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A Study on Socio-Economic Status of Female Domestic Workers in Mumbai Suburban

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ABSTRACTS

The demand for domestic workers has increased due to the lack of time, modern lifestyle and physical inability to manage household chores of the women in urban areas. Now-a-days these domestic workers are getting organized and they are fighting for their rights. Past researches have shown that in many families female domestic workers are sole earners. So the present paper is an attempt to find out the socio-economic status of female domestic workers in Mumbai suburban area. For study purpose 70 female domestic workers were taken as sample. Findings of study reveal that domestic female workers work because their family income is insufficient and also, they are less educated. Their income is less so their savings are also less. They invest in traditional investment options like Bank FD, LIC and chit funds.

Keywords: Female Domestic Workers, Socio-Economic Status, Financial condition

1. INTRODUCTION

According to estimates by the International Labour Organization (ILO), there were at least four million domestic servants in India. Due to illiteracy of women, they choose domestic work as their occupation. They are earning reasonable revenue for their family in this job. In some of the families, the income of the domestic workers is necessary for the smooth running of their family, because they are the most important income earners of the family. Apart from daily routine, structural exploitation, in the form of low wages, heavy workloads and long hours are the serious issues of women domestic workers. Although successive governments have drafted policies, they are yet to become law.

Socio-economic status is the social standing or class of an individual or group. It is often measured as a combination of education, income and occupation. Examinations of socioeconomic status often reveal inequities in access to resources, plus issues related to privilege, power and control. (apa.org)

The workforce of domestic workers is considered as a most upcoming sector in the world's women work force. In recent days, the demand for domestic or house care work increases steadily in developing and developed countries. Even though, there are substantial men domestic workers, often this sector remains as a highly feminized sector. (S.Thilaka, 2018)

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In the study titled **"A Study on Socio Economic Conditions of the Women Domestic Workers at Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu"** objective was to find out the socio-economic conditions women domestic workers. Findings of study revealed that 70 percent of the respondents opined that their socio-economic statuses were improved after this domestic work. It is concluded that the domestic workers themselves were not aware of the importance and worth of their job. This is also one of the jobs, which should be recognized and which should be valued and respected and consider to be a job under organized pattern. (S.Thilaka, 2018)

In this study titled **"A study of economic status of maid-servants, in central area of Pune 2005-2010"** the aim was to know the economic status of women-domestic workers. The findings of study state that most of the women are uneducated and though all the members in maid-servant's family earn money, but their total saving is very low and they have to take debts. Further he states that formation of union has resulted in greater confidence among them and they are aware about their rights very well, they take all major and minor responsibilities. They go on work as long as they can work. (Karale, March 2014)

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This study titled **"Socio-economic conclusion of Female Domestic Workers in Punjab: A case study of Sangrur District"** aims at studying socio-economic condition of domestic women workers in Punjab. The results have shown that their condition is vulnerable in Punjab. The wage rate they get is very low compared to their marginal productivity. The reasons for their vulnerable condition are caste difference, unequal gender relations, poor economic background, irregular work, very little or no bargaining power, lack of credit facilities, drug addiction of their male partners, death of husband and lack of assets. (Dar, 2014)

The study titled "**Socio-economic conditions of women domestic workers in Mangalore city"** is attempted to examine the socio-economic background of the women domestic workers and explore the present situations. Thus researcher concludes that the education and self-help group movement has created socio-economic conditions of the women domestic workers in Mangalore city. (Adin & Singhe, 2016)

3. GAP ANALYSIS

There is quite a lot research done on socio-economic status of domestic workers with variables like financial condition, family background, working condition, problems faced etc. in different parts of India. The researcher has not come across research done on socio-economic status of domestic workers in Mumbai. So this paper is an attempt to fill this gap.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1) To find out Social Status of female domestic workers.

2) To find out Economic condition of female domestic workers.

5. HYPOTHESIS STATEMENTS

H_0 = There is no significant difference between Education and Reason of Working of domestic female workers.

