

Research Article

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22192/ijamr.2022.09.12.001>

A study on the socio – economic status of domestic women workers: with special reference to Kottayam district

Ms. Irene Eliza Sabu

Guest Lecturer, Dept.of Economics, Alphonsa College, Pala

Abstract

Keywords

Domestic women workers, servants, employer-employee, unorganized sector, harassment.

Women domestic work has long been ingrained in the mindset of the Indian society. Domestic work is seen as menial and impure occupation traditionally performed by people, mostly women and children, whose lives are still dominated by caste system that assigned people his/her place in the society. The International Labour Organization broadly defines a domestic worker as “Someone who carries out household work in private households in return for wages”. On the basis of above definitions, it can be concluded that a domestic worker is one who carries out the household chores (like cleaning utensils, cleaning house, cooking etc.) on part time or full-time basis for one or more employer for nominal wages. The study was conducted in certain areas of Kottayam District. A descriptive and a qualitative approach is mainly used in this study. Quantifiable variable were collected and analyzed through IBM SPSS.

Introduction

Women along with man from times immemorial have formed an integral part of social structure throughout the world. In Indian society, she has played and continues to play an important role. It is true that the progress of a country can be judged to a great extent by the status of women. She plays manifold role in the society. While women represent 50 per cent of the adult population and one third of all working hours and receives only one tenth of the world income. According to 1991 census, the total women workforce of 88.77 million, their share in the

organized sector was only 4.2 per cent while the rest of 95.8 per cent were in unorganized sector where there are no legislative safeguards even to claim either minimum or equal wages along with their male counterparts.

The plight of the women in unorganized sector is miserable as they work at extremely low wages, with total lack of job security and unprotected by any government labor legislations. Domestic workers have always been an invisible workforce. Since housework has been linked to the lower caste, most domestic workers are poorly paid or unpaid. The women domestic workers in India are

the unorganized group who strived to make their living without any life security and are in the vital situations in their social life. Over the last few years, studies on domestic workers work under illogical rules, and are largely unskilled, illiterate and belong to poorer sections of the society. Long hours of work, sexual harassment, abuse of their dignity, often treated callously are the story of their lives.

Besides the economic drudgery faced by the domestic women workers, they are also socially discriminated. Castiest attitudes prevail in many of the employer's houses where separate glasses and plate is kept for workers. This outlook stems from the SC or dalit community. Sometime the workers had to work for longer hours and many of the employers forget that the workers are also humans. Most of the employer-employee relationship is a complex one and is viewed as one of domination dependence and inequality. The above plight of domestic workers prevails in all over the country.

Domestic women servants look access to sufficient and effective statutory measures and institutional mechanisms for their protection. Steps have been taken by the govt at national and state levels to protect their rights. Nevertheless, the few labor laws enacted by the govt addressing domestic workers face the challenge of implementation.

Objectives of the study

The specific objectives of the study about the socio- economic status of domestic women servants: -

1. To analyze the socio- economic profile of the domestic women servants.
2. To examine the employer- employee relationship.
3. To examine income and expenditure pattern of domestic women servants.
4. To understand the working background of domestic women servants.
5. To analyze the problems faced by domestic women servants.

Conceptualisation

A bill presented in Rajya Sabha entitled 'The Housemaids and Domestic Servants Bill, 2004' has defined domestic worker as "Domestic servant means any person who earns his livelihood by working in household of his employer and doing household chores" , and "Housemaid means a women servant who performs household chores for wages".

The International Labour Organisation broadly defines a domestic worker as "Someone who carries out household work in private households in return for wages". On the basis of above definitions, it can be concluded that a domestic worker is one who carries out the household chores (like cleaning utensils, cleaning house, cooking etc) on part time or full time basis for one or more employer for nominal wages

Significance of the study

A substantial number of women in rural areas have little skills and practically no education. One of low-ranking occupations assigned to the poorest classes of society is 'domestic service'. Employment of servants has become very common in urban areas where a large number of housewives going out for jobs. The domestic workers have proved to be a necessity for non-working housewives also. In urban areas, they commonly engage domestic workers to keep them in carrying out their household errands, partly due to physical incapability and partly due to lack of time. The new middle classes have developed a lifestyle which has increased the demand for domestic labour.

According to Report on Working Condition of Domestic Servants in Delhi by the Ministry of Labour, GOI nearly 90 per cent of domestic workers are women. According to the National Survey conducted by the School of Social Work, women constituted 75% of domestic workers in Kerala. In Kerala particularly in Kottayam District there are a number of domestic women servants. The present paper tries to assess the socio-economic conditions of domestic women servants

whose contribution in the development of the economy has not yet been assessed.

Methodology

The study was conducted in certain areas of Kottayam District. A descriptive and a qualitative approach is mainly used in this study. Quantifiable variables were collected and analyzed through IBM SPSS. A questionnaire / schedule was prepared to collect primary data from the respondents living in Kottayam District. Mailing questionnaires and telephone interviews were also used for the data collections. The secondary data were collected from reports of ILO, reports of union and state govts, periodicals, Panchayat reports, and journals etc. Some internet sites were searched which also proved very useful.

Review of literature

In this chapter we present a brief survey of literature on domestic women workers in India.

According to the 2010 estimates of International Labour Organization, only 17% of total domestic workers constitute male workers and the rest 83% constitute female workers. Domestic work is therefore an important entry point for women into the labour market. According to ILO, a domestic worker is someone who carries out household work in private household in return for wages.. Very low wages, long hours of work, absence of weekly rest day, risks of physical, mental and sexual abuse and restrictions on freedom of movement are some of the problems that have frequently characterized the working conditions of domestic workers worldwide.

According to the 2007 report on 'Working Conditions of Domestic Servants in Delhi' by the Ministry of Labour, Govt of India, nearly 90 per cent of domestic workers are women.

According to the National Survey conducted by the School of Social Work, women constituted 87.09 per cent of domestic workers in Karnataka, 82.38 per cent in Ranchi, 75 per cent in Kerala

and 90.78 per cent in Andhra Pradesh. And the low wages are the main problem of these workers which is aggravated by the price rise for food items resulting in nutritional deficiency.

Kalpana Sharma (2009) has written an article on 'Domestic Workers in India no better than Slaves'. In her article she elaborated that slavery would be considered a harsh term by most Indians who employ domestic workers but the reality is that even today in many homes the domestics especially those who work full time are often no better than slaves. Domestic workers are usually in debt to their employers and work their whole lives to pay off the debt.

Nirmala Banerjee (1999) wrote an article on "Women in Emerging Labour Market" in Indian Journal of Labour Economics, in which she argues that the emerging labour market is likely to prove even more problematic in the case of women workers than for the rest of Indian workers.

According to the study of Vimala M (2010) on 'Socio Economic Status of Women Domestic Servants', domestic women servants were forced to do this job due to their poor financial background and they were exploited at their working place in different ways.

Murugaiah K M (2002) has published an article on 'Women Domestic Workers' in journal Social Welfare. In his study women domestic workers is almost like a slave. Year in and year out she struggles with the daily greed of existence, performing the lowest paid and most menial tasks. She is unprotected by any sort of labour laws and has no resort to any justice from exploitation. This study has been conducted in Tirupati, in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh.

