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A Comparative Study of Working Women's Decision Making Related to Their Personal Activities in Joint and Nuclear Family

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Abstract

The present study aimed to sheds light on how much family structure affects the decision making of working women. The main objective of this study is to compare the decision making power of working women of both living in joint family and those who living in nuclear family. The study was conducted in the rural area of Prayagraj taking 190 working women. Among theses 96 from joint family and 94 working women from nuclear family. Pretested interview schedule was used for collecting the data. The data was tabulated and statistically analyzed by using appropriate techniques. The results revealed that family structure impacts working woman's decision-making. The working women of nuclear family enjoyed greater decision-making power rather than those working women living in joint family. The study also revealed that woman's decision-making in joint and nuclear family structure influenced by different socioeconomic and demographic factors. This research work also draws attention to important but relatively unexplored factor that affects women's decision making like family structure, their traditional thinking, introvert personality, hesitating nature and so on.

Key words: Children affairs, Decision Making, Education, Level of education , women

INTRODUCTION

Family is the basic unit of society, without family society cannot be imagined. A family can be compared to an 'umbrella' whose value is not realized until the dark clouds of problems loom over you. But, when you look up with a hope that someone will come to your rescue, the first silent approaching steps will be of your family members. This is 'FAMILY'. You grow up together, learn together; agree-disagree; fight and make-up, move on in your lives, but in the end, when you need someone, you know your siblings and your family will be right there. A family can be said to a group of persons United by the ties of marriage, blood or adoption constituting a single household, interacting and inter-communicating with each other in their respective social role of husband and wife, mother and father, son and daughter, brother and sister and they creating and maintaining a common culture. Mainly two types of families are more prevalent in Indian society, joint family and nuclear family, both families have their own advantages and disadvantages. Due to the increase in materialism and consumption tendency, the needs of families also increased, as a result of which modern families started becoming small and nuclear.

Nuclear family

A family group comprising of parents and their children (one or more) is a nuclear family. Nuclear families specially based on a married couple which may have any number of children. The rise of the nuclear family setup can be ascribed to various factors like increasing urbanization, scarcity of living space in big cities, changes in attitudes, a desire for more privacy, the impact of westernization, and so on. Although the nuclear family system continues to flourishing, like any other system. Living in a nuclear family is the norm in today's fast-paced, freelance world. There are many benefits of nuclear

family like - low Conflicts in members, Personal Responsibilities, harmony and peace, limited number of children, more freedom, Good Status of women, better financial stability, the development of strong support systems for children, etc. In the nuclear family, working women gets the freedom of taking decision about all types of household and social matters. While there are also certain disadvantages of a nuclear family, like-Problems with work-life balance, Feelings of loneliness and isolation, Difficulty in resolving conflicts, Insecurity feel for widows and old, economic drawback, Children's insecurity etc.

Joint Family

The joint family system has persisted in India through the Vedic age to the present day but the number has depleted. Joint family is a form of family that consists of two or more generations that shares a home and lives together, is very common in India. It is also called an extended family. The joint family system is the common ownership of the means of production and the common enjoyment of the fruits of labour. the joint family may consist of dozens of persons- grandparents, uncle's son, grandsons with their wives and children and they bond with love and loyalty. one of the primary advantage of living in a joint family is that you get to spend a lot of time together, strengthen the relationship among all members. Culture of joint family creates a solid bond of unity among the members. Not only this, we get More source of entertainment, Emotional and financial supports, Children learn to live together, learn the art of sharing, learn respect and get secured, etc. So it is true that living together enables family member to share every responsibilities to each other but in the changing scenario the original advantages of the joint family system started decreasing. There are main demerits of joint family system- Family Tensions and Clashes, Lack of Privacy, Unfavorable for Savings and Investment, Low Status of Women, Hinders Social Change, Retards the Development of Personality etc.