H_0 = There is no significant difference between Income and Savings habit of domestic female workers.

6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

6.1 Type of Research

In the study, descriptive research design is used where focus is on survey and fact finding enquiries through structured questionnaire. The study makes use of quantitative research approach as it allows the researcher to examine relationships among variable.

6.2 Type and Source of Data

The present study is based on primary data and secondary data. The primary data was collected by structured questionnaire. Open and close ended questions were asked in the questionnaire to get the answers of those questions, which were related to the objectives laid down in the study. Secondary data is collected from various websites and research papers.

6.3 Target Population and Sample size

70 female domestic workers were taken as a sample for research by visiting various residential areas where these women work and also by taking references of other female domestic workers from them.

6.4 Sampling method

The sampling technique followed was convenience sampling method.

6.5 Area of study

The research was conducted in Mumbai suburban area from Jogeshwari to Bandra area

6.6 Statistical Tools Use

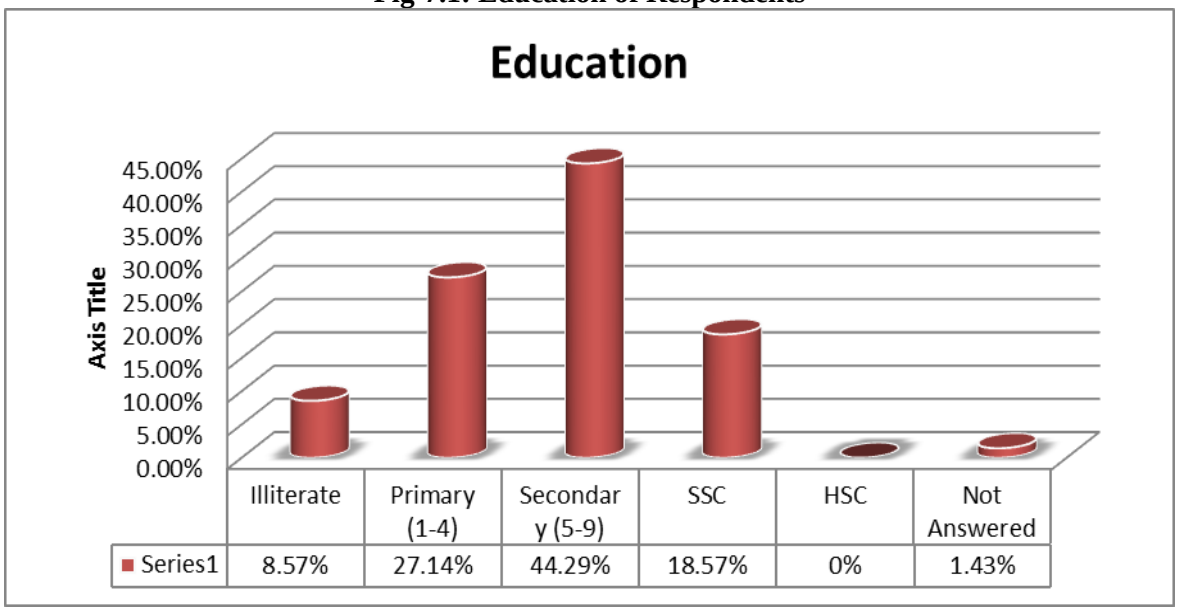
Graphs are used to analysis and interpretation of data. Chi-square is used for testing hypothesis.

