

Changing Status of Educated Working Woman

Kaitha Satheesh

MA sociology, NET, Osmania University,

Abstract: *Differences in access to human capital continue to be one of the most critical dimensions of inequality of opportunity. Some of the most striking inequalities are visible along the gender dimension. For education to be equalising, it must ease restrictions on women's life chances and increase the opportunities available to them. This paper proposes to investigate the potentially powerful role educated workingwomen can play in improving lives by looking at the social/gender/economic empowerment effects of education through working. The socio-economic dimension of empowerment is important as it encompasses the ability to access lucrative and rewarding occupations as well as the ability to both earn and control an income, it constitutes only one aspect of empowerment. The socio-cultural, inter-personal, political and psychological dimensions are also critical especially given the cultural constraints posed on women's lives more broadly. These include women's 'control over resources and their life', 'mobility', participation in public life' and 'attitudes, perceptions and beliefs'. Individual own education (as well as father's and spouse's education) and empowerment, variously defined. The problems and difficulties of working women are multi-dimensional and they need a deep probing. The problems are three types environmental, social and psychological.*

Introduction:

In the post independence in India woman who have been entering salaried remunerative occupations and professions, are increasing substantially. Women are observing themselves at present at various occupations and enjoying equal status more or less on par with men. Women are working all most all types of jobs such as technical, professional and non professional in both private and public sector, residing in rural and urban areas with or without their kith and kin. After independence India woman have started coming out of their seclusions and are actively participating in vocations that are largely monopoly of males this is the significant change in Hindu society and it is a characteristic feature of free India.

Several factors are responsible for the growth of the newly emerging middle class working women in India. The changing socio-economic factors in Hindu society have been the product and

instrument for changes in the lives of woman. Particularly the rural and semi-urban educated woman from middle class have come out of their homes due to their economic compulsion, soaring price rise, preference for modern living, to utilize the acquired education, etc. with the advent of western education, mass media and communications, womankind has grown aware of the thing that the education they acquired by overcoming the financial obstacles, should not be wasted and must be utilized for the service of the nation. The in the attitude of women towards various issues of life has intern affected their behavior patterns in various spheres of life.

Now, the middle class women take greater interest to do lucrative jobs to cope up with the emerging economic compulsions and to escape the dowry problem. Now the bridegrooms are opting for the working woman rather than dowry, for having continuous income for the family. One's attitude and behavior determines the role she plays in the society. The emergence of working women and their socio-economic role in the family led them to attitudinal changes towards social aspects, marriage, family, education, social norms and customs, etc. it has its much impact on the rural and semi-urban educated women, particularly educated working women.

Origin and growth of professionalism among woman

Discussing anything about profession and professionalism, it is imperative on the part of the researcher to define first what profession is. According to Rueschemeyer "The term profession denotes service occupations that apply systematic body of knowledge problems which are highly relevant to central values of the society" Morris logan defines "A profession is vocation whose practice is founded upon understanding of the theoretical structure of the some departmental learning or science and upon the ability accompanying such understanding. This understanding and these abilities are applied to vital practical affairs of man. The profession considers its first ethical imperative to be altruistic service to ht client". In imperative societies man was the food gatherer. It is through hunting that he used to animal flesh. It was immaterial for the woman whether he faced danger while hunting or

not, for he was duty bound to provide food for his family members. The women had to stay in her dwelling cave to protect her children were dependents upon on the 'brave and god like male, who had providing at his own risk. She was thus not only a dependent but also a helper, an automatic sub ordinate. She used to dress the products of the hunt, cooked meat and fish, preserved skins for clothing and warmth greeted her mate with joy when she was successful, starved along with her children if he was not. She was a never participant. The survival of such races was critically dependent upon the man's skill and courage

But advent of cultivation, it has become compulsory on the part of the women to participate outdoor work. As such, she used to take part in some of the agricultural operations like wedding, transplanting and harvesting in the fields and every other type of work she could. Even today, women labors constitute more than half of the total agricultural force.

