Relationship Between Problems of Women Laborers and Their Socio-Economic Status

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture, the single largest production endeavor in India, contributing about 18 per cent of GDP, is increasingly becoming a female activity. Women labourers play a crucial role in agriculture activities like main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post-harvest operations etc. In spite of these, they face a number of problems such as exploitation, long working hours, unhealthy working conditions, insecurity of job, low wages, absence of decision making, male dominating society etc. Similarly the women labourers working in unorganized sector especially in urban areas are engaged in activities like domestic work, construction work, small trade brick making, coir and basket weaving, household industries etc. and they also face same types of problems. Keeping in view the above socioeconomic and psychological problems and factors affecting socio-economics problems, this present study was conducted among 120 women labourers in rural and urban communities of Hisar district of Haryana.

The results revealed that majority of the respondents were in the age group of 20-35 years, belonged to scheduled caste, had nuclear families and were agricultural labours in rural areas and construction labourers in urban areas. Maximum number of the respondents from rural and urban areas had high level of social, economic and psychological problems. Regarding socio-economic problems and factors associated, it was found that caste, education, occupation of the family, income and socioeconomic status were significantly associated with problems of respondents.

Keywords: Women, Laboureres, Psychological Problem, Social Problem, Economical Problem Rural, Urban etc.

Introduction:

Women is pure creature of God. They are image of beauty, softness, sacrifice, kindness, and godness of power as well as darling of her parents. Women are one of the most important wheels of society, without women the foundation of society would not be possible (N. Andal. 2002 Second name of women is 'world maker'. She makes the world (Sharma, A. 2002). Single women had different forms. Since her birth, she had been connected with other relations like daughter, sister etc. The after marriage she had been connected with new relations like wife, mother (Majumdar.M (2004). In the history of India there are many reasons and problems forced Indians women to work. The modern age has became very complex the financial demands on the Indian families are increasing day by day. The cost of living expenses on education of children and cost of housing properties in Indian raised and these reasons forced every family in India to look for ways and means of increasing the household income. The dual roles of the working

women's are leading to stress in their lives. Women are still considered responsible for the majority of household labor and management, child care and employed women work to the equivalent to full time job (Demeis and Perkins, 1966). The transition of their role brings more complications especially for the marries working women due to their role expectations which provoke adjustments issues. In today time, Rural Women are managers, secretaries, assistants, clerks, operators etc. While doing these jobs they have to face lot of problems.

Material and Methods:

The study was undertaken in Haryana state by selecting Hisar district. Two areas were under taken i.e. urban and rural areas from selected district. To draw rural sample two villages were selected i.e. kharar and Alipur and 60 respondents were selected randomly from each. Thus, total sample comprises 120 respondents. Data were collected personally, by using a well- structured interview schedule and questionnaire. The data collected were categorized, coded, tabulated and suitably analyzed. Data were presented in frequency, percentages, mean, standard deviation t-test and chi-square were applied to draw inferences.

Results:

Association between social problems and socio-economic variables

Analysis of data presented in table 1 depicts the association between social problems and socio-economic variables. Social problems were significantly and positively associated with respondent's age (x^2=12.15*), caste (x^2=10.25), education of women (x^2=11.67*), occupation of women (x^2= 12.24*), occupation of family (x^2=10.21*), average annual income of family (x^2=10.63*) and socio-economic status (x^2= 9.05*). While no association was found between family type and size, mass media exposure and social participation and social problems.

Table 20: Association between social problems and socio-economic variables

Socio-economic variables	Social problems			
	High	**Medium**	**Low**	**Total**
Age				
20-35 years	29(46.03)	20(31.74)	14(22.22)	63(52.5)
35-50 years	21(42.0)	17(34,0)	12(24.0)	50(41.67)
Above 50 years	4(57.14)	2(28.57)	1(14.28)	7(5.83)
Total	**54(45.0)**	**39(32.5)**	**27(22.5)**	**120(100.0)**
				x^2=12.15*
Caste				
General caste	3(75.0)	1(25.0)	0(0)	4(3.33)
Backward caste	19(39.58)	16(33.33)	13(27.08)	48(40.0)
Scheduled caste	32(47.05)	22(32.35)	14(20.58)	68 (56.67)
				x^2=10.25*
Family Type				
Nuclear	31(44.92)	22(31.88)	16(23.18)	69(57.5)
Joint	23(45.09)	17(33.33)	11(21.56)	51(42.5)

