

Participation of husband in selected household activities of Mehsana district of Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

Women's role in nation's development is unparalleled. The position of women in society is indicative of its civilization. Women constitute perhaps the most powerful resource that is yet balance in favorable sociological improvements. Women's work is grueling, virtually unending but also creative, productive and responsible. They are the creators and sustainers of the family. Women have a great responsibility to play as a home maker. They have now an added major role that of as a wage earner. Technical and industrial advancement on one side have made life easy, while on the other side, the role of the husband has also changed considerably. The research objective was to know the participation of husband in household activities. Survey and interview schedule was used on the selected husbands of Mehsana district of Gujarat. 150 samples were selected for the present study from different talukas of Mehsana district. The result concluded that young husband's participation was more than old husband. The difference was not vast but it would be noted that young generation took more interest in domestic responsibilities and managed there challenge efficiently.

INTRODUCTION

Every human being needs a home. It is a place where a good portion of one's time is spent; a place of shelter, where one may seek refuge from the tensions and worries of the outside world. The home performs various functions with a great influence on the well-being of an individual. It is a place where individuals are bound together by love and affection. It is a centre of social life; a place of health, happiness and comfort for the entire family in all stages and conditions of life. The care of the young one and elderly is one of the most important functions of the family that takes place at home. Home is the place where the most basic informal education

takes place. With the influence of the mother, the child learns to speak; it acquires manners, ideas and habits; and carries throughout life the impressions received in its early years at home. In the family one also learns about sacrifice, co-operation, tolerance and moral value.

Women have a great responsibility to play as a home maker. Technical and industrial advancement on one side have made life easy, while on the other side, the role of woman has also changed considerably. It is not only that the functions of the family that changed with general social change, but the role of various members within the family also changed. Family life today is no more the same as it used to be; home maker's responsibilities have changed considerably. Today the efficient management and running

of the home needs specialized knowledge, wide experience and new types of skills. The homemaker also needs knowledge to use new kinds of materials and equipment to most of her advantageously.

Women play a dynamic role in their home activities, as wife, as mother who is responsible for development of the children and as homemaker, in charge of the operation of their homes. In recent times, with the increase in educational facilities and wide spread change in resource available, women have gradually started taking employment outside the home. They have now an added major role that of as a wage earner.

Traditional societies prevented women from entering the public domain and were given a subordinate position in the society. The life of an Indian woman was like a well-defined predicated master plan.

When the women liberation movement started the scenario of women work changed. Since the mid 1970's sociological interest in women's employment issues expanded rapidly. Women's status had undergone profound changes. As a result significant change had been noticed in attitude of men and women towards women's education and employment. Women have played a key, unrecognized role in the rapid economic and social development worldwide. Women have been entering work force in record numbers, over the last four decades. Although, women are not a minority, the world of work they have faced many handicaps. In fact, majority of women who wish to pursue a career face the problem. Domestic and outside work often caused imbalance. Gender discrimination is a common phenomenon (Kaila, 2001).

Women, men and household tasks :

The increase in the participation of women in the labour force of most industrialized societies has drawn the attention of scholars to house work, what is evident in these studies is that changes in marital roles are asymmetrical, wives have become co-providers, regardless of their motivations and personal aspirations while husbands who benefit from their wives' income have not equally shared house work. By their choice to work outside the home and by their inability to effectively use their economic resources to bargain for domestic equality with her husbands, they handle double burden of work within and outside home. Middle class working wives have contributed to their reinforcement and

continuity of the patriarchal character of the contemporary family. Consequently, a change in the husband's domestic role is a critical indicator of the emergence of marital equality and an acid test for the liberation of women within the domestic sphere.

The search on house work in dual earner families in western societies have mainly concentrated on time budgets *i.e.* the amount of time each spouse spends on domestic work, calculated either on a daily or weekly basis. There is a slight change in the amount of time that husbands in dual earner families spend on house work. Most of the other studies have concluded that there is little change over the years in the amount of time husbands in dual earner families spend on domestic tasks. Dual earner families have examined house work in the context of role conflict and the fatigue experienced by employed wives. Their husbands do not assist their wives in childcare. Paid domestic help is sought only by couples and it is usually unreliable.

Most Indian wives continue to engage in longer hours of domestic work in addition to time spent on the job. Few researchers have provided qualified evidence comparing the patterns of house work among wives in the single and dual earner household in order to establish the magnitude of role overload experienced by wives among the dual earner wives. However, with the entry of middle class wives into the labour force, the supposition that the home is the centre of a women's life is no longer as universally accepted as the belief that raising children is part of becoming and being a woman. The sheer burden of two jobs has persuaded many working wives to express their dissatisfaction and yet adhere to the notion that women are primarily responsible for house work, while others express their discontent by totally rejecting the notion that domestic chores are women's duties. Consequently there exist diverse attitudes and approaches to house work convergence (Benerjee, 1945).

