

A Study on Women's participation and decision-making in Family

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Abstract Women make family, family makes home, home makes society and society makes country, but without education and empowerment, development of family, society and country cannot take place. For women's empowerment, it is necessary that women's participation in the decision-making process should be its beginning. The family should be involved in the decision of the family, then people will come out of the old prejudice. Women's participation in the decision-making process in society, workplace, every place will lead to the upliftment of women, which is necessary for the upliftment of the country. At present, there has been a change in the thinking of people, the condition of women is much better.

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of Policy. The constitution not only provides equal status to women but also empowers the state to take positive discrimination measures in favour of women. Today women are occupying high positions, men, youth have changed their thinking and they are fully cooperating in bringing women forward. Its effect is visible on the society that today women are taking decisions from Gram Panchayat to Finance Department.

For the study of this change, N = 50 units of Kota city were studied, which were selected on the basis of Random and convenience Sampling method. In the study, information was obtained from men and women whose age was 18 -50 above divided into four parts. The information was obtained by preparing the questionnaire through Google Form and sending it to the people. At the family level, an attempt has been made to measure the social, economic and

cultural level of women's participation in the decision-making process.

Keywords: *Women Empowerment, Decision-, Making, Development., Gender equality, Family*

I Introduction

It is an established fact that women play an important role in the progress and development of any nation. However, in many underdeveloped and developing countries, women's participation remains poor mainly because of the traditional stereotypes and notorious actions of their family in particular and society in general. Women are generally considered to be less capable than men, which significantly affects their activity in many areas of life and as a result, they are confined to domestic work only. It is well known that women have all the abilities required to take and implement any decision, but they do not have enough power to really play any decisive role in active decision making.

Apart from the role of women in making the family financially strong, they also perform important house-building duties and fulfil various important responsibilities according to their socio-economic status. As members of a family and as a part of society, women are involved in various professions with different nature, which are governed by various factors (Reddy and Narayan, 1987). The contribution of women in many important social commitments like marriage decision, dowry issue, male partner selection, children's education, expenses and upper management of marriage etc. The policies, plans and programs have been made aimed at the advancement of women in various fields. The Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78) adopted the approach of development rather than welfare towards issues related to women. The National Commission for Women was established by an Act of Parliament in the year 1990 to

protect the rights and legal entitlements of women. The Constitution of India through the 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) provides for reservation of seats for women in local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities, which provides a strong basis for their participation in the decision-making process at the local levels. In recent years, women empowerment has been recognized as a major issue in determining the status of women.

2014-15) The status of women is being strengthened through many schemes like -Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Mahila Swarojgar Yojana (2022).

If seen, today women are occupying high positions in our country. Four Indian women are also included in the annual list of the world's 100 most powerful women, among which are SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya, ICICI Bank chief Chanda Kochhar, Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar Shaw and HT Media chairperson Shobhana Bhartiya. But right now, the percentage of women's participation in the decision process as a whole is less, for this, women in every family in the society will have to share in the decision process. It is seen many times that women occupying high positions, who are financially independent too, but are dependent on husband for family decisions.

We cannot solve 'global challenges' unless women fully participate in the efforts to find solutions. Mother-in-law, mother-in-law of every family, mother-grandmother will have to take this responsibility, only then the pace of change will be fast. At present, there has been a change in the thinking of the society, but its pace is not going fast, some incident happens in the society, which forces one to think that when women will be safe. Sharma (2007) has noted that women's empowerment is usually associated with women's struggle for social justice and equality. Ignoring women has proved to be harmful and has also brought negative changes in the direction and nature of the society. Empowerment is considered to be a strong approach to acquire decision making abilities and carry them out with sufficient knowledge, self-respect as well as complete confidence. Maral suggested that the role of women is an essential component that develops

the human structure of the family and society. The inclusive development of the society and the nation depends on the participation of women in most of the socio-economic and political activities.

Women's participation in the private sector is an important economic driver for societies around the world. Economic security benefits every aspect of a woman's life, with a positive impact on health, education and the vitality of families. Our society is changing rapidly.

II Literature Review

The present survey of literature enables multifaceted, interpersonal and demonstrative understanding of women's authorization and decision-making. According to Kabeer (1999), empowerment is "the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make strategic life choices acquire such an ability." He provided a supportive notional explanation of empowerment, which states that the first order decision-making capacity with anticipated consequences includes three unified scopes namely resources, agency, and achievements.