$\chi^2=2.17$				
Family Size				
Up to 4 members	13(40.62)	10(31.25)	9(28.12)	32(26.67)
5-8 members	32(46.37)	23(33.33)	14(20.28)	69(57.5)
More than 8 members)	9(47.36)	6(31.57)	4(21.05)	19(15.83)
				$\chi^2=3.14$
Educations of respondents				
Illiterate	23(44.23)	17(32.69)	12(23.07)	52(43.33)
Primary school	17(48.57)	11(31.42)	7(20.0)	35(29.17)
Middle school	9(39.13)	8(34.78)	6(26.08)	23(19.17)
High school	5(50.0)	3(30.0)	2(20.0)	10(8.33)
				$\chi^2=11.67*$
Occupation of the respondent				
Agricultural labour	23(40.35)	18(31.57)	16(28.07)	57(47.50)
Construction labour	16(51.61)	10(32.25)	5(16.12)	31(25.83)
Labour in unorganized sector	15(46.87)	11(34.37)	6(18.75)	32(26.67)
				$\chi^2=12.24*$
Occupation of the family				
Agricultural labour	17(44.73)	13(34.21)	8(21.05)	38(31.67)
Construction labour	22(43.14)	16(31.37)	13(25.49)	51(42.50)
Auto driver/work in industries	15(48.38)	10(32.25)	6(19.35)	31(25.83)
				$\chi^2=10.21*$
Average annual income of the family				
Upto Rs.80,000	23(46.0)	17(34.0)	10(20.0)	50(41.67)
Rs.81,000 to 1,20,000	18(46.15)	12(30.76)	9(23.07)	39(32.50)
Rs.1,20,000 1,60,000	13(41.93)	10(32.25)	8(25.80)	31(25.83)
	54(45.0)	**39(32.5)**	**27(22.5)**	
				$\chi^2=10.63*$
Socio-economic status				
Low (up to 20)	29(42.02)	23(33.33)	17(24.63)	69(57.5)
Medium (20-30)	20(48.78)	13(31.70)	8(19.51)	41(34.17)
High (above 30)	5(50.0)	3(30.0)	2(20.0)	10(8.33)
				$\chi^2=9.05*$
Mass media exposure				
Low	37(44.04)	28(33.33)	19(22.71)	84(70.0)
Medium	13(44.82)	9(31.03)	7(24.13)	29(24.17)
High	4(57.14)	2(28.57)	1(14.28)	7(5.83)
				$\chi^2=4.92$
Social participation				
Low (up to 5	48(44.86)	35(32.10)	24(22.43)	107(89.17)
Medium (6-10)	4(44.44)	3(33.33)	2(22.22)	9(7.50)

High (11-15)	2(50.0)	1(25.0)	1(25.0)	4(3.33)
				$\chi^2=2.03$

*Significant of 5% level of significant

Association between economic problems and socio-economic variables

Factors associated with socio-economic variables and economic variables are shown in table 2. Economic problems of women were found associated with age ($\chi^2=10.64^*$), caste ($\chi^2=11.05^*$), education of women ($\chi^2=10.31^*$), occupation of women ($\chi^2=10.41^*$), occupation of family ($\chi^2=10.21^*$), average annual income of family ($\chi^2=10.31^*$) and socio-economic status ($\chi^2= 9.17^*$) whereas, no association was found between family type, family size, mass media exposure and social participation.

Table 2: Association between economic problems and socio-economic variables

Socio-economic variables	Economic problems			
	High	Medium	Low	Total
Age				
20-35 years	30(47.61)	24(38.10)	9(14.28)	63(52.5)
35-50 years	26(52.0)	18(36.0)	6(12.0)	50(41.67)
Above 50 years	4(57.14)	2(28.57)	1(14.28)	7(5.83)
Total	60(50.0)	44(36.67)	16(13.3)	120(100.0)
				$\chi^2=10.64^*$
Caste				
General caste	2(50.0)	1(25.0)	1(25.0)	4(3.33)
Backward caste	25(52.08)	17(35.41)	6(12.5)	48(40.0)
Scheduled caste	33(48.52)	26(38.23)	9(13.23)	68 (56.67)
				$\chi^2=11.05^*$
Family Type				
Nuclear	35(50.72)	25(36.23)	9(13.04)	69(57.5)
Joint	25(49.01)	19(37.25)	7(13.72)	51(42.5)
				$\chi^2=1.34$
Family Size				
Up to 4 members	14(43.75)	10(31.25)	8(25.0)	32(26.67)
5-8 members	38(55.07)	27(39.13)	4(5.79)	69(57.5)
More than 8 members)	8(42.10)	7(36.84)	4(21.052)	19(15.83)
				$\chi^2=2.12$
Educations of respondents				
Illiterate	24(46.15)	22(42.30)	6(11.53)	52(43.33)
Primary school	19(54.28)	11(31.42)	5(14.28)	35(29.17)
Middle school	12(52.17)	8(34.78)	3(13.04)	23(19.17)
High school	5(50.0)	3(30.0)	2(20.0)	10(8.33)
				$\chi^2=10.31^*$
Occupation of the respondent				
Agricultural labour	29(50.87)	21(36.84)	7(12.28)	57(47.5)

