

Original Research Article

A Community Based Cross-Sectional Study about Women Status in Varanasi

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ABSTRACT

Background- In India women population is 48.45% and work participation for women is 25.1% (Census 2011). Many women, who are eligible for job, are not permitted by their family members. To know about women empowerment, permission to do job and age at marriage are two important parameters.

Objective- To find different socio-economic indicators in society those influence women status. To find relationship between different socio-economic indicator and women status.

Result- 58.75% respondents were housewife, 6.25% respondents were in government job. Most common age group of respondents was 25-30 years. 60% respondents were permitted to do job. Age at marriage of girl is dependent on locality and educational level.

Discussion- In this study Women literacy rate was 86.20 % and NFHS-4 women literacy rate was 70.50%, Women literacy of Varanasi was 66.69% (census 2011). Contribution of women in employment is 26% (World Bank 2012). In this study, 17.6% of women were in job and 10% were doing business. When we combine these two, the percentage comes closer to the World Bank and census, 2011 findings. It is a welcome sign that more than half of women population are permitted to do job.

Key Words- women status, age at marriage, education, locality, permitted to job, NFHS-4.

INTRODUCTION

The women are pillar of the nation. What does this statement emphasize? This statement says that without a woman, the nation cannot stand just as palace cannot stand without its pillars. Our population is made up of 48.45% of women but only 11% households are headed by women, the highest number of female-headed households is in Lakshadweep at 43.7% and in Kerala at 23%. ^[1] Meghalaya is the only state in India, where society is matriarchal. Women have set excellent examples before us. But the love, affection and respect that a woman deserves, are we giving her that? A large percentage of women in our society are uneducated. Women literacy of India is 64.8 % but literacy for men is 80.9% (Census, 2011). According to NFHS-4

district fact sheet women literacy of Varanasi is 70.5%.

The constitution of India guarantees to all Indian women equality (Article-14), no discrimination by the state (Article –15(1)), equality of opportunity (Article- 16), equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition it allows special provisions to be made by the state in favor of women and children (Article 15(3)).

Maternal mortality is influenced by low literacy, early age at marriage and child bearing and economic dependency of women. ^[2] India's maternal mortality rate reduced from 212 deaths per 100000 live births in 2007 to 167 deaths in 2013. ^[3]

Women in India are more literate than ever, with 64.8 % now able to read and write (Census 2011). They are also entering marriage at older age, with just 27% now

wedded before the age of 18. [4] The advance is largely due to key government interventions such as the Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), 2011 scheme which encompasses free maternity services for women.

Child marriage has been traditionally prevalent in India and continues to this day. Although child marriage was outlawed in 1860. According to UN Agencies, more than 40% of the world's child marriages happen in India. In eight states of the country, more than half of young girls are married before the age of 18. 26.8% women of age group 20-24 years married before 18 years of age. [5] The UN Women will conduct a programme to promote women's political leadership and governance in 16 districts in states of India as Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Odisha. Prevention of child marriage would be the part of Programme.

National policy for the empowerment of women was adopted in the year 2001. The goal of the policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. The main aims of this policy are - Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against woman and girl children, Equal access to participation and decision- making of women in the social, political and economic life of the nation and equal access to women in health care, quality education at all levels, employment, equal pay, occupational health and safety. [6]

Objective-

The main purpose or objective of the study of women status in society is as follows-

1. To find different socio-economic indicator in society those influence women status.
2. To find relationship between different socio-economic indicator and women status.

METHODOLOGY

1. Planning Of The Study—A community based cross sectional study was planned to know the status of women in Varanasi.

Inclusion Criteria:

1. Married women 20-50 years of age.
2. Resident of the study area.

Exclusion Criteria:

1. Seriously ill women.
2. Not present at the time of interview.

2. Study Setting-This study was community based including both rural and urban area of Varanasi.

3. Study Area - In urban area, Sample was collected from Kabirnagar, Durgakund and in the rural area from village Susuwahi (block- KashiVidyapith).

4. Sampling Techniques- In this paper convenient sampling was used. By using this sampling first household selected at random and then other households were selected continuously. [7]

5. Estimation of sample size— Level of significance (α) =.05

Since we had no prior knowledge about the proportion of cases P so P= .50, Q= .50 and absolute difference (d) =.10 , $Z_{\alpha/2}$ =1.96 were taken.

$$n = (Z^2_{\alpha/2}) \times PQ/d^2$$

$$n = 80$$

6. Data Collection and analysis- Data was collected by using a pretested questionnaire. Collected data was entered in SPSS 16 and analyzed using its various techniques.

RESULTS

Table-1 (Age Group and Occupation of Respondent)

Age Group	No. of respondent (%)	Occupation	No. of respondent (%)
20-25	14 (17.5)	House wife	47 (58.75)
25-30	20 (25)	Government Job	5 (6.25)
30-35	10 (12.5)	Private Job	9 (11.25)
35-40	14 (17.5)	Business	8 (10)
40-45	18 (22.5)	Other	11 (13.75)
45-50	4 (5)		
Total	80 (100)	Total	80 (100)

Table-1 indicates that maximum 58.75% respondents were housewife, 6.25 % respondents were in government job, 11.25% respondents do private job, 10% respondents involved with own business. Most common age group of respondents was 25-30 years (25%).