(Joshi, 2014) revealed that the overall empowerment and the involvement in decision-making procedures will empower women, which will progressively govern economic growth significantly. This perception is very helpful to realize several crucial issues which induce and facilitate empowerment.

Employed women are more conscious in the matter of interaction with other people through participation in the social organization. Enhanced family income reduced the disparity between earning and purchasing power which improves the quality of life in terms of food and nutrition, their illness behaviour, living condition, education, recreation, health, the social aspect of well-being and economic autonomy in the form of equality among males and females as the decision-maker (Bergman, 1986).

Women's employment, which is an essential aspect of economic development is also believed to serve this purpose to great extent. Employment

makes women more conscious about their individual rights and they have been seen to be positively associated with the reading and enjoyment programs (Rathod, 2009). In addition, empowering women is very important since it automatically improves their status in many sectors such as politics, economics, finance, and health. Essentially, for the accomplishment of maintainable growth (Mishra, 2006), empowerment is very a crucial method since it combines an individual’s capability for identifying her potentials and opportunities and grow her skills to resolve them

It is important to mention that women and men both should perform equally in creative and reproducible life that includes mutual duties and responsibilities for caring and growing kids and also in maintaining a house (Jejeebhoy, 2002). According to Rao (1998), the social status of an individual in a particular position in relation with other individuals, by virtue of which she is the recipient of respect and prestige, and wields influence and which can be recognized by symbols of prestige accruing to her and her actions.

Varghese (2011), studied women empowerment in Oman, which is grounded upon five autonomous variables via considering women empowerment as the dependent variable. According to this report, the women in Oman are superior as the domestic decision-makers. They are also good at economic decision making than social empowering decisions. In a parallel study,

Das (2011) reported different limitations of women empowerment in Karbi tribes of Assam, which are related to societal, political, economic, technical and spiritual. He also mentioned that ‘lack of knowledge about new technology and information is one of the key reasons responsible for the deprived women empowerment in this community.

Pandey & Rai (2017), explained that women empowerment is essential for sustainable economic growth and reduction of poverty in developing countries. Although women’s empowerment is not a sufficient condition, it is still a necessary condition for the development

process. Economically empowered women play a more active role in household decision-making, with greater bargaining power and increased spending on education and development.

Objectives

- (a) To discover the participation of women in the decision-making process in the family.
- (b) To analyse the changes in the socio-economic status of women in the study area.

III Research Methodology

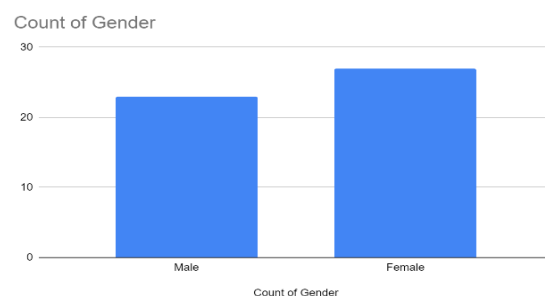
In this paper, an attempt has been made to study the women decision-making process at the family level. For the study, N=50 units of Kota city were selected on the basis of Random and convenience sampling method. The data was obtained through closed and restricted questionnaire, the questionnaire was sent in the form of Google form to 50 family members for study. Both primary data and secondary data have been used for the study.

The units were divided into two discrete variables.

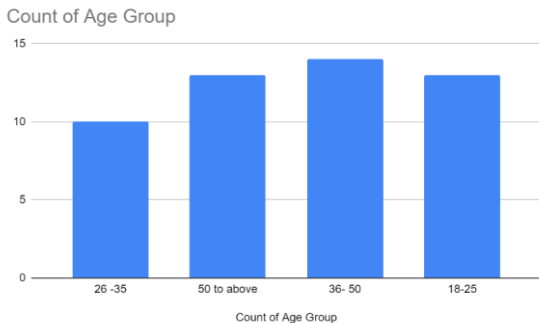
- 1)Gender Distinction- Female, Male
- 2) age difference-
 - 18-25
 - 26-35
 - 36-50
 - 50 -above

IV Results and Discussions

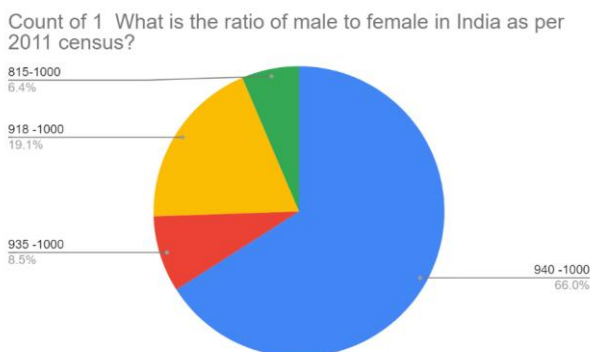
In this paper, an attempt has been made to study the women decision-making process at the family level. Result is...



