



PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES: CASE STUDY OF 5 TALUKAS OF KACHCHH (GANDHIDHAM, ANJAR, BHUJ, MUNDRA, AND MANDVI)

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Abstract

When we compare the responsibilities of men and women, the burden of responsibilities is more on women and they also face a lot of problems while fulfilling those responsibilities. Attempts have been made by the government of the country to bring about gender equality but women are still facing problems in many areas. It is generally observed that uneducated women face more problems than educated in any work. With this in mind, we have researched the problems faced by women in Kutch district.

Keywords: Education, Problems Faced by women.

JEL Classification: D0, D6, D64.

1. Introduction

Swami Vivekananda Said that “There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on” Something similar has happened in our society and so the issue of empowering women has come to the forefront all over the world. Many countries in the world have moved towards the issue of women empowerment.

But still many underdeveloped and developing countries are not able to solve the problem of their own economic development as well as the question of gender equality. In the case of India, India is currently ranked sixth out of the top 10 economies in the world, but it has not been able to address the issue of gender inequality. Attitudes towards women's education in Indian society have improved a lot at present but women are not allowed to work in the fields of their choice, besides women are facing a lot of problems in the places where they work. The study was conducted in five talukas of Kutch district to find out the problems faced by women in their economic activities considering the level of education among women.

2. Review of literature

United Nations, (1980), While women represent 50 percent of the world's adult population, and one third of the official labour force, they perform nearly two-thirds of all working hours, receive only one tenth of the world's income and own less than 1 percent of the world's property. **Anna Lindberg (2004)** Anna Lindberg has studied in depth the life of the women in the cashew-industry of Kerala. In her study, she has highlighted the condition of work, the culture of workplace, the consciousness of women worked, and the social limitation on the emancipator potential of their new identity as industrial workers. The study brings out of the historical details of the gendering of the work with women gradually being confined to being shelters, peelers, grader sand packers. The study also reflects the fact that the caste of the recruiting agent plays a major role in determining the workers recruited in the particular caste. **Siddhartha Sarkar (2004)** Siddhartha Sarkar conducted a study on “Women workers in Beedi Rolling” analysed that the Beedi workers continue to struggle for survival despite low wages, irregular employment and steady exploitation by middle men and agents, lack of education and medical facilities and neglect in government policies. This paper portrays the working and living conditions of Beedi workers in the Cooch Behar district of West Bengal. He found that many workers were facing acute health crisis because of the tobacco flakes and tend leaves they handle. **Dr. Vandana Dave (2012)** she conducted a study on “Women Workers in Unorganized Sector”. She analysed that Gender discrimination for wages is more visible in agriculture sector. She showed that in the agriculture sector 33%, 27%, 26%, and 14% of the respondents were getting respectively 30 rupees, 40 rupees, 20 rupees, and 50 rupees lesser than their male counterparts. In the construction sector 85% of the respondents were getting 20 rupees lesser than male workers. Since the women workers dominate the domestic sector, no such discrimination is visible. **Vishnu Priya Pandey (2017)**, she is a Research scholar in department of Social Work, JMI, New Delhi has written an article on “Empowering women- A way to food security” in Kurukshetra- A journal on rural development. In this article, she has written about women and girl children of India who are often found to be relatively more malnourished within a household. She mentions in her study that rural women often spend a large amount of their time on additional household obligations; they have less time to spend on food production or other income opportunities. She also mentioned that socio-economic inequalities between men and women result in higher levels of poverty and food insecurity for women. She has written several steps of government to promote women's participation in food security.

3. Objectives of the study

- To examine the problems of women in various economic activities.



4. Hypothesis of the study

H0: There is no significant association between education and women's problems faced in their economic activities.

H1: There is a significant association between education and women's problems faced in their economic activities.

Sources of Data

This study has been carried out with the help of primary data. Proper selection of samples is necessary for authentic result of ratio of women participation in economic activities in Kachchh district. For accurate computation of WPR, the following topics have been taken into account while selecting the samples:

- 1. Out of ten Talukas in the district, five Talukas namely Gandhidham, Anjar, Bhuj, Mundra, and Mandvi have been selected so that at least 50% areas can be covered under the investigation.
2. Employment opportunities are not the same in urban and rural areas. So, both the areas were selected proportionately. A total of 500 families were selected. (250 families from urban areas and 250 families from rural areas).
3. All classes of people i.e., upper, middle, and lower living in the society were selected for this study.
4. One urban and two rural areas were selected in each Taluka. Among the five selected Talukas, a total of five urban areas and ten rural areas have been selected.
5. A total of 500 families have been selected in both urban and rural areas by the researcher. In which 250 families have been selected from rural areas and 250 families in urban areas. 283 working women in 250 families of urban areas and 298 working women in rural areas have been analysed for this study.