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7. DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

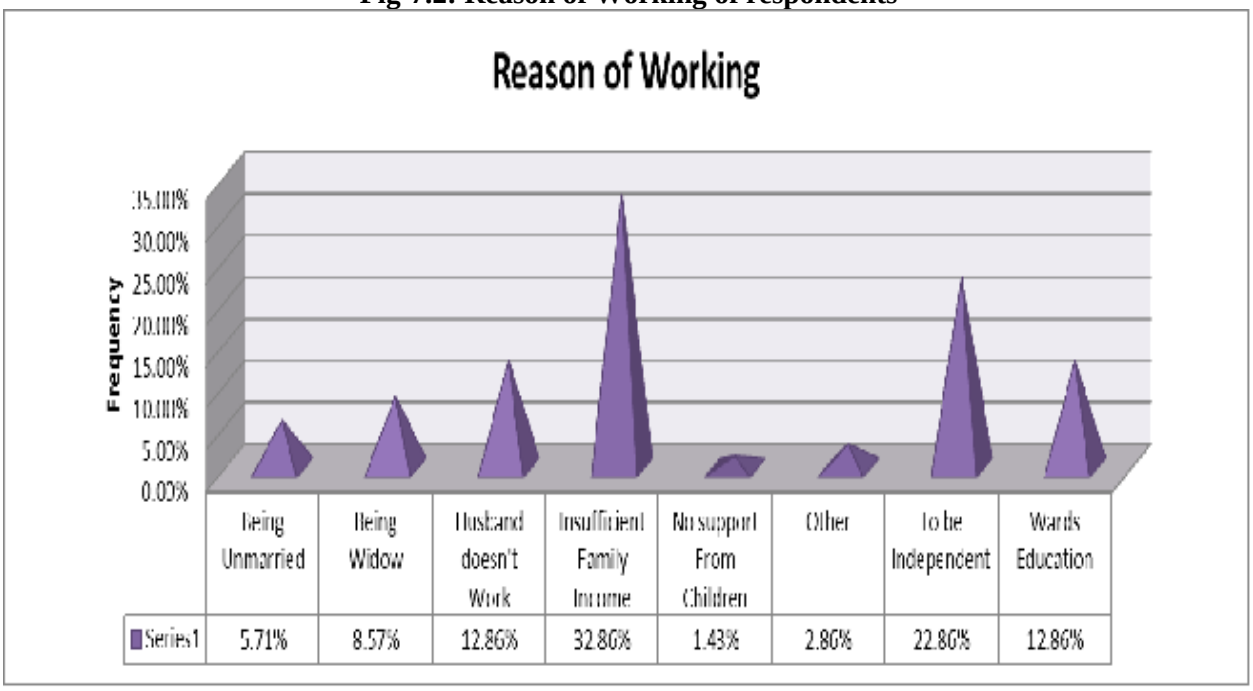
Fig-7.1: Education of Respondents



Source: Primary Data

The above graph shows that there were 8.57% respondents who were not literate, 27.14% were studied upto primary (1-4 class), 44.29% upto secondary (5-9 class), 18.57% were studied upto SSC.

Fig-7.2: Reason of Working of respondents



Source: Primary Data

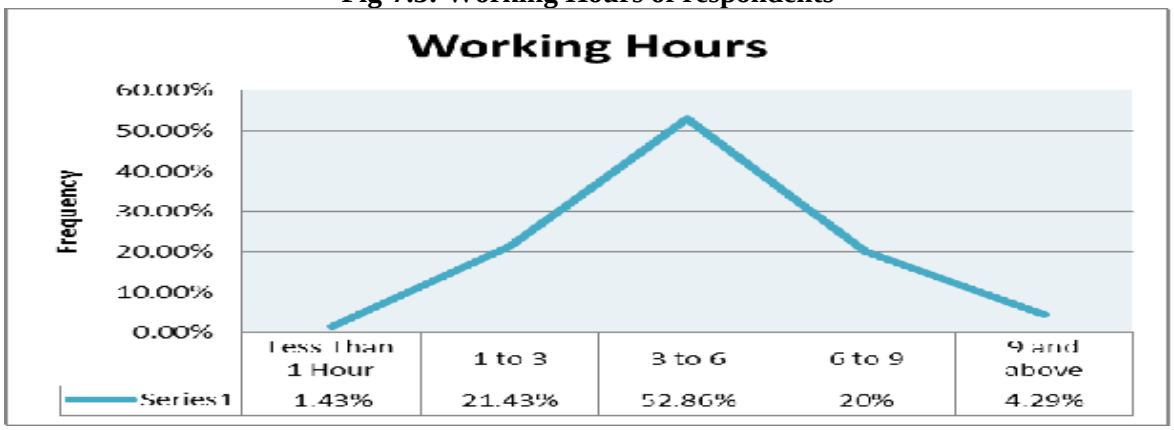
The above graph states that 5.71% women domestic workers work because they are unmarked. 8.57% said they are widows. 12.86% said their husband doesn't work. 32.86% said that their family income is insufficient. 1.43% said that they are not having any support from children. 22.86% said they want to be independent. 12.86% said they work for their ward's education.