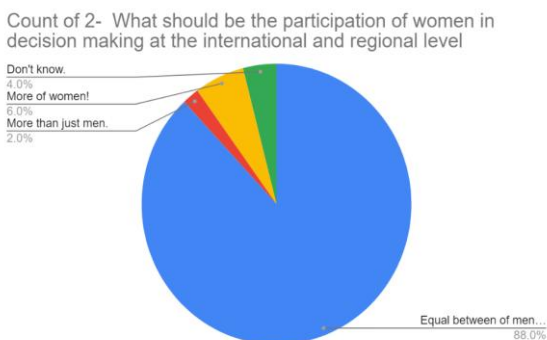
In the study, 46 percent men and 54 percent women participated in giving information. The details of which have been given above.



The informants who provided the information were divided into 4 age groups. People in the age group of 18 to 25 were 26 percent and those in the age group 26 to 35 were 20 percent. The respondents in the age group of 36 to 50 were 28 per cent. Whereas the respondents above 50 years of age were 26 percent

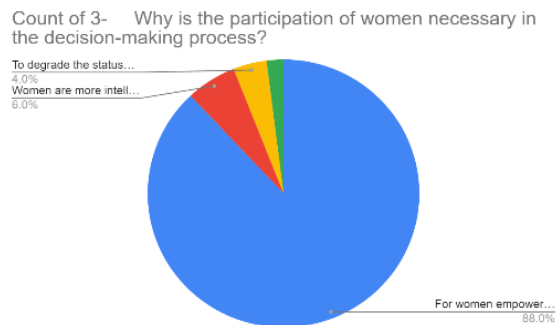


1. On the basis of the 2011 census, only 66% of the informers who tell the correct ratio of male and female.

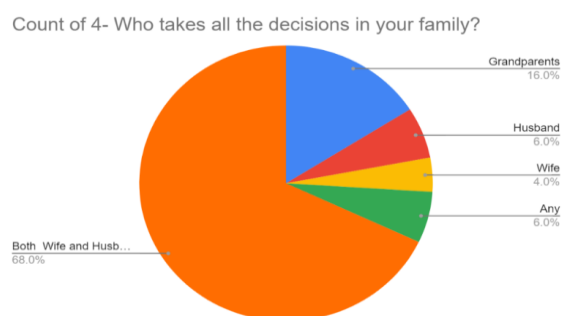


88% of the people believed that the participation of men and women should be equal. 6% of the respondents answered in favour of women should be more involved in decision making. 6% of the respondents reported higher participation of women.

2% of respondents answered in favour of greater participation of men. Whereas 4% of the respondents replied "Don't know".

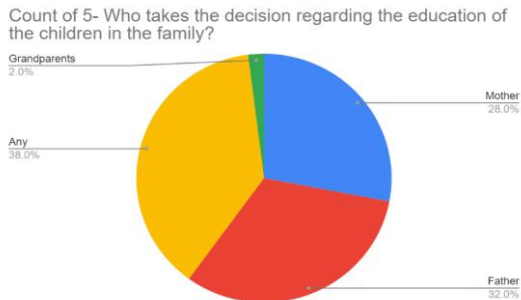


In the study, 88% of the respondents said that the participation of women was necessary for women's empowerment and 4% of the respondents also chose the option of degrading the status of men. 6% of the respondents chose the option of women being more intelligent. Whereas 2% of the respondents did not give satisfactory answer.

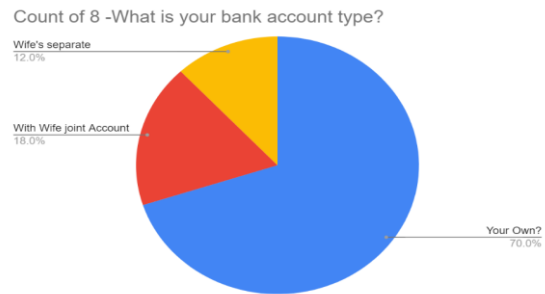


. In 68% of households, both husband and wife make decisions together. In 16% of families, grandparents take decisions. 6% of the families were such where the husband takes the decision. Whereas there were only 4% of the families where only the wife was found to be taking the decision. In 6% of families, someone takes the decision.