According to the study of Javaid Ahmed Dar (2014) on 'Socio Economic Conditions of Female Domestic Workers in Punjab', the economic conditions of the female domestic workers are quite vulnerable. It can be understood from their weak per capita monthly family earnings of the

respondents and most of them are living below poverty line.

The study of Vandana Deve (2012) on 'Women Workers in Unorganized Sector' is related to the works carried out with women construction workers, agricultural labourers and domestic helpers working in informal sector. The objectives of the study were 1. To know the socio economic background of women construction, agriculture and domestic workers. 2. To find out the nature of work of domestic workers. 3. To find out what type of facilities are available to women labourers and to study their living conditions.

This study was conducted in Haryana. Shanta M K in her thesis on 'Housemaids and their struggle in Mumbai' deals with the qualitative aspects of domestic workers i.e. quantity of their work, their attitude towards life, children, employers and also looked into various reasons for taking up housemaid job and problems faced by them at work place and at their homes.

Challenges Faced by Domestic Women Servants

Women domestic work has long been ingrained in the mindset of the Indian society. Domestic work is seen as menial and impure occupation traditionally performed by people, mostly women and children, whose lives are still dominated by caste system that assigned people his/her place in the society.

In the present urban and rural contexts, the nature of domestic work has been rapidly changing. The sector now primarily comprises women domestic workers who are not recognized as workers while their work is undervalued. This is mainly due to the gendered notion of housework; value is not ascribed to women's work in their homes, and by extension, even paid work in other's homes is not given any value. It is also undervalued because it is often performed by poor, uneducated migrant women from lower castes.

Abusive treatment, sexual harassment, discrimination of many employers against domestic workers, unfair working conditions are experienced by domestic women servants. Their experiences involve undertaking demeaning tasks like washing toilets with open hands and handling sick people without protective gear, denial of rest and food, and introduction of additional tasks and varying the workload beyond initial agreements without additional compensation. Along with these facts, the most serious challenges faced by them are low wages, unreliable pay, and job insecurity. Deduction in wages for extra leave is a common practice among employers. Since their work primarily takes place in private households, they are invisible from the formal labour structures, hidden from public. As a result, they cannot defend their rights and unions cannot represent them. Insufficient rest time, no opportunity to take leave in medical emergencies, no pension, etc are exposing them to abuse mainly in the case of migrant domestic workers. Many domestic women workers are suffering different forms of health hazards brought by their working conditions. Even though they are suffering health problems they still work as domestic servant in order to supplement their husband's income. Then also in many cases they are unable to meet the growing expenses of family consisting of growing children.

Data analysis

In this chapter we present the analysis and interpretation of the data collected from the sample survey conducted in certain areas of Kottayam District with the help of a structural questionnaire. Our sample consist of 30 domestic women workers. Among them 26 respondents are full time workers and 4 respondents are part time workers. We use IBM SPSS software to present the result of our analysis.

Table 4.1 Classification on the basis of age

| Age | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| 20-40 | 6 | 20.0 | 20.0 | 20.0 |
| 40-60 | 18 | 60.0 | 60.0 | 80.0 |
| Above 60 | 6 | 20.0 | 20.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 4.1 shows that majority of respondents (60%) belong to the age group 40-60 years.

Figure 4.1

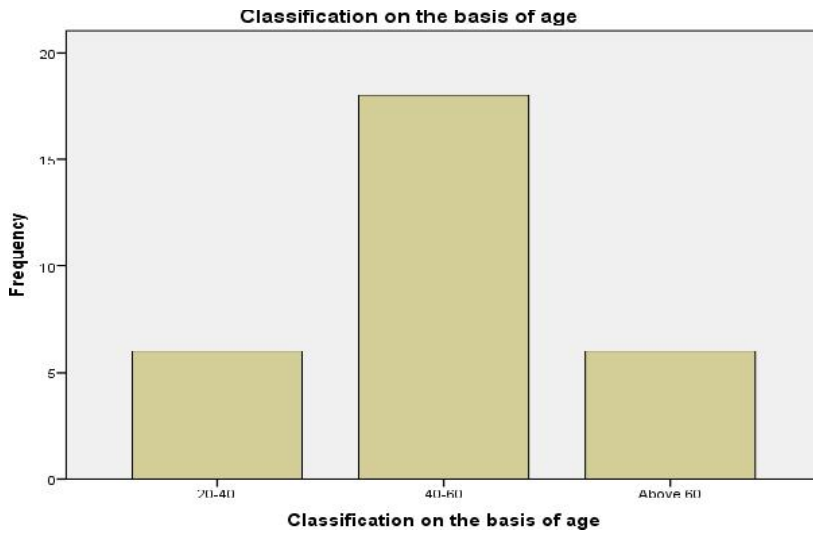


Table 4.2 Classification on the basis of possession of land

| Possession of land | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid Yes | 25 | 83.3 | 83.3 | 83.3 |
| No | 5 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 100.0 |
| Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 4.2 shows that major proportion (83.3%) of the sample possesses own land.

Figure 4.2

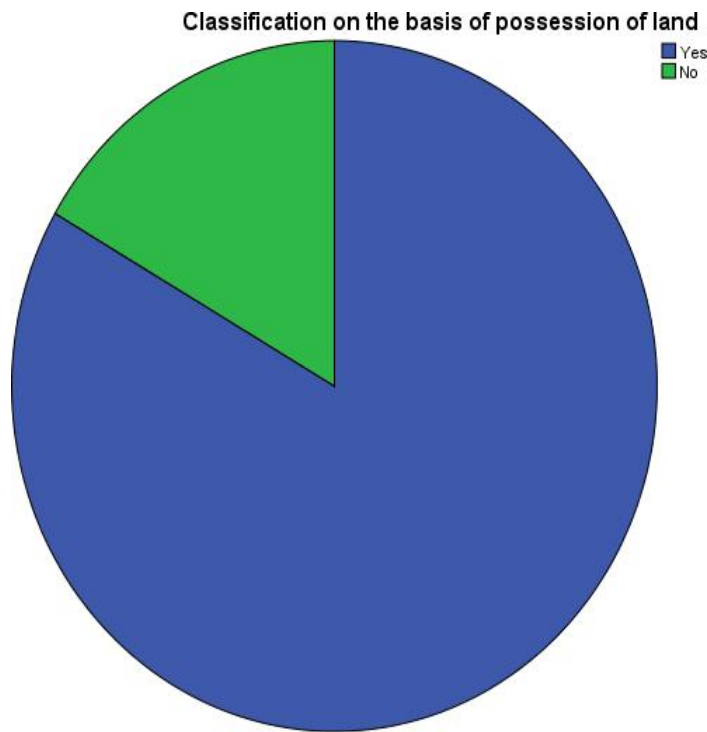


Table 4.3 Classification on the basis of possession of house

| Possession of house | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------------------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Own | 23 | 76.7 | 76.7 | 76.7 |
| | Rent | 7 | 23.3 | 23.3 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

From table 4.3 we can state that 76.7% of the respondents have own house and the rest have rentedhouse.