With the vicissitudes of the societies during 19th century, women were exposed from traditional boundaries to the outside of the world. The woman labor force increased during the 19th century and from the early 20th century due to uplift of women from the tradition bound ethos drought all out by the influence of the various social reforms of successive periods. It was during the first rationing system 1943 that middle class women stepped out serve in the offices, through the participation of women in labor market can be seen as consisting of two streams. The first occurring during the industrialization and connected with the generally low level wages, consists of women who have to supplement the family economically by accepting gainful employment. After industrial revolution more and more women working, before this the only work the women considered suitable for was the sale of their bodies. Industrial revolution caused to develop sources of conflicts between the two sexes. The shift of the most lucrative economic activity out of the home in to the factory had a number of effects. due to child bearing and rearing responsibility of women, The man was usually first to leave the home, and factory products soon displaced home produced goods in the market economy meant that the man became an important sources of social status. Thus, not only did the economic activities of the sexes become physically separated, but the social value of the man's activities measured in terms of money became separated from his wife's. Because house hold economic activity was not given a market value, women had no way left before her to achieve economic status independent of her husband. Hence she joined the labor force for earning. The technological changes of the industrial revolution

transformed the process of production. As a result, the women of the urban proletariat and many of the Artisan groups were drawn in to the factories, mills and mines as unskilled wage earners. The majority of women found it necessary to work out side of the home to augment the family income. Increased cost of living necessitated the supplementary earnings to the chief wage earnings and it was deemed preferable that the daughters also should work for wages. At the same time, industry seeking to keep down costs of productions in order to keep up profits, offered only his supplementary wages to the daughters. Women thus came to occupy the position of marginal workers in the new economy. The employment of women on industrial nations has thus been a development arising neither from social requirement of women's work in industries nor from women's inherent need for work, but mainly caused by the desire of entrepreneurs to utilize cheap labor for profit making purposes. Now women have entered to the technical field, medical, teaching, nursing and researching. They are working as pilots, taxi drivers, policemen, army, ambassadors, ministers, head of nations. They are serving Indian army and police most difficult and dangerous job of espionage, etc. Kiran Bedi is the much admired IPS officer of the past days.

In this modern age women are mainly entering into the lucratively paid jobs to enhance the family income and prestige and to utilize the education and social status, rather than merely due to the economic constraints. Educated urban women have now begun to realize that job can raise their self-esteem and self confidence and can accomplish their socio-psychological security and freedom. The various studies and serves as well as statistics shows that educated women are now more keen and desirous of utilizing their education and training than was the case previously studied researchers. The desire to seek escape from the monotony and dullness of home life drives quite a number of women into the employment market.

Women began to work with different motives, some wanted to occupy themselves mentally and make their educational purposeful, some began to work just to get rid of boredom , while some others do so because of their interest in a particular vocation and large number due to economic pressure. Some women may have to work, when permanent or temporary inadequacy like sudden death of the father, husband or some other earning member of the family occurs.

Today working wives show strong internal commitment to work. They work for variety of reasons including need to feel useful and important but they work mainly in order to earn money and satisfaction of educator useful of skills so many reasons.

Working woman – attitude towards marriage and the family living

Traditionally, wife is subordinate half of the couple. She has no right of decision making in any of the family matters and has no family responsibilities. She has to prepare food and nurture the infant and the rest of the duties remain vested in the hands of the husband. Her main duty is attend to the domestic tasks, to confine with in the kitchen and to look after the home. "Manu calls as the Queen of the house hold". Entering to the visitors and guests, worshipping the family deity, are the duties of the wife. On the other hand, many duties and obligations, economic, social and educational pertaining to the family, are on the shoulders of the husband. He has to provide sustenance and shelter to his family member education to the children and make them properly settle in life with marital and economic obligations fulfilled.

