

## Association of Working Status and Socioeconomic Status with Married and Widows' Women Life Satisfaction: Study Analysis

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### ABSTRACT:

This research study was carried out using the method of survey in an attempt to find out the association between the life satisfaction, working status and socioeconomic status of married and widow women living in Haryana state. Research was conducted among 360 married and widow women which was selected by using random sampling method. Findings revealed that there was a significant difference between Life satisfaction and socioeconomic status of married and widow women. And there was no significant difference with regard to working status. The life satisfaction of women belong to high, middle and low socioeconomic status is significantly different from each other.

**Keywords:** Working women, non- working women, life satisfaction, working status, socioeconomic status.

### INTRODUCTION:

There are many issues and challenges in cooperatives for women and status of women in cooperatives play great role in financial things. Lack of education, lack of earning skills, training, socioeconomic status related lack of motivation and lack of confidence, caste and culture obstacles in women's involvement in decision making policies etc. Gender bias and lack of good opportunities, lack of good assets, lack of funding in cooperatives are the challenges which should be improved for growth and development. All these lack of things can be the cause of stress and lack of life satisfaction in the women of cooperatives. Access to economic things can be good for improvement of everything in the cooperative world. Bad infrastructure, lack of quality in things in resources and lack of financial skills for management. Human life now is competitive. The list of needs and essentials items for daily living is growing. Both partners will have to work effectively in order to make ends meet in order to cope with these rising standards of living for worthwhile survival. Everyone want to earn in order to live happily. And brand-new socioeconomic phenomenon has emerged since 1900: women's participation in economic activities for basic earning outside. The social,

economic, and cultural aspects of the society have been fundamentally altered. In recent years, there appears to be a rise in the number of women employed and doing job for earnings is now become a trend in India as well as in other countries. Both husband and wife earn together and mutually they help each other. The work participation rate of women as compare to men increased from 19.67% in 1981 to 25.68% in 2001, with a higher rate in rural areas, as announced by the Registrar General of India and women trying to earn in a good manner and according to 2009-2010 survey, rural areas had a female employment rate of 26.1% and urban areas had a female employment rate of 13.8% which is a considerable thing. Women with education now seek employment in male-dominated fields. Male dominating society do pressure on females mentally as well as physically. Directly or indirectly women get no equal opportunity, dignity, power, control etc. According to data gathered report on March 31, 2003, women made up 18.4 percent of workers in the organized sector, with 49.68 lakh women employed in the public and private sectors (The Financial Express, March 2006). Women who are married but do not have any children are more likely than mothers to seek employment for earnings, and among mothers, those with older children may be more engaged and involved in working settings than those with younger children in Indian society. In India, for some, family and socioeconomic status determine whether or not a woman (either married or widow) seeks employment and which type of job she would seek for earnings. In a similar vein, people who come from liberal families and are well educated are more likely to work or do jobs happily. However, despite her employment status, our society still views her as the primary caregiver for family members and children and this is an odd thing. All these unrelavent things can destroy the career of an ambitious woman. As a result, a woman who works must simultaneously care for her family and work for the company or organization.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

Women are considered as a Puppet which is not good. Every individual should live a worthful life full of joys and happiness.[1] Everyone deserves everything. Speaking about things is more easy than doing things in reality and no one can deny the fact that ladies can do more hard work as compare to men who are living in the male dominating society. Women who work often have to take care of the family and raise children.[2]

The question is whether her ideal role as a wife, daughter in law and mother is hindered by her work outside the home and a woman struggles to manage her time effectively in order to perform adequately as a wife, mother, and employee while simultaneously juggling these dual responsibilities, resulting in role conflict and quarrels. And all these responsibilities are complex to perform.[3] According to Bloustein (1968), "women encounters on every level or stage obstacle of prejudice, discrimination, bad behaviour, inequality and there is lack of institutional supports." On the one hand, the modern woman is told that she can combine a career with marriage and family life but in reality it is very difficult task. Gender bias and inequality in the workplace settings, wage discrimination, sexual harassment, bad behaviors, threats to job security in organization, unemployment and temporary work, health issues like