Figure 4.3

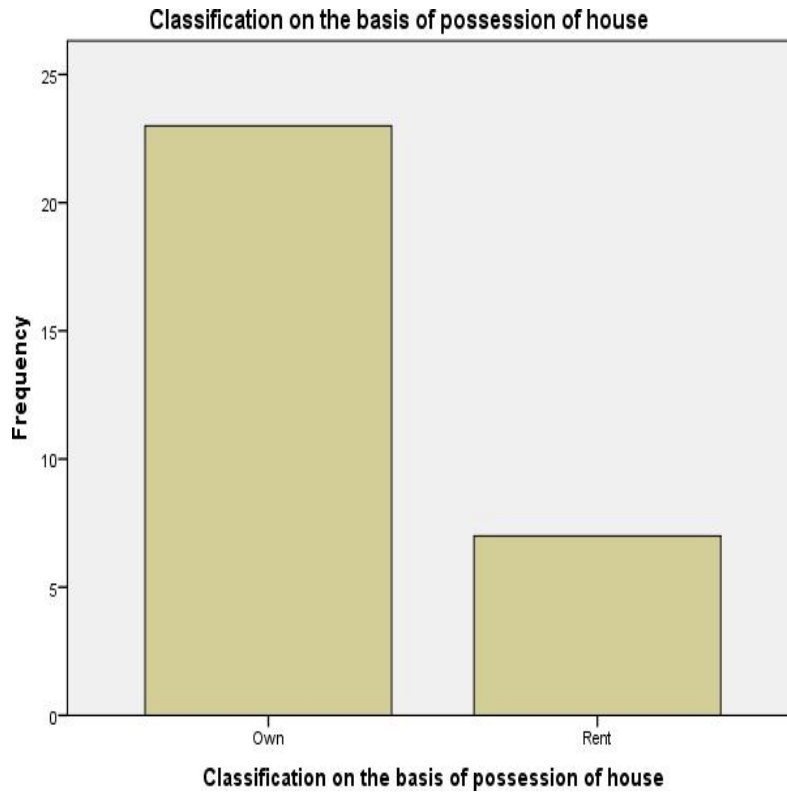


Table 4.4 Classification on the basis of educational qualification

| Educational qualification | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Illiterate | 1 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| UP school | 12 | 40.0 | 40.0 | 43.3 |
| High school | 7 | 23.3 | 23.3 | 66.7 |
| Valid SSLC | 9 | 30.0 | 30.0 | 96.7 |
| PDC | 1 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 4.4 reveals that 40% of samples are qualified up to upper primary school level of education and 30% have SSLC as their educational qualification. Another 23.3% of samples have high school education. While those who are illiterate and those who are qualified up to higher secondary education share 3.3% of the sample each.

Figure 4.4

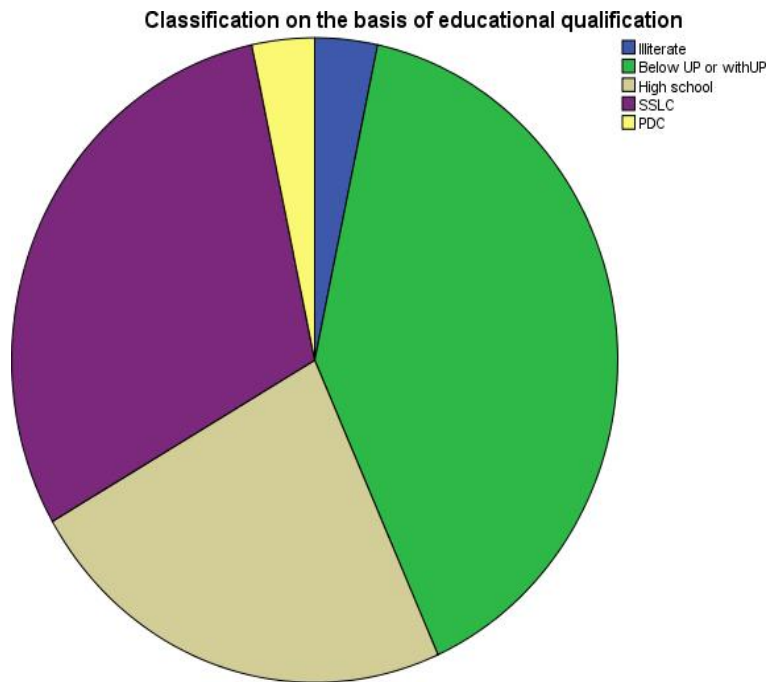


Table 4.5

Classification of sample on the basis of their satisfaction in the education

| Satisfaction in education | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------------------------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Yes | 10 | 33.3 | 34.5 | 34.5 |
| | No | 19 | 63.3 | 65.5 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 29 | 96.7 | 100.0 | |
| Missing | System | 1 | 3.3 | | |
| Total | | 30 | 100.0 | | |

Table 4.5 shows that, out of 29 samples who are educated, 65.5% of them are not satisfied with their educational qualification

Figure 4.5

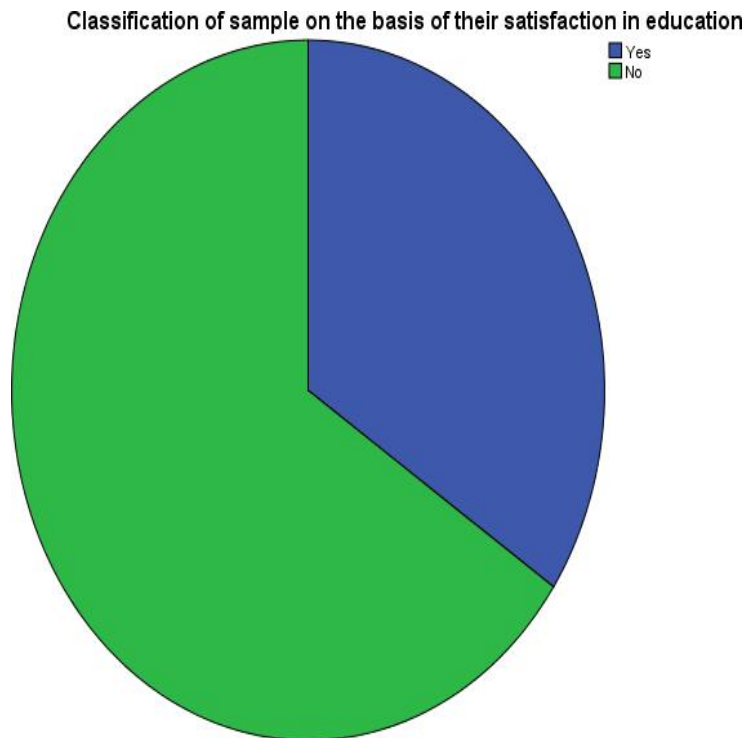


Table 4.6 Classification on the basis of the reasons for not satisfied in education

| Reasons for not satisfied in education | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Poor financial conditions | 12 | 40.0 | 63.2 | 63.2 |
| | Customs & superstitions | 3 | 10.0 | 15.8 | 78.9 |
| | Gender inequality | 2 | 6.7 | 10.5 | 89.5 |
| | Early marriage | 1 | 3.3 | 5.3 | 94.7 |
| | Others | 1 | 3.3 | 5.3 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 19 | 63.3 | 100.0 | |
| Missing | System | 11 | 36.7 | | |
| Total | | 30 | 100.0 | | |

Table 4.6 reveals that, out of 19 samples who are not satisfied in their education, 63.3% of them are not satisfied in their educational qualification due to poor financial conditions. While 15.8% and 10.5% of samples state customs & superstitions and gender inequality as the reasons for their dissatisfaction in their education level.

