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## STATUS OF FEMALE IN THE SOCIETY: A CASE STUDY OF TALIMORH VILLAGE, JAMMU

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### ABSTRACT:

Women are an imminent part of our society. Without them the existence of the human kind is not possible. They are very significant part of our society. Though they are always linked to progeny but they are the real strength of a society. Today women have got freedom to do whatever they want to do in society. They are making marks in every competitive sphere. Be it is corporate world, science, literature, Banking every where they are playing their active roles in society. Their role inspires many young girls to be like them or walk just the way they are doing in their lives. An educated woman plays an important role in the society. It is said that an educated woman is a boon to the society. If a woman is educated the people surrounding it will also be educated. She is the real string to which other strings in the society are connected. Thus their role in the society is indispensable. The present paper is an attempt to study the socio economic status of females in the society based on certain parameters like religion, education, marriage, monthly income etc.



**KEYWORDS:** Empowerment, harassment, exploitation, discrimination, milestone.

### INTRODUCTION

Around the world, women's status in each society and culture varies in different ways. In some societies, women's status improved gradually, while in other it declined or remained unchanged. What affects women's status in a society? This question is assimilated into the bones of the society. Though we know that there should be equality, freedom, respect, dignity but all these things disappear in the nuances which are prevailing in the society. The status quo in main lies in the history of mankind. Though our ancestors gave equal respect to the woman folks but with the passage of time these things disappear and the thinking of our ancestors got wrong interpretation which created a sense of inferiority for this human kind. In world today, women though in less numbers are matching and in some cases going ahead of the male folks this has happened due to the partial demisting of the spectacles of the society. In many spheres they are doing wonders as it is rightly said that women are biologically stronger than man. The positions of the top companies are secured by women showing the women empowerment.

Margaret Henning and Anne Jardin (1979) In Agriculture women do not generally undertake all types of jobs, but only specific ones which the male workers normally avoid. R.P Jaiswal (1993) has concluded through a study that women despite their better educational attainment and relatively good

family background do not hold the same socio-economic status, job placement and work allotment as enjoyed by men in the similar conditions. Prasad, N. (2007).

Women in Indian Society have been victims of humiliation, torture exploitation and discrimination in spite of legislative measures, spread of education and economic Independence. Misra, K.K and Lowery, H.J.(2007), Sekhar, R.H & Kumar, P.P (2008), Jasprit Kaur Soni(2011) and Bano S. (2012) who have analysed the issue of status of female with respect to their empowerment, education as a milestone who change their lives, health status of women at State, District or Sub-district levels. In this context, the present paper also attempts to study the status of females in various aspects.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To examine the status of female in the study area.
- To know the role of women in decision making.
- To study the status of girl child in the study area.
- To find out the role of women in providing the financial support to the family.

**METHODOLGY:**

The purpose of the study is to describe and explain the socio-economic status of the female in the study area. The purpose of this paper is to collect and analyze data pertaining to women living in the multiple roles. The method adopted for the primary survey is Sample Survey method where the 100 households have been taken. The area chosen for the survey is a village. The reason behind selection the village for the survey is that the marks of the social divide are clearly visible in the rural areas. Here the data collected is of two types. Primary Data that is raw and secondary data that is from the Census of India. Furthermore feminist standpoint theory is the theoretical frame of this study and is being discussed in an effort to expand the explanation of the study’s structure.

**STUDY AREA:**

The area which was taken for the study of the socio – economic of the females lies in the plains of the Jammu region. It is a rural area. The region holds a great historical background which dates back to our pre independence period. The name of the region is Tali Morh which lies in the tehsil of R S Pura. It is connected to the main Jammu via National Highway. The name ‘Tali Morh’ owes its origination to the tree ‘Tali’ which is pronounced as Tali in the local language. Its scientific mean is Dal Bergia Sissoo. In the past, the area was dominated with tali trees that are why it was called as Tali Morh.

The Tali Morh area falls under the village of Malik Pur. This whole patch of the Tali Morh area is taken to conduct the survey about the given topic of “Socio- Economic Status of females” in the given region. Both the primary data and Secondary data are collected for the study .the later one is collected from the Census of India 2011.