Construction labour	15(48.38)	11(35.48)	5(16.12)	31(25.83)
Labour in unorganized sector	16(50.0)	1237.50)	4(12.5)	32(26.67)
				2=10.41*
Occupation of the family				
Agricultural labour	17(44.74)	15(39.47)	6(15.79)	38(31.67)
Construction labour	26(50.98)	17(33.33)	8(15.68)	51(42.50)
Auto driver/work in industries	17(54.83)	12(38.71)	2(6.45)	31(25.83)
				2=10.21*
Average annual income of the family				
Upto Rs.80,000	25(50.0)	19(38.0)	6(12.0)	50(41.67)
Rs.81,000 to 1,20,000	19(48.71)	14(35.89)	6(15.38)	39(32.50)
Rs.1,20,000 1,60,000	16(51.61)	11(35.48)	4(12.90)	31(25.83)
				2=10.31*
Socio-economic status				
Low (up to 20)	35(50.72)	26(37.68)	8(11.59)	69(57.5)
Medium (20-30)	20(48.78)	15(36.58)	6(14.63)	41(34.17)
High (above 30)	5(50.0)	3(30.0)	2(20.0)	10(8.33)
				2=9.17*
Mass media exposure				
Low	41(48.80)	33(39.29)	10(11.90)	84(70.0)
Medium	15(51.72)	9(31.03)	5(17.24)	29(24.17)
High	4(57.14)	2(28.57)	1(14.28)	7(5.83)
				2=2.14
Social participation				
Low (up to 5)	54(50.46)	40(37.38)	13(12.14)	107(89.17)
Medium (6-10)	4(44.44)	3(33.33)	2(22.22)	9(7.50)
High (11-15)	2(50.0)	1(25.0)	1(25.0)	4(3.33)
	60(50.0)	44(36.67)	16(13.3)	
				2=1.04

*Significant of 5% level of significant

Association between psychological problems and socio-economic variables

Table 3 revealed about the factors associated with psychological problems and socio-economic variables. Psychological problems of women were associated with age (2=10.20*), caste (2=10.04*) and with family occupation (2=10.41*) whereas, no association was found with family type and size, education and occupation of women, average annual income of family, socio-economic status, mass media exposure and social participation.

Table 3: Association between psychological problems and socio-economic variables

Socio-economic variables	Psychological problems			
	High	**Medium**	**Low**	**Total**
Age				
20-35 years	25(39.68)	23(36.50)	15(23.80)	63(52.5)
35-50 years	20(40.0)	19(38.0)	11(22.0)	50(41.67)
Above 50 years	3(42.85)	2(28.57)	2(28.57)	7(5.83)
Total	**48(40.0)**	**44(36.67)**	**28(23.33)**	**120(100.0)**
				x^2=10.20*
Caste				
General caste	2(50.0)	1(25.0)	1(25.0)	4(3.33)
Backward caste	20(41.67)	19(39.58)	9(18.75)	48(40.0)
Scheduled caste	26(38.23)	24(35.29)	18(26.47)	68 (56.67)
				x^2=10.04*
Family Type				
Nuclear	27(39.13)	25(36.23)	17(24.63)	69(57.5)
Joint	21(41.17)	19(37.25)	11(21.56)	51(42.5)
				x^2=1.04
Family Size				
Up to 4 members	15(46.87)	15(46.87)	2(6.25)	32(26.67)
5-8 members	24(34.78)	23(33.33)	22(31.88)	69(57.5)
More than 8 members)	9(47.36)	6(31.57)	4(21.05)	19(15.83)
				x^2=2.37
Educations of respondents				
Illiterate	18(34.61)	22(42.30)	12(23.07)	52(43.33)
Primary school	16(45.71)	11(31.42)	8(22.85)	35(29.17)
Middle school	9(39.13)	8(34.78)	6(26.08)	23(19.17)
High school	5(50.0)	3(30.0)	2(20.0)	10(8.33)
				x^2=3.04
Occupation of the respondent				
Agricultural labour	23(40.35)	22(38.59)	12(21.05)	57(47.5)
Construction labour	12(38.71)	11(35.48)	8(25.80)	31(25.83)
Labour in unorganized sector	13(40.62)	11(34.37)	8(25.00)	32(26.67)
				x^2=1.03*
Family occupation				
Agricultural labour	14(36.84)	14(36.84)	10(28.94)	38(31.67)
Construction labour	20(39.21)	20(39.21)	11(21.56)	51(42.50)
Labour in unorganized sector	14(45.16)	10(32.25)	7(22.58)	31(25.83)
				x^2=10.41*
Average annual income of the family				
Upto Rs.80,000	18(36.0)	11(22.0)	11(22.0)	50(41.67)
Rs.81,000 to 1,20,000	18(46.15)	12(30.76)	9(23.07)	39(32.50)