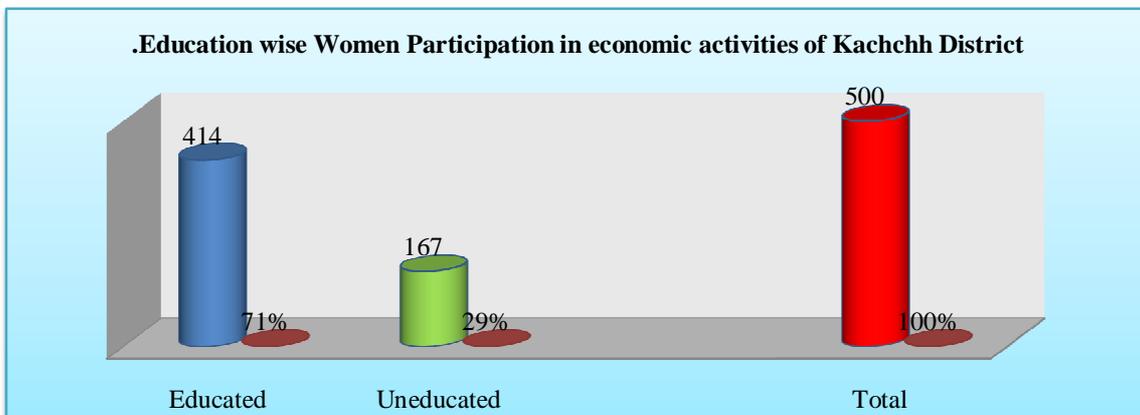
5.Tools of Data analysis

The data was collected with the help of interview schedule method and simple random sampling method. The data was then organised and analysed. For analysis of data, a Computer programme called Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used. To test the hypothesis the researcher used the X2-ratio of or finding the significant difference in their economic condition.

6.Problems Faced by women in Economic Activities

Education has also been named in the scriptures as an invisible weapon. Thus, the educated person can do well in every situation and the uneducated person is not able to defend himself in every situation. Thus, education shows a positive effect in any work. Here also a researcher has tried to show the effect of education on women belonging to the economic activities of Kutch district. The proportion of participation of educated and uneducated women in the economic activities of Kutch district is shown in below Table.

Table with 6 columns: No. of families selected, No of Working Women among the family, Educated, Uneducated, Total, Percentage. Row 1: G. Total (500, 581, 414, 167, 500). Row 2: Percentage (100%, 71%, 29%, 100%). Source- Field Work





Based on the above table and chart it can be concluded that 71% of the Educated Women of Kachchh District are engaged in Economic Activities whereas the percentage of uneducated women is only 29%, which do not form the part of economic activities. The proportion of educated women is higher than uneducated women, meaning that there has been a positive impact of education on women's participation in economic activities in Kachchh District.

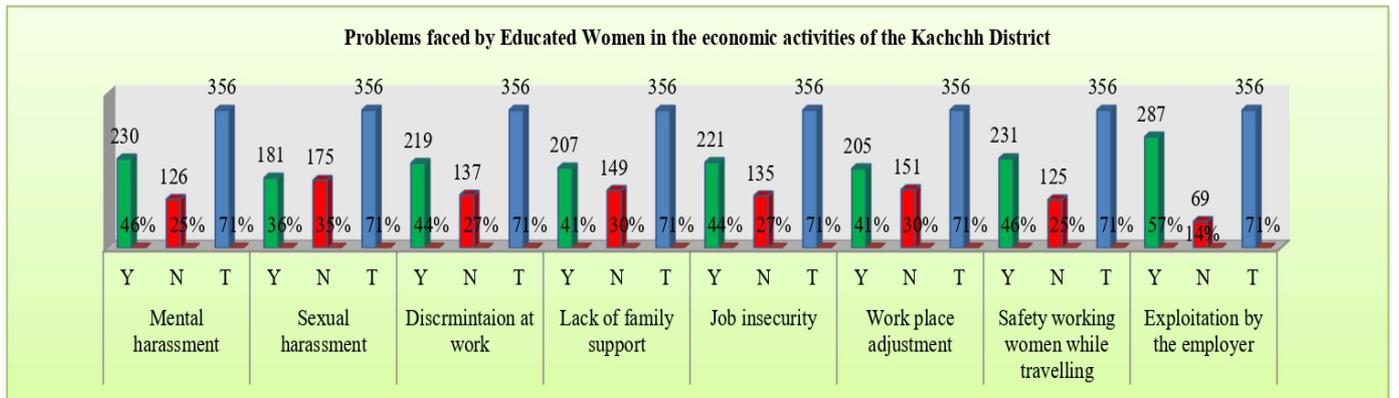
Problems faced by Educated and Uneducated Women in their economic activities and accuracy of the Hypothesis