Nyquist *et al.* (1985) conducted a study on Household responsibilities in middle class couples. In the modal couple child rearing and decision making responsibilities are shared by approximately equally by husbands and wife but in most homes everyday household tasks are divided along traditional gender lines. The battery also included questions about a number of demographic variables and two personality measures one tapping cluster of gender differentiating instrumental and expressive traits and the other tapping three achievement motifs mastery

work orientations and interpersonal competitiveness several of the demographic factor peculiarly the employment status of the wife and in the husbands account for significant portion of the variability assume of wife vs husband for decision making and for feminine tasks.

Sharma (1962) conducted a study on primary teachers' of municipal corporation school run by Nagar of Prathmic Shikkshan samiti result showed.

- Support in relation to household and childcare activities only few respondents availed of facilities like a house accommodation, library, and play ground and transport services.

- Satisfaction and obligation in relation to the help received 38.4 per cent of the respondents living in joint families were partially satisfied in relation to childcare facilities.

- Other kind of services the respondents in nuclear families and 46 percentage of the respondents in joint families suggested that some kind of institutional help especially from municipal corporations should be made available for child care.

Peterson and Gerson (1992) conducted a study on Determinants of Responsibility for childcare findings suggested that for dual earner couples work pressures that encourages each spouse to minimize responsibility for childcare arrangements may be an important source of conflict at home. This work pressures may initiates intense and stressful negation between spouses over childcare responsibilities and other aspects of domestic work that work family conflict cause for both men and women.

According to Parmar (1998), presented in her study that maximum participation of the respondents was found in planning activities and minimum in care and maintenance activities.

According to Raval (2004) 10.94 per cent of husband participated in cleaning related activities. 39.65 per cent of husbands participated in cleaning related activities. Here when result was compared in 2010 number of husband's participation was increased but not satisfactory, expressed in her study that 72.99 per cent of husband found their participation in purchasing of household goods in comparison of present study participation was found more in past study, 72.78 per cent of husband of Mehsana city were involve in repair and maintenance activity of house. Present study was shown 12.46 per cent more

participation of husband then past study, 18.64 per cent of husbands were involved in child rearing activity where present study was shown 27.91 per cent of participation of husband in child rearing activity so today's husband become a conscious father.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Mehesana district of Gujarat state. From the selected district five talukas like, Visnagar, Unjha, Vijapur, Kadi and Mehesana were randomly selected for the purpose of investigation. The selected talukas were situated in different directions keeping of Mehesana center. The location of talukas had different locality, occupation and communication so, investigator could find different types of respondent from each place. So, the locale of the study included five places. 150 sample were purposely selected for the present study. The selection criteria for the sample were 1. Husbands whose monthly family income was in the range of. 5,000/- to 45,000/- 2. Husbands whose lived in joint and nuclear family. 3. Husbands whose education was between standard 12th to post graduation. 4. The occupation of husband was business and service whereas wives. 5. Occupation was categorized as working and non working. Data were collected by interview schedule. An interview method for collecting data involves preparations of oral-verbal stimuli and reply in terms of oral-verbal responses.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The present study was studied under three heads like kitchen related activities, Purchasing of household things related activities and child care and rearing related activities.

Table 1 shows the extent of the participation in kitchen related activities performed by young and old husbands. It was observed that regardless of the activities young respondent (husband) helped some times in serving food, cutting vegetables, preparation of breakfast, menu for special occasion were as old respondents (husband) extended less help in all kitchen related activities. Exception was observed in storing of food which was carried out always by maximum per cent of young respondents and sometimes by maximum per cent of old respondents.

Raval (2004) reported in her study only 7 per cent husband who were engaged in government service husband were helping in preparation of salad, help in

Table 1 : Participation in kitchen related activities performed by young and old respondents (husbands)

Sr. No.	Activity	Young						Old					
		Always		Sometime		Never		Always		Sometime		Never	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	Help in daily meal preparation	05	3.33	25	16.66	45	30.00	07	4.66	28	18.66	40	26.66
2.	Serving food	07	4.66	50	33.33	18	12	05	3.33	13	8.66	57	38.00
3.	Cutting vegetable	10	6.66	47	31.33	18	12	08	5.33	30	20	37	24.66
4.	Prepare salad	10	4.66	32	21.33	36	24	03	2	18	12	54	36
5.	Help in breakfast making	07	4.66	32	21.33	36	24	13	8.66	20	13.33	42	28
6.	Help in table setting	17	11.33	17	11.33	33	27.33	13	8.66	42	28	20	13.33
7.	Help in cleaning table	07	4.66	35	23.33	41	22	03	2	13	8.66	59	39.33
8.	Storing of food	20	23.33	27	18	28	18.66	10	6.66	32	1.33	33	22
9.	Preparation of menu for family	17	11.33	38	25.33	20	13.33	05	3.33	10	6.66	60	40
10.	For special occasion	10	6.66	47	31.33	18	12	05	3.33	10	6.66	60	40

Table 2 : Participation of purchasing of house hold things related activities performed by young and old respondents (husband)

