



A STUDY ON THE PROBLEMS  
FACED BY MEN AND WOMEN DUE  
TO ATTITUDE OF WORKING  
WOMEN IN FAMILIES WITH  
REFERENCE TO CHENNAI

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**Abstract**

Traditionally, an Indian woman had four fold status-role sequences. These were her role as a daughter, wife, housewife (homemaker), and mother. The woman, whose status and role traditionally was well defined and almost fixed in the society, is now experiencing far-reaching changes. The woman in modern times is entering into certain new fields

that were unknown to the womans sphere of role-sets. They are activating participating in social, economic, and political activities. The women of the present generation have generally received higher education than the women of their preceding generation. There have been far reaching consequences in the economic status of their families.

**Key Words:** Working Women, Women Stress, Men Stress

**Women in India:** Role and Status of Women in India

**Womens Role in Society:** The modern women are inclined towards the social issues, and trying hard to improve the social status of women at large. Increased awareness and education has inspired women to come out of the four walls of the home. Many women actively supported and participated in the nationalist movement and secured eminent positions and offices in administration and public life in free India. Traditionally Indian women exist because of the family and for the family. Just like their man counterpart, women are also fond of attending social functions and value her social life quite a lot.

**Woman as a wife:** Woman as a wife enjoyed ideally a status almost equally to that of her husband and performed both social as well as biological functions. Even today, the Indian girls are still brought up on models portraying selflessness, self-denial, and sacrifice. The desire for mutual affection and love is beginning to appear in their conception of their relationship with their husbands.

**Participation of Women in Socio-economic activities:**

The woman in modern times is entering into certain new fields that were unknown to the womans sphere of role-sets. These are the womans participation in economic, political, and social life. The modern woman keenly desires to enter into a work career because of the pressing economic needs of the family. In middle class families, much emphasis is given to the maintenance of high standard of living. To fulfill the economic needs of the family and to achieve higher standard of living the woman participates in economic activities.

**Women equality is not universal:** Womens equality in terms of education, employment, and power is still an individual rather than a universal achievement. The majority of our women are still content to accept an inferior status. This is by and large due to the fact that, although legally women have equal rights with men, there are not enough jobs for women and working women are not

adequately protected from exploitation.

#### **Traditional Roles of Men in Families**

Religious European settlers brought their beliefs to the New World, and those beliefs helped define the roles of men and women within families. God was the highest authority, and husbands and fathers derived their household authority from God. Men were expected to provide for their families, but they also took an active role in rearing their children. Fathers taught their children to read and write, found apprenticeship programs for them so that they could learn career skills, disciplined their offspring as needed, and led the family in prayers or other religious activities. The father was considered the primary parent. Divorce was permissible under certain circumstances, but the father was normally granted custody rather than the mother.

#### **Traditional Roles of Women in Families**

A woman needed to know how to sew, spin and weave, tend vegetable and medicinal herb gardens, prepare food, and make sure that any servants or apprentices were properly trained and satisfactorily met their obligations within the household. She bore children, nursed the, and made sure that they were dressed, fed and well cared for. At the same time, women were often involved in financial enterprises. Many women helped manage their husbands estates or actively took part in a business or family trade. If her economic responsibilities interfered with her parental duties, a woman might leave her young children in the care of a servant or older child while she worked.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

- To Identify the reasons stated by Women to go for work
- To identify the perception of men towards the working women in families
- To study the physical and mental problems faced by working women
- To analyse the attitude of working women
- To offer suggestions based on the study.

#### **CHART 1 REASONS STATED BY WOMEN TO GO FOR WORK**

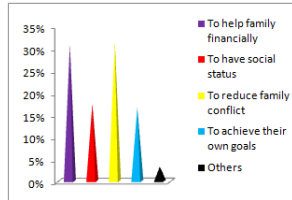


TABLE 1 MENTALITY OF MEN IF WOMEN GO TO WORK

MENTALITY OF MEN IF WOMEN GO TO WORK	NO.OF MEMBERS	PERCENT AGE (%)
Happy	72	60%
Neutral	20	16%
Un Happy	28	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

