

# Working Women in the Household Economy

Dr. Rakesh

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## GENERAL INTRODUCTION:

A major feature of developing economies is the crucial role played by women in the economic development. But this role is invisible in these countries because women engaged in that activities like domestic work, child care, helping in farm related activities, helping in traditional work etc which are supported to man for working the income generating activities. According to Reddy et al, “although women constitute 50 per cent of India’s population, perform two third of the work and produce 50 per cent of the food commodities consumed by country, they earn only one third of the remuneration and 10 per cent of the property or wealth of the country”. This is show that women have been long neglected in their role as beneficial of the process of development.

But nowadays, Economic Development means not only increase in growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but also there is increase in the welfare of the society. So there is changing in the concept of Development in which included many new indexes for measuring the economic development like Human Development Index (HDI), Gender Development Index (GDI), and Global Hunger Index (GHI) etc. And in other side women have collectively struggled against direct and indirect barriers to their self-development and their full social, economic and political participation. And this women’s movement influenced policy and planning of government for development and empowerment.

So, due to all these reasons internationally as well as nationally more stress given on women empowerment by the Government, Institution and Society. It is important in this respect to bring women into the main stream of development so that society in turn benefits from the women development.

## MEANING AND DEFINITION OF WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT:

The concept of women’s empowerment is generated by the women’s movement throughout the world and it is the outcome of several important critiques and debates which the feminists raised across the world. Empowerment as an individual and collective process is based on the following five principles: Self-reliance, self awareness, collective mobilization and organization capacity building and external exposure.

Regarding women’s empowerment, Galab and Rao (2003) considered three dimensions: they are “power to”, ‘power with’ and ‘power within’. The ‘power to’ dimension of empowerment indicates the power of women to control their lives. This includes power to survive, control over their labour and access to family labour, access to and control over resources, freedom to move and interact, access to leadership position, control over reproduction and control over body. The ‘power with’ indicates the collective power of women member to negotiate their gender, caste, class and other interest vis-à-vis institutions of the market, the state and the community. This includes collective interventions in the institution of family, community, market organization, the state including statutory local bodies. The third dimension ‘power within’ indicates the strategic gender awareness. An indicator of the ‘power within’ at the individual level is the ability of women to challenge gender-related attitudes and social norms in their own personal lives. Another indicator of the power, women gaining at a deeper level is the perception of others on women’s confidence, assertiveness and independence.

So the empowerment of women should be able to participate in the process of ‘decision-making’. The process of empowerment of women is not merely a means of bringing about improvement in the physical and social condition of women but also the one that ensure equal participation in the decision-making process.

According to Sheetal Sharma (2006), “Empowerment of women involves many things: Economic opportunity, property right, political representation, social equality, personal right and so on”. Empowerment literally means ‘becoming powerful’ being used today in all spheres of life as a process to strengthen the element of the society. It is both a process and the result of the process (Suguna, 2006).

## Need of the study:

A country can grow only when condition and opportunities are provided to all of its citizens male or female. There should be no discrimination on the basis of sex. But in reality, women’s participation in decision making at all levels is very low

in India. The studies made by different researchers have pointed out that decision making power in the hands of women is not only a symbol of her status but also as indicator of modernized society and the economy as a whole. So our objective of study this:

**To examine the level of participations of working women in household - decision.**

**Methodology:**

A brief description about the method of data collection, source of data, and tools and techniques used during the study are given below:

**Method of data collection:** The working women in HISAR were selected for the study. For selection of the respondent a list of all respondents was prepared. With the help of random sampling fourty respondents were selected.

**Source of data:** The study has made an intensive reference to the primary data in trying to analyse the study objective. The data have been collected through the interview schedule.

**Tool and Techniques:** To analyze the collected data, the simple percentage method was used.

**Decision Areas:**

- Economic decisions.
  - a. Family income.
  - b. Saving and investment.
  - c. Purchase and sale of property..
- Social decisions.
- Educational decisions.
- Political decisions.

**Interpretation and Analysis:**

**Economic Decision Family Income**

**Table-1**

Control on Husband/ Parents Income	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Whole	8	20
Partially	24	60
No	8	20

**Table -2**

Control on Self Income	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Whole	23	57.5
Partially	17	42.5

These tables shows that 60 percent women whose partially control on husband/ parents income and 57.5 percent women whose whole control on self income.

**Saving and Investment**

**Table-1**

Decision about saving and investment	Consulted		Who decide finally		
	Yes	No	Self	Husband/Parents	Both
Saving	35(87.5)	5(12.5)	13(32.5)	12(30)	15(37.5)
Investment	36(90)	4(10)	15(37.5)	10(25)	15(37.5)

\*In ( ) Shows Percentage

This table shows that 87.5 percent were those women by whom husband/ parents were consulted about saving and 90 percent in investment decision. Also finally decision taken about saving and investment by both that is 37.5 percent.

### Purchase and Sales of Property

Table-1

Purchase / Sales of Property	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	8	20
No	32	80

Table-2

Opinion taking for Purchase/ Sales Property	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	22	55
No	18	45

These tables explained that 80 percent women were those who not purchased or sold any property by own but their opinion were taken when purchased or sold any property that is 55 percent women.

### Social Decision

Table-1

Decision about Marriage	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Self	1	2.5
Self and Parents	38	95
Any other	1	2.5

Table-2

Consent about Marriage	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	36	90
No	4	10

In these tables we observed that decision about marriage of 95 percent women was taken by parents and self. And consent about marriage taken by 90 percent women.

### Education Decision

Table-1

Decision about Education	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Self	25	62.5
Husband/ Parents	14	35
Any others	1	2.5

This table showed that 62.5 percent women taken decision about education by self.

### Political decision

Table -1

Membership of social and political organisation	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	9	22.5
No	31	77.5

Table-2

Decision about membership	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Self	7	77.77
Husband/ Parents	2	22.23

Table-3

Frequency of participation	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Active	7	77.77
Passive	1	11.11
Rarely	1	11.12

These tables explained that 77.77 percent women were not member of any social or political organization. And who were member of any organization they play an active role.

### CONCLUSION

Decision making in regarding of economic decisions were increased because of all economic decision were taken with the consultancy of women. In social and educational decision mostly role played by women but decision making of women in the political decision were very low because of 77.77 percent of women were those women who were not member of any social or political organization. So in concluding way we can say that overall decision making in household economy are increased. And this shows that women empowerment also increased.

### REFERENCES

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