

WORKING WOMEN: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY IN KALABURAGI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

Though there is economic security and independence are major advantages possessed by working women, still they are facing many of the social problems related to their marital and family life. Due to their dual role at outside work as well as family work, there may be psychological problems for working women and as a result, there may be lower level of social life satisfaction. In this regard, to assess the marital and social life satisfaction, a survey of women working unorganized sector and organized sector was made in Kalaburagi district. Totally 400 working women were interviewed to collect the primary data. It is suggested to working women to cope with stress, anxiety, tension, etc by performing Yoga, meditation, etc. Joint family system is suggested for working women so that family work can be shared with other family members.

KEYWORDS:

Working Women, Sociological Study, Kalaburagi District, Marital and Family Life.

INTRODUCTION

Opportunities for employment in both organized and unorganized sectors for women have widened after Independence. There is an increasing trend among educated women to seek gainful employment in offices, schools, colleges etc. In case

of working women, there is economic security and working wives can live independently, but there is heavy work burden, dual role of family and work and more socio-economic status. Even though there is higher socio-economic status for working women, there are many problems which working women in their offices, workplaces and in their families.



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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.

It is an undisputed fact that in this 20th century the status of women has certainly risen up compared to that of the past. But it is a reality that even now a woman has not become independent. She faces a lot of problems especially the career women. And the conditions of a married career women is still worse since she has to play a dual role; that of a house wife and of an employed women (Misra, 1998). Hence, there may be change of social status of women due to her participation in outside work. The present study is made to explore the sociological aspects of working women in Kalaburagi district.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study is made:

- To look into the marital life of working women in Kalaburagi district;
- To study the social problems faced by working women due to their outside work; and
- To assess the social life satisfaction of working women.

UNIVERSE AND METHODOLOGY:

The study was begun with secondary literature search and the author searched secondary literature published on problems of working women. The social life of working women across India is studied. The study also field based and totally 200 working women in unorganized sector and 200 women working in organized sector in Kalaburagi district were interviewed to collect the primary data. Kalaburagi district is located in Hyderabad-Karnataka region. The collected primary data is analyzed, interpreted and discussed as under.

ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION:

1. AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS:

Age of the working women influences their marital life. Hence, the information was collected on the age of the respondents and presented in the following table.

Table No. 1. Age of the Respondents

Particulars	Women in Organized Sector		Women in Unorganized Sector		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Below 25 Years	26	13.0	32	16.0	58	14.5
26 to 35 Years	85	42.5	76	38.0	161	40.2
36 to 45 Years	57	28.5	62	31.0	119	29.7
46 to 55 Years	26	13.0	17	8.5	43	10.7
More than 55 Years	06	3.0	13	6.5	19	4.7
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

Of all the respondents, 161 (40.2%) are between 26 to 35 years followed by, 119 (29.7%) are between 36 to 45 years, 58 (14.5%) are of less than 25 years, 43 (10.7%) are between 46 to 55 years and 19 (4.7%) are of above 55 years of age respectively. It is summarized from the collected data on the age of

the respondents that majority of the respondents are of middle aged and generally, they are leading satisfactory marital and social life.

2. EDUCATION:

Education influence work life of the working women. If the level of education of working women is higher, they may maintain better marital relations and if the education of women is lower, then there may be lesser satisfaction in marital and social life. The collected primary data on the educational qualifications of the respondents is shown as under.

Table No. 2. Education

Particulars	Women in Organized Sector		Women in Unorganized Sector		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Illiterate	--	--	32	16.0	32	8.0
Primary/Secondary	18	7.0	72	36.0	90	22.5
Undergraduate	46	23.0	84	42.0	130	32.5
Graduate/Post-Graduate	136	68.0	12	6.0	148	37.0
Any Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

Among all the respondents, 148 (37.0%) have completed graduation or post-graduation, followed by 130 (32.5%) have completed under-graduation, 90 (22.5%) have completed primary or secondary education and the remaining 32 (8.0%) are illiterates respectively. It is generalized that majority of the respondents are literates and even completed graduation or post-graduation and as such, they may have better social life.

3. MARITAL STATUS:

Marital status is also significant factor in social life of women. Hence, the information collected on the marital status of the respondents is tabulated as under.