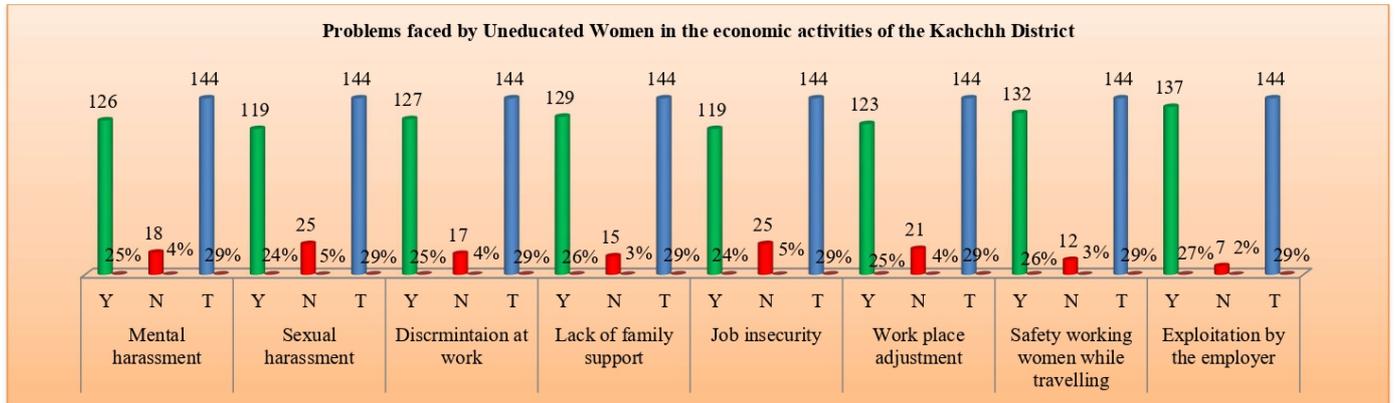
At present, both men and women are involved in most economic activities and both are contributing in the economic development of our country, but women have to face more problems than men in economic activities. Problems faced by educated and uneducated women are shown in below Table.

Problems faced by Educated and Uneducated Women in their economic activities																								
Response	Mental harassment			Sexual harassment			Discrimination at work			Lack of family support			Job insecurity			Work place adjustment			Safety working women while travelling			Exploitation by the employer		
	Y	N	T	Y	N	T	Y	N	T	Y	N	T	Y	N	T	Y	N	T	Y	N	T	Y	N	T
No. of Educated females	230	126	356	181	175	356	219	137	356	207	149	356	221	135	356	205	151	356	231	125	356	287	69	356
Percentage	46%	25%	71%	36%	35%	71%	44%	27%	71%	41%	30%	71%	44%	27%	71%	41%	30%	71%	46%	25%	71%	57%	14%	71%
No. of uneducated females	126	18	144	119	25	144	127	17	144	129	15	144	119	25	144	123	21	144	132	12	144	137	7	144
Percentage	25%	4%	29%	24%	5%	29%	25%	4%	29%	26%	3%	29%	24%	5%	29%	25%	4%	29%	26%	3%	29%	27%	2%	29%
G.Total	356	144	500	300	200	500	346	154	500	336	164	500	340	160	500	328	172	500	364	137	500	424	76	500
T.Percentage	71%	29%	100%	60%	40%	100%	69%	31%	100%	67%	33%	100%	68%	32%	100%	66%	34%	100%	72%	28%	100%	84%	16%	100%

Source- Field Work

Sources-Fieldwork





It is clear from the above table that exploitation of women at work place is seen more in Kutch District. This means that 84% of Kutch women face this problem, of which 57% are educated and 27% are uneducated women. Therefore, it can be said that educated women face more problem compare to uneducated women. 72% of working women do not feel safe while travelling of which percentage of educated women is 46% and the percentage of uneducated women is 26% and 71% of working women suffer with mental harassment of which the percentage of educated women is 46% and the percentage of uneducated women is 25%.

Crosstab

	No_of_response																											Total			
	7	12	15	17	18	21	25	69	119	123	125	126	127	129	132	135	137	149	151	175	181	205	207	219	221	230	231		287		
Problems Mental harassment	Count	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
	Expected Count	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	4.0
Sexual harassment	Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
	Expected Count	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	4.0
Discrimination at work	Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	
	Expected Count	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	4.0
Lack of Family support	Count	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
	Expected Count	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	4.0



7. Conclusion

Problem solving is considered to be the main goal of any research, so here too a picture of what kind of problems educated and uneducated women face and how much they face in this research is presented here. At the end of the study, it was found that educated women face more problems than uneducated women in economic activities which can be considered as a new problem. Generally educated women face less problems in their work but in this study, we have seen a different picture. Thus, based on this study, it can be said that uneducated women are forced to run their own homes, ignoring certain problems and do not want to talk about certain problems openly.

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