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# Decision and opinion of women in various home related activities

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■ ABSTRACT: The trends of women's participation have been visibly reversed in recent years but the essential involvement of women in the rural development for their countries is not presently wide. Women in decision making and influential power are exception rather than the rule and they do not yet enjoy the equal status. Therefore, the present study was conducted to find out decision making level and opinion of women in various family related activities. Primary data were collected through interview schedule from 80 women of Parigwan village of Mainpuri district. Majority of respondents were found to be disagree regarding female education (82.50 %), female employment (70%), right to take decision for the family (77.50%), female worked independently (51.25 %), female decision regarding marriage (90 %) and female decision regarding casting of vote freely (96.25 %). While majority of the respondents were agree that female took part in religious activities (72.50 %) and female participation in political activities (75 %). Forty eight per cent of the respondents were found to be indifferent regarding equal status in the family while only 20 per cent respondents were of the opinion that equal status of female should be given in the family. They think that opinions of their husband are their decision because they are limited upto household duties and responsibilities. Therefore, there is a great need to counsel, provide guidance and aware about their abilities.

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Tomen thy name is creation. The undivided care and attention for a period of nine months and nine days have enable women to nurture life with in them so as to maintain the spontaneity of the human civilization, but they are not consulted for the numbers of children, their education, occupation and marriage. This is not only one field but in varieties of economic activities also. Their potential is under utilized. This picture can be seen in both the areas: rural and urban.

In urban areas where women are more educated, economically independent in comparison of rural women. Rural women are either illiterate or able to sign. They are choice-taker not choice-maker because of lack of information, education, failing of self-confidence, self-reliance and self esteem. As Haggade stated that women's participation in economic decision-making was a vital means by which their economic dependency and social inequality could be removed. Their participation in

decision-making resulted in increasing the employment opportunity for women, increasing the produce and income level of community, reducing the exploitative elements in the economic system, co-operativizing the production, marketing and distribution. Therefore, keeping in view of above facts, the present study was conducted to explore decision and opinion of women in various home related activities.

## **■ RESEARCH METHODS**

Exploratory type of research design was used in the present study. The sample was selected through multi stage random sampling techniques. Mainpuri district was selected for the study. Mainpuri district was divided into two areas; rural and urban. Mainpuri rural was selected purposively. Mainpuri rural consists nine blocks. Out of these blocks; one block namely Jagir was selected randomly. Jagir block consists 216 villages, out of these villages, one village namely Parigwan was selected randomly. Parigwan village had 534 households, 15 per cent of these houses were selected randomly. One adult woman from each house was selected as respondent for the present study. S.E.S. scale of Trivedi (1963) was used with slight modification and Primary data were collected through interview schedule during 2001-2002. Interview schedule was used to collect primary data regarding decision making and opinion of women about various aspects related to family. Collected data were coded, tabulated, analysed and interpreted. Percentage was used as statistical measure.

## ■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 reveals the responses given by respondents for taking decision on various activities. Regarding the amount to be spent, 75 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision taken by self while 25 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision regarding amount to be spent was not taken by them. Regarding the sharing of work, 72.50 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision taken by self while 27.50 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision regarding sharing of work was not taken by them. Regarding the fulfillment of household requirement, 97.50 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision taken by self while 2.50 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision regarding fulfillment of household requirement was not taken by them. Regarding the education of children, 87.50 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision taken by self while 12.50 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision regarding education of children was not taken by them. Regarding the occupation of children, 81.25 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision taken by self while 18.75 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision regarding occupation of children was not taken by them (Table 1).

Regarding the marriage of children, 95 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision taken by self while 5 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision regarding marriage of children was not taken by them. Regarding the social work, 13.75 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision taken by self while 86.25 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision regarding social work was not taken by them. Regarding the religious work, 21.25 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision taken by self while 78.75 per cent of the respondents reported that the decision regarding religious work was not taken by them.

