

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

CHAPTER 5

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The education and status of women have been viewed as the key input to the national development of India in the present perspective. The role of women in our society even as career women is not significantly recognised. Women in Indian society are still expected to perform the subservient roles in and out side home. Women's equality cannot be attained only through the academic education of the women, but, it is equally important to educate other members both at home or outside home for such a change. This education may be formal or informal, it may be directly dilactic, analytic, merely information based or communicating its message through entertainment, but, education in a wide sense is prerequisite for value change and without value change no new social objective can be achieved.

Considerable evidences in the literature and researches in education, home science and sociology indicated that the employed women have brought about certain changes in the family as well as in society by becoming independent, assertive, and raising family's standard of living from various angles. But at the same time, the employed women have to face a number of constraints to become efficient worker as well as efficient housewife. Failing to meet the

needs and demands, they are always blamed by family members at home and the boss and colleagues in the office. Therefore, it was necessary to investigate various facilities available to employed women at home front such as division of labour in homemaking between husband and wife, use of equipment in homemaking and availability of various facilities at home. The various problems of employed women pertaining to their homemaking and jobs were also necessary to investigate. The attitude of these employed women towards their employment was also thought to be important to study. Based on all the aforesaid findings, it was intended to develop a guideline for Home Science curriculum to take necessary measures concerning the problems of the employed women. The various teaching, research and extension programmes of Home Science curriculum can be suggested to sensitize the Home Science students as well as husbands and other family members of employed women regarding their understanding of the role and constraints of employed women.

5.1 Objectives of the Study

The present investigation was undertaken to study the traditionality and modernity in homemaking based on division of labour between husband and wife, use of equipment and appliances in different areas of homemaking, reasons for not using equipment, availability of facilities at home for better homemaking, and respondents' attitude towards working women. The study also attempted to find out the various problems of employed women.

The other related objective of the investigation was to find out interrelationship of the variables under study and finally the development of a guideline drawn from the inferences of the findings of the present investigation.

5.2 Method of procedure

5.2.1 POPULATION OF THE STUDY

For the present investigation descriptive survey method was used. The population of the present study consisted of married employed women with minimum 2 to 3 years of job experience from six employing agencies, such as state government, State Quasi Government, Central government, Central Quasi government, Private Act Establishment and Local Bodies of Jorhat City of Assam. The population excluded widows, divorcees, and married women who were not located. There were 450 women who responded to the questionnaire.

5.2.3 RESEARCH TOOL

The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire which was precoded for easy entry of data in the computer. Section 1 consisted of preliminary information of the respondents and their husbands and statements for measuring attitude of the women towards working women. Section 2 comprises of statements of homemaking responsibilities whose responses depicted division of labour between husband and wife. It also contained a checklist

regarding equipment used in homemaking, reason for not using modern equipment, and facilities available at home for better homemaking. Section 3 includes statements regarding the problems faced by the employed women.

The questionnaire was given to experts and certain minor changes had been incorporated according to their suggestions. The questionnaire was translated to Assamese language and was pretested before data collection to modify necessary changes.

5.2.3 DATA COLLECTION

The translated questionnaire was printed in different colours, one for each section. The data were collected between the months of October 1990 to March 1991. The investigator had administered as well as collected the questionnaires personally.

5.2.4 ANALYSIS OF DATA

The analysis of data was done in IBM-PC/AT 386 compatible computer system.

The various statistical procedure were used for the analysis of data. Keeping in view the objectives of the study, the following statistical methods were used for analysing the data.

1. Frequency and percentage distribution
2. Mean Score

3. Pearson product moment correlations
4. t-test
5. Chi-square test

5.3 Major Findings

5.3.1 DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS

Majority of the respondents and their husbands belonged to class II and class III categories of occupations, earned Rs. 1501 to 3500 per month and had graduate and post graduate degrees. A majority of the respondents belonged to younger and middle age group with more than 5 to 10 years of job experience. The difference of age between the respondents and their husbands was mainly between 2 to 5 years and their marriages were arranged by others. The respondents were predominately from small and nuclear families having 2 children. Majority of the respondents had children below 9 years.

5.3.2 TRADITIONALITY AND MODERNITY IN HOME MAKING

Majority of the respondents were practicing traditional homemaking in the area of food and clothing. Moderately modern homemaking was practiced by majority of the respondents in the area of management of resources and child development and family relations. Families practicing moderately modern homemaking were more than the families practicing traditional homemaking in overall homemaking areas. No family was found to practice modern homemaking in

overall homemaking.

Modernity of homemaking was negatively correlated with factors such as, age and job experience of respondents, difference of age between husbands and the respondents and respondents having younger children.