Rs.1,20,000 1,60,000	12(38.70)	11(35.48)	8(25.80)	31(25.83)
				x^2=10.43
Socio-economic status				
Low (up to 20)	24(34.78)	25(36.23)	20(28.98)	69(57.5)
Medium (20-30)	19(46.34)	16(39.02)	6(14.63)	41(34.17)
High (above 30)	5(50.0)	3(30.0)	2(20.0)	10(8.33)
				x^2=10.21
Mass media exposure				
Low	31(36.90)	31(36.90)	22(26.19)	84(70.0)
Medium	13(44.82)	11(37.93)	5(17.24)	29(24.17)
High	4(57.14)	2(28.57)	1(14.26)	7(5.83)
				x^2=2.04
Social participation				
Low (up to 5	42(39.25)	40(37.38)	25(23.36)	107(89.17)
Medium (6-10)	4(44.44)	3(33.33)	2(22.22)	9(7.50)
High (11-15)	2(50.0)	1(25.0)	1(25.0)	4(3.33)
				x^2=2.04

*Significant of 5% level of significant

Discussion:

Association between social problems and socio-economic variables

Analysis of data depicted the factors affecting between social problems and socio-economic variables. Social problems were significantly and positively associated with respondent's age (x^2=12.15*), caste (x^2=10.25), education of women (x^2=11.67*), occupation of women (x^2= 12.24*), occupation of family (x^2=10.21*), average annual income of family (x^2=10.63*) and socio-economic status (x^2= 9.05*). Lahoti and Swaminathan (2014) supported this study.

Association between economic problems and socio-economic variables

Economic problems of women were found associated with age (x^2=10.64*), caste (x^2=11.05*), education of women (x^2=10.31*), occupation of women (x^2=10.41*), occupation of family (x^2=10.21*), average annual income of family (x^2=10.31*) and socio-economic status (x^2= 9.17*) on the other hand, no association was found between family type, family size, mass media exposure and social participation. Similar results were given by Yasaswini *et. al.* (2017) who conducted a study on socio-economic conditions of rural women in Arepalli Rangampet, Chandragiri Mandal, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. Gender discrimination in India was the main cause that affected the socio-economic development of women and rural due to the factor that areas not having proper facilities and education for their development. Most of the rural women had less access to health care. It was observed from the studies that most of the women earned from working in agricultural fields, tailoring, selling vegetables, fruits and working in Sulabh international as sweepers and a small number of the women were working in educational institutions as sweepers and which indicates it was understood that most of the women were not educated and it is necessary to address socio-economic development of women in that village.

Association between psychological problems and socio-economic variables

Data revealed that the factors associated with psychological problems and socio-economic variables. Psychological problems of women were associated with age (2=10.20*), caste (2=10.04*) and with family occupation (2=10.41*) whereas, no association was found with family type and size, education and occupation of women, average annual income of family, socio-economic status, mass media exposure and social participation. The present trends in results are in line with that of Keerthana and Singh (2014) who found that there is a significant difference between the age and type of family of the respondents and the factors of psychological problems faced by the women workers.

Suggestion

- Gender discrimination should be removed in regards to payment of wages to the farm women labourers.
- Facilities like maternity leave and day-care facility should be arranged for the farm women labourers.
- Timely payment of wages should be regularized.
- Exploitation by the employer should be checked immediately.
- Efforts should be made so that farm women labourers are unable to get employment round the year.

Below are some recommendations to overcome the issues:

- Reducing the Stress levels among working women needs her personally adopting techniques like listing to music, dance therapy, practicing meditation and yoga, also by attending the stress relief programmes organized by the organizations on the regular basis for the employees.
- Balancing Home and Work needs open communication with spouse and family members, wherein the house workload can be shared by other members of the family in case of joint family, In case of Nuclear family Domestic help and outsources can be done.
- Flexible working hours and work from home can be encouraged foe working women.
- Working women have to chalk out a plan with clearly defined priorities in order balance home and work.
- Following the 80/20 Rule of Attitude/ Aptitude for successful work life balance.
- Working women should master the Time management skills.
- Adopting Work-home transition approach- plan for next day while leaving from work

CONCLUSION:

It's an open fact that working women has to face challenges due to dual responsibilities at home and work. Her challenges are of varied domain such as psychological problem, social problem, emotional problem etc. These issues and problems must be addressed by her at the personal front as well as with the support of organization. The research evident that the psycho-social problems vary as per age and marital status. With proper planning and executing time management skills, working women will succeed and cope up with these issues effectively. Nevertheless family support and open communication at all the levels will act as the strong pillars in this regard.

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