TABLE 2 RANKING OF MOST AFFECTED MEMBERS IN FAMILY BECAUSE OF WOMEN GOING TO WORK

Family Members	Rank					Total no. of Respondents	Total score	Mean score	Rank
	1	2	3	4	5				
Children	73	43	2	1	1	120	6941.6	57.84	I
Husband	40	63	8	7	2	120	6342.8	52.85	II
Parents	4	8	50	42	16	120	4497	37.47	IV
Brothers/Sisters	1	2	4	15	98	120	2872	23.93	V
In-Laws	2	4	56	55	3	120	4560	38	III

Through GARRETT total score and means score, the ranking of family members who are mostly affected because of women going to work are

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In-Laws	2	4	56	55	3	120	4560	38	III

Most affected family member	Rank
Children	I
Husband	II
In-Laws	III
Parents	IV
Brothers/Sisters	V

TABLE 3 RANKING OF THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL PROBLEMS FACED BY WORKING WOMEN IN HOME AFTER OFFICE HOURS

FACTORS	RANK						TOTAL NO OF RESPONDENTS	TOTAL SCORE	MEAN SCORE	RANK
	1	2	3	4	5	6				
Stress	12	22	31	12	20	23	120	4872.6	40.6	IV
Fatigue	24	40	23	23	9	1	120	5873	48.94	II
Lack of involvement	1	3	4	31	54	27	120	3769.9	31.41	VI
Anger and Mood swings	18	19	17	28	22	16	120	4986.2	41.55	III
Body pain	8	6	34	17	12	43	120	4234	35.28	V
Headache	57	30	11	9	3	10	120	6366.9	53.05	I

Most affected family member	Rank
Headache	I
Fatigue	II
Anger and Mood Swings	III
Stress	IV
Body Pain	V
Lack of Involvement	VI

TABLE 4 TABLE SHOWING ROTATED COMPONENT MATRIX

Rotated Component Matrix <sup>a</sup>			
	Component		
	1	2	3
Women are dominant in nature	.955		
Less involvement in family	.889		
Men get frustrated because of the attitude	.829		
Importance of men in family is reduced	.828		
Working women displays commanding attitude	.787		
Traditional value of family is affected	.723		
Fails in cleaning and other activities	.702		
Fails in parenting and care taking		.928	
Fails to perform family obligation		.914	
Festival celebration and family functions are affected		.692	
Do not respect family members		.690	
Fails to cook and feed		.664	
Take their own decision without consulting family members		.651	
Less contentment in family			.441

**INFERENCE**

The table shows the extraction of 14 variables and these are loaded on Three factors.. These three factors are named and variables included in each factor are explained below:

**FACTOR 1: SUPREMACY**

The precision factor consists of SEVEN variables, it includes the following:-

Women are dominant in nature	.955
Less involvement in family	.889
Men get frustrated because of the attitude	.829
Importance of men in family is reduced	.828
Working women displays commanding attitude	.787
Traditional value of family is affected	.723
Fails in cleaning and other activities	.702

The total variance explained in this factor is 5.713. This factor describes about the dominance of working women attitude and its effects.

**FACTOR 2: NEGLIGENCE**

The second factor consists of SIX variables which are listed below:-

Fails in parenting and care taking	.928
Fails to perform family obligation	.914
Festival celebration and family functions are affected	.692
Do not respect family members	.690
Fails to cook and feed	.664
Take their own decision without consulting family members	.651

The total variance explained in this factor is 4.539. This factor describes about the role negligence of working women in families.

**FACTOR 3: CONTENTMENT**

The third factor is composite of ONE variable which is listed below:-

Less contentment in family	.441
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The total variance explained in this factor is .441. This factor describes the satisfaction level of working women in family.

TABLE 5 TO SHOW THE INFLUENCE OF OCCUPATION WITH RESPECT TO AVAILABILITY OF WORKING WOMEN IN FAMILIES

ANOVA					
Occupation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	125.760	4	31.440	170.291	.000
Within Groups	21.232	115	.185		
Total	146.992	119			

**H0:** There is no significant Influence between the occupation and the availability of working women in families.

**H1:** There is a significant Influence between the occupation and the availability of working women in families.

Since the calculated value (0.000) is less than the asymptotic significance value (0.05), Alternate Hypothesis (H1) is accepted. So there is significant Influence of Occupation with respect to the availability of working women in families.

