their own individual now, on the road to emancipation. They have acquired certain level of mental maturity and psychological strength for making options for the choice, assuming responsibility for their decision and moving ahead in life independently and efficiently. They have moved from a life of drudgery to a new arrangement of things. Given the new set of roles and family structures, these women have adapted to this challenging task with aplomb. This change on woman's part, that is, education and employment has got significant implications not only for the woman concerned herself but for her family too. Woman's education level influences her marital quality (Ritu Singh, et al, 2006).

According to sociologists, housework or household chores are facilitating factors for creating a comfortable environment for family members, taking care of and rearing children and providing the family's necessary requirements and needs. Housekeeping is quite different from other occupations because it is a non-paid job that is done in isolation. Household chores are not usually regulated by national laws, and are repetitive and endless (Saravi, et al, 2012).

Shukla (2002) remarked that women should devote plenty of their time for the upbringing of their children. An earning woman who is out for six or eight hours a day can seldom find sufficient time and energy to perform her duties at home. This has resulted in our social and domestic life becoming an anchorless ship sailing at the mercy of the waves which drift her to any rock-bed of disaster. A woman's proper place is, therefore, her home where she can teach children to become better and useful citizens in social and political life of the country. This is essential for national progress. Hence, working wives and housewives have their own view of status and respect as per their works and activities. It is essential to study the social status and respect of working wives and housewives so as to assess the significance of their works. Hence, the present study is made covering 200 working wives and 200

housewives in Gulbarga district.

Objectives of the Study:

The present study is made:

- ❖ To know on extent of participation in decision making by working wives and housewives in their families.
- ❖ To analyze the status of working wives and housewives in family and society; and
- ❖ To look into the problems faced by working wives and housewives in families.

Scope and Methodology:

The secondary literature is searched to get theoretical background for the present study. Based on theoretical background, interview schedule was used to collect the primary data from working wives and housewives. Totally 200 working wives and 200 housewives were surveyed to collect the primary data. The present study was made in Gulbarga city, which is located in northern part of Karnataka. The collected primary data is analyzed and discussed as under.

Analysis and Discussion:

The collected primary data is analyzed and discussed as under.

1. Age-wise Distribution of Respondents:

Age plays significant role in assessing knowledge of the respondents. Hence, the primary data collected on the age of the respondents is tabulated as under.

Table No. 1. Age-wise Distribution of Respondents

Particulars	Working Wives		Housewives		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
18-25 Years	06	3.0	11	5.5	17	4.2
26 to 35 Years	47	23.5	38	19.0	85	21.2
36 to 45 Years	73	36.5	67	33.5	140	35.0
46 to 55 Years	65	32.5	77	38.5	142	35.5
More than 55 Year	09	4.5	07	3.5	16	4.0
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

It is observed from the above table that majority of both the types of respondents are of middle aged, that is between 26 to 55 years.

2. Family Decision Making:

It is noted that housewives are working always in their households only and as such, they have good knowledge about family matters. On the other hand, the working wives have economic status as they are working outside and getting income for family. Working wives are playing dual role in their life and as such, it may not possible for working wives to look after all the family affairs. Generally, decision making in families is made by elder male members, but due to education and employment, women are also getting participation in family decision making. In this regard, information collected on the family decision making is discussed as under.

Table No. 2. Family Decision Making

Particulars	Working Wives		Housewives		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Parents/ Parents-in- law	44	22.0	51	25.5	95	23.7
Husband Only	52	26.0	80	40.0	132	33.0
Husband & Self	93	46.5	58	29.0	151	37.7
Self Only	06	3.0	03	1.5	09	2.2
Any Other	05	2.5	08	4.0	13	3.2
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

It is highlighted from the above table that comparatively more number of working wives (46.5%) are participating in family decision making, compared to only 29.0% of housewives. Even 3.0% of the working wives are making family decisions on their own as against 1.5% of the housewives. It shows that the outside work has brought women opportunities to make family decisions.

3. Status in Family:

Many of the studies have already proved that working wives have more social status compared to housewives. As such, information was collected from the respondents on their status in their families and presented in the following table.

Table No. 3. Status in Family

Particulars	Working Wives		Housewives		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Equal to All	117	58.5	38	19.0	155	38.7
Equal with Husband	39	19.5	26	13.0	65	16.2
Not Equal	44	22.0	136	69.0	180	45.0
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

Above table made it clear that majority that is 58.5% of working wives are getting equal status in their families and even 19.5% of working wives are getting equal status with husbands. On the other hand, only 19.0% of housewives are getting equal status with all other family members and 13.0% of housewives are getting equal status with their husbands. It shows that working wives have more status compared to housewives in their families.

4. Status in Society:

It is also noted that working wives are getting social status in society as their economic status is higher and on the other hand, housewives have lesser status in society as they are busy in their household chores and society recognized their household work as unproductive. In this regard, the status of respondents in society is shown as under.

Table No. 4. Status in Society

Particulars	Working Wives		Housewives		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Higher Status	93	46.5	64	32.0	157	39.2
Equal Status	58	29.0	53	26.5	111	27.7
Lower Status	49	24.5	83	41.5	132	33.0
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

On the status of working wives in society, it clearly shows that 46.5% of working wives have higher status as against 32.0% of housewives. Similarly, 29.0% of working wives have equal status in society as against 26.5% of

housewives. It shows that outside work also has brought status in society for working women.

5. Problems of Women:

The working wives and housewives have their own problems depending on the nature of work. The working wives have to play dual role and as such, they may have more problems and housewives are looking after family work and as such, they may have lesser problems. In this regard, the problems of housewives and working wives are shown in the following table.

Table No. 5. Problems of Women

Particulars	Working Wives		Housewives		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Negligence to Elders, Children, Husband, etc.	145	72.5	28	14.0	173	43.2
Lack of Time	177	88.5	36	18.0	213	53.2
Ill Health	56	28.0	15	7.5	71	17.7
Lack of Recognition & Status	35	17.5	123	61.5	158	39.5
No Economic Freedom	63	31.5	156	78.0	219	54.7
Exploitation from Work Place Staff	78	39.0	--	--	78	19.5
Subjugated Position in Family & Society	42	21.0	115	57.5	157	39.5
Any Other	15	7.5	36	18.0	51	12.7
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

It is noted from the above table that, working wives are facing more problems compared to housewives. But, it is noted that though not getting recognition in society and don't possessed economic freedom, housewives have lesser problems.

CONCLUSION:

Gender equality is emphasized by society of late in twenty-first century. As such, female education and employment are much emphasized by Government by providing different facilities and services. But it is noted that working wives or working women have also their own problems and housewives have their own problems. As such, it is essential to solve the problems of both the working wives and housewives so as to achieve gender equality.

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