Table No. 3. Marital Status

Particulars	Women in Organized Sector		Women in Unorganized Sector		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Unmarried/ Single	32	16.0	29	14.5	61	15.2
Married	131	65.5	124	62.0	255	63.7
Widow	25	12.5	32	16.0	57	14.2
Divorcee/ Separated	12	6.0	15	7.5	27	6.7
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

Of all the respondents, 61 (15.2%) are unmarried and living single, 255 (63.7%) are married and living with their husbands, 57 (14.2%) are widows and 27 (6.7%) are divorcees or separated from their husbands. It is highlighted that a great majority of the respondents are married and living with their husbands.

4. WORK EXPERIENCE:

The work experience of the respondents has little impact on the social life of the respondents. Still information is collected on the work experience from the respondents and tabulated as under.

Table No. 4. Work Experience

Particulars	Women in Organized Sector		Women in Unorganized Sector		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Less than 05 Years	21	10.5	40	20.0	61	15.2
06 to 10 Years	75	37.5	56	28.0	131	32.7
11 to 15 Years	70	35.0	68	34.0	138	34.5
16 to 20 Years	26	13.0	24	12.0	50	12.5
More than 20 Years	08	4.0	12	6.0	20	5.0
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

Work experience of all the respondents revealed that, 138 (34.5%) have got work experience between 11 to 15 years, 131 (32.7%) have got work experience between 06 to 10 years, 61 (15.2%) have got work experience of less than 05 years, 50 (12.5%) have got work experience between 16 to 20 years and the remaining 20 (5.0%) have got work experience for more than 20 years respectively.

5. TYPE OF FAMILY:

There are two types of families, Joint and Nuclear. In joint families, there may be more work for the women in their families due to increase in number of members, but on the other hand, there are also more women members who cooperate in assisting the working women in family work. In nuclear families, the number of family members may be less and consequently lesser family work for the working women. In this regard, the collected primary data on the nature of the families of the respondents is tabulated as under.

Table No. 6. Type of Family

Particulars	Women in Organized Sector		Women in Unorganized Sector		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Joint	76	38.0	118	59.0	194	48.5
Nuclear/ Single	124	62.0	82	41.0	206	51.5
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

Of the total respondents, 194 (48.5%) have stated that they are living in joint families, whereas the remaining 206 (51.5%) are living in nuclear or single families. It is observed from the collected that there is variation of type of family as majority of the working women in organized sector are living in nuclear families and majority of the working women in unorganized sector are living in joint families.

7. DECISION MAKING IN FAMILY:

As India is male dominated society, generally elder male members are making family decisions pertaining to families. Due to participation of women in education and employment, such trend has been changed to some extent. Hence, the information was collected on the decision making authorities in the families of the respondents and collected information is shown as under.

Table No. 7. Decision Making in Family

Particulars	Women in Organized Sector		Women in Unorganized Sector		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Parents/ Parents-in-law	43	21.5	29	14.5	72	18.0
Husband Only	73	36.5	92	46.0	165	41.2
Husband & Self	62	31.0	46	23.0	108	27.0
Brothers/ Sisters/ Relatives	02	1.0	08	4.0	10	2.5
Self Only	20	10.0	25	12.5	45	11.2
Any Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

Of all the respondents, 72 (18.0%) have expressed that their parents or parents-in-law are making the family decisions, 165 (41.2%) have stated that their husbands are making the decisions, 108 (27.0%) have expressed that they are making the decisions along with their husbands, 10 (2.5%) have remarked that their brothers, sisters or other relatives are making the decisions pertaining to family and 45 (11.2%) have expressed that they are making the decisions pertaining to their families. The decision making has little or no impact on the health and well being of the working women. It is revealed from the data that in majority of the families, the domination of husband regarding the family decision making is seen, even though women are educated and employed.

8. RELATIONSHIP WITH HUSBAND:

As the working women have to play a dual role, there may be conflicts with husband and as such, the relation with husband may not be satisfactory. In some cases, the husbands may also care working wives as they also work outside like men. Hence, the relationship of the working women with their husbands is shown as under.