The total no. of households in the given village is 684. The total male population is 3265 while female population is 1717 which is representing a serious trend. The population of male child below 6 years is 195 whereas the population of girl child below 6 years is 145. The gap is clearly visible

**Table - 1: Percentage Distribution on the basis of religious composition, Tali Morh, RS Pura**

Religion	Percentage
Sikhs	52
Hindus	43
Christian	1
others	4
Total	100

**Source:** Field survey, 2020.

From the table no. 1, it is clearly visible that the majority of the population is dominated by Sikhs with 52 percent followed by Hindus with 43 percent and others are 4 percent in population which

covers SCs and STs in the area. The reason for maximum population of the Sikhs here is that they have migrated from the Poonch district of the state during partition. The Christian population is less but they are majorly come from Kerala as they run Mission Schools here.

**Table - 2: Percentage Distribution of female respondents on the basis of age, Tali Morh, RS Pura.**

Age	Percentage
Less than 18 years	5
19 -38 years	45
39-48 years	30
Above 48 years	20
Total	100

**Source:** Field Survey, 2020

The table no. 2 shows the percentage distribution of female respondents on the basis of age. It shows that majority of female are under the age group of 19 to 38 years followed by 39 to 48 years. Only 5 percent of the female population is less than 18 years of age.

**Table - 3: Percentage Distribution of female respondents on the basis of education qualification, Tali Morh, RS Pura.**

Education Qualification	Percentage
5 <sup>th</sup> passed	25
10 <sup>th</sup> passed	40
12 <sup>th</sup> passed	20
Graduated/post graduated	10
Others(MBBS/Engineering)	5
Total	100

**Source:** Field Survey, 2020.

Table no. 3 represents the education qualification of the female respondents in percentage in Tali Morh, RS Pura. The above table is showing that majority of female population is 10<sup>th</sup> passed while 20 percent are 12<sup>th</sup> passed. Only 10 percent are graduated or post graduated and the lowest concentration of female is in higher courses like MBBS. This is due to the fact that people think that women are meant to be a housewife at the end of the day, so she does not need to be much educated. She just has to perform household chores after getting married. The male in the house needs to be educated and responsible enough to handle the responsibility of the family. This is the reason that the women getting higher, specialized courses are just 5 percent. The female population which is 5<sup>th</sup> passed accounts for 25 percent.

**SOCIAL STATUS OF FEMALE IN THE SUDY AREA:**

**Table - 4: Percentage of female respondents on the basis of type of marriage, Tali Morh, RS Pura.**

Type of marriage	Percentage
Arranged marriage	90
Mutual Consent of individuals.	10
Total	100

**Source:** Field survey, 2020.

From the table no.4 depicting different types of marriages, it is clearly visible that 90 percent of the marriages are arranged as expected in the rural areas as the villages have a patriarchal society where the permission of head of the family still holds a great significance whereas there are only 10

percent of the marriages are done by mutual consent. One of the main reasons to show different types of marriages is to study its implications in context of the prevailing dowry system in the society. Whether it has reduced or induces the dowry was the main purpose to study this aspect of the study.

**Table - 5: Percentage Distribution of female respondents who brought Dowry, Tali Morh, RS Pura.**

No. of females bringing dowry	Percentage
Willingly	45
Not willingly	35
Not brought	20
Total	100

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

The table no. 5 represents the percentage distribution of female respondents who brought Dowry. There are 45 percent of the female respondents who brought dowry willingly as the basic logic behind it was that it acts as their security as it will be their “own” thing and they need not to ask others for the things. Those who brought unwillingly accounts for 35 percent and the females who does not bring dowry are just 20 percent and has something interesting to say that their spouses refused to seek dowry and these includes those who have married by mutual consent.

