



PROBLEMS OF WORKING WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

The liberated woman has come to the face today. The term chiefly implies a woman who is independent economically. For other things a woman still needs her family. She cannot be liberated in matters of family otherwise she will not be accepted by the society. When we consider the problems of a working woman in our society, her domestic life comes to mind immediately. A working woman of today may belong to the middle, lower or higher stages of society. Working women of middle or lower class have the work for economic reasons while those belonging to the higher class work to pass time. The woman who works for financial reasons has to face many problems. They have to work in an organization, after she is sniggered at, people make passes at her and criticize her work just because she is a woman. However hard working she might be in her work, there are people ready to find faults in her work in order to harass her if she does not submit to their lewd advances. The poor woman cannot report against these people for fear of losing her job or her reputation in the eyes of colleagues, family or society. She indeed has to keep walking on a razor's edge all the time. Her domestic life is also not smooth. Nobody bothers to find out her requirement to be fulfilled. Nobody shows any consideration for the poor working woman. She is sandwiched between two worlds and reduced to a virtual robot, trying to perform her functions and duties to the best of her abilities. The concept of working woman, leading a blissful domestic life, has not yet been accepted by out – society. In this century, a woman actively participates in workplace many women desire a career and a place in this world. They want to become self-dependent individuals, independent and free from others. One thing that is clear is that women in all careers are striving to gain equality in the work place today. Through their determination, women now have the ability to break out of the gender roles that were created for them by society. Throughout history women have taken the role of housewife, mother and nature. Even today, motherhood is still considered to be the primary role for women. Because women were viewed as homemakers they were not thought of as managers or professional. Even today, women are not treated the same as men. Discrimination can be an uncomfortable situation for the women involved.

KEYWORDS : Working women, Gender inequality, women employment.**INTRODUCTION:**

The financial demands on the Indian families are becoming fiercer by day. The sky rocketing cost of living, increasing expenses on education of children, increasing cost of housing properties in India force every family to look for ways and means of increasing the household income. As a result women in India who were mostly known as homemakers are forced to go for jobs and take up even careers that were considered only suitable for men.

They are left with no option but to fend for their families in all possible ways. Working women in India are faced with lot more challenges than their counterparts in the other parts of the world. So the major burden of running the family is on the shoulders of woman. It was alright for woman to handle all the chores as long as they were homemakers. Now with their increasing need for getting some income for the family, they have to work all the more harder. Men's role has not changed much. The status of Indian woman has undergone considerable change. There are other factors that affect their quality of life such as age of marriage, extent of literacy, role in the family and so on. The disparity is also a cause for worry because balanced development is not taking place.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the status of working women in India.
2. To study the problems faced by working women in India.
3. How men differ from women as well as working women.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. Hate (1978) in her book stated that there is positive change in the political, economics and social status of middle class working and non-working women with the advent of independence.
2. Robinson and Skarle (1980) in their article on stress of working women stated that in the area of stress and its relationship to locus control reveals that internally oriented individual shows less perception of role overload and role ambiguity.
3. Chandrika (1982) in her study stated that in the last decade of the 20th century the spotlight fell on various specific issues of women.
4. Seta Vaidayalingam (1994) discussed the problem and concerns of Indian women.

PROBLEMS OF WORKING WOMEN:**1. Balancing work – family Life:**

No matter how high their position or designation is in the working place, women in India are still viewed as the family manager back

home. They are expected to return home at a certain time and take care of family affairs. In fact, men who help out around their house. This makes life extremely stressful for women who have little help around the house and have to do it all.

2. Safety of Working Women:

There is still the concern for safety of working women. Women travelling out of their home city for work trips are considered an easy target to fulfill. A single woman because of their own safety concerns or if a woman decides to stay alone she is viewed with suspicion.

3. Education:

Though it is gradually rising, the female literacy rate in India is lower than the male literacy rate compared to boys, far fewer girls are enrolled in the schools and many of them drop out. According to the National Sample Survey Data (1994), only the states of Kerala and Mizoram, have approached universal female literacy rates. According to majority of the scholars, the major factor behind the improved social and economic status of women in Kerala is literacy.

4. Crimes against women:

Police records show high incidence of crimes against women in India. The national crime records bureau reported in 1998 that the growth rate of crimes against women would be higher than the population growth rate. Earlier, many cases were not registered with the police due to the social stigma. Official statistics show that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of reported crimes against women.

5. Domestic Violence:

Globally, one out of every three women face violence at the hands of their family members in their homes. Domestic violence can be described as when one adult in a relationship misuses power to control another through violence and other forms of abuse. The abuse features and controls the victim by calculated threats, intimidations and physical violence. For some women emotional abuse may be more painful than physical attacks because they effectively undermine women's security and self-confidence. The abuse is generally condoned by social custom and considered a part and parcel of marital life.

6. Dowry:

Another serious issue in modern India is dowry harassment by husband and in-laws. Now - a - days parents have to give heavy amount in

dowry, the in laws of their girl are not concerned whether they can afford it or not. Due to this evil practice many newly wedded women of India to lose their lives.

CONCLUSION:

Pandit Jawaharlal Neheru said about woman empowerment that-
“ You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women”

Thus, while discussing the issues and concerns about working women, the main emphasis should be on the opportunities for women, as it is of utmost importance. If a women learns something, she craves for expressing it in some way. It is quite encouraging that now a days, women have much more opportunities and prospect for the assertion of their talents. Hence, if the focus is right, this issue will, hopefully, find its way towards a positive solution. In short we need revamp in all round concern with respect to working women's lives. We need to help each other, join together in chorus to raise our issues, put them in a proposal to government for new legislations angled at improving working women's lives.

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