



e-ISSN : 2347 - 9671

p- ISSN : 2349 - 0187

July 2014 Vol - 2 Issue- 7

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE FAMILY BUDGET

(A Field study of Working Women in Urban Sector of Udham Singh
Nagar District)

Bharti Singhal¹ & Dr. R.S.Jalal²

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, H.N.B.Govt. P.G.College, Khatima, (U.S.Nagar),
Uttarakhand

²Professor, Department of Economics, D.S.B.Campus, Kumaun University, Nainital, Uttarakhand

ABSTRACT

Women play an important role in nation building process. Contribution of women has gradually increased all over the world in the development process. Yet the fact is that women in almost all the known societies of the world past or present, are not enjoying the status and privileges extended to that of men. It has been widely acknowledged that women's work and women's education are instrumental in enhancing female autonomy, fill the gender gap and ultimately empower women. It is perceived that woman's formal paid work activities which augments family income is one of the major driving force behind women exercising their agency, and changing the socio economic status of their Household. This research work explores the effect of women's participation in income augmentation activities on her households total income, or family budget and also investigates the change in financial habits of females with increase in income. Research has been carried out in the newly developed industrial city of Udham Singh Nagar of Kumaon region of Uttarakhand. Results show that economic independence of female not only enhance the financial status of the family but also bring about positive change in her financial habits.

KEY WORDS: Women, Economic Independence, Family Budget, Financial Habits.

INTRODUCTION

There is a plethora of empirical evidence that prove beyond doubt that improvement in women's education, health, employment opportunities and participation in income generating activities can generate significant returns. According to Quibria 1993, Summer 1992 investing in women not only benefits women themselves but also has great social returns, which are depicted in an improvement in their children's welfare, and reduction of fertility, poverty and gender bias.

Women's work and women's education are acknowledged as the major factors that enhance female autonomy, fill the gender gap and ultimately empower women. As women's informal unpaid activities though vital for family wellbeing are insufficient to uphold their status, the desirability of their involvement in paid work activities increase.

It is expected that their work outside their homes (formal paid activities) will bring about changes in the existing division of labor, which is aligned along the gender lines. In addition cash income due to economic independence of women, enhance the resources in the hands of women, leading to transformation of gendered power relations within the domestic domain. It has been emphasized that the intrinsic value of female employment is one of the major driving forces behind women exercising their agency, and along with intrinsic value of women's independent economic status, it also has instrumental effect on her fertility behaviour as well as family wellbeing. Women's income augments household's income and economic status which helps in improving the condition of the entire household. Unlike men, women typically put their children and family needs before their own.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The mass entry of women especially married women into the labour market has been described as 'the greatest social change since World War II (Peattie and Rhein, 1983) and has led many others to talk about a revolution in the sexual division of labour (Bergmann, 1986), but to what extent this social change or revolution in the division of labour affects the status of sexes, needs to be probed. In this paper researcher explores the effects of women's participation in income augmentation activities on her household's total income or family budget and also explores the financial habits of respondents in the study area. The research work has been carried out in industrial city of Udham Singh Nagar in Kumaon region of Uttarakhand.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the study are as following.

- (1) To investigate the change in income status of the household due to participation of female in income augmentation activities.
- (2) Change in financial habits of the respondents due to increased earnings.

RESEARCH TOOLS

Sample of 500 female respondents aged between 20-60 years was selected randomly from four town areas of (Kashipur, Rudrapur Nagar Nigams and Khatima, Gadarpur Municipal Boards) of Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand. Data was collected using a pre structured interview schedule revealing the personal information, work status, income status and standard of living of the respondents and their family. Appropriate statistical tools and techniques were also used for the purpose of comparative analysis in the study.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

For the purpose of quantitative research, the data collected during the survey of 500 respondents selected randomly from Rudrapur and Kashipur Nagar Nigam having highest population percentage, Khatima and Gadarpur Municipal boards having lowest population percentage in district Udham Singh Nagar was classified and tabulated. 15 respondents each were selected from 15 household units selected randomly from 10 wards selected randomly out of total 20 wards in Kashipur & Rudrapur Nagar Nigam. Similarly 25 respondents each were selected from 25 household units selected randomly from 4 wards selected randomly out of 9 wards in Khatima and Gadarpur Municipal Boards.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data collected from 500 respondents was segregated on the basis of employment status. 217 respondents were reported as formally employed that is doing paid work outside the house and 283 were reported to be working only as home maker in the house. Income of the respondents, income of the spouse and income of the any other member of the family was taken from the schedule and family income of the household was derived by adding all of these. Table1 given below reveals the change in income status of the households due to participation of females in income augmentation activities.