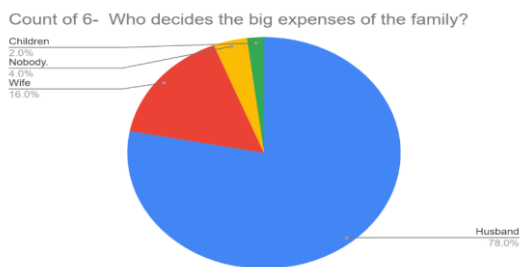
getting the children's homework done while 6.3% of the informants do nothing



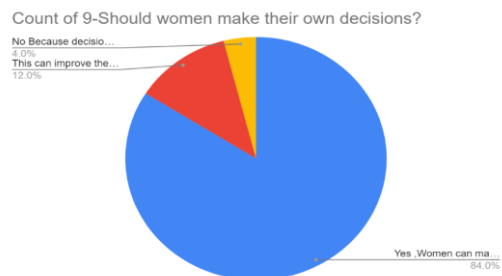
The father takes 32% of the decisions regarding the education of children, 28% is taken by the mother. 38% of the respondents replied that any member of the family can take this decision. There was a very small percentage where grandmothers make decisions.



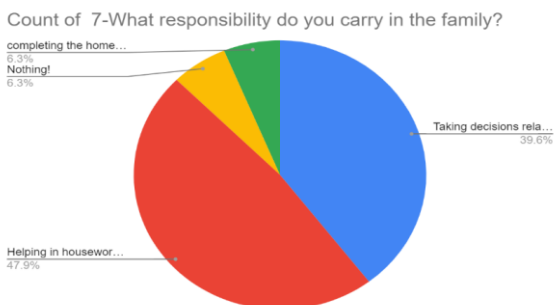
In the study, 70% of the husbands were found to have their own separate bank account. In 18% of the households the husband and wife had a common bank account. In 12% of the households the wife was found to have her own separate bank account.



The study found that only husbands decide 78% of major household expenses. Only 16% of decisions are taken by wives. No one takes decisions in 4% of families and children also take decisions in 2% of families.



84% of the respondents in the study believed that women can make the right decisions for themselves. 12% of informants believe that it is necessary for women empowerment. Whereas 4 percent of the respondents believe that decision making is the work of men only.



In the study, 47.9 percent of the husbands are in favour of helping with the household chores with the wife. In 39.6 percent of the households, men were in favor of taking the decision of major household expenditure. In 6.3 percent of the households, men do the work of

Findings

* The study shows that 88% of the people believe that the participation of women and men in the decision-making process should also be equal.

* 88% of the respondents believe that if the participation in the decision-making process increases, then there will definitely be an increase in the empowerment of women.

* 84% of informants believe that if women

are involved in the decision-making process, then the decisions will definitely be right for women. But 78% of men take the decision of big expenses in the family.

* Therefore, on the basis of the study, it is clear that there has been a change in the thinking of the society, but its pace is not yet normal, that is why men take the decision of big expenditure in the families thinking of increasing women empowerment.

. 88% people believe that women should be equal to men in decision participation and participation is necessary for women empowerment. 66% of people believe that both husband and wife take family decisions together. That is, there is a difference of 22% between the words and deeds of the people. This is the condition of our society.

VI Conclusion

According to the World Economic Forum data, India is ranked 140 out of 156 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index (CGI) 2021. While India ranks 155th out of 156 countries in the field of health and survival according to the Survival Gender Inequality Index (GII), there is a need to increase the representation of women. While political representation of women in India still has a long way to go, especially at higher levels of government, where there is a need for the presence of more women political leaders and more women to exercise their democratic rights. One can expect policy changes that can contribute to better performance of women in India on economic participation and opportunity, education attainment and other indicators of health and survival. There is a need to take positive steps to remove this discrimination against women. Work has to be done on many levels. At the political level, first of all, such a system has to be implemented which can connect women to power and decision-

making process. Such as reservation for political participation of women. At the Panchayat level, the implementation of quota for women has brought about positive changes. There has been a difference in the way many panchayats work. Women-led Panchayats are working successfully in providing home, school, health and other basic needs.

We all have to start this from the family itself. If we give full rights to take decisions to the woman/wife taking care of the family, then surely the same thing will be applicable in the society as well.

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