Figure 4.6

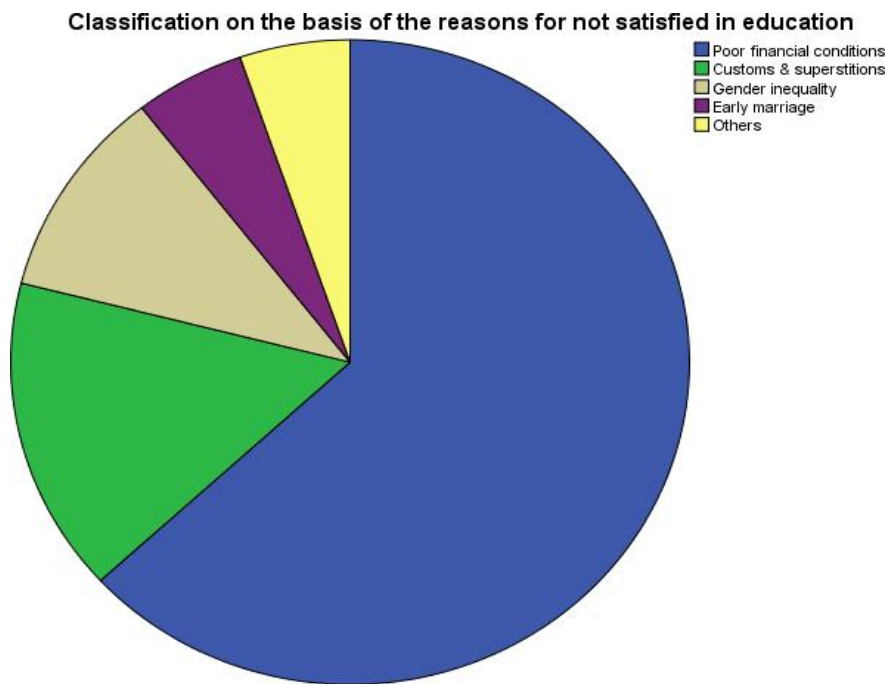


Table 4.7 Classification on the basis of nature of work in the house

| Nature of work | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| | Elderly care & cooking | 1 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| | Cooking | 3 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 13.3 |
| Valid | Cleaning, washing & cleaning | 13 | 43.3 | 43.3 | 56.7 |
| | All | 13 | 43.3 | 43.3 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 4.7 states that 43.3% of samples do cooking, washing, and cleaning at houses. Another 43.3% of the sample does all works where as 10% do only cooking at houses. The rest 3.3% of respondents do cooking and elderly care at houses.

Figure 4.7

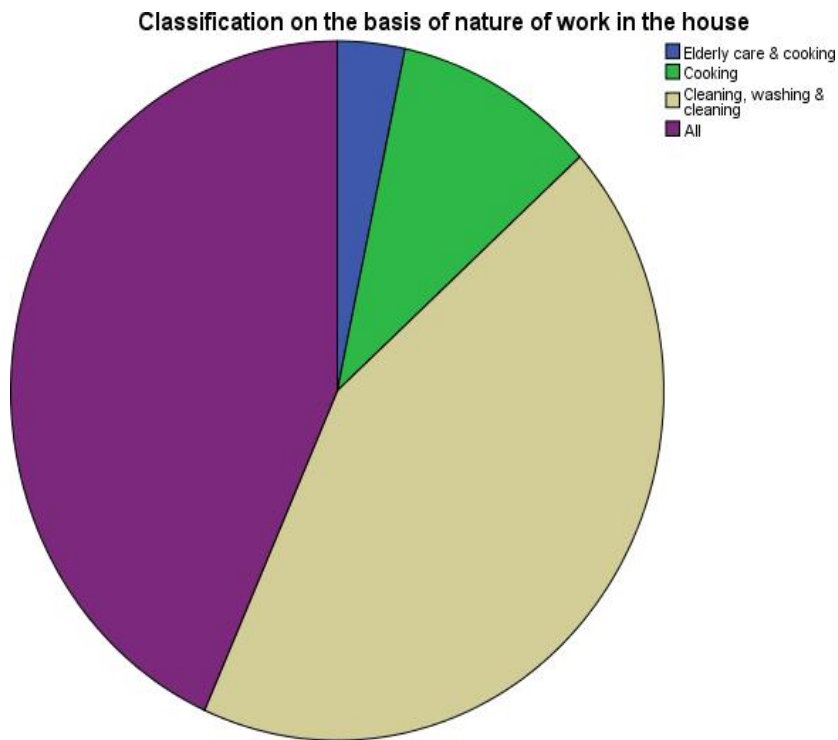


Table 4.8 Classification on the basis of daily wages drawn from each house

| Daily wages (In Rupees) | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| 100-200 | 1 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| 200-300 | 5 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 20.0 |
| Valid 300-400 | 18 | 60.0 | 60.0 | 80.0 |
| Above 400 | 6 | 20.0 | 20.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 4.8 shows that majority of sample (60%) earn daily wages between 300 -400 rupees from each house where as 20 % earn above 400 rupees. While 16.7% and 3.3% of respondents earn dailywages between 200 to 300 rupees and 100 to 200 rupees respectively.

Figure 4.8

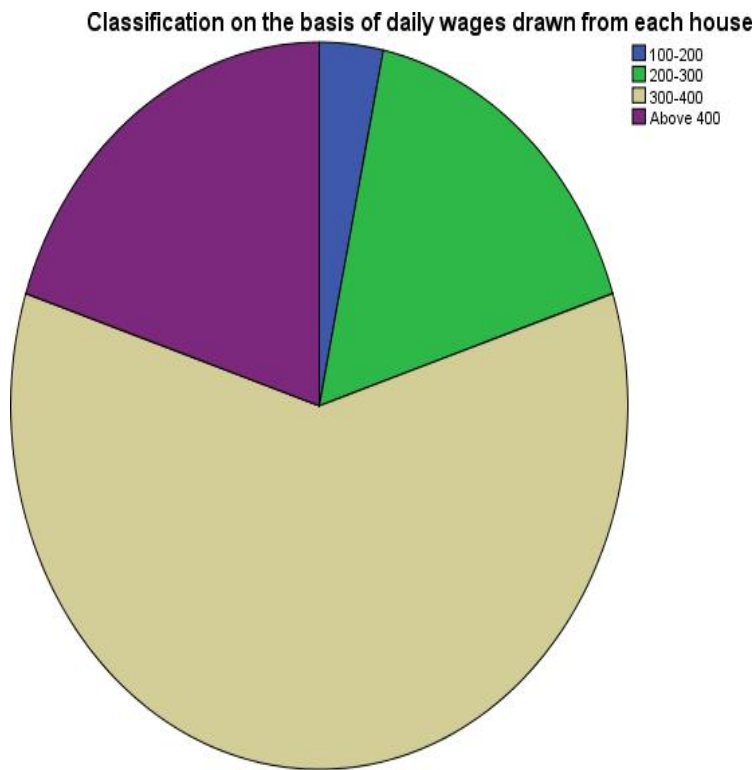


Table 49 Classification on the basis of monthly income of the family

| Monthly family income(In Rupees) | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| 6000-10000 | 7 | 23.3 | 23.3 | 23.3 |
| 11000-15000 | 5 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 40.0 |
| 15000-20000 | 9 | 30.0 | 30.0 | 70.0 |
| 20000-25000 | 5 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 86.7 |
| Above 25000 | 4 | 13.3 | 13.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 4.9 shows that 30% of sample’s monthly family income is in between 15000 – 20000 rupees. While 23.3% of sample’s monthly family income is in the range of 6000-10000 rupees. And 16.7% of sample’s monthly family income is in the range of 10000- 15000 rupees and 20000-25000 rupees.