**Table - 6: Percentage Distribution of contribution of female respondents in the family decision making process, Tali Morh, RS Pura.**

Participation of females in decision making	Percentage
Yes	57
No	43
Total	100

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

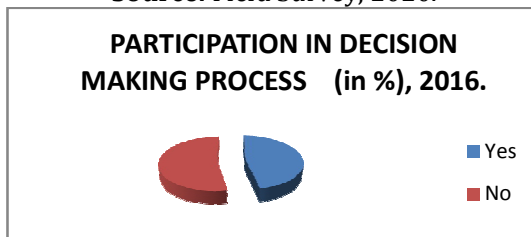


Fig. 1

The table no.6 tells us about the role of females in the decision making process in the family. The data in the table shows us that 57 percent of the female play active role in the decision making process. The opinion and the decisions made by them are respected and acknowledged in most of the cases. Being educated is also another important aspect in which their opinion are sought and respected. They say that it has a cascading effect on their role in the family say. The other side of the picture paints the different picture in which the real mirror of the society reflects the true image, about 43 percent of the females said that their head of the family are the real decision makers. The submissive nature of them is also reflected as they were of the view that whatever the decisions elders take is good for the entire family and they need not to interfere their saying.

**Table - 7: Distribution of Scope of harassments faced by female respondents, Tali Morh, RS Pura.**

Harassments	Percentage
Physical	20
Verbal abuse	36
Not faced	44
Total	100

**Source:** Field survey, 2020.

Violence against women is a common phenomenon around the world. No corner of the world is untouched by it. Whether it is a city or a village every sphere is inflicted by this menace. The question was asked with bit sensitivity and a comfortable environment was created so that they can voice their opinion. The above given table no. 7 shows us that 20 percent of the female respondents have faced physical abuse. The rationale given by the females behind it was that there was not an intensive type of physical abuse but sometimes minor scuffles are there. The verbal abuse scores a bit higher number but most of the candidates implied that they said their spouses used normal slangs. They also advocated that for them it is normal as it does not offend them. Those who never witnessed any sort of harassment accounts for 44 %. The atmosphere of the house plays a crucial role. The women were of the saying that the code of conduct of the house is very civil and there is always discussion on important on certain topics when required. They have never faced any sort of harassment either by husband or by family members.

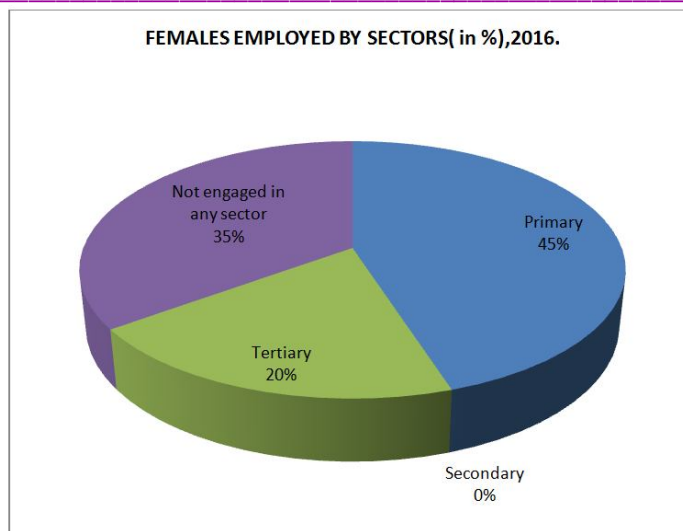
#### **ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE FEMALES IN THE AREA:**

**Table - 8: Percentage Distribution of the female respondents on the basis of occupation, Tali Morh, RS Pura.**

Sectors	Percentage
Primary sector	45
Secondary sector	-
Tertiary sector	20
Not engaged in any sector.	35
Total	100

**Source:** Field survey, 2020.

Employment is one of the powerful tool by which a women can empower on her. She does not need to lean on others for her daily or important requirements as she is independent and can help others and also can reduce the economic burden on the family. In the study area there are about 45percent of the female population is engaged in the primary sector that is Agriculture and household chores. Since they are not educated enough they are of the view that it is also one of the important means by which they can earn livelihood. It keeps them pretty engaged. It makes them feel empowered. It is the way by which they can support their family and can help their spouses in handling financial pressures. Most of female have milk animals in their houses by which they earn dairy profits. They also practice agriculture. Whereas the educated class of the area is engaged in the services sector like Doctor and teachers. According to them, employment is a means of self confidence. it gives a sense of satisfaction that women are not mere the pawns of society and can contribute to the society.