Table 3 reveals that majority of the respondents were found to be disagreed regarding female education (82.50

Table 1 : I	Distribution of respondents according to decision in va-	rious activities	(n=80)				
	•	Respondents					
Sr. No.	Activities	Yes	No				
		Percentage (frequency)	Percentage (frequency)				
1.	Amount to be spent	45.00(60)	25.00(20)				
2.	Sharing of work	72.50(58)	27.50(22)				
3.	Fulfillment of household requirement	97.50(78)	2.50(2)				
4.	Education of children	87.50(70)	12.50(10)				
5.	Occupation of children	81.50(65)	18.75(15)				
6.	Marriage of children	95.00(76)	5.00(4)				
7.	Social work	13.75(11)	86.25(69)				
8.	Religious work	21.25(17)	78.25(63)				

%), female employment (70%), right to take decision in the family (77.50%), female worked independently (51.25 %), female decision regarding marriage (90 %) and female decision regarding casting of vote freely (96.25 %). While majority of the respondents were agree that female took part in religious activities (72.50 %) and female participation in political activities (75 %). While 48.75 per cent of the respondents were found to be indifferent regarding equal status in the family while only 20 per cent respondents were of the opinion that equal status of female should be given in the family (Table 2). The study conducted by Human Welfare and Employment Service Society (1998) reported that majority of the respondents were disagreed regarding the right to take decision in the family and female worked independently. While majority of the respondents were found agreed regarding female education, equal status to women.

Table 3 highlights the mean score of opinion regarding various activities according to the age of the respondents. The mean score regarding the opinion on female education, female employment, equal status of female in the family, female worked independently, female took part in religious activities and female decision regarding costing of vote freely were observed more among the respondents aged below 35 years as compare to respondents aged above 35 years while mean score regarding opinion on right to take decision in the family, female took part in political activities and female decision regarding marriage were found to be more among the respondents aged above 35 years as compare to respondents aged below 35 years. Statistically, no significant differences were observed regarding the mean score of opinion on all the activities except equal status of female in the family and female work independently between the respondents aged below 35 years with the respondents aged above 35 years even at 5 per cent of level of significance.

Table 4 highlights the mean score of opinion regarding various activities according to educational status of the respondents. The mean score regarding the opinion on right to take decision in the family were found to be more among the illiterate respondents as compare to

	Distribution of respondents according to opinion of	Opinion of the respondents					
Sr. No.	Aspects of the family	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree			
	,	Percentage (frequency)	Percentage (frequency)	Percentage (frequency)			
1.	Female education	0.00(0)	17.50(14)	82.50(66)			
2.	Female employment	8.75(7)	21.25 (17)	70.00 (56)			
3.	Right to take decision in the family	6.25 (5)	16.25(13)	77.50(62)			
4.	Equal status of female in the family	20.00(16)	48.75(39)	31.25(25)			
5.	Female worked independently	18.75(15)	30.00 (24)	51.25 (41)			
6.	Female took part in religious activities	72.50(58)	10.00(8)	17.50 (14)			
7.	Female took part in political activities	75.00(60)	16.25 (13)	8.75 (7)			
8.	Female decision regarding marriage	6.25(5)	3.75 (3)	90.00(72)			
9.	Female decision regarding casting of vote freely	23.75(19)	30.00 (24)	46.25(37)			

Table 3 :	Mean score of opinion on the various aspects according	ng to age of respon	dents				(n=80)	
		Age of the respondents						
Sr. No.	Activities	Below 35 y	rs. $(n = 47)$	Above 35 y	rs. $(n = 33)$	Statistic	cal value	
		Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	t	P	
1.	Female education	2.85	0.36	2.79	0.41	0.693	> 0.05	
2.	Female employment	2.66	0.63	2.55	0.66	0.764	> 0.05	
3.	Right to take decision in the family	2.62	0.64	2.85	0.43	1.799	> 0.05	
4.	Equal status of female in the family	2.26	0.67	1.91	0.71	2.244	< 0.05	
5.	Female worked independently	2.49	0.71	2.09	0.79	2.367	< 0.05	
6.	Female took part in religious activities	1.49	0.80	1.39	0.74	0.568	> 0.05	
7.	Female took part in political activities	1.32	0.62	1.36	0.64	0.280	>0.05	
8.	Female decision regarding marriage	2.81	0.57	2.88	0.41	0.604	> 0.05	
9.	Female decision regarding casting of vote freely	2.23	0.80	2.21	0.81	0.110	>0.05	

literate respondents while mean score regarding the opinion on female education, female employment, equal status of female in the family, female worked independently, female took part in religious activities, female took part in political activities, female decision regarding marriage and female decision regarding costing of vote freely were found to be more among the literate respondents as compare to illiterate respondents. Statistically significant differences regarding the mean score or opinion on female education, female employment, female work independently, female took part in religious activities and female decision regarding costing of vote freely were observed between the literate and illiterate respondents. However, no significant differences were observed regarding the mean score of opinion on right to take decision in the family, equal status of female in the family, female took part in political activities and female decision regarding marriage were found between the literate and illiterate respondents even at 5 per cent of level of significance.

