

A Study on the Socio-Economic Condition of Women Domestic Workers in Tiruchirappalli City

*Dr Arul R

**Assistant Professor, Pg Department Of Commerce Computer Application
St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli-620002, Tamil Nadu, India*

Abstract: According to CARLOS GHOSN “Hiring and Promoting talented women is the right thing to do for society-and it’s an economic imperative “Women Workers in the informal economy consist of the most affected working sectors in society. They come from a marginalized population who’s legal, economic and political status limit their ability to demand or access their right. These women include domestic workers whose social and economic contributions to society are invisible to the public, the law and policies of the country. They face challenges because their work is not considered ‘real’ work so that their rights to minimum standards of decent work are continually violated.

The unique feature of their workplace, which is the home of their employer, makes them vulnerable to abuses and exploitation. This is because the state would always be reluctant to consider a home a workplace that they can regulate. The lack of capacity, support and unity as an organized sector make the challenges they face doubly difficult.

As a result, this research attempts to look at the challenges through studies into the profile of domestic workers, their burdens and vulnerabilities in work place, efforts of the government to address the issues and efforts of domestic workers and partner organizations to organize them. This research will cover issues related to minimum standards of decent work, including definition, terms and condition of domestic work, live-in and live-out arrangements, wages, leaves and social security.

Keyword: Economic Condition, women domestic workers and so on

Introduction

According to CARLOS GHOSN “Hiring and Promoting talented women is the right thing to do for society-and it’s an economic imperative “Women Workers in the informal economy consist of the most affected working sectors in society. They come from a marginalized population who’s legal, economic and political status limit their ability to demand or access their right. These women include domestic workers whose social and economic contributions to society are invisible to the public, the law and policies of the country. They face challenges because their work is not considered ‘real’ work so that their rights to minimum standards of decent work are continually violated.

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Statement of the Problem:

A domestic worker is someone who works within the employer’s household. Domestic workers perform a variety of household services for an individual or a family, from providing care for children and elderly dependents to cleaning and household maintenance, known as housekeeping responsibilities may also include cooking, doing laundry and ironing, food shopping and other household errands. Some domestic workers live within the household where they work in order to take care of elderly. Yes, millions of women, men and children-India’s large force of domestic workers, of ‘servants’ as most people call them- remain unseen, undervalued and denied rights that all workers deserve.

Objectives of the Study

1. to study the economic, demography profile of women domestic workers in Tiruchirappalli City.
2. to study the social status women domestic workers in Tiruchirappalli City.
3. to study the economic status of women domestic workers in Tiruchirappalli City.
4. to examine the work related issues, problems faced by the women domestic workers.
5. to give suggestions and recommendation for the adoption of International labour organization (LIO) standards on Women Domestic Workers.

Sample of the Study:

From the total of domestic workers in the Thiruchirappalli City, 110 were selected as sample through stratified random sampling. The sample respondents have been stratified on the basis of stream of course offered by the Thiruchirappalli City and thereafter selection of sample respondents was done with the help of simple random sampling method.

The study has been conducted in Women Domestic workers located in Tiruchirappalli City constituted the universe of the study.

The Socio-Economic Condition of Women Domestic Workers – A Literary Revisit

Manson and palan (1981) shows that the household economic structure was a major determinant of female labour force participation. Women from high economic status were found to be less likely to participate in the work force than women from poor households. This study is also not able to connect domestic work burden of female in determining economic participation.

Bulgovindbaboo and laxmipanwar (1984) have studied the maid servants in Hariana. The study emphasizes that they are leading a miserable life. They suffer from low wage, long hours of work, shift in nature of job, lack of freedom and low prestige due to inferior status of the job. Due to lack of coordination their children are neglected and familial relations becomes tense. The fragmented nature of their job, lack of education and low bargaining capacity refrain them from organizing collectively.