Working Women

A working woman refers to a woman who works outside her home for a wage or Salary. During the last few decades, industrialization, urbanization, increasing level of education, awareness of rights, wider influence of media and westernization has changed the status and position of women and the concept of "working women" came in existence. Women begin to come out of the domestic sphere and have begun to take a professional role outside their homes. This has helped them to realize their potential, to broaden their Outlook and to create a meaning of their lives. But the traditional role of a housewife has gradually involved into the dual and more fulfilling role of a working women and housewife. Although more and more women are coming out in search of employment and their families also need their income but the attitude towards women and their role in the family has not undergone much changed. They also keep playing their roles in upbringing of future generations to make them more confident in life. As a result, the dual career family is increasing rapidly.

Decision Making

Women play a key role in family activities, they should be the first person to take decision and make plans. Working women's autonomy in decision making is associated with her ethnicity, deprivation level, urban /rural classification, education and number of living children. In the economic literature, decision making powers are measured by the relative income of the male and female needs of households. Working women had more roles in decision making at household levels. She has her own Savings and money. So she can make any type of financial decisions on her own. She participates wisely to take decision in any fields of household activities. But gender inequality in the family is manifested by a weaker role of women in decision making and less control over resources and reconstructions in physical movement by women. It is a General fact that women are not lower than men in terms of Intelligence, thinking, imagination, attitude, courage and activities, but are hardly empowered to participate in decision making. However they do participate in all sorts of activities, their participation in decision making observed generally as supportive only. Women always ask with their husband or their relatives before taking any decision especially in money matters. If she wants to purchase anything she asks, if she wants to go anywhere she asks. Sometimes she is compelled to go there where she doesn't want to go.....why so? How far the family allows autonomy to their women? making capacity.

I. LITERATURE SURVEY

Khan and Sing (1994) have taken into account different spheres of decision making namely deciding family size. Even though a woman plays several role throughout her life- as daughters, sisters, wife, daughter in law, sister in law, and mother. She seldom does have the power to make decisions which concern her own life vitally. Taking into account women in reproductive age in Uttar Pradesh (India) they conclude that the husband has the final in the number of children. They should have in the case of 33% of rural women in U.P., both take decision on family size and in 53% cases husband alone take the decision. In the case of 4.3 % of urban women, the husbands take the decision in 9.3% cases, elder members and 1.9% cases women she take decision.

Kumar Vipin; Maral priyaranjan (2015) find in study, “Involvement in decision making process: role of non working and working women” that women perceive they took part in decision making in the area of daily expenses, personal expenses, saving, participation in social activities and health issues, found to be higher in comparison to men. Regarding land/Motor or other assets. Child’s education and family disputes and settlement found that they do not take part. It was also perceived that working women jointly with their husbands make more decisions regarding household issues in comparison to non working women.

Rosa Linda T. Miranda (2005) found in his work “Impact of Women's participation in decision making that most women have been socialized into traditional roles in the patriarchal society and have integrated these traditional values of inequality between women and men. It would be an exceptional woman who is a self-made, self-taught feminist. Women do not form a homogeneous group defined by their sex alone. Their interests would also be a function of their socio-economic class, race, religion, ethnicity and other demographic characteristics of age and location.

Dilip M. Patil et. al; (2005) revealed in his research work “dimensions of women's autonomy and family influence” that in joint family women claim more autonomy on husband income but in nuclear families they get the autonomy to buy assets in own name. Autonomy is extended to women on ‘Holding spiritual and social functions in house’ through their freedom to go out is limited. Difference in proportion of women taking self decision on freedom is significantly more in joint families w.r.t. their carrier, family tour, freedom to go out alone as well as with friends and colleagues, and support to Parents, hence it can be concluded that, economic empowerment makes the woman more concerned about their participation in decision making irrespective of the family type they live. It can also be seen as joint families are ready to give women some space in the decision making process when they are working.

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Rozapour and Ansari (2014) founded the factors associated with women's participation in family decision making” that there is a positive and significant relationship between access to resources and women participation in decision making. Also, between women's social economic status and women participation in decision making observed a positive relationship. Today's family structure is changing and their changes are also visible in the structure of families.

II. RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

It is observed through literature survey that very few studies have focuses on the impact of family structure on working womens decision making on their personal activities. Whether it is true that both the family joint and nuclear effects the decision making power of working women positively or negatively. Keeping this in mind, the present study has been undertaken in Prayagraj district to analyze the decision-making power of working women of both the family in different aspects specially regarding to their personal matters as well as to compare the difference between their constraints faced by them to take any decision. The result of the study would help the concerned extension agency to approach right person of the family, to get better results. Therefore, it is most essential in present context to know and

identify the various factors that determines the participation level of working women in the decision making of different aspects.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted with the study entitled “A comparative study on working women’s decision making related to their personal activities in joint and nuclear family” during the year 2021-2022 in Prayagraj District. Here the mixed method has used which is a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. A purposive sampling was taken for the investigation. 190 working women of joint and nuclear family aged 25-45 and above are selected randomly. The present study was based on primary data. The data in line with the objective were collected with the help of questionnaire and interview schedule. In this study, a Likert scale has been used to examine the impact of women’s education on decision making regarding their children affairs. In this format the response were carried out in terms of (1) disagree (2) strongly disagree (3) either agree or not agree (4) agree (5) strongly agree are presented the values of 1-5 respectively. The data was obtained, statistically analyzed by using paired t test and other appropriate techniques. Results on the variables were presented with cross tabulation. cross tabulation.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of the investigation carried out, are presented through summary tables.

Table:1 Socio-Economic & Demographic Profile of respondents

Sl.No	Variables	Category	Working women in joint family (n=96)		Working women in nuclear family (n=94)	
			frequency	%	frequency	%
1.	Age	25-30	14	14.58	17	18.08
		31-35	11	11.45	14	14.90
		36-40	22	22.92	19	20.21
		41-45	30	31.25	23	24.46
		45-above	19	19.79	21	22.34
2.	Education	High school	08	08.33	05	05.32
		Intermediate	05	05.20	15	15.95
		Graduation	32	33.33	29	30.85
		Post Graduation & above	51	53.12	45	47.87
3.	Job type	Government	37	38.54	28	29.78
		Semi-Government	21	21.88	39	41.49
		Private	38	39.58	27	28.72
4.	Number of dependents	0-2	16	16.66	64	68.09
		3-4	68	70.83	22	23.40
		4-above	12	12.50	08	08.51
5.	Emoluments	<5000	00	00.00	03	03.19
		5001-10000	04	04.16	11	11.70
		10001-15000	21	21.87	23	24.46
		15001-20000	31	32.29	30	31.91
		>20000	40	41.66	27	28.72

The above table presents comparative socio-Economic & Demographic information about the respondents at a glance. The table 1 shows that the majority of working women of joint family (31.25%) and nuclear family (24.40%) belongs to the age group of 41-45, 22.92 percent working women of joint family and 20.21 percent of nuclear family belongs to the 36-40 age group, 19.79 percent respondent of joint family and 22.34 percent respondents of nuclear family belongs to the age group between 45 and above. A less percentage of the working woman in both families belonged to the age group between 25-30 and 31-35. Conclusively said that the majority of the woman in both group belongs to the age group between 41-45 and 36-40 and less percentage of women in both the families belongs to 25-30 and 31-35 age group.

The table 1 indicates that majority of the working women of joint family (53.12% & 33.33%) and nuclear family (47.87% & 30.85%) had post graduation and graduation, while 5.20 percent working women of joint family and 15.95 percent working women of nuclear family were intermediate, a very less percentage of women in both families belongs to the less education (High School).

The table 1 also shows that majority of working women of joint family (39.58%) had private job while in nuclear families, the majority of women (41.49%) were in semi-government job. 38.54 percent of working women of joint families and 29.78 percent women of nuclear families were in government job.

The above table shows that the majority of the respondents of joint family (70.83%) have 3-4 dependents while in nuclear family the majority of respondents (68.09%) have 3-4 dependent. 16.66 percent working women of joint family and 23.40 percent working women of nuclear family had 0-2 dependent. Very less percentage of working women in both families have 4 and above dependents.