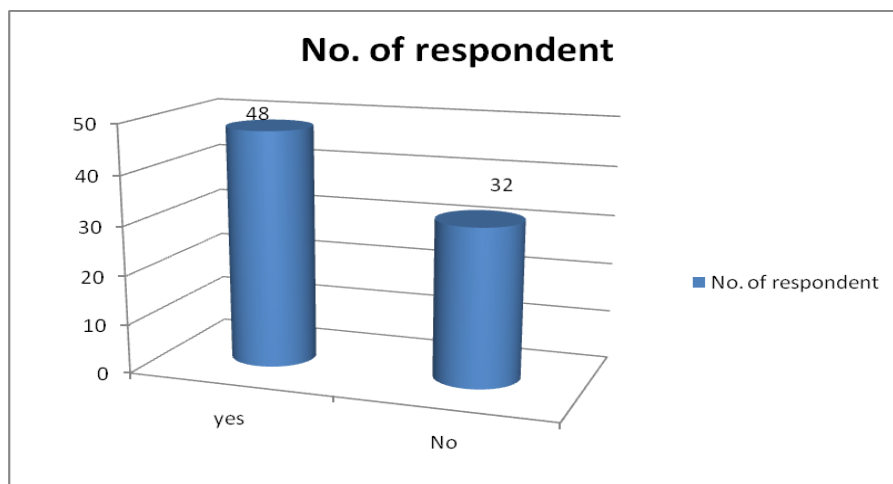


Figure -1 (Permitted to job)

Figure -1 indicate that 60% respondent was permitted to do job and 40% respondent was not permitted to do a job.

Now we used Chi Square test to find relationship between different socio-economic indicator and women status

HO: The age at marriage of girl is dependent on locality.

Here we used 4 x 2 contingency table and d.f.= (4-1) x (2-1) = 3 x 1=3

Table - 2 (Contingency table)-

Back ground of respondent		Age at marriage(in year)				Total
		16-18	18-20	20-22	Above 22	
Urban	Count	21	23	4	2	50
	Expected	26.9	16.3	5.6	1.3	50
Rural	Count	22	3	5	0	30
	Expected	16.1	9.8	3.4	8	30
Total						80
Chi Square value-		Calculated Value- 2.08		Tabulated Value- 7.81		

Since, calculated value of chi square is less than tabulated value of chi square. Hence, null hypothesis may be accepted at 5% level of significance .Thus we conclude that the age at marriage of girl is dependent on locality.

HO: The age at marriage of girl is dependent on educational level.

Here we use 4x2 contingency table and d.f. = (4-1) x (2-1) = 3x1=3

Table-3(contingency table)-

Educational level of respondent		Age at marriage(in year)				Total
		16-18	18-20	20-22	above22	
Illiterate	Count	4	2	3	2	11
	Expected	5.91	3.57	1.23	0.27	
Literate	Count	39	24	6	0	69
	Expected	37.08	22.42	7.76	1.72	
Total						80
Chi-Square		Calculated Value- 0.38		Tabulated Value- 7.81		

Since, calculated value of Chi Square is less than tabulated value of Chi Square. Hence, null hypothesis may be accepted at 5% level of significance. Thus, we conclude that the

age at marriage of girl is dependent on educational level.

DISCUSSION

Contribution of women in employment was 26% [8] as per 2011 census; workforce participation rate for women was 25.51%. 17.6% of women were in job and 10% were doing business (Table-1). When we combine these two, the percentage comes closer to the World Bank and census, 2011 findings. Moreover, more than half of women populations (60%) were permitted to do job (Figure-1), which is a welcome sign in the direction of women empowerment.

Age at marriage of women is dependent on locality. Below 18 years of age i.e. legal age of marriage, 53.75% girls get married (Table-2) and that is matter of great concern. When we look into the data in terms of rural-urban variation, the percentage girls marrying before legal age of marriage is further high (73.33 vs 42%).

Age at marriage of women is also dependent on educational level of women. When we compare the finding of this study with NFHS-4 (70.5%) and census 2011 (66.69%), our study shows a quite high women literacy rate (86.25%). But this positive factor is not getting translated into the legal age of marriage in Varanasi (53.55% vs 19.9%, NFHS-4). It is known that marriage and then pregnancy beyond the extremes of age (below 18 and after 30) are labeled as high risk.

Women Helpline Scheme provides toll-free 24-hours telecom service to women affected by violence seeking support and information. Call to women's helpline: 181 toll free, call to 1091, and Police helpline.

Mahila E-Haat provides a web-based marketing platform to the women entrepreneurs to directly sell their products. National Mission for Empowerment of women (NMEW) 2011 is an initiative of the government of India for empowering women holistically. Hopefully, these supportive and welfare schemes will help in improving the socio-economic status of women.

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