Table 5 highlights the mean score of opinion regarding various activities according to caste of the respondents. The mean score regarding the opinion on female education was found to be more among the respondents of upper caste (2.91), followed by backward caste (2.86) and minimum by schedule caste (2.75). Statistically, no significant differences regarding the mean score of opinion on female education were observed between these groups even at 5 per cent level of significance.

The mean score regarding the opinion on female employment was found to be more among the respondents of upper caste (2.83), followed by schedule caste (2.61) and minimum by backward caste (2.38). Statistically, significant difference regarding the mean score of opinion on female employment was observed between upper caste with backward caste (t = 2.324, P < 0.05) while no significant differences regarding the mean score of opinion on female employment between upper caste with schedule and backward caste with schedule caste even

Table 4	Table 4 : Mean score of opinion on the various aspects according to educational status of respondents (n=80)									
	· 		Educational status of the respondents							
Sr. No.	Activities	Illiterate	(n = 47)	Literate (	(n = 33)	Statistic	al value			
	,	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	t	P			
1.	Female education	2.74	0.44	2.94	0.24	2.400	< 0.05			
2.	Female employment	2.43	0.71	2.85	0.43	3.059	< 0.05			
3.	Right to take decision in the family	2.72	0.58	2.71	0.57	0.077	> 0.05			
4.	Equal status of female in the family	1.98	0.71	2.29	0.67	1.977	< 0.05			
5.	Female worked independently	2.13	0.77	2.59	0.69	2.759	< 0.05			
6.	Female took part in religious activities	1.30	0.66	1.65	0.87	2.046	< 0.05			
7.	Female took part in political activities	1.24	0.56	1.47	0.70	.631	>0.05			
8.	Female decision regarding marriage	2.80	0.54	2.88	0.47	0.692	> 0.05			
9.	Female decision regarding casting of vote freely	1.91	0.75	2.65	0.68	4.538	< 0.05			

					Cast	e of the res	pondents			
Sr. No.	Activities	Upper (n=23)		Backward (n=21)		Schedule (n=36)		Statistical value		lue
	,	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	t	t	t
1.	Female education	2.91	0.28	2.86	0.35	2.75	0.43	0.525	1.577	0.993
2.	Female employment	2.83	0.38	2.38	0.84	2.61	0.59	2.324*	1.584	1.214
3.	Right to take decision in the family	2.83	0.38	2.33	0.84	2.86	0.35	2.582*	0.311	3.356*
4.	Equal status of female in the family	2.22	0.72	2.00	0.76	2.11	0.66	0.986	0.603	0.574
5.	Female worked independently	2.74	0.61	2.38	0.65	2.03	0.80	1.895	3.625*	1.700
6.	Female took part in religious activities	1.48	0.83	1.67	0.89	1.31	0.62	0.733	0.901	1.801
7.	Female took part in political activities	1.91	0.83	1.14	0.35	1.08	0.28	3.940*	5.585	0.712
8.	Female decision regarding marriage	2.87	0.45	2.67	0.71	2.92	0.36	1.126	0.472	1.774
9.	Female decision regarding casting of vote freely	2.52	0.83	1.90	0.81	2.22	0.71	2.503*	1.483	1.560

at 5 per cent level of significance.

The mean score regarding the opinion on right to take decision in the family was found to be more among the respondents of schedule caste (2.86), followed by upper caste (2.83) and minimum by backward caste (2.33). Statistically, significant differences regarding the mean score of opinion on right to take decision in the family were observed between upper caste with backward caste and backward caste with schedule caste (p < 0.05) while no significant difference regarding the mean score of opinion on right to take decision in the family was observed between upper caste with schedule caste even at 5 per cent level of significance. The mean score regarding the opinion on equal status of female in the family was found to be more among the respondents of upper caste (2.22), followed by schedule caste (2.11) and minimum by backward caste (2.00). Statistically, no significant differences regarding the mean score of opinion on equal status of female in the family were observed between these groups even at 5 per cent level of significance.