Table -1 Distribution of respondents according to family income level

S.No.	Income level(Monthly)		Family Income level of Respondent Employed in Formal Sector(Paid Work)		Family Income level of Respondent not Employed in Formal Sector(Doing Unpaid Household Work)			
			No.	%	No.	%		
1	Lower	Up to 10000	13	6.0	56.3%	29	10.2	73.5%
		10000-20000	47	21.7		97	34.3	
		20000-30000	62	28.6		82	29.0	
2	Middle	30000-40000	35	16.1	34.0%	32	11.3	24.7%
		40000-50000	32	14.7		38	13.4	
3	Upper	50000-60000	7	3.2	9.7%	0	0	1.8%
		60000-70000	8	3.7		1	0.4	
		70000-80000	5	2.3		2	0.7	
		80000& above	8	3.7		2	0.7	
			217	100%			283	100%

Source-Based on Survey

When table is divided into three parts, first showing lower income group, second middle income group and lastly higher income group, it is clearly visible that families of those respondent who are formally employed(paid work) show much better concentration in middle income group and higher income group(34% & 9.7%) respectively.

Secondly, to assess the change in financial habits of 500 sampled respondents due to increased earnings or due to participation in income augmentation activities, data regarding the saving and investment behaviour of all 500 respondents was gathered during the survey which is given in table 2. Financial habits are another important variable, depicting economic status of the family as well as living standard.

Economic independence of females enhances not only the financial position of her own self, but also makes her family economically strong. This leads to better Investment, Consumption and Saving decisions of the family.

Table 2 shows the financial habits of 500 sampled respondents. Only 62 females (12.4%)

are having no account in our database. 175 respondents (35%) have saving bank account, 128 (25.6%) females have saving bank account and life insurance policy, 63 females(12.6%) have bank account, life insurance policy & PPF/GPF and 71 respondents (14.2%) have all the above financial habits and equity exposure.

Table -2 Financial Habits

	Frequency	Percent
Having S/B Account	175	35.0
Having S/B Account & Life Insurance	129	25.8
Having S/B Account ,Life Insurance & PPF/GPF	63	12.6
Having S/B Account ,Life Insurance ,PPF/GPF & Equity Investment	71	14.2
None	62	12.4
Total	500	100.0

Source- Based on Survey.

How increased income of the respondent effects their financial planning is illustrated in table 3. Table 3 reveals that with increase in the income level along with short term savings in saving bank accounts, there is definite increase in long term savings schemes like life insurance

policy, PPF/GPF accounts. In higher income bracket all respondents have saving bank account, and when income level of respondent is very high, above 40000 rupees monthly most of them invest in all long term saving schemes and they also invest in equity.

Table-3 Income of the Respondents and Financial Habits

	Financial Habits					Total
	Having S/B Account	Having S/B Account & Life Insurance	Having S/B Account ,Life Insurance & PPF/GPF	Having S/B Account ,Life Insurance ,PPF/GPF & Equity Investment	None	
Up to 10000	55(48.2%)	40(35.1%)	10(8.8%)	4(3.5%)	5(4.4%)	114
10000-20000	7(12.7%)	18(32.7%)	19(34.5%)	10(18.2%)	1(1.8%)	55
20000-30000	0	4(14.3%)	10(35.7%)	11(39.3%)	3(10.7%)	28
30000-40000	0	0	1(8.3%)	10(83.3%)	1(8.3%)	12
40000 & Above	0	1(12.5%)	1(12.5%)	6(75%)	0	8
No Income	113(39.9%)	66(23.3%)	22(7.8%)	30(10.6%)	52(18.4%)	283
Total	175(35%)	129(25.8%)	63(12.6%)	71(14.2%)	62(12.4%)	500

Source- Based on Survey

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Comparative analysis of the tables given in study clearly indicate that if income of the household is supplemented with income of the women (main respondent in the study) or wives earnings, income of the family increases, and family income shifts towards higher income strata, which further enhances the financial capabilities of the entire household.

Along with supplementing family’s income or household budget economic independence of female empowers her, Self. Most of the respondents belonging to higher income group (Rupees 40000 and above per month) not only have saving bank account but also invest in long term saving and investment schemes like LIC, PPF/GPF and Equity.

REFERENCES

1. Bergmann, B. (1986) *Economic Emergence of Women: Basic Books*, New York.
2. Peattie, L and Rein, M. (1983) *Women's Claim: A study in political Economy*. Oxford University Press, London.
3. Quibria, M.G., (1993) *Rural Poverty in Asia: Priority Issues and Policy Options*: Oxford University Press.
4. Summer S, L. (1992) "Investing in all the people: Educating Women in developing Countries", *The Pakistan Development Review*, 31(4):367-404.