5.3.3 USE OF EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES IN HOMEMAKING

On an average, majority of respondents used few equipment in homemaking activities. The highest percentage of respondents (45.3%) used maximum equipment in the area of child development and family relations compared to other areas. Food was the next important area where 22.9 per cent respondents had more than 50 per cent of equipment and appliances among the given list of equipment, maximum equipment was used in the area of clothing by a small percentage of respondents (7.8%) followed by the least percentage of respondents (5.6%), using maximum equipment in the area of management of resources.

Use of equipment and appliances in any area of homemaking was predominantly determined by occupational class, income and qualification of the respondents and of their husbands. Respondents from higher income and higher level of educational qualification, used more equipment and appliances than the lower categories.

5.3.4 REASONS FOR NOT USING MODERN EQUIPMENT IN HOME MAKING

The convenience of performing homemaking activities by traditional, conventional methods was the reason for not using modern equipment by majority of the respondents from all occupational classes. Majority of the respondents did not use certain modern equipment as they needed careful handling. Difficulty to bear the expenses of modern equipment due to their high price was the reason felt by majority of class IV employees and a large number of class III employees for not using modern equipment. Reasons identified for not using modern equipment were more from the traditional than the modern families.

Discouragement from the husband and in laws was the reason identified by more respondents belonging to class III and a few from class II employees. Lack of knowledge to use equipment was felt by large percentage of class IV, some of class III, and a few from class II employees.

5.3.5 AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES TO EMPLOYED WOMEN AT HOME

The employed women of Jorhat had all the facilities in varying degrees except the facility of running water, separate sewing room, and separate room for children, which were possessed by only a small percentage of respondents.

The facilities available at home were highly significantly associated with the use of equipment in homemaking. Respondents with better facilities used more

equipment. The facilities at home were associated with occupational class, income and qualification of respondents and their husbands. Respondents with higher occupational class, higher income and higher qualification possessed more facilities than those having the lower levels of all three variables.

5.3.6 ATTITUDE OF EMPLOYED WOMEN TOWARDS WORKING WOMEN

The employed women of Jorhat had favourable attitude towards working women. Percentage of employed women having favourable attitude towards working women was more than those having less favourable attitude. Only a negligible percentage of respondents had highly favourable attitude towards working women and were predominantly from families practicing moderately modern homemaking and were from middle age group.

Higher income and older age groups of employed women were more in number having favourable attitude towards working women. Respondents with more than 10 years of Job experience and from class I occupations were more in percentage having favourable attitude towards working women.

Attitudes of respondents towards working women were positively correlated with the qualification of both the respondents and their husbands and the income of the husband.

5.3.7 PROBLEMS FACED BY EMPLOYED WOMEN.

The employed women of Jorhat city faced problems in all five different problem areas in varying degrees. A large number of employed women faced problems regarding paid help, community facilities and services.

The problems faced by the employed women were significantly associated with facilities available to employed women at home and attitude of employed women towards working women. Surprisingly, the percentage of respondents having more facilities and having highly favourable attitude towards working women were facing more problems.

The overall problems of employed women were significantly associated with qualification of respondents and their husbands and the income of the husband. Percentage of respondents who were highly qualified and whose husbands were highly qualified and earned high income faced more problems.

5.3.8 DEVELOPMENT OF A GUIDELINE FOR HOME SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Based on the major findings described under a different section, a guideline for home science curriculum in terms of teaching, research and extension programmes was suggested. It aimed at developing awareness in students, husbands and family members of employed women, and the employing authorities towards needs and concerns of employed women.

Necessary measures to minimise the problems of employed women were also suggested in the guideline.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that inspite of women taking up employment at various levels of occupations, traditional homemaking was still practiced in a large scale in employed women's families. The division of labour in homemaking was at moderate level in many employed women's families. Though the use of modern equipment and appliances can reduce drudgery of homemaking tasks, but the employed women of Jorhat used less equipment in homemaking. Income was the determining factor in the use of equipment Adoption of modern equipment was hindered mainly by person centred reasons. Therefore, motivation to popularise the use of equipment through different approaches is necessary. The various physical facilities available to these women were fairly good. The employed women of Jorhat had mainly favourable attitude, although a sizable percentage had less favourable attitude. As attitude of employed women was influenced by the qualification of the employed women and their husbands, special emphasis should be given to encourage students for better education and the employed women to continue their education through non formal programmes. The various problems faced by the employed women can be lessened mainly through changing role of family members in terms of division of labour, popularising and facilitating the use of equipment as well as facilities- both at home and the community.

Recommendations For Further Research

- 1 A multivariate study on problems and concerns of employed women according to type of occupation and type of family structure.
- 2 Impact of traditional and modern families on learning of sex role by children.
- 3 Along with questionnaire the interview and participatory observation methods can also be used to study the problems and concerns of employed women if the research is funded.