frequent headaches, back pain, circulatory disorders, fatigue, and emotional and mental disorders, inadequate nutrition, anemia, and others are additional issues that working women face and women are bearing all these ill behaviors in the society.[4] All these things may create hassle and misfortune. Indian constitution talks about equality or equal behavior but in reality women get inequality either directly or indirectly. Now a days psychosomatic disorders are common and these disorders can easily seen and occasionally leading to more psychosomatic disorders and hallucinations or illusion (Ms. Sari, M., 2001) and prior to globalization, working women faced a number of challenges; However, since the emergence of the neoliberal policies of privatization everywhere, liberalization, and globalization, these have intensified and all these things are growing fast.(Jan and Masood, 2008: 33-42) However, working women and widows are now more vulnerable to severe exploitation in the modern era; They are forced to deal with more psychological, physical and mental stress as a result of the increased risks they face daily.[5] However, listing the issues faced by working women does not bring an end to the debate and this is a debatable issue and it should not be stoppable.[6] The same has some advantages as well and it can become financially independent and exposed to new obstacles; reduction in population as a result of personal and social awareness, enhancement of intelligence and self-esteem, and rise in standard of living.[7] Women are considered less intelligent more emotional, less decision maker and soft hearted etc. But now in recent trend women are totally different from the previous one perspective.[8] Now they are improving their skills and confident ladies can easily seen in offices, organizations. Now doing work is common to all.[9]

### **Rationale of the study**

Not much work has been carried out on working and non working married women and widows with regard to their life satisfaction and therefore the present study was undertaken with this perspective. Woman plays a very important role in our Indian society and in our Haryanvi culture. She is the foundation ruby stone of a family. Women nurtures the family directly or indirectly with her hard work. As women play a very crucial role, their general health and well-being can contribute to more growth, wellbeing and development of her family and society on whole. A number of women have started making career outside the four walls of her sweet home for reputed jobs and this study tries to find out whether this change or alteration has improved or deteriorated her well-being and satisfaction levels in comparison to those women who choose to stay at their sweet home and look after their children or in-laws. Usually work, jobs and employment is a mode directed toward improving and enhancing one's life and then satisfying our needs as well as desires. Everybody know "money can buy you few more reasons to be joyful, happy and cheerful". But studies reveal that employment and working status affects life satisfaction mostly for men only. From this study we can find (1) the effect or influence of working status and socio economic status on women' life satisfaction. (2) Does Life satisfaction depend upon socioeconomic status of women. And it will also help to answer the question "whether socioeconomic status,

employment and working status of women contributes to her life satisfaction or not “and have enough evidence that suggests job, work and employment may contribute to better quality of life and wellbeing and result to happiness and joyful. This study of course shall support to find which group of women, working or non-working, experiencing greater life satisfaction and consequently have more or greater wellbeing in life. Usually unemployment denoted less well-being and less life satisfaction. Thus, we shall be successful in exploring the impact of SES and working status on life satisfaction. When previous research on socioeconomic levels is considered, socio-economic levels has an important affect on life satisfaction but this study is on women not on men. With the help of this research study new reforms and new policies can make. This research is also good for cooperatives women. Issues and challenges can be overcome or resolved by making good management policies for cooperatives etc.

### **Objectives**

The aim of the present study is to determine the effect of socioeconomic level on Life satisfaction variable by considering the working and non working women of different SES and to determine the effect of working status on life satisfaction of women.

### **Hypotheses**

1. There is no significant difference between the life satisfaction of working and non working women.
2. There is no significant difference in Life satisfaction of high, middle and low socioeconomic status women.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

#### **Sample**

Sample consisted of 180 working and 180 non-working women belonged to high, middle and low socioeconomic status from different areas of Haryana like Bhiwani, Rohtak, Gurugram, Hissar, Dharuhera, Husainka, Pataudi, etc. The random sampling method technique was used for data collection. Age range was 30- 60 years.

#### **Measures**

1. Satisfaction Scale by Dr. Promila Singh and George Joseph has been used to measure life satisfaction. The scale measures life satisfaction on 5 dimensions- 1) taking pleasure in everyday activities, 2) considering life meaningful, 3) holding a positive self- image, 4) having a happy and optimistic outlook, 5) experience of success in achieving goals. The scale is available in both Hindi and English language and easy to score. It covers 35 items based on the dimensions described above. Each item has 5 response categories specifically; "always", "often", "sometimes", "rarely" and

"never". All these responses have a numerical weightage on 1-5 scale in descending order; where "Always" is rated 5 and "never" as 1 respectively. Scoring of responses can be done by summing up the individual response weights and interpreting it against norms; which indicate scores ranging from 136-175 as high, 81-135 as average and 35-80 as low life satisfaction. Its test retest reliability is 0.91 and validity compared to Life satisfaction scale of Alam and Srivastava (1971) is 0.83; also it has content and face validity since every item was judged by experts.