Figure 4.9

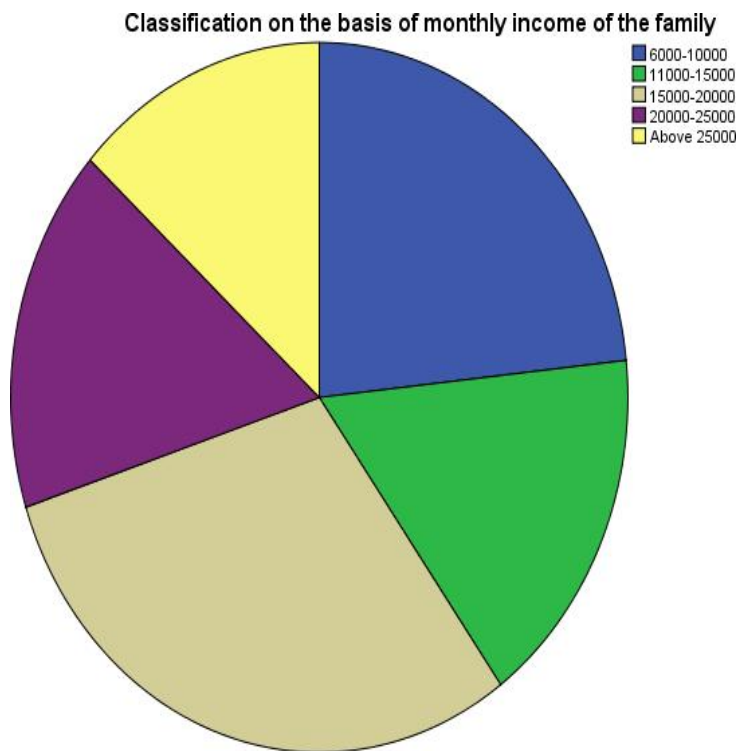


Table 4.10 Classification of the sample on the basis of whether they have any bitter experiences from house matron

| Bitter experiences from house matron | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Yes | 19 | 63.3 | 63.3 | 63.3 |
| | No | 11 | 36.7 | 36.7 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 4.10 shows that majority of respondents (63.3%) face bitter experiences from their house matrons, while 36.7% of sample does not face bitter experiences from their house matrons.

Figure 4.10

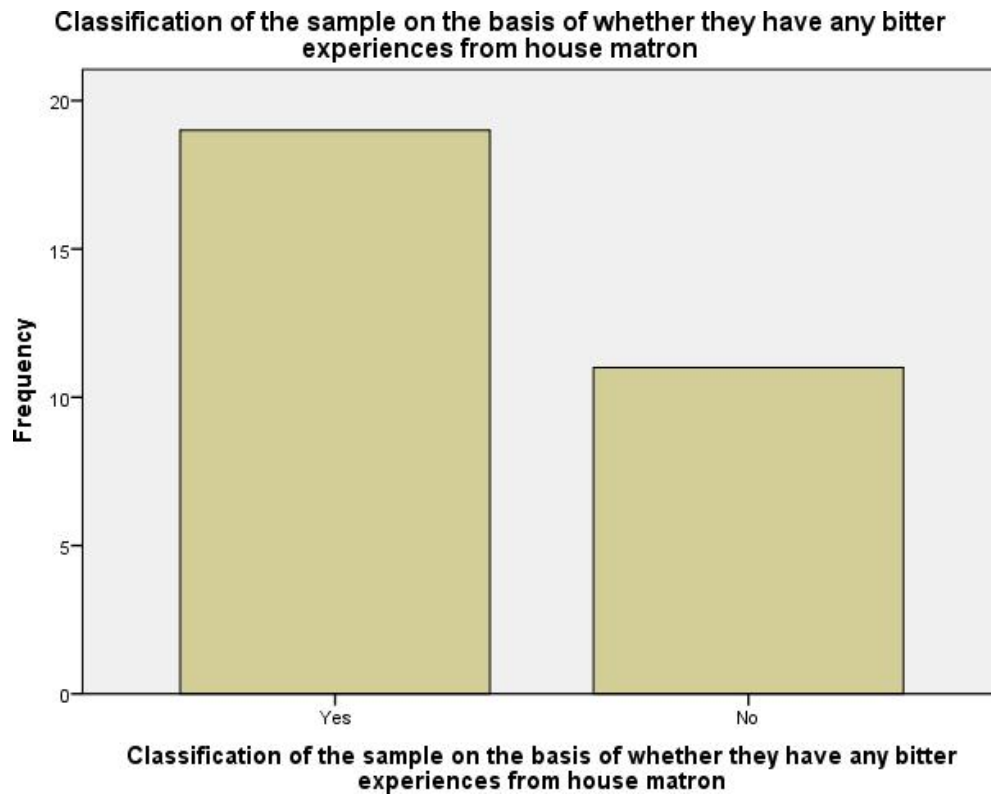


Table 4.11 Classification of the sample on the basis of whether they get healthinsurance

| Health insurance | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | CumulativePercent |
|------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------------------|
| Valid Yes | 19 | 63.3 | 63.3 | 63.3 |
| Valid No | 11 | 36.7 | 36.7 | 100.0 |
| Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 4.11 shows that majority of the respondents (63.3%) get health insurance.

Figure 4.11

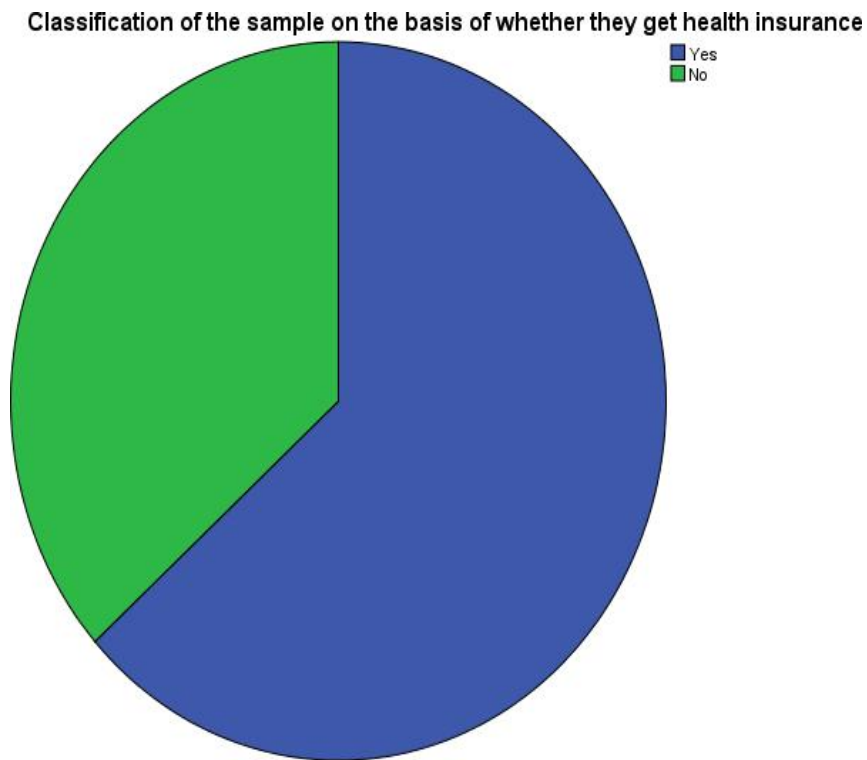


Table 4.12 Classification on the basis of savings

| Savings | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Post office savings | 6 | 20.0 | 30.0 | 30.0 |
| | Chitty | 10 | 33.3 | 50.0 | 80.0 |
| | LIC | 3 | 10.0 | 15.0 | 95.0 |
| | Others | 1 | 3.3 | 5.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 20 | 66.7 | 100.0 | |
| Missing | System | 10 | 33.3 | | |
| Total | | 30 | 100.0 | | |

From table 4.12 we can state that, out of 20 samples who have savings, 50% of them save a share of their income in chitties and 30% save in Post Offices. While 15% and 5% of sample save a part of their income in LIC and others respectively.