The moral demands of the married life, namely, faithfulness, loyalty, obedience and service, are made more on the wife than the husband. it is the wife who should be one mind with the husband like shadow, should be his companion in all good works and she always should remain cheerful and mindful of house hold duties Yajur Veda (14.2) says that wife should be like a sky and she should help achieving the desire, object, bravery and richness.

But times have changed with the advent of women's education and lucrative employment outside of the house. Once the uneducated wife could not take any decision or take part in any family affairs, without elder blessings. Now the educated wife is very much involved in the family affairs, i.e. taking decisions, advising the husband in times of need and educating the children, planning for future, etc. once women were treated as chattels and were equaled with the scum. But the present day educated women, particularly educated working women, is very calculative and planning minded. As she is contributing to the family income, the husband treats her in away different from the traditional society where he dominating in the family. But the modern woman is quite contrary to her counterpart.

Due to the double responsibility of the house work and outdoor work, the working wives are at confusion whether to be assertive against the work, as they are caught between the two. They are unable to adjust to the dual roles and they are constrained and compelled by the burden of work to feel that he husband also ought to share the household chores. The higher position of the individual, he less she feels that the house work should share by the husbands. This is due to

economic potentiality of the wife. If the wife is high rank and earns more income for the family she has every right and courage to ask her husband to share house work, because money is rated of the highest rate of the society. Even the husband happily obeys the wife who is supporting the family with her salary.

Working woman – attitude towards education, Decision making:

Traditionally, woman is subordinate to man. She has served to her husband and family members. As river merges into sea losing its existence, she too loses her individuality as she given marriage and she depend on her husband. She does not have any decision making power, even with regard to her own children welfare.

But modern educated woman, on the other hand, wants her say to be implemented in the family affairs. Having studied economics, home education, psychology, nutrition and technical courses, etc. the educated working wife plays very vital role in the policy making decisions regarding children, purchase and living standards than the non working wife. The considerable years of working enhances the decision making power of the working wife. With the increase of married life span or after one or two children, i.e. when husband is in forties, the decision making power of wife increases very rapidly. At that age, husband happily agrees with the wife decision, and become completely dependent .the employed mothers take more decisions in matters of investment and budget control than the non-employed mothers. The mother who works tend to have more Power in decision making in fiscal matters. This is one of the new emerging role systems among the dual income families.

The working women tend to take not only financial, budgetary, children's education and kitchen matters but also vital issues like their children's mate selection, fixation of dowry, future plans for the family's welfare, etc.

Status of woman and changing patterns of educated working woman:

The mere birth of female child was unwelcome and inauspicious during the ancient days. The daughter was no help in the family. She was always to be guarded for fear of going astray. There was fear of others carrying her away. When she gets married, she goes away from parents. The same attitude is meted to our sisterhood even today, but it is refined type. The parents do not organize any function or feast on the birth of female child. But when it

comes to male child, they arrange grand gala functions, birth day celebrations and sweet distribution, etc. and every birth day of the male child is marked by joyous celebration, while birth of the female child goes unnoticed.

During the Vedic period, the position of the women was far superior to the post pos-Vedic and even to the modern women of the today, she has given equal rights and privileges. He was allowed to have education on par with the male. After finishing her studentship, brahmacharya she was married to learned young man. She was allowed to choose her own mate.

We cannot say exactly when the deterioration of status of women started on different opinions of this issue. From 1500 B.C., the women status started to change and it became and much more masked after the beginning of Christian era. And reach the peak of the Mughal invasion. During the period the dictum laid down by Manu, the law giver of the second century, "that a women does not deserve freedom" and her life throughout should be one of the dependence on man was the rule. Another similar dictum he said was that women should be sub servant in all stages of her life: "in child hood to the father, in youth to the husband and elderly kins to the sons when widowed. During the regime of Manu, the position of women further lowered. He laid down the qualities of a woman. "The husband must constantly be worshiped as a god by faithful wife, a good wife desirous of living in this as well as the next world with her husband, must never do anything that would displace him, either alive or dead. A woman can visit the paradise not by virtue of any penance, but as a result of her status of obedience and devotion to her husband.