**Fig. 2**

**Table - 9: Percentage distribution of the female respondents on the basis of their monthly income, Tali Morh, RS pura.**

Income	Percentage
Less than Rs 5000	10
Rs 5000-Rs 10,000	35
More than 20,000	20
Not employed	35
Total	100

**Source:** Field survey, 2020.

Table no. 9 represents the income earned by the female respondents in their respective sectors. As the study area is a village, the major share is held by the primary sector. The ladies here earn between Rs 5000-Rs 10,000 from the milch animals. The women folks are also helped by their family members in handling the domestication of the animals. According to them, this is best possible way to empower themselves being not too educationally qualified. The ratio of not employed is equally same. The females engaged in the tertiary sector are only 20 percent with the monthly income of more than Rs 20,000. Those who are earning less are due the house keeping purpose.

**GIRL CHILD:**

**Table - 10: Percentage Distribution of the female respondents on the basis of the availability of appropriate nutrition during the period of pregnancy, Tali Morh, RS Pura.**

Appropriate nutrition	Percentage
Yes	90
No	10
Wasn't aware	-
Total	100

**Source:** Field survey, 2020.

The table no. 10 shows the availability of proper nutrition during the time of pregnancy. The data shows that 90 percent of the female respondents got proper nutrition, the reason was being aware of the need to have proper nutrition and also the economic condition of the families were quite appropriate. The awareness also played a crucial role, they said that being attentive till the child is

conceived played important role. According to them, proper nutrition is the right of an expecting mother. While 10 per cent said that they had same diet which they followed earlier. These families had low income as the females of these families were giving house keepers. The males also had the same earnings less than Rs 5000. For them supporting nutritious diet was not affordable.

**Table - 11: Percentage Distribution of the no. of Girl Child, Tali Morh, RS Pura.**

Number of girl child	Percentage
Less than 2	40
2-3	45
4-5	5
No girl child.	10
Total	100

**Source:** Field survey, 2020.

The table no. 11 reveals the distribution of no. of female girl child in the study area. About 40 per cent of the female respondents have one girl child. While majority of the respondents have 2 or 3 girl child in the study area. There are about 5 per cent of the respondents having more than 3 girl child. There are 10 per cent of the respondents who have no girl child as their both children are boys. The primary data shoes that there is maximum concentration of girl child. Majority of population has the female child between 2-3. When asked about whether there is a sense of apprehension, they nodded in affirmation but said that they are proud of their girls as they are doing well in their respective studies or jobs.

**Table -12: Percentage Distribution of the female respondents based on the first preference in the matter of the child, Tali Morh, RS Pura.**

First preference	Percentage
Girl	10
boy	50
What ever	40
Total	100

**Source:** Field survey, 2020.

The table no. 12 depicts the first preference of the female respondents on the matter of the first child. 50 percent of them had the preference of the male child. According to them a boy is ought to require as it will take the name of the family’s legacy forward. This was interviewed along the male members of the society. This reflects the old and settled patriarchal behavioral pattern of the society. This pattern has not been completely changed but it is demisting. The society is changing as 10 percent said that they wanted a girl child first. The change in the thought process of the society takes gradual evolution. It is not a one night change. It needs gradual evolution and it is been witnessed in the above data. There are 40 percent of the respondents who said that whatever was their first child, either male or female they had no problem in that. They were happy with whatever they are being bestowed with. This also shows the evolution of the thought process of the society.

**Table - 13: Percentage Distribution of the female respondents on the type of treatment provided to girl child, Tali Morh, RS Pura.**

Opportunities to girl child	Percentage
Equal to male child	70
Satisfactory (upto certain limit)	30
Total	100

**Source:** Field survey, 2020.



The table no 13 shows the percentage of treatment provided to the girl child. 70 percent of the respondents said that the girl child is provided the same opportunities just like a male child is given. They further added that today male and female are at par with each other, we can no longer differentiate between them. These views came from those who are working in the tertiary sector but also those in the primary sector also advocated same views. Majority that is 30 percent said that the girl child is given the required amount of freedom being required by them. They need to be in a limit as they have other responsibilities also.