The mean score regarding the opinion on female worked independently was found to be more among the respondents of upper caste (2.74), followed by backward caste (2.38) and minimum by schedule caste (2.03). Statistically, significant difference regarding the mean score of opinion on female work independently was observed between upper caste with schedule caste (t = 3.625, P < 0.05) while no significant differences regarding the mean score of opinion on female worked independently were observed between upper caste with backward caste and backward caste with schedule caste even at 5 per cent level of significance. The mean score regarding the opinion on female took part in religious activities was found to be more among the respondents of backward caste (1.67), followed by upper caste (1.48) and minimum by schedule caste (1.31). Statistically, no significant differences regarding the mean score of opinion on female took part in religious activities were observed between these groups even at 5 per cent level of significance. The mean score regarding the opinion on female took part in political activities was found to be

Table o:	Mean score of opinion on the various aspects according to fa	mily type of the resp	ents	(n=80)			
Sr. No.	Activities	Joint (	n=26)	Nuclear	(n=54)	Statistic	cal value
		Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	t	P
1.	Female education	2.85	0.36	2.81	0.39	0.440	> 0.05
2.	Female employment	2.58	0.69	2.63	0.62	0.326	> 0.05
3.	Right to take decision in the family	2.65	0.62	2.74	0.55	0.658	> 0.05
4.	Equal status of female in the family	2.23	0.70	2.06	0.70	1.017	> 0.05
5.	Female worked independently	2.50	0.69	2.24	0.79	1.434	> 0.05
6.	Female took part in religious activities	1.46	0.75	1.44	0.79	0.116	> 0.05
7.	Female took part in political activities	1.42	0.74	1.30	0.57	0.799	> 0.05
8.	Female decision regarding marriage	2.85	0.53	2.83	0.50	0.164	> 0.05
9.	Female decision regarding casting of vote freely	2.31	0.82	2.19	0.80	0.623	> 0.05

Table 7:	Table 7: Mean score of opinion on the various aspects according to monthly income of the respondents							
			Family type of the respondents					
Sr. No.	Activities	Below Rs.	500 (n=34)	Above Rs.	500 (n=46)	Statistic	cal value	
		Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	t	P	
1.	Female education	2.76	0.42	2.87	0.34	1.293	> 0.05	
2.	Female employment	2.62	0.59	2.61	0.67	0.069	> 0.05	
3.	Right to take decision in the family	2.82	0.45	2.63	0.64	1.481	> 0.05	
4.	Equal status of female in the family	2.15	0.65	2.09	0.75	0.374	> 0.05	
5.	Female worked independently	2.38	0.69	2.28	0.83	0.572	> 0.05	
6.	Female took part in religious activities	1.38	0.77	1.50	0.70	0.726	> 0.05	
7.	Female took part in political activities	1.24	0.55	1.41	0.68	1.197	> 0.05	
8.	Female decision regarding marriage	2.88	0.40	2.80	0.58	0.692	> 0.05	
9.	Female decision regarding casting of vote freely	2.44	0.69	2.07	0.84	2.098	> 0.05	

more among the respondents of upper caste (1.91), followed by backward caste (1.14) and minimum by schedule caste (1.08). Statistically, significant differences regarding the mean score of opinion on female took part in political activities were observed between upper caste with backward caste and upper caste with schedule caste (p < 0.05) however, no significant difference regarding the mean score of opinion on female took part in political activities was observed between backward caste with schedule caste even at 5 per cent level of significance.

The mean score regarding the opinion on female decision regarding marriage was found to be more among the respondents of schedule caste (2.92), followed by upper caste (2.87) and minimum by backward caste and minimum by backward caste (2.67). Statistically, no significant differences regarding the opinion on female decision on marriage were observed between these groups even at 5 per cent level of significance.

The mean score regarding the opinion on female decision regarding costing of vote freely was found to be more among the respondents of upper caste (2.52), followed by schedule caste (2.22) and minimum by backward caste (1.90). Statistically, significant difference regarding the mean score of opinion on female decision on costing of vote freely was observed between upper caste with backward caste (t = 2.503, P < 0.05) however no significant differences regarding the mean score of opinion on female decision on costing of vote freely were observed between upper caste with schedule caste and backward caste with schedule caste even at 5 per cent level of significance.

Table 6 highlights the mean score of opinion regarding various activities according to family type of the respondents. The mean score regarding the opinion on female education, equal status of female in the family, female worked independently, female took part in religious activities, female took part in political activities, female decision regarding marriage and female decision regarding costing of vote freely were found to be more among the respondents belonged to joint families as compare to respondents belonged to nuclear families while mean score regarding opinion on female employment and right to take decision in the family were found to be more among the respondents belonged to nuclear families as

	· 			Family type of t	he respondents	3	
Sr. No.	Activities	Below 5	5 (n=44)	Above 5	5 (n=36)	Statisti	cal value
		Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	t	P
1.	Female education	2.89	0.32	2.75	0.43	1.293	> 0.05
2.	Female employment	2.75	0.53	2.44	0.72	0.069	< 0.05
3.	Right to take decision in the family	2.70	0.55	2.72	0.61	1.481	> 0.05
4.	Equal status of female in the family	2.18	0.68	2.03	0.73	0.374	> 0.05
5.	Female worked independently	1.41	0.75	2.22	0.79	0.572	> 0.05
6.	Female took part in religious activities	1.55	0.84	1.33	0.67	0.726	> 0.05
7.	Female took part in political activities	1.27	0.62	1.42	0.64	1.197	> 0.05
8.	Female decision regarding marriage	2.82	0.53	2.86	0.48	0.692	> 0.05
9.	Female decision regarding casting of vote freely	2.18	0.89	2.28	0.80	2.098	> 0.05

