

Perception of married working women towards quality life

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ABSTRACT

In present situation, all are running after better living and quality life. This philosophy involves more income in personal level and family side. To achieve quality life, the women to-day seeks employment outside home. But to manage both the fronts, she faces role conflict. Management of time, family and money is the primary variable to overcome role conflict. Time based conflict is concerned with leisure time use and family time availability. Family management includes day to day family functions, house keeping, care of old and others during their illness and observation of religious functions. Education of children, meeting social obligations, addition of income and assets under money management. So, as there is a correlation between quality life and role conflict, a balance should be maintained to minimize role conflict.

Key words : Quality life, Perception, Wage earners, Service holders.

Quality life is now the central focus of living. The nature of quality life being dynamic, its definition becomes changeable depending upon society and culture. The basic needs are considered important ingredients for quality life. An attempt was made to examine the reactions and perceptions of urban and rural married working women about the quality life and the role conflict they face with the objectives to find out the perceptions of married working women towards quality life and to identify the relation between quality life and level of role conflict among married working women.

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in Orissa covering six rural districts and Bhubaneswar, the capital of the State for selecting rural and urban sample, respectively. Total 260 numbers of respondents (130 from each category) were purposefully randomly selected who fulfilled the criteria of (i) being married, (ii) being engaged in dual work and (iii) having experience of housewife at least for three years.

Keeping the objectives in view, a structured interview schedule was developed and used for data collection combined with observation method. The observation method was followed in case of tribal women to make them understanding of the objectives of the study. Each group consisted of 10-15 members and discussion for more than one hour for sitting. Then the data was analyzed by using statistical tools to reveal the findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Quality life:

Through interactions with people of different walks of life, about 10 important parameters qualifying quality life have been selected. These are: food, residence, dress, education of children, health, leisure time use, balance between income and expenditure, materials achievement, compatibility between life partners and sharing responsibilities by both. The parameters were kept unchanged for both the urban and rural women having their perceptions with varied degrees as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 : Variables of quality life (Score analysis)

Variables	Urban		Rural		Difference
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	
1. Standard food	2.49	VI	2.03	V	18.47
2. Residence	2.40	VII	2.14	II	10.83
3. Dress	2.26	VIII	1.82	VII	8.61
4. Education of children	2.69	III	1.82	VII	28.25
5. Health status	2.67	IV	1.93	VI	28.46
6. Use of leisure time	2.07	IX	1.72	IX	16.90
7. Income and expenditure	2.55	V	2.11	III	6.76
8. Material achievement	2.02	X	1.81	IX	10.39
9. Compatibility	2.76	I	2.24	I	18.84
10. Sharing responsibility	2.75	II	2.10	IV	16.90