Figure 4.12

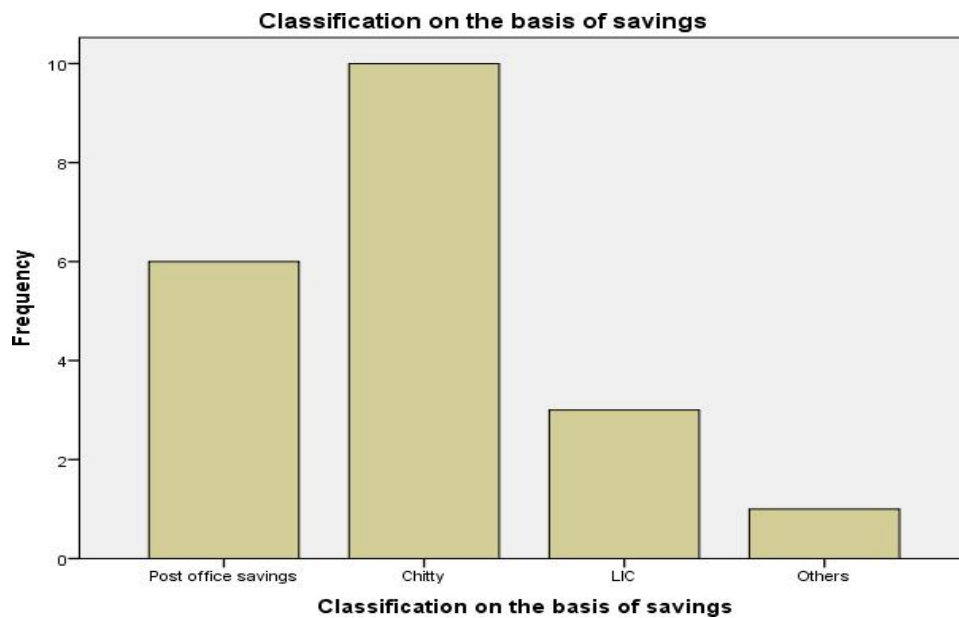


Table 4.13 Classification on the basis of loans taken

| Loans amount (In Rupees) | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| 10000-20000 | 1 | 3.3 | 7.1 | 7.1 |
| 20000-40000 | 4 | 13.3 | 28.6 | 35.7 |
| 40000-60000 | 7 | 23.3 | 50.0 | 85.7 |
| Above 60000 | 2 | 6.7 | 14.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 14 | 46.7 | 100.0 | |
| Missing System | 16 | 53.3 | | |
| Total | 30 | 100.0 | | |

Table 4.13 shows that, out of 14 samples who have taken loans, 50% of them have taken loan of amount 40000-60000 rupees and 28.6% have taken loan of amount 20000-40000 rupees. While 14.3% have taken loan of amount above 60000 rupees.

Figure 4.13

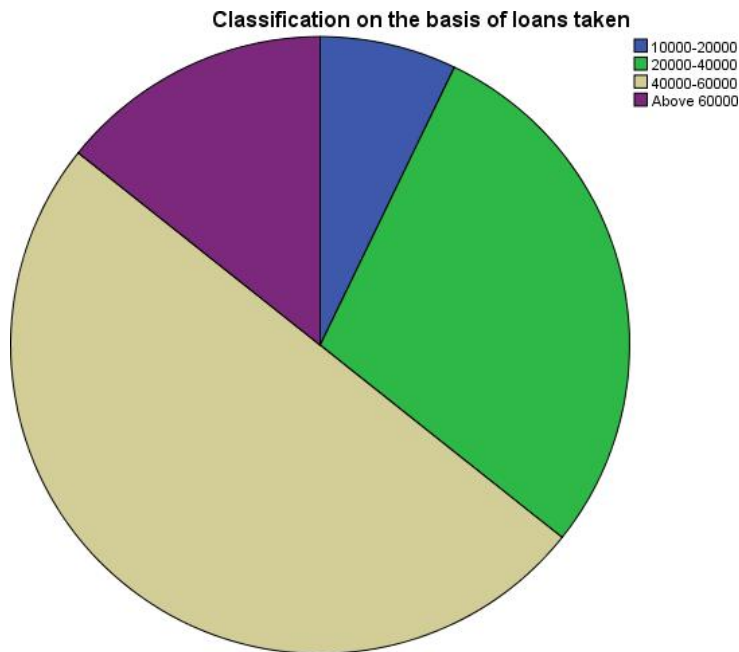


Table 4.14 Classification on the basis of marital status

| Marital status | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------|----------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Married | 19 | 63.3 | 63.3 | 63.3 |
| | Widow | 8 | 26.7 | 26.7 | 90.0 |
| | Divorcee | 3 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 4.14 shows that majority of samples (63.3%) of samples are married and 26.7% of samples are widows. While 10 % of samples are divorced.

Figure 4.14

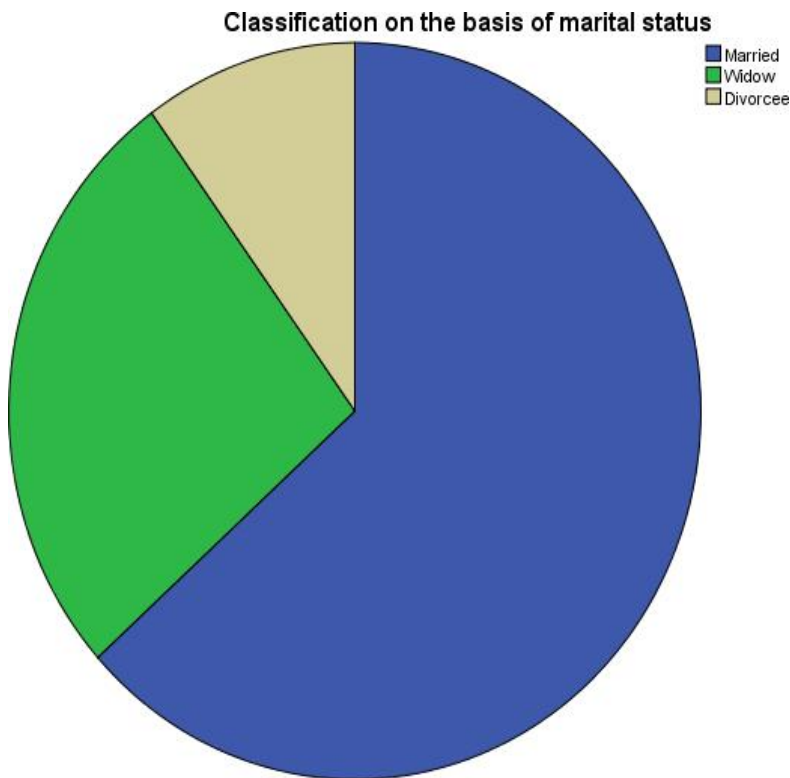


Table 4.15 Classification of sample on the basis of whether their husband has any permanent disease

| Permanent disease (For husband) | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Yes | 7 | 23.3 | 36.8 | 36.8 |
| | No | 12 | 40.0 | 63.2 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 19 | 63.3 | 100.0 | |
| Missing | System | 11 | 36.7 | | |
| Total | | 30 | 100.0 | | |

Table 4.15 reveals that, out of 19 samples who are married, 63.2% of sample’s husbands have permanent diseases.