Jaya Arunachalam (1984) in her report on “Empowering women for a positive revolution” revealed attitude of families towards women’s domestic responsibilities, the unsympathetic attitude of employers, lack of training, limiting employment opportunities and above all, women’s low perception in the labour market and had provided ample impressions both to employers and the society that women work only to make subsidiary income to the families, whereas the principal breadwinner were still men.

The advocats of this school [Banerjee, Nirmala, 1997] are of the view that economic development has not only affected work participation rate, but has also pushed them into jobs which are marginal and casual, least remunerative/ unpaid/ inferior domestic work

Koran Prasad (2002) reveals that women carry a disproportionate and growing share of economic and domestic responsibility for family. Inspire of this they do not have the decision making power to determine when they start a family and at what time intervals they have children. Access to information and means for enhancing their reproductive health and family planning choices has been demonstrated to be a major tool for the empowerment of women.

Neetha (2004) reports that in 1977-78, there were some 1.68 million female domestic workers, while the number of male workers was only 0.62 million. With the rise of the middle class in India, domestic work has emerged as an important new occupation for migrant for and girls. Some 20 million people (mainly women and girl) migrate for domestic work to Mumbai, Delhi and other large cities from the eastern states of Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Assam and Mizoram (Social Alert quoted in SCF 2005). Roughly 20% of these workers are under the age of 14.

TABLE-01

DAILY WORKING HOURS-WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

WORKING HOURS	NO .OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Less than 3 hrs	35	31.81
4-5 hrs	29	26.36
6-7 hrs	30	27.27
Above 8 hrs	16	14.54
Total	110	100

Source: Field Data

It could be observed from the *Table-01* that, [31.81 percent] of the 35 respondents belong to the working hours less than 3 hours, [26.36 percent] of the 29 respondents belong to the working hours 4-5 hours,

[27.27 percent] of the 30 respondents belong to the working hours 6-7 hours, and the remaining [14.54 percent] of the 16 respondents belong to the working hours Above-8 hours.

Hence, it could be observed that the thought 35 respondents [31.81 percent] opted Working Hours for Women Domestic Workers.

TABLE-02
FUEL AND FOR WORKING-WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

FUEL FOR WORKING	NO .OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Kirewood	18	16.36
Kerosene	24	22
Gas	68	62
Total	110	100

Source: Field Data

It could be found from the *Table-02* that, [16.36 percent] of the 18 respondents used in kirewood, [22 percent] of the 24 respondents used in kerosene, and the remaining [62 percent] of the 68 respondents used in Gas.

Hence, it could be inferred that the thought 68 respondents [62 percent] opted FuelAndFor Working for Women Domestic Workers.

TABLE-03
INCOME PER MONTH-WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

INCOME	NO .OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Below-3000	9	8.18
3001-4000	25	23
4001-5000	39	35
Above-5001	37	34
Total	110	100

Source: Field Data

It could be inferred from the *Table-03* that, [8.18 percent] of the 9 respondents belong to the Income below-3000, [23 percent] of the 25 respondents belong to the Income 3001-4000, [34.5 percent] of the 38 respondents belong to the Income 4001-5000, and the remaining [34.5 percent] of the 38 respondents belong to the Income Above-5001.

Hence, it could be observed that the thought 39 respondents [35 percent] opted Income Per Month of Women Domestic Workers.

TABLE-04
SALARY PAYMENT FROM THE OWNERS-WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

SALARY PAYMENT	NO .OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Weekly	43	39.09
Monthly	44	40
As the when need	23	20.90
Total	110	100

Source: Field Data

It could be inferred from the *Table-04* that, [39.09 percent] of the 43 respondents have used in salary payment weekly, [40 percent] of the 44 respondents have used in salary payment monthly, and the remaining [20.90 percent] of the 23 respondents used in salary payment As the when Need.

Hence, it could be understood that the thought 44 respondents [40 percent] opted Salary Payment of Women Domestic Workers.