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Fig-7.3: Working Hours of respondents



Source: Primary Data

Above graph concludes that 1.43% domestic workers work for less than 1 hour, 21.43% work for 1 to 3 hours, 52.86% work for 3 to 6 hours, 20% said 6 to 9 hours and 4.29% said they work for 9 hours and more.

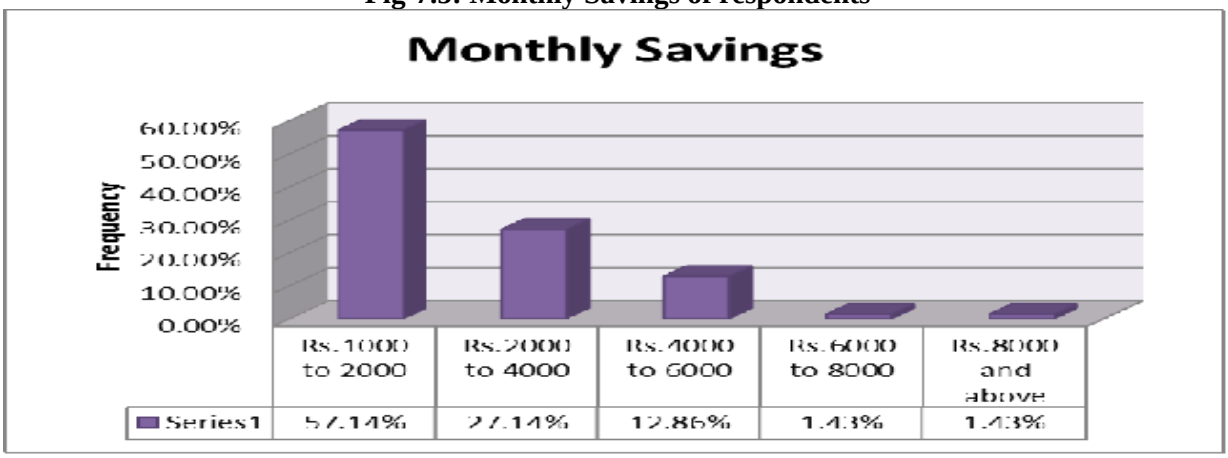
Fig-7.4: Monthly Income of respondents



Source: Primary Data

The above graph states that 1.43% women domestic workers were drawing income upto Rs.2000/-, 20% upto Rs.2000/- to Rs.4000/-, 24.29% upto Rs. 4000/- to 6000/-, 30% upto Rs. 6000/- to 8000/-, 12.86% upto Rs. 8000/- to 10000/- and 11.43% above Rs. 10000/-.

