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WOMEN EARNING AND SELF EMPLOYMENT

Shahela Yasmeeen

*Research Scholar
NIMS University,
Jaipur,*

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Introduction

The attitude of community towards the woman has a great social significance in any society. Therefore, any attempt to assess the status of women in the society should ideally start from the social network, social structure, cultural norms, and value systems. These are the important determinants of women's roles and their position in any society.

Women in India:

The image of women in society is fast changing, but it has been difficult to define clearly or describe the changing shape of the image. First of all, here, we shall briefly discuss about the role differentiation amongst the men and women in Indian context.

Role differentiation:

Indian society implicitly accepts a sharp distinction between men's spheres and women's spheres and between masculine roles and feminine roles. Women are primarily associated with the home and men with the outside world. As home-makers, women are expected to look after domestic chores, such as cooking and serving food, rearing children, cleaning the house etc. Women's contribution to produce activities or to actual earning of the family, varies at different socio-economic levels in different regions. Thus

women, whether they work at construction sites or those who are engaged in house hold industries, or in white collar jobs, they are expected as home makers along with those who confine themselves exclusively to home making activities

Therefore, 'housewife's and 'mothers' are considered as the feminine roles. In the cultural understanding, home making like child bearing and also child rearing can not be distinguished from femininity. In other words these are sex-linked roles for women. But according to German Borcelle "the important of women's contribution to life should not be limited to only family life but also to community and national life as well." (1) This means apart from home making women also have a significant role in the national building as well. Through out the ages women have been performing tasks in their homes and taking part in various economic activities whether remunerated or not. Moreover, their working day is longer than that of their husbands. Because they are the first to rise in the morning and last to go to bed at night. Further, by and large manual work for one's own house is to be done by women, as they are considered derogatory for men.

Cultural traditions:

Women's work in the home such as food preparation, cleaning, Child rearing etc. may be universal in each society, but it is shaped by cultural traditions. We will examine how Indian culture has influenced women's roles in the home and how these roles vary across class, caste, religion and region. According to Ashish Bose "Indian culture, has often been described as having hierarchical world - view is grounded in the caste system of Hinduism," The caste system is composed of a number of social segments I.e. Jaties (Castes), but those are of unequal ritual status. Jati is an endogenous group. Jati members must follow norms to preserve their ritual status. Hierarchy also characterizes the norms for relations between the sexes.

Variation in women's roles:

We have seen that cultural traditions play a significant role in shaping the women's role in Society. But according to Shah A,M,
 "The most restrictive traditions are applied to high Casts Hindu woman (Brahmin),.....
 Woman from the lower castes and classes played more essential economic roles than their high caste sisters, in consequences they enjoyed more independence but often faced

a daily struggle for resistance along with their male counterparts. Customs of the lower castes include divorce and widow remarriage,”

Therefore, Ross Aileen and Sylvia Vetuk say that in some castes the customs of bride price paid by the groom's family among the lower castes be observed. Some scholars, who have studied women's roles in the Indian family to-day, conclude that In spite of post-independence reforms, cultural traditions continue to be strong, and urban residence does not necessarily alter family roles. Other scholars believe that women's dependence on men and sex segregation are lessening.

The observation of some scholars that in post-Independence period, women's dependency on men is lessening it mainly because at present the Indian Society is in transition end leaning towards modernization.

Objectives:

1. To study why women want to become economically independent.
2. To examine the advantages of self employment.
3. To understand the problem of women who are earning out of private business at home,

Methodology

In traditional Indian society, Women earning working outside the home were not given proper status. On the contrary the attitude of the Society towards them was prejudiced. Change is the law of nature and society is not an exception to it. It is ever changing. Needs of the human beings also changed with the change in the Society. Education played an important role to change the attitude of people in various spheres of life, but in traditional Indian society women were not permitted to take education. Therefore, the literacy percentage of women was very less. In course of time, after Independence, due to the modern educational policies accepted by Government of India the literacy percentage of women increased and the attitude of women towards their life as well as the male members of the society also changed. Further, women tried to become economically independent. Hence we see to-day that a number of women are engaged in different types of Jobs, but it is difficult for all educated women to get an employment. Therefore, it is better for those women who have taken education or training in specific field to use their training or skill inside the home for earning rather than going outside of

the home. Then only the problem of unemployment will be solved to some extent. Therefore, I feel that self-employment is one of the best ways to reduce the serious problem of unemployment.

Hypothesis:

- (1) Women want to supplement their family income through earning out of private business at home.
- (2) Educated women are more inclined to earn through private business at home rather than uneducated.

Findings:

All women respondents are opposed to early marriage of girls and they are aware about the necessity of giving education to girls. The welcome sign which I have found that 94 per cent of women respondents are against the taking and giving of dowry. It is also observed from my sample that women respondents are of traditional law regarding inter-caste marriage. However the sample shows that majority of women respondents are politically aware. They are also aware of their status in family and in society. They want freedom in all spheres of life. Lastly I have observed that maximum women respondents are in favor of co-education.

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