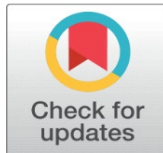
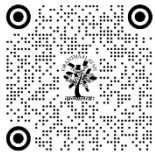


EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT

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DOI

[10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i6.2024.5519](https://doi.org/10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i6.2024.5519)

Funding: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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ABSTRACT

Traditional or Modern society women discriminated by men in all the activities of the society. The empowerment of women means the development activities of women to be economically independent, self-reliant, self-esteem and also women should participate in the process of decision making whether it is in social participation, political participation, economic participation, access to education, etc. Traditionally the society followed the patriarchy society that is fully based on male dominated society. This paper seeks to identify the employment of women emancipation them in economic empowerment of their life. The study carried out 244 women among coastal communities in the Thoothukudi District. The data collected by primary data through interview schedule and the married women was the respondent of this study. The study finds out that employment is very important for every woman to stand independently in financial throughout their life. Nearly one fourth (22.1%) of the respondents have employed because of their spouse irresponsibility's in their family. Due to this reason the woman can easily access the any job in their life to fulfill their family basic needs.

Keywords: Modern Society, Empowerment, Self-Reliant, Self-Esteem, Patriarchy Society, Employment



1. INTRODUCTION

Empowerment of women means the power whatever the women like to do in their life and also have the freedom of not willing to do. The women empowerment is the process in which the women having the power to do all the activities in social, economic and political terms. Empowerment is therefore a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and multi-layered concept. Women have the control decision-making in home, society and nation and gain power to be the masters of their own destiny. Women constitute almost 50 % of the world's population but their social status is dismally low. Empowerment may be understood as enablement of people, especially women to acquire and possess power resources in order to make decisions on their own without the influence of other members of their family.

In Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, women spend about two and a half hours more each day on unpaid work (including care work), regardless of the employment status of their spouses (Aguirre and others 2012). Women's economic empowerment is essential to achieving women's rights and gender equality. Women's economic empowerment means ensuring women can equally participate in and benefit from decent work and social protection; access markets and have control over resources, their own time, lives, and bodies; and

increased voice, agency, and meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels from the household to international institutions.

Economic empowerment means giving individuals the tools and chances they need to be a part of the economy. The women have some important factor for economic empowerment that is having control over the money in the family, getting jobs of their wish, being able to earn money to support themselves and their families.

Economic empowerment empowers people to earn and manage their financial resources. Work and income are essential for financial management. Having opportunities to work and earn income is crucial for making decisions about how to use that money. Women economic empowerment leads to make the women to live independently, women want to be better life in future, women need support themselves in their families.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bing Ma (2010) studied the incorporate female occupational choices. This paper attempts to fill this gap in labor supply literature by examining the interrelatedness of occupation, marital status and fertility choices of women over the life cycle. A discrete choice dynamic utility maximization model is constructed to investigate how relevant determinants influence a woman's career and family path and how these decisions interplay with each other. Using longitudinal data on women from the 1979 youth cohort of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, estimate the model through the maximum likelihood estimation method in a dynamic programming fashion which takes into account the uncertainties from random arrivals of job opportunities, unexpected failure of birth control and temporary shocks to family earnings. The estimation results of structural parameters indicate that women's lifecycle patterns of occupation, marriage and contraceptive behaviours vary significantly with their observable characteristics such as age, education, ability, race, and the presence of young children.

Preet Rustagi (2010) studied about the occupational pattern of women workers in Gender stereotypes or signs of change. This paper examines to identify the occupations in which women workers are concentrated to examine whether any shifts have been experienced over the recent past and the ways in which gendered roles are impacting work profiles. occupations such as those of social scientists and researchers are also considered to be relatively more acceptable professions for women, as compared to jobs pertaining to the other sciences, a definite increase in the latter is certainly a positive trend. The researcher identified the fact that women, especially younger, educated urban women, are taking up paid employment in these spheres that take them out of the private household domain, wherein their roles are narrowly defined by patriarchal structures, and that they are contributing to the household income signifies not only the growing economic empowerment of women but is also a harbinger of unprecedented social change in the country.

