

## A Study of Superstitious Attitude Among Women



### Education

**KEYWORDS :** Superstitious attitude, working women and nonworking women.

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### ABSTRACT

*This study was conducted to compare the superstitious attitude of working and non working women. The sample consisted of 200 women from Ludhiana district of Punjab state. Superstitious attitude scale was used to collect data. The statistical techniques such as Mean, Standard-Deviation, and t-test were employed. The results revealed that there exists a significant difference in superstitious attitude of working and non working women but married and unmarried women possess same attitude towards superstitions.*

### INTRODUCTION:

No matter which part of the world we tour, we will find the people nurturing certain beliefs and superstitions and India is no exception in this case. Though the Indian society is fast progressing, there are many people who are still superstitious and have a strong faith in the local beliefs. The number of superstitions and blind beliefs in India is very large as the Indian society is made of people belonging to various religious, cultural, ethnic, linguistic and racial groups. The origin of blind beliefs and superstitions in India is in cultural exchange of different groups, both indigenous and foreign. Some blind beliefs and superstitions are actually not blind beliefs and superstitions, but also experiences of people for a long time.

Superstitious attitude is totally relying on super natural or unreasonable belief in magic or mysteries or supernatural objects, witchcraft and abject rituals. Superstitious attitude is generally based on mysterious and irrational fear of 'Unknown'. Instead of having scientific attitude towards life, people take decisions totally based on superstitions. They do not think rationally and logically and thus take wrong decisions. Such attitude makes a man totally rely or dependent on their fate.

There are many superstitions all around us, many of which we do not even notice or recognize as superstitions. Superstition is attached to countless things in our everyday life. **Kretch and Crutchfield (1948)** indicate that the "Superstitious beliefs are those which:

- (i) have been demonstrated to be at variance with the objective facts.
- (ii) are likely to be shared among many members of society and
- (iii) Frequently involves a disposition to ascribe phenomena.

It is held that if left palm itches, it means a person will soon receive money; if his right palm itches, it means that he will lose or have to pay money. Crossing the middle and pointing finger on one hand is believed as a sign of hopefulness or desire for a particular outcome. Similarly, it is considered bad omen when a black cat crosses one's path.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

**Sepher et al. (2005)** (as quoted by Safari, Khodabakshi) in his study "The study of example, elements and the reasons for occurrence of Superstitions & false Beliefs' found that women believed much in such beliefs and an educated person believes in such issues less than uneducated person. Regarding the relationship between superstitions beliefs and people's jobs, the lowest level of superstition beliefs are related to clerks & people involved in mental jobs.

**Safari, Khodabakshi (2012)** found that women believed more in superstitions than men. Regarding the tendency for omens & sooth saying, there is no meaningful difference between men &

women.

**Gupta, N. and Joshi, R.(2013)** revealed that there exists no significant gender differences in adolescents on Superstitious beliefs but respondents of low SES had reported significantly more superstitious beliefs than high SES respondents.

### JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY:

In spite of scientific technological advancement in the society, majority of people still are becoming victim of blind faith and superstitions. Some form of these beliefs and rituals are highly abject, inhuman and criminal in nature which not only affect the social life of people but also deeply affects the mental health as well. The majority of strata in society especially women are more prone to negative effect of superstitions on them which not only effect them but their families and children in long run resulting in poor physical and mental health at a large. The investigator therefore finds it utmost important to look into attitude of Women in particular towards superstitions.

### OBJECTIVES:

1. To study and compare superstitious attitude in working and non-working women.
2. To compare superstitious attitude among married and unmarried women.
- 3a. To compare superstitious attitude among married and unmarried working women.
- 3b. To compare superstitious attitude among married and unmarried non- working women.
- 4a. To compare superstitious attitude among working and non working married women.
- 4b. To compare superstitious attitude among working and non working unmarried women.

### HYPOTHESES:

1. There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude among working and non-working women.
2. There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude among married and unmarried women.
- 3a. There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude among married and unmarried working women.
- 3b. There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude among married and unmarried non- working women.
- 4a. There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude among working and non working married women.
- 4b. There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude among working and non working unmarried women

### DESIGN OF THE STUDY:

**Method and Sample:** The method of the present study was descriptive survey. The sample of the study consisted of 200 Women of Ludhiana district.

**Tool Used:** Superstitious Attitude Scale by Dr. (Smt.) Shailaja

Bhagwat (2006).