**FINDINGS**

**GENERAL FINDINGS**

- The majority of the respondents (73.3%) are married.
- The majority of the respondents (30.0%) are belongs to 30-35 age group.
- The majority of the respondents (90%) belong to nuclear family structure.
- The majority of the respondents (80.8%) say that in their family wife are working.
- The majority of the respondents (60%) feel that women can go for work.
- The majority of the respondents (64.2%) say that there is no need in their family for women to work.
- The majority of the respondents (31.7%) say that women go for work to reduce the family conflict.

**SPECIFIC FINDINGS**

**FACTOR ANALYSIS**

Factor analysis on 14 variables of A STUDY ON THE PROBLEMS FACED BY MEN DUE TO ATTITUDE OF WORKING

WOMEN IN FAMILIES resulted into 3 factors. The factors identified as PARENTING AND HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES, ATTITUDE AND RESPECT and DIRECT IMPACT ON FAMILIES. GARRETT RANKING

Through GARRETT RANKING The Physical and Mental problems faced by Women after working hours are Headache is ranked I, Fatigue is ranked II followed by Anger and mood swings which is ranked III, Stress is ranked IV, Body pain is ranked V and Lack of involvement is ranked VI

The Most affected Family Members are Children are ranked I, Husbands are ranked II followed by In-laws which is ranked III, Parents are ranked IV and Brothers are ranked V.

#### **ONE WAY ANNOVA**

The calculated value (0.000) is less than the asymptotic significance value (0.05), Alternate Hypothesis (H1) is accepted. So there is significant Influence of Occupation with respect to the availability of working women in families.

#### **SUGGESTIONS**

Based on the study, the following suggestions are made to men and women in families to uphold their family values and harmony in the relationship among the family members.

#### **FOR MEN**

1. Men need to understand the physical and mental problems faced by working women
2. Men need to support the working women in house hold activities to reduce their burden in home
3. Men need to understand that scolding or hurting women magnifies the problems
4. Men need to understand that women are capable of making smart decisions in home as they do in office and need to consult them in taking critical decisions
5. Men need to listen women and try to understand the issues they face in their working environment and outside the home
6. Men need to support women when family members blame her attitude and try to make her understand the faults in her side politely

#### **FOR WOMEN**

7. Women need to understand the difference in their authoritative levels in office and home and act accordingly



8. Women need to understand that the elders in the family need to be treated with utmost respect irrespective of their level of literacy

9. Women need to avoid judging people with respect to their mood swings and emotions

10. Women need to be cautious and exhibit gentle behaviour in family get-together and functions

11. Women need to avoid taking office calls in home and spend more time with family members

12. Women need to make themselves available for their children irrespective of their busy work life

13. Women need to be available in house during holidays and weekends.

14. Women need to give importance to the family members and should not dominate their roles in family.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The basic aim of our study is to identifying the problems faced by men in families due to the attitude of working women. We were also able to identify the problems faced by children and the elders of the family. The study gave us a clear idea about the perception of family members towards working women. Our diplomatic way of getting responses from men about working women fetched intuitive responses from the men. The difficulties of the working women in satisfying the expectations of family members were analyzed.

In olden days the expectation of men towards women was only to take care of family, they dont want women to do anything other than household activities. In those days men were dominating the women and they take all the decision by their own without consulting women in family because they thought that women are not capable of making crucial decisions, but now the mentality of modern men has changed and they treat women equally in family. All the matters related to family are discussed with women and they even support women to perceive their own goals in the society.

The genuine problems faced by women both physically and mentally need to be understood more by the family members. The expectation of working women is that the family members need to understand their world. While working women try to maintain their work-life balance, they fail sometimes. But the support of men makes their hopes alive in continuing their journey and to

reach greater heights in their professional life.

Working women are more relaxed when they have elders like parents or in-laws in their houses. The responsibility of elders in understanding working women is more important in families. It is the guidance and support of the elders which could keep the working women move towards their dream. The criticisms and comments of elders should not be a hurdle for the growth and peaceful life of working women.

This study serves as a guide for the working women to understand about the perception of men towards them; the expectations of men and other family members towards them; and the realization the family members have towards the challenges and difficulties working women face in maintaining their work life balance

This study will also help the working men to concentrate in the areas which are identified as the expectation from the family members. By applying the thought process and eliminating the nuance of conflicts with the family members, working women may emerge as super women in families controlling all the checks and balances of family events.

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