2. SESS (Socio Economic Status Scale) - SK scale by Dr. Rajbir Singh, Radhey Shyam, Satish Kumar .

### Procedure

The participants were informed and their consent was taken during the study. The data was collected through the questionnaires. Participants were also assured about the confidentiality of the information obtained through the study.

### Inclusion

- The age range of participants will from 30 to 60 years .
- Participants having child or children will include in the study.
- The information regarding educational level will collect specifically from each participant.
- Informed consent will take from the participants.

### Exclusion

- Such women will exclude who run home business.
- Women below 30 years and above 60 years will exclude from the study.
- Participants who does not have a child will also excluded from the study.
- Individuals with impaired cognitive abilities will exclude.
- Individuals who have undergone similar test earlier will also exclude.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

Two analyses were conducted by SPSS 26 in order to investigate the effect of working status and socioeconomic status on life satisfaction of women.

Analysis 1: Independent sample t test measuring the effect of working status on life satisfaction. Whether or not there were significant differences between working and non working on the life satisfaction, an independent sample t test was conducted.

Analysis 2: ANOVA measuring the effect of SES on the life satisfaction of women. Whether or not there were significant differences between high, middle and low SES on life satisfaction, one way ANOVA was conducted.

Table 1. Shows Mean, S.D, Standard Error Mean between two groups working and non working women.

	Working Status	Total	Mean	SD	Std. Error Mean
Life Ssatisfaction	Working	180	122.8793	21.358	1.59193
	Non Working	180	104.0131	15.33026	1.14265

Table 2. ANOVA measuring the effect of SES on the life satisfaction of women.

F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
15.719	0	9.628	358	0	18.86623	1.95956
		9.628	324.754	0	18.86623	1.95956

F value is 15.719 and significant value is 0. The sig. value is less than 0.05. So, we fail to reject the hypothesis of Levene’s test & we conclude that variance are same or equal. t value is 9.628 & significance value is 0 & this significance value is less than 0.05. So,we reject the null hypothesis. The null hypothesis was there is no significant difference between working and non working women. So, we conclude that life satisfaction of working and non working women is not same.

Analysis 2: ANOVA Measuring effect of socioeconomic status on life satisfaction of women. In order to examine whether or not there were significant differences between high, middle and low socioeconomic status group on life satisfaction. One way ANOVA was applied by using SPSS.

Table 3.

ANOVA					
Life Satisfaction					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	33594.277	2	16797.139	49.087	0
Within Groups	122161.214	357	342.188		
Total	155755.492	359			

Multiple comparison table shows the mean differences between each groups. Significance value is 0 and this significance value is less than 0.05. So, we conclude that life satisfaction of high, middle & low socioeconomic status women is significantly different from each other. Homogeneous subset table shows that life satisfaction of women belong to high, middle and low socioeconomic status is significant different from each other.

Table 4.

Multiple Comparisons						
Dependent Variable : Life Satisfaction Normal Scores						
Scheffe						
(I) socioeconomic status of respondents	(J) socioeconomic status of respondents	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
low	middle	-12.94855*	2.38812	0	-18.8187	-7.0784
	high	-23.62594*	2.38812	0	-29.4961	-17.7558
middle	low	12.94855*	2.38812	0	7.0784	18.8187
	high	-10.67740*	2.38812	0	-16.5475	-4.8073
high	low	23.62594*	2.38812	0	17.7558	29.4961
	middle	10.67740*	2.38812	0	4.8073	16.5475

\*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 5.

Life Satisfaction				
Scheffe <sup>a</sup>				
Socioeconomic status of respondents	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05		
		1	2	3
low	120	101.2547		
middle	120		114.2033	
high	120			124.8807
Sig.		1	1	1

Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.

a. Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 120.000.

## CONCLUSION:

To our knowledge no studies have investigated this type of variable in women who belong to different socioeconomic status and from different working status in Haryana. The results of this study is an alarming call to address some significant problems like less life satisfaction and wellbeing in the non working women. The findings of the study will be instrumental for policymakers to address the coping skills and strategies, guidance and mental health counselling needs for women in order to enhance their satisfaction of life and wellbeing.

## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS:

The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

## AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS:

Both the authors contributed equally to the theoretical development, analysis, interpretation and writing of the manuscript.

## FUNDING INFORMATION:

This research received no funding.

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