

Attitude of working women towards traditional family living

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■ **ABSTRACT :** Women are the backbone of Indian society. 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 changing times, mostly women are involved in various service sectors. Historically, society believed a woman's place was in her home, caring for her family, as opposed to her workplace. Valued feminine traits such as a meek nature and submissiveness were feared to be lost if women entered the workforce. The attitude of traditional resident has been portrayed as being more conservative than the attitude of modern residents. The traditional family believes that the place of women is in their homes to run the domestic affairs of family unit and taking care of children, is no longer accepted in present developing society. The earliest cases of women began extending their work outside the home. Thus, the present study attempts to study some of the important issues concerns working women, her dual role conditions of work, problem of adjustment between work/domestic duties.

■ **KEY WORDS:** Working women, Attitude, Household activity, Traditional family

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The tide is beginning to turn in the world social order. Traditional family roles are changing as demographic nation creep into the social system. In India, while majority of the women may still be fighting against the old order. Traditionally, the attitude of traditional resident has been portrayed as being more conservative than the attitudes of modern residents. The traditional family belief that the place of women is in their homes to run the domestic affairs of family unit and take of children is no longer accepted in the present developing society. In changing time, the traditional family rise their living standards and focus on education which result is need to generate more income. Many women face dual pressure of family and work. Many choose to remain single or have family without children. While many other with higher educational qualification resign or take less challenging job to meet family's needs. Giving the demands of work and family faced by women; it is desirable to have flexible workplace arrangement to enable women to fulfil both economic and domestic responsibilities. Lack of spouse support and the responsibility for child bearing task characteristic, work schedule, role pressure are the important source of work

family conflict. At the present time, Indian women exposure to educational opportunities is substantially higher than it was some decades ago, especially in the urban setting. This has opened new vistas, increased awareness and raised aspirations of personal growth. This, along with economic pressure, has been instrumental in influencing women's decision to enter the work force. Valued feminine traits such as a meek nature and submissiveness were feared to be lost if women entered the workforce (Astin, 1984; Nieva and Gutek, 1981).

Having a career posed challenges for women due to their family responsibility (Valdez and Gutek, 1987). Women were expected to perform duties as wife and mother, in addition to fulfilling their professional responsibilities. Some women experienced feelings of guilt or selfishness if they put their career interests first (Heins *et al.*, 1982).

The present study was conducted in 2012-2013 at Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh to determine the attitude of working women towards traditional family living. For the measurement of attitude, Likert method (1932) of summated rating of attitude measurement was used in this study because

it requires less number of judges to start with and also less time consuming. If the item was a positive one and scores were 5,4,3,2 and 1 for respective categories. If the item was a negative one, the scoring system was reversed. The score for individual respondents on the scale was computed by summing the weights of the individual items. In this way the frequency distribution of scores based on the responses to all statement was obtained.

For evaluating the positive and negative difference between the statements, critical ratio value (t- value) was worked out. The t-value for 16 statements was found significant at 5 per cent level of probability. Although every precaution was taken to avoid the influence of authors personally towards attitude statement and constructing of scale, yet it was decided to prepare an alternate from the research tool in which statement was to be given in the opposite valence than of original scale. The number of positive and negative statements were almost all in each from the scale.

The main aim of constructing of attitude scale was to measure the attitude of working women towards traditional family living. Scale was administered to the selected 80 working women respondents. This shows that over all attitude of working women towards traditional family living were favourable. To know the problem faced by the working women, a three points rating scale was exercised with the following corresponding numerical value. These were analyses and identified the real problem. Mainly 2 problems 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.

Out of 16 items, all of them were concerned towards highly favourable attitude of the working women. Hence, the final attitude scale consisted of 16 attitude statements. After going through the whole procedure of attitude scale constructing, a final scale comprising of 16 attitude statements was ready for measurement of attitude of working women towards traditional family living (Table 1).The mean attitude score for each respondent was calculated by adding the scores of all the 16 statements and dividing the total score by the total number of respondents. The high mean score of respondents was found to be 3.83.

It is evident from Table 1 that most of the working women had ‘Favourable’ attitude towards traditional family living. Thus, it is clear that majority of the working women had favourable attitude towards traditional family living. Considering as a thumb rule, all the 16 statement with ‘t’ value higher than 1.75 were retained for the use of final scale. No any statement came with ‘t’ value and 1.75 were equal or less.

Hence, no any statement was discarded in the scale. Therefore, all the statements were retained for use in the final scale.

The finding depicted in Table 2 reveals that “More expectations by the family members was the major problem of the working women with mean value 2.46 rank list. It was followed by “Lack of coordination 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. Behavioral problem of family members with mean value 1.86,

Table 1: Attitude of working women towards traditional family living

Sr. No.	Statements	Mean score	t value
1.	You can live in direct touch in nature.	3.78	5.578*
2.	You believe in caste occupation.	3.11	14.868*
3.	Joint family is more beneficial in comparison to nuclear family.	3.65	5.766*
4.	Traditional occupation is essential for improvement.	3.48	15.667*
5.	Joint family is a good system of family living.	3.58	13.578*
6.	Authority of family/household is more effective for good family living.	3.83	7.141*
7.	You do not get enough time for your family, personal work and problem due to in this service.	3.33	16.432*
8.	In the old time, the society was controlled and guided by the custom.	3.76	7.772*
9.	You have got any respect in society as controlled and guided by the custom.	3.80	10.724*
10.	Do you feel that early marriage is not good system?	3.68	27.483*
11.	Do you like to live in discipline with husband/family?	3.57	11.057*
12.	Do you think that inter-caste marriage is not a good system?	3.41	11.057*
13.	Do you find support from your husband in doing your household works?	2.95	25.981*
14.	Do you feel that decoration and manage your home better if you are only housewife?	3.22	14.715*
15.	Do you get enough support and encouragement from your in-laws?	3.40	13.863*
16.	Do you feel your child from bad habits due to yours more involvement in work outside home?	3.27	9.982*

* indicate significance of value P=0.05

Table 2: Problem faced by working women in household activity				
Psychological home conflict				
Sr. No.	Statements	Total	Mean	Rank order
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 Husband	144	1.80	VIII
	In-laws	140	1.75	IX
	Neighbour	158	1.97	IV
	Children	152	1.90	VI
	Friends	184	2.30	II
	Servant	144	1.80	VIII
6.	Behavioural problem of family members	149	1.86	VII
7.	Over stress	179	2.23	III
Physical home conflict				
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	1.80	VII
7.	Lack of managerial skill	168	2.1	V

“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 hold 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.

The finding depicted in physical home conflict reveals that “Less time “was the major problem of home conflict with mean 2.42 got first rank. It was followed by physical fatigue with mean value 2.41 get second rank, Over work load with mean value 2.32 get third rank, Excess of household work with mean value 2.22 got forth rank, lack of managerial skill with mean value 2.1 got fifth rank, “health problem with mean value 1.81 got six rank, “Incompetence of household work with mean value 1.8 got seventh rank.

Thus, in can be said that less time is major problem of working women for home conflict and incompetence of household work was the least conflict problem as faced by the working women.

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