Table No. 8. Relationship with Husband

Particulars	Women in Organized Sector		Women in Unorganized Sector		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Proper Understanding	14	7.0	12	6.0	26	6.5
Good Co-operation	32	16.0	26	13.0	58	14.5
Friendly Relations	41	20.5	33	16.5	74	18.5
Cordial Relations	34	17.0	45	22.5	79	19.7
Not Satisfactory	10	5.0	08	4.0	18	4.5
Not Applicable	69	34.5	76	38.0	145	36.2
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

Among all the respondents covered under the present study, 26 (6.5%) have proper understanding relations with their husbands, 58 (14.5%) have good cooperation with their husbands, 74 (18.5%) have friendly relations with their husbands, 79 (19.7%) have cordial relations with their husbands, 18 (4.5%) of the respondents do not have satisfactory relations with their husbands and for the remaining 145 (36.2%) of the respondents, it is not applicable as they are widows, divorcees, unmarried or separated from their husbands. The relations of the working women with their husbands are purely social.

9. NUMBER OF CHILDREN:

The information was collected on the number of children of the respondents and tabulated as under.

Table No. 9. Number of Children

Particulars	Women in Organized Sector		Women in Unorganized Sector		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
None	28	14.0	24	12.0	52	13.0
1 to 2	90	45.0	72	36.0	162	40.5
3 to 4	33	16.5	45	22.5	78	19.5
More than 4	17	8.5	30	15.0	47	11.7
Not Applicable	32	16.0	29	14.5	61	15.2
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

The number of children as expressed by all the respondents, 162 (40.5%) have 1 to 2 children followed by, 78 (19.5%) have 3 to 4 children, 52 (13.0%) have no children, 47 (11.7%) have more than

4 children and for the remaining 61 (15.2%) of the respondents, it is not applicable as they are unmarried. It is noted that even though many of the women are educated and employed in organized sector, they are not following family planning practices and possessed more than 2 children.

10. ADVERSE EFFECTS OF TIME SPENT ON OUTSIDE WORK:

The women were engaged in household work, that is looking after the family and children earlier and due to the education and modernization, more and more women are working outside to get income. As such, it has affected the family duties of the working women. Hence, information was collected from the respondents on the adverse effects of time spent on outside work and presented in the following table.

Table No. 10. Adverse Effects of Time Spent on Outside Work

Particulars	Women in Organized Sector		Women in Unorganized Sector		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Children & Elders are not Cared	45	22.5	74	37.0	119	29.7
Care to Husband is neglected	68	34.0	43	21.5	111	27.7
Peace of mind is disturbed	42	21.0	32	16.0	74	18.5
Poor Health	54	27.0	68	34.0	122	30.5
Lack of Time to Socio-cultural Activities	82	41.0	62	31.0	144	36.0
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

A few of the respondents have stated more than one type of adverse effects due to outside work. As expressed by all the respondents, 119 (29.7%) have stated that their children and elders are not cared properly, 111 (27.7%) have expressed that the care to their husbands is neglected, 74 (18.5%) have stated that their peace of mind gets disturbed, 122 (30.5%) have remarked that there is poor health due to outside work and 144 (36.0%) have stated that there is lack of time to participate in socio-cultural activities due to outside work.

11. EXTENT OF SATISFACTION IN SOCIAL LIFE:

To live happily, the social life should be fully satisfied. As such, information was collected from the respondents on the extent of satisfaction in their social life and presented in the following table.

Table No. 11. Extent of Satisfaction in Social Life

Particulars	Women in Organized Sector		Women in Unorganized Sector		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Fully Satisfied	54	27.0	67	33.5	121	30.2
Satisfied to a Greater extent	108	54.0	104	52.0	212	53.0
Not Satisfied	38	19.0	29	14.5	67	16.7
Total	200	100	200	100	400	100

Of all the respondents, 212 (53.0%) are fully satisfied, 121 (30.2%) are fully satisfied and the remaining 67 (16.7%) are not satisfied in their social life respectively.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:

The working women possessed economic security and as such, to a greater extent have social status in family and society. Still, working women are facing problems of anxiety, tension, role conflict, etc. From the present study, it is proved that, many of the working women are facing problem of role conflict as their children, husband and elders are not cared for due to their outside work. Further, there are more nuclear families, due to which, there is more work burden for working women in their families. Hence, it is suggested to working women to live in joint families wherever possible, so that the family work can be shared by other family members. Further, it is essential that working women can perform Yoga, meditation, etc so as to solve their psychological problems such as anxiety, tension, stress, etc.

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