



## Problems faced by homemakers while using storage furniture in semi- modular and non-modular kitchen

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### ABSTRACT

The present study aims to analyse the homemakers' storage furniture design of semi-modular (SMK) and non-modular kitchens (NMK) in order to reduce their problems. Sixty households were selected from two posh areas of Udaipur city having semi-modular and non-modular kitchens (30 each). An interview and observation schedule was used to gather the relevant information regarding respondents' family background and problems related to kitchen storage layout, arrangement, functionality, accessibility, economic and environment. The findings of the study highlighted that SMK respondents had less problems as compared to NMKs due to good layout of kitchen storage furniture design. This in turn leads to correct posture and lower musculo skeletal disorders, which reduces physiological cost of work.

### INTRODUCTION

Kitchens are important premises of any home. Every homemaker's motto is space for everything and everything in its place. Kitchen is the major work area in the home. An Indian homemaker spends about 5-6 hours a day in the kitchen which may amount to approximately one-fourth of her life span. The physical amenities and designing of homemaker's house are not always planned as per need of health, security and workplace comfort (Kishtwaria *et al.*, 2007).

The design of the kitchen storage furniture has direct impact on the strain, time and effort of the homemaker (Varghese *et al.*, 1996). While working in the kitchen women face numerous problems related to improper dimensions of the kitchen storage, faulty design of the kitchen storage furniture, large walking distance between works centres which are responsible for the awkward postures causes' pain in the body leading to decrease in the work efficiency.

Workspace must be given considerable attention in

designing of the layout (Charles, 1976). Adequately designed and properly arranged kitchen work area reduces physical, physiological and temporal cost of the homemakers (Saha, 1990). Without considering human factor while designing kitchen storage furniture, workers face varied problems affecting their physiological cost of work. An organized storage area economizes work cost. Storage should have sufficient holding space for all items needed for a group of related tasks done at the same place, the space should permit ready to access to each item. This facilitates the work and reduces its cost (Oberoi *et al.*, 2005).

The problems faced by homemakers in semi-modular and non- modular kitchens storage furniture design were analyzed in terms of functionality, material, cost, arrangement, maintenance, environment and space workflow. Apart from these zonal, postural and environmental problems were also analyzed.

### Objectives:

The objective of the study is-