An investigation of table 1 states that most of the working women of both families (41.66% & 32.29%) & (31.91% 28.72%) have salary structure between 15000 to 20000 and above 20000. 21.87 percent working women of joint family and 24.46 percent of nuclear family belongs to salary structure between 10001-15000 rest of the respondent of joint family (4.16%) and respondent of nuclear family (11.70% and 3.19%) have salary structure between 50001- 10,000 and below 5000.

Table:2 Working women's decision making regarding their personal affairs in Joint and Nuclear Family

Items	Women of Joint Family (n=62)						Women of Nuclear Family (n=58)					
	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Going movies	12.5	14.5	10.1	27.3	35.6	100	12.3	10.5	11.3	32.4	33.5	100
Visiting friends	06.7	18.1	09.0	34.5	31.7	100	11.1	12.2	10.1	35.1	31.5	100
Family planning	15.2	13.6	10.6	30.6	38.0	100	08.0	10.3	12.2	44.4	25.1	100
Higher education for herself	10.2	13.7	07.3	26.6	42.2	100	14.1	06.7	14.2	28.9	36.1	100
Doing or leaving job	11.7	10.2	10.1	36.5	31.5	100	11.9	12.6	10.5	37.8	27.2	100
Go outside for personal work	13.6	11.7	05.6	35.8	33.3	100	07.8	13.5	12.9	36.3	29.5	100

Table 2 revealed that majority of working women of joint family (35.6% and 27.3% disagree and strongly disagree) do not accept that they were free to decide to go movies with their friends and relatives while the majority of working women of nuclear family (32.4% and 33.5% agree and strongly agree) accepted to feel free in such aspects. In the second statement more than half of the Women of joint family (34.5% and 31.7%) disagree and strongly disagree for taking decision in visiting friends and family alone whereas majority of the working women of nuclear family (35.1% and 31.5%) agree and strongly agree for taking decision in such type of aspect.

In the next two statements more than half of the working women of joint family disagree and strongly disagree that they were not free to take decision about family planning and her higher education for themselves on the other side most of the working women of nuclear family agree and strongly agree for the aforesaid statement. Similarly, in the next statement most of the working women of joint family

(36.5% and 31.5% dis agree and strongly disagree) not accepted that they take decision in doing or leaving job and 37.8% and 27.2 percent working women of nuclear family agree & strongly agree for the mentioned statement. Further the table 2 shows in the next statement that higher percentage of working women of joint family (35.8% and 33.3%) accepted that they were not free to taking decision in going out for personal work but on the other hand majority of working women of nuclear family (36.3% and 29.5%) agree & strongly agree that they take self decision in such statement.

CONCLUSION

The following conclusion was drawn on the basis of the analysis of data that working women of nuclear family had greater power of decision making regarding different aspects of personal activities in compared to working women of joint family. Its shows that womens decision making power is affected by the family structure. Of course many factor like education, occupation type, social background, economical condition, their personality etc. affected the decision making power of working women but family structure also play a decisive role here.

Family structure significantly impact on decision making of working women in both positive and negative ways. Having a close-knit and supportive family provides emotional supports, economic well-being and increase the decision making power of women however the opposite is also true. Family structure play roles may have a negative impact on ability of taking decision of working women. when family life is characterized by stress and conflict the decision making tends to be negatively affects on them. In many cases, women have to receive permission from her husband, father or mother in law for every work even their personal care too, and have to be accompanied by elder or male to the appointments. It was noted in the study that working women of both the family were facing the problems in taking decisions of many aspects but their constraints were different. Where women of joint family faced time lacking, overburden of work, traditional boundation, restriction of elders and fatigue There women of nuclear family faced insecurities of child, loneliness, more responsibilities, distance from family and society etc.

The present study shows that family structure has significant effect in explaining the variance in decision making power is specially regarding their personal matter

In short it can be said on the basis of results that working woman of nuclear family had more power of taking decision of the own end but woman of joint family not only had less decision-making power but they also needed the permission of other family members. Although the status of women has somewhat improved but still they were not allowed for taking decision to manage many aspects even today.

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