**Table - 14: Percentage Distribution of the type of education provided to the girl child, Tali morh, RS Pura.**

Educational institutions				Total
Government		Private		
School(s)	College(s)	School(s)	College(s)	
15%(F)	40%(F)	40%(F)	5%(F)	100%
10%(M)	10%(M)	45%(M)	30%(M)	100%

**Source:** Field survey, 2020.

The table no. 14 reveals the interesting pattern which clearly depicts the educational provision to the girl child out of 100 percent there are only 40% of the female girl child which has the access to the private schools compared to the male child which has the percentage of 45%. Majority of the male child are studying in the private educational colleges where its percentage is quite less in case of female child. The reason behind is that majority of the girl students have opted for the academics and prefer to get enrolled in the Government Colleges as they are very reputed than the private ones. The male children have gone to other private institutions to pursue technical training like in engineering, ITI, etc. Male population of the area has also gone to some medical courses where the chances of early employment are possible. Hence it is also one of the main factors in going of the males and females children of the society towards the govt. institutions.

**MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

The area selected for studying the socio- economic status of females lies in the R S Pura tehsil. The study area lies in the Malik Pur Village. The significant findings which after conducting and analyzing survey are as follows:-

- The prevalence of the patriarchal system is clearly visible in the study area though it is prevalent everywhere.
- Most of the female respondents are literate. About 45% of them are 10<sup>th</sup> passed in the study area. However, there is lack of special courses like MBBS, Engineering etc. Only 5 % of the female population has gone for specialized education. Whereas those who have graduated accounts for just 15%. Though it is more in numbers than the specialized ones but relatively it is again very small.
- Women are playing active role in decision making process of the family as well as individual decisions. The education is one of the important factors in their participation in decision making process. The women are satisfied that they are also given preference while deciding something though final call always remains of the head of the family. Though less percentage are still dependent on the decisions of others as well. They feel that whatever elders and their husbands decide will be beneficial to their entire family.
- The availability of opportunity to female child is on the rise as most of the female folks and their family supported equality among children though most have opted for male child as their first preference. The main reason behind it is that people are of the view that if first child is son then they will not to take tension as they have a son who will take their family’s legacy forward. Also they are of the view that what a son can do girl cannot.



- Women play multiple roles as they perform domestic chores as well as perform agricultural activities or their professional commitments with equal zeal and dedication.
- About 45% of the females are engaged in primary sector and earn between Rs. 5,000-Rs 10,000 which indicates that they are also supporting their families and those who are earning more than Rs 20,000 accounts for 20%. With their empowerment there is a sense among of security among the family members. They believe that with their empowerment the financial burden on the family has reduced to significant terms. And a sense of positivity is prevailing in the family.
- The attitude of the families towards the girl child is astonishing when they say that today girls are equal to boys as 70% of the female respondents told that they provide equal opportunities to the female child just the male child is given. Though some of them consider their girl child as more important than male child. This shows that society is changing. The perspectives are changing which is a welcoming step.
- The prevalence in the study area is rampant. The females are willingly taking dowry with them as it provides them a sense of security. Those who did not take dowry with themselves said their spouses forbid them to take it along which is a welcoming step.
- The stand point theory is the center of this survey as the survey was conducted to study their views regarding various aspects extending from their role in decision making to women empowerment.

Overall, the analysis of the above tables tell us that there is gradual yet effective change in the thought process of the male as well as female in the study area. Though the patriarchal system is strong in Indian society it has not left its mark even the empowerment of the women in the study area has shown. When asked females of the areas about the extra moral responsibility on the females they said that it is true that society demands extra moral obligations from women. They need to be in a frame as they have certain important responsibility towards their families etc. Though they also opined that the system is changing the women are being respected more in spite of the violence they have faced yet 44% shows some promising start that the social status of the society is changing so do the economic status as well as more and more women are getting empowered and empowering their families and indirectly society as well. Their male counterparts are also helping them as they have understood that it is no way that only a single person can run a family. It takes two to become a support system of each other and provide better lifestyle and care to their children and family as a whole. The results are positive and encouraging.

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