**Statistical techniques used:** Mean, Standard Deviation, t-value was computed.

#### INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS:

**Table 1**

Section no.	Superstitious Attitude	N	Mean	S.D	SE <sub>D</sub>	t-value	Level of Significance
1.	Working women	100	62.60	9.68	1.29	4.68	Significant at 0.01 level
	Non-working women	100	56.55	8.60			
2.	Married	100	59.6	9.7	1.36	0.036	Insignificant
	Unmarried	100	59.55	9.55			

**Section 1** of table 1 show mean scores of superstitious attitude among working and non working women are 62.60 and 56.55 respectively. S.D. of both groups is 9.68 and 8.60 respectively. Obtained t-value is 1.29 which is significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 level. This indicates that working and non working women differ significantly on the scores of superstitious attitude. Therefore, **Hypothesis 1:** There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude of working and non working women is not accepted.

**Section 2** of table 1 shows mean scores of superstitious attitude among married and unmarried women are 59.6 and 59.55 respectively. S.D. of both groups is 9.7 and 9.55 respectively. Obtained t-value is 0.036 which is insignificant at 0.05 level. This indicates that married and unmarried women do not differ significantly on the scores superstitious attitude. Therefore, **Hypothesis 2:** There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude among married and unmarried women is accepted.

**Table 2**

Sr. no.	Superstitious Attitude in women	N	Mean	SD	SE <sub>D</sub>	t-value	Level of Significance
2a.	Married Working	50	57.9	9.35	1.7	1.58	insignificant at 0.05
	Unmarried working	50	55.2	7.35			
2b.	Married Non-working	50	61.3	9.82	1.92	1.35	Insignificant at 0.05
	Unmarried Non-working	50	63.9	9.35			

**Section 2a** of table 2 shows the mean scores of superstitious attitude among married and unmarried working women are 57.9 and 55.2 respectively. S.D. of both groups is 9.35 and 7.35 respectively. Obtained t-value is 1.58 which is non significant at 0.05 level. This indicates that married and unmarried working women do not differ significantly on the scores of superstitious attitude. Therefore, **Hypothesis 3a:** There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude of married and unmarried working women is accepted.

**Section 2b** of table 2 shows mean scores of superstitious attitude among married and unmarried non-working women are 61.3 and 63.9 respectively. S.D. of both groups is 9.82 and 9.35 respectively. Obtained t-value is 1.35 which is non significant at 0.05 level. This indicates that married and unmarried non-working women do not differ significantly on the scores of superstitious attitude. Therefore, **Hypothesis 3b:** There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude of married and unmarried non-working women is accepted.

**Table 3**

Sr. No.	Superstitious Attitude in women	N	Mean	S.D	SE <sub>D</sub>	t-value	Level of Significance
3a.	Working Married	50	57.9	9.35	1.9	1.77	Insignificant at 0.05 level
	Non-working Married	50	55.2	9.82			
3b.	Working Unmarried	50	55.2	7.55	1.7	5.12	Significant at 0.05 level
	Non-working Unmarried	50	63.9	9.35			

**Section 3a** of table 3 shows the mean scores of superstitious attitude among working and non working married women are 57.9 and 55.2 respectively. S.D. of both groups is 9.35 and 9.82 respectively. Obtained t-value is 1.77 which is non significant at 0.05 level. This indicates that working and non working married women do not differ significantly on the scores of superstitious attitude. Therefore, **Hypothesis 4a:** There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude among working and non working married women is accepted.

**Section 3b** of table 3 shows mean scores of superstitious attitude among working and non working unmarried women are 55.2 and 63.9 respectively. S.D. of both groups is 7.55 and 9.35 respectively. Obtained t-value is 5.12 is highly significant at 0.01 level. This indicates that working and non working unmarried women differ significantly on the scores of superstitious attitude. Therefore, **Hypothesis 4b:** There exists no significant difference in superstitious attitude among working and non working unmarried women is not accepted.

#### RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS:

**The results can be summarized as:**

1. Working and non working women differ significantly on scores of superstitious attitude. Working women have been found less superstitious than non working women.
2. Married and unmarried women have same attitude towards superstitions.
3. Married and unmarried working women do not differ significantly with regard to their attitude towards superstitions.
4. Married and unmarried non working women do not differ significantly with regard to their attitude towards superstitions.
5. Working and non working married women show almost same attitude towards superstitions.
6. Unmarried Working women are less superstitious than unmarried non working women.

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