TABLE-05
MAINTAIN ANY SAVING ACCOUNT-WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

MAINTAIN SAVING ACCOUNT	NO .OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Yes	78	70.90
No	32	29.09
Total	110	100

Source: Field Data

It could be found from the *Table-05* that, [70.90 percent] of the 78 respondents have used in maintain saving account Yes, and the remaining [29.09 percent] of the 32 respondents have used in Maintain saving account No.

Hence, it could be observed that the thought 78 respondents [70.90 percent] opted Maintain Saving Account for Women Domestic Workers.

**TABLE-06
REASON FOR DOING THIS DOMESTIC WORK-WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

REASONS	NO .OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Easily Available	22	20
Find it easy	37	33.6
Safer than casual labour	14	12.72
Don't have other skills	37	33.6
Total	110	100

Source: Field Data

It could be understood from the *Table-06* that, [20 percent] of the 22 respondents have used in easily available, [33.6 percent] of the 37 respondents have used in find it easy, [12.72 percent] of the 14 respondents have used in safer than casual labour, and the remaining [33.6 percent] of the 37 respondents have used in Don't have other Skills.

Hence, it could be inferred that the thought 37 respondents [33.6 percent] opted Reasons for Work the Women Domestic Workers.

**TABLE-07
DISTANCE TRAVEL-WISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

DISTANCE TRAVEL	NO .OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Stay nearly	24	21.8
Less than 1km	34	30.90
1-2 km	26	23.63
2-3 km	26	23.63
Total	110	100

Source: Field Data

It could be understood from the *Table-07* that, [21.8 percent] of the 24 respondents belong to the distance travel stay nearly, [30.90 percent] of the 34 respondents belong to the distance travel less than 1km, [23.63 percent] of the 26 respondents belong to the distance travel 1-2km, and the remaining [23.63 percent] of the 26 respondents belong to the distance travel 2-3 km.

Hence, it could be found that the thought 34 respondents [30.90 percent] opted Distance Travel of Women Domestic Workers.

Findings

1. It could be observed that the thought 35 respondents [31.81 percent] opted Working Hours for Women Domestic Workers.
2. It could be inferred that the thought 68 respondents [62 percent] opted Fuel And For Working for Women Domestic Workers.
3. It could be observed that the thought 39 respondents [35 percent] opted Income Per Month of Women Domestic Workers
4. It could be understood that the thought 44 respondents [40 percent] opted Salary Payment of Women Domestic Workers.
5. It could be observed that the thought 78 respondents [70.90 percent] opted Maintain Saving Account for Women Domestic Workers.
6. It could be inferred that the thought 37 respondents [33.6 percent] opted Reasons for Work the Women Domestic Workers.
7. It could be found that the thought 34 respondents [30.90 percent] opted Distance Travel of Women Domestic Workers.

Suggestion

While this research has made an important contribution to the consideration of socio-economic conditions of women domestic workers. The present study recommends and encourage the research scholars to pursue further research in concentrating on Residential servant maids doing domestic works, Domestic workers appointed by the contractors, social and psychological behavioral aspects of the domestic workers and comparison of the behavioral aspects of domestic workers employed in government servant houses and businessmen houses.

Conclusion

At the international level, India is a major player in the labour market being one of the biggest recipients of remittances in the world but the recruitment and regulation of migrant domestic workers remained inefficient and inadequate. Efforts are made both by the National and State Government, NGOs and the civil society to improve their plight but they are still far from enjoying their entitlements and respect for their rights.

The existing problems of domestic workers have been studied by many researchers, social activities and voluntary organization at different levels. But they have not succeeded in providing a feasible solution to the problem. Perhaps lack of a common perspective in this area is a main cause for it. Since the problem of **Women Domestic Workers** are multifaceted, it should be studied holistically covering economic, legal, social, physical and psychological aspects. For this, its is immensely needed to have an integrated approach to understand the issue and it is also important to develop a collective programme to improve their social status and working condition.

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