Figure 4.15

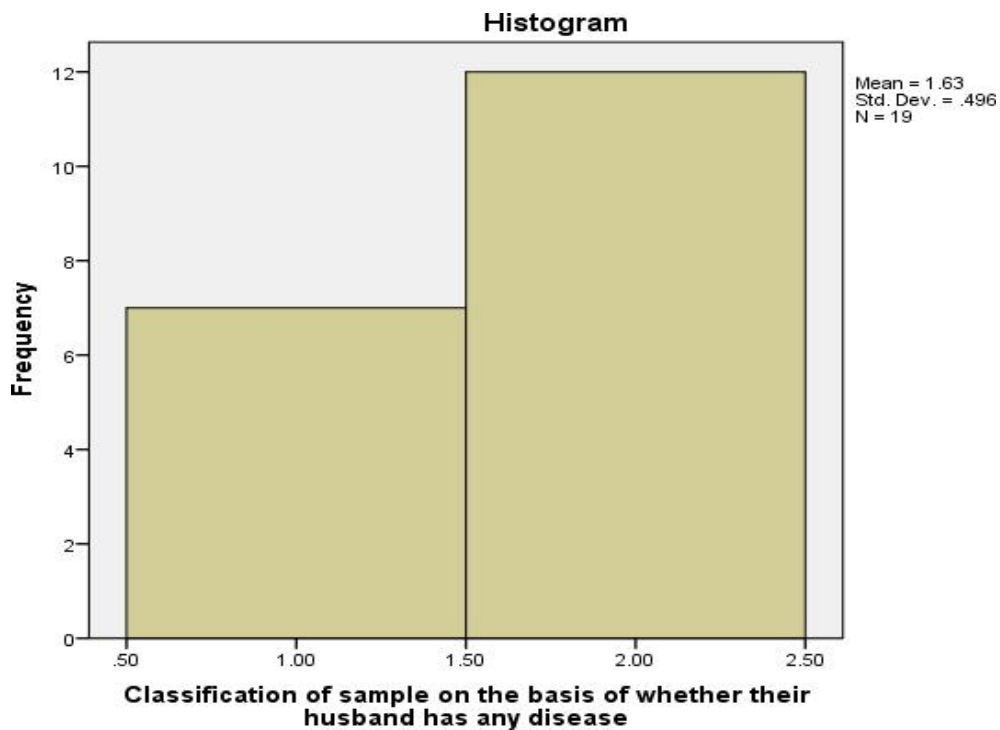


Table 4.16 Classification of sample on the basis of whether they are getting enough time after work to care family

| Enough time to care family | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------------------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Yes | 16 | 53.3 | 53.3 | 53.3 |
| | No | 14 | 46.7 | 46.7 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

From table 4.16 we can state that 53.3% of samples are getting enough time after work to care their family. While 46.7% of samples are not getting enough time to care their families.

Figure 4.16

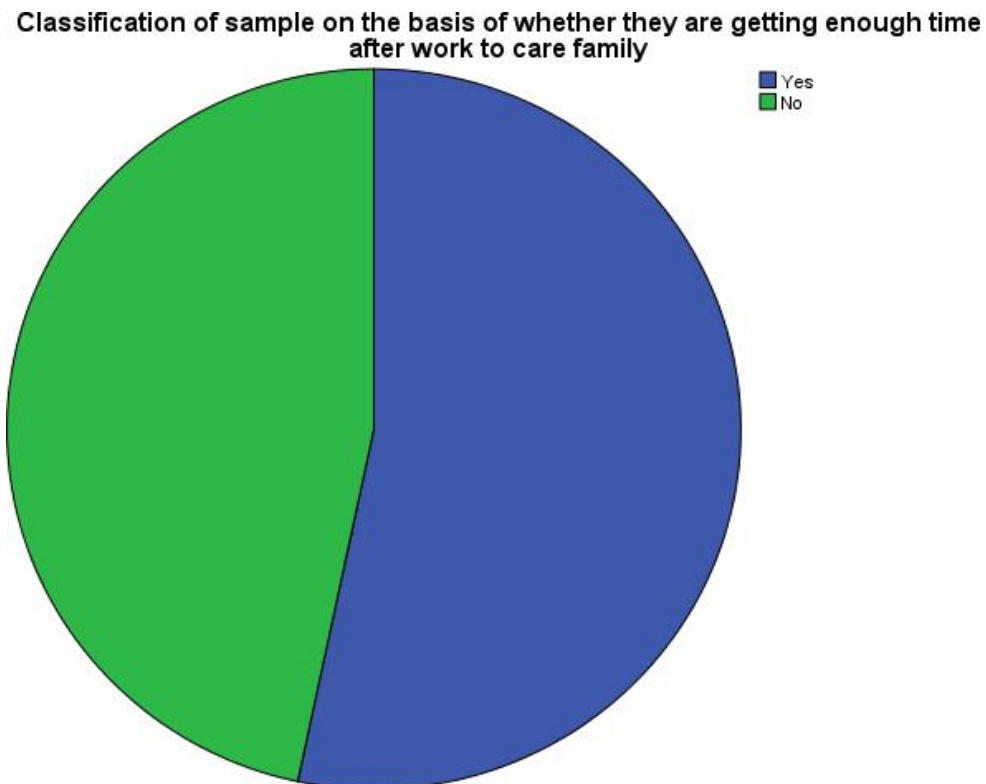
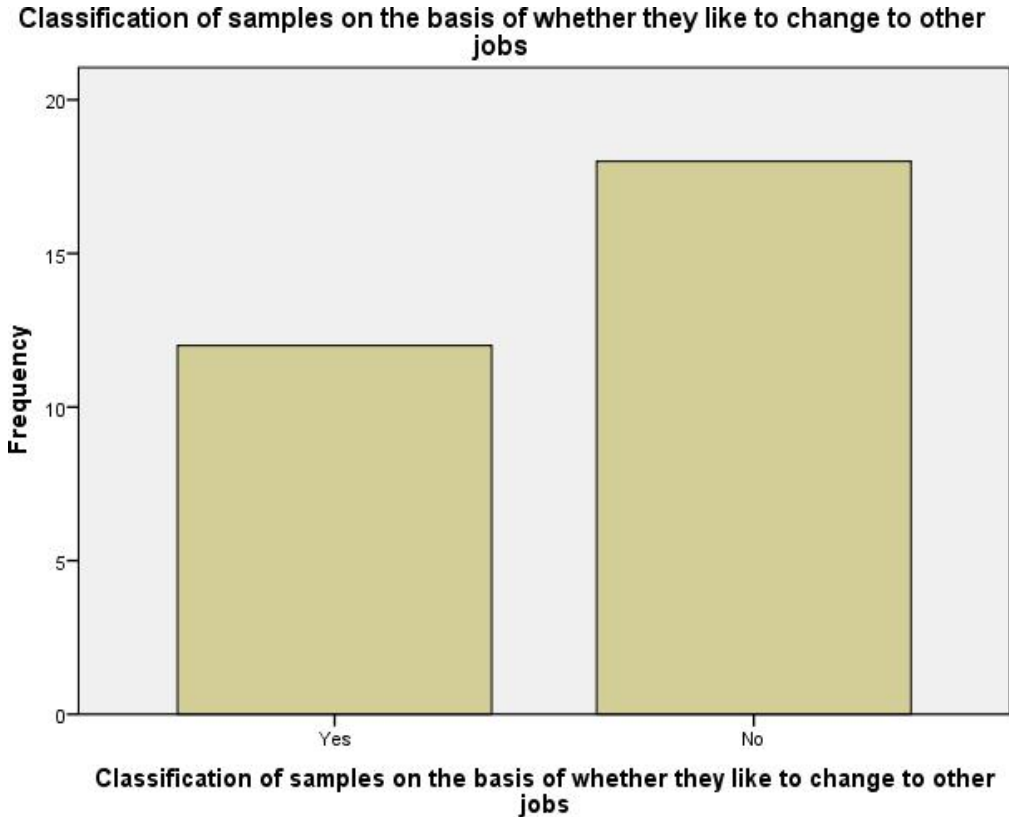