Sunil Babu (2022) studied about the socio-economic empowerment of women in India. This research study makes an attempt to analyse the information about the state of women or the women empowerment in India based on the secondary data from various published material. The study also tries to find out various reasons of poor condition of women in India and the dissimilarities in their social, political, educational and economic status. This paper mentions various provisions also for bringing equality in the status of women and men mentioned in the Constitution of India and other steps taken by the government of India from time to time. This paper deals with the introduction and the meaning of women empowerment and theoretical understanding thereof, the historical background of women empowerment and various constitutional and legal provisions for women empowerment. It is clear to understand that women in India are comparatively less empowered and they acquire an inferior and lower social status than a man.

Shamindra Nath Roy, Ritwika Mukherjee (2013) studied attempts to carry out an empirical investigation regarding the role of marriage as a structural constraint to women's employability in India. The National Sample Survey data-based analysis shows that the heterogeneity of women's employment is significantly controlled by their orientation to work where marriage acts as an important mediating factor. However, the way marriage operates as a formal barrier to women's workability merely depends on the historically available opportunities and constraints experienced by them. The present study therefore concludes that the employability of women is structurally affected by the marriage patterns. Heterogeneity of women's workforce participation is a complex outcome of their orientations to work or some other exogenous determinants like parental background or economic situations.

Paul. G. Aquinas, Yashaswini (2016) analysed the women's empowerment through gainful employment. The objective of this paper is to discuss the relationship between employment status and economic empowerment of women. Gainful employment outside their own home brings with it economic status which acts as a catalyst in bringing about

empowerment. The interrelation between gainfully employment outside their own homes and economic empowerment needs to be explored and empirically proved. Women like any other individual are willing to do something to earn outside their own home and supplement the earnings of the family. The formation of self-help group plays a vital role in providing a source of income and with-it empowerment and earnings. With this background, this paper goes to show how empowerment of women plays a role in creating gainful employment and helps them to meet and supplement their family needs, help women get credit and empowerment women not just economically but also gain social empowerment.

3. METHOD OF STUDY

3.1. OBJECTIVES

This paper aims to identify the employment of women emancipation them in economic empowerment of their life the among the women from coastal community.

3.2. AREA OF THE STUDY

The present study was conducted among the women in the coastal community in Thoothukudi and Kombuthurai, Thoothukudi District. Thoothukudi is the coastal area and all the community-based people mixed in this area. The Kombuthurai village is a coastal area but Thoothukudi based on Patriarchy society and Kombuthurai based on Matriarchy society. In Meenavar colony, Thoothukudi the total married women population is 309 and Kombuthurai 182 so the 50 percent of the sample were selected for this study. Data were collected by interview Schedule method from 244 women in the selected area.

4. FINDINGS

The present study explains that Majority (34%) of the respondents belong to the age group of 40 -49 years. Majority (94.7%) of the respondents in this study belongs to married women and more than half (57%) of the respondents are Christian community. More than half (65.6%) of the respondents belong to Most backward class community. Among 244 respondents (48%) of the respondents are secondary educated people. More than one fourth (38.6%) of the respondents were working group people and there are various groups of economic activities done by the women in the coastal area. Even though there are most of the women doesn't going for work, the women have the power to control over all the family because of their talent of development.

Majority (98%) of the respondents were followed nuclear family type. The respondents those who were not engaged themselves in no other occupation they expressed their feelings that the employment is very important for every woman in their life. Majority of the respondents shared that first important thing for woman is the education and job, through that the women want to stand financially independent till their end of the life. Majority (63.8%) of the respondents earned income from Rupees 10000 to 15000, less than one fourth (21.3%) of the respondents earned Rupees 16000 to 20000, very few (14.9%) of the respondents earned Rupees 21000 to 25000.

Table 1 Socio- Economic variables of the respondents.

S.No	Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	>30	20	8.2
		30 – 39	69	28.3
		40 – 49	83	34.0
		50 – 59	48	19.7
		60+	24	9.8
2.	Marital status	Married	231	94.7
		Widow	9	3.7
		Separated	4	1.6
3.	Religion	Hindu	93	38.1
		Christian	139	57
		Muslim	12	4.9
4.	Caste	BC	25	10.2
		MBC	160	65.6
		SC	59	24.2
5.	Education	Illiterate	25	10.2

		Less than Secondary	117	48
		Secondary	48	19.7
		Higher secondary and above	54	22.1
6.	Occupation	Labour Force	94	38.6
		Not in Labour force	150	61.4
7.	Family Type	Nuclear	239	98
		Extended	5	2
8.	Income	10000 – 15000	60	63.8
		16000 – 20000	20	21.3
		21000 – 25000	14	14.9

5. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE WOMEN

In the Modern society, most of the women empowered themselves in any situation they overcome in their life. Most of the women if they don't have educated also, they are well talented and decision-making power in the family. Majority (67.25%) of the respondents doesn't working currently and more than one fourth (32.8%) of the respondents are working in different field such as fishing, cleaning and peeling fishes, prawn in fish companies, fish vendors, teaching, tailoring, etc. The women started their economic activities from their earlier stage itself and (13.5%) of the respondents were started their work in the age group belongs to 16 – 20 years. Half (55.7%) of the respondents were not working in their life and nearly one fourth (22.1%) of the respondents were engaged themselves in fish related work, very few (8.2%) of the respondents were teacher, (2.5%) of the respondents were saltpan worker, (2.5%) of the respondents were office work, (2.05%) of the respondents were Hospital work, (2.05%) of the respondents were Tailor, (5.3%) of the respondents were involve themselves in other work. More than (36.1%) of the respondents were working after their marriage also and (35.2%) of the respondents were able to balance their work and marital life also. Due to some reason women couldn't able to involve themselves in economic activity and the reasons are doesn't got permission from the spouse, spouse domination, the men thought that female partner always dependent on the male.

Table 2 Distribution of the respondents occupation details.

S.No	Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Currently working	No	164	67.2
		Yes	80	32.8
2.	Age at starting work	Not working	136	55.7
		Age below 15	19	7.8
		16 – 20	33	13.5
		21 – 25	32	13.1
		26 – 30	17	7
		Above 30	7	3
3.	First occupation	No occupation	135	55.3
		Fish related work	54	22.1
		Saltpan work	6	2.5
		Teacher	20	8.2
		Tailor	5	2.05
		Office work	6	2.5
		Hospital work	5	2.05
		Others	13	5.3
4.	Working After Marriage	No	156	63.9
		Yes	88	36.1
5.	Balance work and Marital life	No	158	64.8
		Yes	86	35.2

From the data collected the study reveals that the women were very interested to involve themselves in any work and they want to live independently without other help. They started their job career from very young age itself and they dropout studies due to their family financial situation. The children couldn't able to satisfied their daily basic needs, so the female children make decision to satisfied their family needs and took all the responsibilities of their parents. Most of the family the women went for work in their childhood itself to took whole responsibilities of their fundamental needs.

6. CASE STUDY

Gayathri is 34 years old women and a married, she had two sons studying in the government school. She went to fishing in earlier morning and came to the seashore at 11'0 clock and she got Rs200 to 350 per day. Her husband addicted to alcohol and he doesn't give money to his family daily. He also going to fishing but he won't give his income to his wife. She suffered a lot to fulfil her children's needs. So, she went for fishing and earn money to fulfil all their family needs. As a woman she took whole responsibilities of her family without support from her husband. Even though she suffered a lot, she proudly shared her experience that woman can do all the things more than whatever men do for their family. Finally, she felt she couldn't able to studied due to their family environmental condition. She shared that woman should studied and need a job to secured financially in their life.

7. CONCLUSION

In this society, Women's empowerment is typically argued in various types of enabling such as political, social and economic empowerment. Among these empowerments very important one is the economic empowerment of women and through this economic empowerment, women can generate the gender equality, satisfy their financial needs and improve the status women in family as well as society. In family the women have received all the control of their family but in outside the family because of that woman other members in the family status be improved in the society. There is always relationship between employment and women's economic empowerment, that is if the women have employment in their life, they never had a situation to stand Infront of other family members to fulfil their economic needs and also women take over the responsibilities to fulfilled other family members needs also. Participation in formal economic activities on terms and condition which reflect the productive capacity of women and their control over their own income are some of the important dimensions of economic empowerment. Access to earned income improves women's status within the household, which gives them greater control over the distribution of such earnings and household resources and improves their status and strength in society as well as their own self-esteem. Most of the women could ability to earn income from outside and to engage in activities other than household activities. Thus, women is very strong and dedicated person whatever they decided to do in their life. They sacrificed their time, health and willingness everything for their family and these shows the women are very powerful person other than men. They can able to do everything in their life for their entire family without any hesitations. Finally, if the woman empowered in their life the whole family also empowered in the society.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None.

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