Table 9	Table 9: Mean score of opinion on the various aspects according to status in the family							
	· _							
Sr. No.	Activities	As a hea	d (n=21)	As a memb	per (n=59)	Statisti	cal value	
		Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	t	P	
1.	Female education	2.91	0.29	2.79	0.41	1.255	> 0.05	
2.	Female employment	2.64	0.64	2.60	0.64	0.250	< 0.05	
3.	Right to take decision in the family	2.86	0.34	2.66	0.63	1.407	> 0.05	
4.	Equal status of female in the family	2.00	0.74	2.16	0.69	0.908	> 0.05	
5.	Female worked independently	2.14	0.87	2.40	0.72	1.361	> 0.05	
6.	Female took part in religious activities	1.77	0.90	1.33	0.68	2.359	> 0.05	
7.	Female took part in political activities	1.41	0.49	1.31	0.67	0.637	> 0.05	
8.	Female decision regarding marriage	2.91	0.42	2.81	0.54	0.782	> 0.05	
9.	Female decision regarding casting of vote freely	2.45	0.72	2.14	0.82	1.558	> 0.05	

compare to respondents belonged to joint families. Statistically, no significant differences were observed regarding the mean score of opinion on all the activities between the respondents belonged to nuclear and joint families even at 5 per cent of level of significance.

Table 7 highlights the mean score of opinion regarding various activities according to monthly income of the respondents. The mean score regarding the opinion on female employment, right to take decision, the family, equal status of female in the family, female worked dependently, female decision regarding marriage and female decision regarding casting of vote freely were found to be more among the respondents whose monthly income were below Rs. 500 as compare to respondents whose monthly income above Rs. 500 while mean score regarding opinion on female education, female took part in religious activities and female took part in political activities were found to be more among the respondents whose monthly income were above Rs. 500 as compare to respondents whose monthly income below Rs. 500. Statistically, no significant differences were observed regarding the score of opinion on all the activities between the respondents of these groups even at 5 per cent of level of significance.

Table 8 highlights the mean score of opinion regarding various activities according to family members of the respondents. The mean score regarding the opinion on female education, female employment, equal status of female in the family, female worked independently and female took part in religious activities were found to be more among the respondents having less than 5 members in the family as compare to respondents having more than 5 members in the family while mean score regarding opinion on right to take decision in the family, female took part in political activities female decision regarding marriage and female decision regarding casting of vote freely were found to be more among the respondents having more than 5 members in the family as compare to respondents having less than 5 members in the family. Statistically, no significant differences regarding the mean score of opinion on all the activities except female employment were observed between the respondents having less than 5 members in the family and the respondents having more than 5 members in the family even at 5 per cent level of significance.T

Table 9 shows the mean score of opinion regarding various activities according to status in the family of the respondents. The mean score regarding the opinion on female education, female employment, right to take decision in the family, female took part in religious activities and in political activities, female decision regarding marriage, female decision regarding costing of vote freely were found to be more among the respondents who acted as head of the family as compare to respondents who acted as member of the family while meal score regarding opinion on equal status of female in the family ant female worked independently were found to be more among the respondents who acted as member of the family as compare to respondents who acted as head of the family. Statistically, no significant differences regarding the mean score of opinion on all the activities except female took part in religious activities were observed between the respondents of these groups even at 5 per cent level of significance.

## **Conclusion:**

Regarding decision taking on various activities in the family, majority of respondents were taken fulfillment of household requirement, marriage of children, education of children, occupation of children and sharing of work. Majority of respondents were found to be disagree regarding female education (82.50 %), female employment (70 %), right to take decision of the family (77.50 %), female worked independently (51.25 %), female decision regarding marriage (90 %) and female decision regarding casting of vote freely (96.25 %). While majority of the respondents were agree that female took part religious activities (72.50 %) and female participation in political activities (75 %). Forty eight per cent of the respondents were found to be indifferent regarding equal status in the family while only 20 per cent respondents were of the opinion that equal status of female should be given in the family. So there is a great need to launch various Government programmes regarding literacy, legal rights, employment and health centers.

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