Fig-7.5: Monthly Savings of respondents



Source: Primary Data

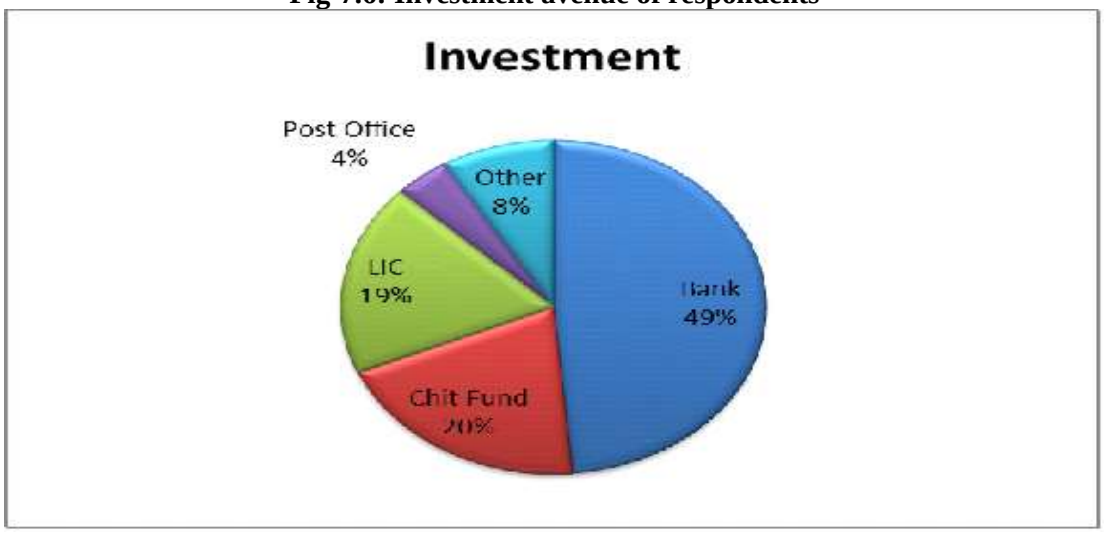
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Above graph makes it clear that, 57.14% respondents said that their monthly savings are between Rs.1000/- to Rs. 2000/-, 27.14% said that they save upto Rs. 2000/- to Rs.4000, 12.86% said they save Rs. 6000 to Rs.8000 and 1.43% said save upto Rs. 8000 and above per month.

Fig-7.6: Investment avenue of respondents



Source: Primary Data

Above graph states that, 49% respondents said that they invest in Bank schemes, 20% said Cit Funds, 19% said LIC policies 4% said Post Office and 8% said other sources.

8. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

H_0 = There is no significant difference between Education and Reason of Working of domestic female workers.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	**df**	**Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)**
Pearson Chi-Square	47.041[a]	21	.001
Likelihood Ratio	46.943	21	.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	.246	1	.620
N of Valid Cases	70		
a. 29 cells (90.6%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .09.			

Conclusion: Since, here p-value (Asymp. Sig.) = 0.000 < 0.05, H_0 is rejected, it is concluded that there is an association (significant relation) between the education and reason of working of female domestic workers of Mumbai suburban area.

In other words, we conclude that education has effect on reason of working of female domestic workers.

H_0 = There is no significant difference between Income and Savings habit of domestic female workers.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	**df**	**Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)**
Pearson Chi-Square	71.114[a]	20	.000
Likelihood Ratio	64.395	20	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	33.864	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	70		
a. 25 cells (83.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .01.			

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Conclusion: Since, here p-value (Asymp. Sig.) = 0.000 < 0.05, H_0 is rejected, it is concluded that there is an association (significant relation) between the income and education of working of female domestic workers of Mumbai suburban area.

In other words, we conclude that income level has effect on Saving habits of working of female domestic workers.

9. LIMITATIONS

1) Sample size of 70 is a limitation; the findings may differ with higher sample size.
2) Sample unit and the area can be a limitation as the purpose and frequency may differ in other areas.
3) Responses given by respondents may be biased.

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the present study it is concluded that women domestic workers are less educated and they work because their family income is insufficient and they wish to support their family. Their monthly income is below Rs.10,000/- which they earn by working about 6 hours a day. Their savings are very less and they invest in traditional investment options such as bank FDs, LIC and chit funds. It is recommended that the Union, Government and NGOs should play active role to improve working condition of domestic workers. Banks can come forward and undertake investment awareness programmes specially for domestic workers.

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