Table 4.17 Classification of sample on the basis of whether they like to change to other job

| Desire to change to other job | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Yes | 12 | 40.0 | 40.0 | 40.0 |
| | No | 18 | 60.0 | 60.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 30 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Table 4.17 shows that majority of samples (60%) does not like to change to other job, as they haveno other option for another job.

Figure 4.17



Findings

The most important finding of the study are given below

1. Out of 30 samples, majority of respondents (60%) belong to the age group 40–60 years.
2. Major proportion (83.3%) of the samples possesses own land.
3. Among 25 samples who have own land, 44% possess land in the range of 5 – 10 cent.
4. 76.7% of the 30 respondents have own house.
5. Considering the educational qualification, 40% of samples are qualified up to upper primary school level of education and 30% have SSLC as their educational qualification. Another 23.3% of samples

have high school education. While those who are illiterate and those who are qualified up to higher secondary education share 3.3% of the sample each.

6. Major proportions of the respondents (63.3%) are not satisfied in their educational qualification due to poor financial conditions.
7. Major proportions of respondents (86.7%) are full time workers.
8. Regarding the nature of work in the house, 43.3% of sample does cooking, washing, and cleaning at houses. Another 43.3% of the sample does all works where as 10% do only cooking at houses. The rest 3.3% of respondents do cooking and elderly care at houses.
9. Majority of sample (60%) earn daily wages between 300 -400 rupees from each house.
10. Considering the salary receipt, 40% of samples get their salary on daily basis. While 36.7% and 23.3% of sample get their salary on weekly and monthly basis respectively.
11. Major proportion of samples (73.3%) are satisfied with their wages and the rest 26.7% are not satisfied in their wages.
12. Regarding the monthly family income, 30% of sample's monthly family income is in between 15000 – 20000 rupees. While 23.3% of sample's monthly family income is in the range of 6000-10000 rupees. And 16.7% of sample's monthly family income is in the range of 10000-15000 rupees and 20000-25000 rupees.
13. Considering the period of domestic work, 33.3% of samples have been working as domestic worker for more than 11 years. While those samples who have been working as domestic workers for 2-5 and 8-11 years share 20% of respondents each. And 16.7% of samples are domestic workers for 5-8 years.
14. 70% of 30 samples do not get sick leave or emergency leave in need without wage cut.

15. Majority of the respondents (63.3%) get health insurance.
16. 52.6% of 19 samples who have taken treatment for their disease have a monthly expenditure for treatment between 100-500 rupees.
17. 50% of 20 samples, who have savings, save a share of their income in chitties and 30% save in post-Offices. While 15% and 5% of sample save a part of their income in LIC and others.
18. Out of 14 samples who have taken loans, 50% have taken loan of amount 40000-60000 rupees.
19. Majority of samples (63.3%) of samples are married.
20. Out of 30 samples, 53.3% are getting enough time after work to care their family.
21. Majority of samples (60%) does not like to change to other job as they have no other option for another job.

Suggestions

To improve socio economic status of domestic women workers in the society, the following recommendations are suggested:-

- Govt should pass out more legislations for the welfare of the domestic workers.
- Govt should ensure that various social security measures adopted for the welfare of informal sector are reaching the targeted group.
- Providing minimum leave facilities to the domestic women workers.
- Setting up formal domestic workers unions, this can look after their interests.
- Providing the workers some degree of flexibility in working hours.
- Fixing reasonable minimum wages for domestic women workers.
- Govt should pass out legislations that can ensure enough leisure time for domestic women workers.
- Providing equitable extra wages for extra work load done by domestic women workers.

Conclusion

The demand for women domestic workers among middle and upper strata people in Kottayam District is generally fulfilled from native women and often domestic service contributes a substantive form of employment and generation of earnings for many poor women in the District. The domestic tasks can be classified as paid domestic work and unpaid domestic work. The paid domestic workers generally perform a series of household tasks such as cleaning utensils, sweeping and cleaning rooms, washing clothes, cooking, etc. The wages of the female domestic workers are very low compared to other workers in the informal sector. They have to face a lot of problems at the work place which include low level of wage, minimal pay or no pay for extra work, absence of leave facility, mental harassment by house matron etc. They are also facing many health problems related to this work. These problems can never be overcome until the concept of unionism is developed among the female domestic workers. The economic compulsion is the main hardship for taking the job as domestic workers. They are able to save only a very small part of their income. The general educational status of the female domestic workers in the District is not satisfactory. The workers

contribute a major part of their earnings to the family and few of them have saving potentials too.

Since wages of the female domestic workers are very low, they have been worst exploited.

Bibliography

Journals and Publications

- J 'Domestic Workers Across the World: Global and Regional Statistics', International Labour Office, Geneva, 2013.
- J Nirmala Banerjee – 'Women in Emerging Labour Market', Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Vol. 42, 1999.
- J Murugaiah K – 'Women Domestic Workers', Social Welfare, Vol. 49, 2002.
- J Nirmala Banerjee – 'Women Workers in Unorganised Sector', The Cucutta Experience, Sangam Books Pvt. Limited, 1985.
- J Shanta M. K – 'House Maids and Their Struggle in Mumbai', University of Mumbai, 2010.

| Access this Article in Online | |
|--|--|
|  | Website: www.ijarm.com |
| | Subject: Economics |
| Quick Response Code | |
| DOI: 10.22192/ijamr.2022.09.12.001 | |

How to cite this article:

Irene Eliza Sabu. (2022). A study on the socio – economic status of domestic women workers: with special referenceto Kottayam district. Int. J. Adv. Multidiscip. Res. 9(12): 1-23.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22192/ijamr.2022.09.12.001>