Equality: due to the development of education and with the creation of out of home gainful employment, the modern women are subject to change. The changed Socio Economic conditions, specifically after independence have widened opportunities for women education and employment and have provided them with new avenues to express and assert their equality. this along with newly granted politico legal privileges, is label to affect the feelings, thoughts and ways of looking at vital issues of life.

Sociologists, social scientists and the women's organizations are vociferously urging for the equal status of women on par with men, at least for educated working women, if not for traditional women. In ancient India, Hindu women enjoyed low status in the society. She was always sub ordinate to the male. The educated woman is not confined to the home alone. She has to interact with the public for various societal obligations. It is very for her to abstain from citing the name of her

husband hence the educated and employed women have come to realize that there is no wrong in referring to the husband's name. Now some modern women directly address their husbands by their names call them by name even in the family. Still most of them are not free call him by name in the Presents parents-in-law. But the western Countries it is not at all a point to be discussed. In Indian society now a days it is a fashion to have husband's surname attached to the wife's name. Even the daughters keep their father's surnames along with their names. But keeping the surname of one's husband is modern and the highly professional women do keep respective surnames of their husband's along with their names. Especially, it is practiced by the working women, particularly in the urban sector. While this custom is viewed by the educated and working women as a sign of modernity, the women should have their identity in terms of their own selves, and not through their relatives, they think. Hence, it was felt necessary to find out the opinions of the working women on this aspect.

Problems of working women

The problems and difficulties of working women are multi-dimensional and they need a deep probing. The problems are three types environmental, social and psychological. And each of them, they are two situations under which they emerge. One is home and another one is work the socio, psycho environmental problems and difficulties are faced by the working women both at home and at work. The problems are mainly two fold. One is of inner conflict due to dual commitment and concern and the other is at the practical level difficulty of combining work commitment with their role at the home.

The majority of problems arise out of double responsibility of the working mother one house work and the other office work. The educated working women have now become more assertive, more equality conscious and independent after taking up employment. Carrying out almost single-handedly all the duties and responsibilities of home overstrains a working woman and makes her tired and irritable, which in turn is liable to make her an un pleasant and un enjoyable company to her husband and children. The working woman have suffer a numbered of psychological problems created by the male co-workers and male boss with the advantage of his position and official status try to exploit her sexually. Him to It generally it creates tensions and conflicts both within herself in the form of guilt complex, and apart from this her home life and interaction with her colleagues get

affected who look down upon for her intimacies with her boss.

When the both couples are employed, and if wife happens to be superior in position to her husband, a different type of situation has to be faced by the wife because the husband does not feel easy and cannot cope up with her family and hence, many problems and troubles may arise in the family. Due to the inferiority complex of the husband, the entire family becomes a devil's den.

Conclusion

Modernization seems to have left hardly any society unaffected. The western societies have already achieved substantial degree of modernize, where as the developing countries are fast approaching towards direction of modernization. While discussing the equality meted to our womanhood we can observe clearly they are being given equality only on the but not in reality. The same was expressed by the lowly placed women but the highly placed medical women stated that they were enjoying equality in their life. The medicos are honored and respected everywhere in society and hence they feel as being treated equally with men in society.

The women must be provided with the equal opportunities to compete with men. The women must inculcate from the child wood that their mission in life is not confined to kitchen and home only but they should come out of the home to the external world. Right from the child wood, individualistic attitude has to be cultivated by hem they must asked to regard themselves as equal with men and should demanded equal treatment in all spheres. They are to be made in such a way that they must take advantage of the laws guaranteeing freedom of choice and opportunities which have never been fully implemented and utilized.

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