Sr. No.	Activity	Young						Old					
		Always		Sometime		Always		Sometime		Always		Sometime	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	Purchase of food items for family												
	Provision	12	8	37	24.66	26	17.33	25	16.66	40	26.66	10	6.66
	Vegetables and fruits	35	23.33	22	14.66	18	12	20	13.33	32	21.33	23	15.33
	Non vegetables items	00	00	10	6.666	65	43.33	07	4.66	03	02	65	43.33
2.	Clothing materials for family												
	Self	55	36.66	12	8	08	5.33	45	30	25	16.66	05	3.33
	Wife	45	30	20	13.33	10	6.66	15	10	35	23.33	25	16.66
	Children	47	31.33	20	13.33	08	5.33	20	13.33	17	11.33	38	25.33
	For other relatives	07	4.66	50	33.33	18	12	17	11.33	27	18	31	20.66
	For special occasion	18	12	32	21.33	25	16.66	20	13.33	22	14.66	33	22
3.	House hold equipment												
	Fan	60	40	03	2	12	8	58	38.66	17	11.33	-	-
	Tube light/ Bulb	55	36.66	20	13.33	-	-	58	38.66	17	11.33	-	-
	AC	32	21.33	12	8	31	20.66	17	11.33	15	23.33	43	28.66
	Mixer	37	24.66	25	16.66	13	8.66	42	28	30	20	03	2
	TV	50	33.33	25	16.66	-	-	50	33.33	25	16.66	-	-
	DVD	42	28	20	13.33	13	8.66	35	23.33	35	23.33	05	3.33
	Refrigerator	45	30	25	16.66	05	3.33	20	13.33	27	18	28	18.66
	Washing machine	25	16.66	25	16.66	25	16.66	22	14.66	25	16.66	28	18.66
	Vaccume cleaner	07	4.66	17	11.33	51	34	15	23.33	07	4.66	53	36.33
	Microwave/ Oven	10	6.66	15	23.33	50	33.33	12	8	15	23.33	48	32
	Other	12	8	15	23.33	48	32	25	16.66	20	13.33	30	20
4.	House hold furnishing												
	Furniture	25	16.66	25	16.66	25	16.66	32	21.33	25	16.66	18	12
	Carpet	07	4.66	35	23.33	33	22	12	8	27	18	36	24
	Draperies	15	23.33	35	16.66	35	23.33	15	16.66	20	13.33	40	26.66
	Upholstery	25	16.66	17	11.33	33	22	20	13.33	20	13.33	35	23.33
	Accessories	37	24.66	05	3.33	33	22	07	4.66	12	8	56	37.33

Table 3 : Participation in child care and rearing related activities performed by young and old respondents (husband)

Sr. No.	Activity	Young						Old					
		Always		Sometime		Never		Always		Sometime		Never	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	Bathing	25	16.66	17	11.33	33	22	03	2	12	8	60	40
2.	Toileting	25	16.66	17	11.33	33	22	05	3.33	07	4.6	63	42
3.	Changing cloth	25	16.66	12	8	38	25.33	25	16.66	27	18	23	15.33
4.	Teaching	50	33.33	12	8	13	8.66	25	16.66	35	23.33	15	10
5.	Feeding	00	00	00	00	75	50	00	00	00	00	75	50
6.	Escort children and back	37	24.66	25	16.66	13	8.66	22	14.66	27	18	26	17.33
7.	Attending function of school	47	31.33	17	11.33	11	7.33	42	28	15	10	18	12
8.	Vocational training	20	13.33	47	31.33	08	5.33	02	1.33	10	6.66	63	42

serving meal and cutting vegetables whereas only 2 to 3 per cent husband with business and husband serving in private sectors husband serving were engaged in this activities. Present study concluded that majority young husband were more engaged in cooking related activities than old husbands.

Table 2 shows participation of husband in purchasing of household goods. Majority young and old husband showed their participation in purchasing of household equipments, furniture and furnishing material and clothing material, whereas in comparison to above mentioned things in table they did not show interest in purchasing of food materials.

This study reported that in field of finance and management husband always showed their interest and interfere in work of wives.

Table 3 shows that young were husbands always interested in teaching, escorting children and attending the functions of the school, while old husbands showed interest in changing clothes, teaching, escorting children there for it concludes that young husbands and old husbands were equally involved in education activities of their children because they knew that education is dire need of the time. Education is an essential part of the better career and future.

Conclusion:

It can be concluded from the findings that the participation husbands in kitchen related activities the majority of young husbands were participated some times in cutting vegetables and never participated in help in daily meal preparation, while in case of old husbands were sometime participated in special occasion related activities and never participated help in cleaning table. Activities related household things, majority of both the husbands

young and old were actively participated in purchasing of household electronic goods, furniture and furnishing materials. In case of child care and rearing related activities both young and old husband's participation was always in teaching their children and majority of both young and old husbands were never participated in feeding related activities. Gender if often used to divide labour; however, there is no universal sets of task define as "women's" work or "men" work.

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