

# A study on problem faced by working women in household activities

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■ **ABSTRACT** : India is a country with diverse traditions and custom. In all the religions, women hold a venerable position. Unfortunately, since ages, the role of women was confined to household chores and limited to domestic issues. In the male-dominated Indian society, women suffered to extreme levels of exploitations. The participation of women as workers and women's education was negligible. Indian women's distinct from their western counterparts in that they do not shed their conventional roles as mother and housewives in spite of their professional responsibilities. Thus the present study attempts to study some of the important issues concerning working women, her dual role conditions of work, problem of adjustment between work/domestic duties.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Working women, Problem, Household activity

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Women, living in nuclear families participate more intensively in household activities. A working woman today faces many problems, both social as well as economical (Ashok and Sundar, 2012). Labour statistics reveals that the married women are the key source of this growth and helps explain the growing interest in dual-carrier families (Chandra, 2010 and Lee and Uys, 2009). Women are called to be productive both at work and at home. In rural areas women fully involve during the whole day in domestic labour activities like looking after the children, cleaning the house, cooking, washing and the many other activities. Although their participation in household activities are very high but the educational facilities and enrolment of female in primary education is hopeless because their enrolment has stayed roughly the same for the country

as a whole, at about 30 per cent other than education women's full participation in economic and household activities impeded by cultural and legal constraints, which limits women's participation by women's relative lack of time and mobility due to their workloads and multiple roles so there is need to know their participation and time utilization pattern of household activities (Parveen, 2009 and Winn, 2004).

The present study was conducted in 2012-2013 at Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh to determine the problem faced by working women in household activity. To know the problem faced by working women, a three points rating scale was exercised with the following corresponding numerical value. These were analyses and identified the real problem.

Agree-3

Indifferent -2  
Disagree – 1

Mainly 2 problem faced by working women in household activity *i.e.* (psychological) home conflict and (physical) home conflict. A three point measurement, ranging from ‘Agree’, ‘Indifferent’, ‘Disagree’ with a scoring of 3, 2, 1, was assigned, respectively.

It was calculated to know the average value of particular problem with the help of following formula :

$$\text{Mean score} = \frac{\text{Total score on particular problem}}{\text{No. of respondents}}$$

The finding depicted Table 1 reveals that “More expectations by the family members” were the major problem of the working women with mean value 2.46 rank list. It was followed by “Lack of co-ordination with friends” with mean value 2.30, “over stress due to household activity” with mean value 2.23 “Lack of co-ordination with neighbour with mean value 1.97, Lack of social support with mean value 1.91, Lack of co-ordination with children with mean value 1.90. Behavioural problem of family members with mean value 1.86, “Lack of co-ordination with husband and servant with mean value 1.80, lack of co-ordination with in-laws with mean value

1.75, “lack of interest in household work with mean value 1.70, “Lack of confidence in household work with mean value 1.67. Thus, it can be concluded that maximum were suffering from more expectation by the family members and least in lack of confidence in household work (Gjerdingen *et al.*, 2000; Hakim, 2006 and Nia, 2002).

Table 1 indicated that 46.25 per cent respondents considered traditional custom as evil for women development in their society, while 53.75 per cent respondents considered that traditional custom not as an evil for women development. About 65.0 per cent of respondents devoted enough time to their child’s study and 35.0 per cent respondents fail to give enough time to their child’s studies.

It is clear from table that 73.75 per cent respondents took active participation in major family decisions, whereas, 27.5 per cent respondents did not take active participation in major family decision (Boca *et al.*, 2000).

Present table indicated that 73.75 per cent respondents felt that they were free to spend their family income and 26.25 per cent respondents felt that they were not spend family income.

Table 1 : Problem faced by working women in household activity				
Sr. No.	Statement	Total	Mean score	Rank order
<b>Psychological home conflict</b>				
1.	Lack of interest in household work.	136	1.70	(X)
2.	Lack of confidence in household work.	134	1.67	(XI)
3.	More expectations by the family members.	197	2.46	(I)
4.	Lack of social support	153	1.91	(V)
5.	Lack of co-ordination with			
i.	Husband	144	1.80	(VIII)
ii.	In-laws	140	1.75	(IX)
iii.	Neighbour	158	1.97	(IV)
iv.	Children	152	1.90	(VI)
v.	Friends	184	2.30	(II)
vi.	Servant	144	1.80	(VIII)
6.	Behavioural problem of family members	149	1.86	(VII)
7.	Over stress	179	2.23	(III)
<b>Physical home conflict</b>				
1.	Excess of household work	178	2.22	(IV)
2.	Less time	194	2.42	(I)
3.	Physical fatigue	193	2.41	(II)
4.	Over work load	186	2.32	(III)
5.	Due to health problem	145	1.81	(VI)
6.	Incompetence of household work	144	1.8	(VII)
7.	Lack of managerial skill	168	2.1	(v)

### Conclusion :

Household sector has been and will remain the mainstay of its economy. The significance of household activities thus cannot be ignored because it constitutes the foundation of growth and stability of the entire household economy. Women play a major role in household activities both directly and indirectly, along with their household responsibilities and socio-cultural obligations. Household responsibility is the backbone of the developing economies and women are the key figure in their vast agrarian socio-economic setup, however, their participation varies from region to region.

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