

**MANAGEMENT SPONSORED
MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT**

Participation of Women in Decision Making

By

Students of II B. A.

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-students

Introduction

Women play a crucial role in the economic welfare of the family. Women perform different tasks depending on their socio-economic structure, number of members in the family, the nature of professions they are involved in and many other factors. Women are traditionally less involved in decision making at all levels. Their important role is not recognized and therefore, is not accepted in decision-making. The share of women in community decision-making structures is very low. While men make the decisions, implement laws and are responsible for distributing power and resources, the exclusion of women leads to their marginalization. There are various family matters on which men generally take decisions. Women are quite often even not consulted.

With the changing outlook of the society towards women and her role in various activities both inside and outside the family system, the traditional male-chauvinistic role of the father as one to possess the best decision making ability in the family has also undergone drastic transformation. Women, in most parts of the world today are no longer compelled to be under the garb of veils and are coming out in the open, shouldering responsibilities in various kinds of decision making and standing at par with men in almost all walks of life. Without active participation of women and incorporation of women perspectives at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality development and peace cannot be achieved.

In this regard, we have made an attempt to find out how many women are participating in decision making at home level activities.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To know the participation of women in the household chores.
- ❖ To analyse the impact of women education on participation in decision making.
- ❖ To find out if there is any importance for women who are engaged in income earning activity in decisions making.
- ❖ To know whether women have complete freedom to spend on their personal needs or not.

AREA OF STUDY:

We have selected 200 sample women from 5 mandals in Guntur district namely Guntur, Pedanandipadu, Nallapadu, Parchur, and Chebrolu. Simple random sampling technique is used to elicit data from the selected women respondents. 40 women respondents are selected from each mandal head quarters. Thus the total sample consists of 200 members in the survey.

Profile of Guntur District

- Mandals selected for study : Guntur, Pedakurapadu, Nallapadu, Parchur, Chebrolu
- Distance from the College : Around 25 Kms
- Number of Revenue Divisions : 04
- Number of Mandals : 57
- Number of Villages : 729
- Population of Guntur District
 - Rural : 3232485
 - Urban : 1656745
 - Total : 4889230
 - Male : 2441128
 - Female : 2448102
- Total Literates
 - Rural : 1824611
 - Urban : 1182388
 - Male : 1660019
 - Female : 1346980
 - Total : 3006999
- Average Literacy rate : 67.40%
- Sex Ratio : 1003 Female per 1000 Male
- Density of Population : 429 per Sq. Km.
- Geographical Area : 11.39 lakh Hectars

ANALYSIS OF DATA –STATISTICAL RESULTS

OVERALL STATUS ON DECISION MAKING OF WOMEN RESPONDENTS

DECISION MAKING ON	DECISION MAKING BY WOMEN	DECISION MAKING BY MEN	BOTH ARE INVOLVED	CONSULTS WOMEN
WOMEN'S JOB	29.0%	34.8	34.1	1.9
SIZE OF THE FAMILY	7.7	30.9	60.6	0.6
PERSONAL EXPENSES OF WOMEN	43.2	30.9	25.8	0
DIALY FAMILY EXPENSES	32.2	34.1	32.2	1.2
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	21.9	18.7	59.3	0
ENTERTAINMENT	10.9	40.6	45.1	3.2
PURCHASING OF DURABLE GOODS	10.9	40.0	47.7	1.2
PURCHASING OF PROPERTY	4.5	40.0	50.9	4.5
CHILDREN'S MARRAIGE	1.2	8.3	89.0	1.2

STATUS OF EDUCATED WOMEN (GRADUATION& ABOVE):

DECISION MAKING ON	DECISION MAKING BY WOMEN	DECISION MAKING BY MEN	BOTH ARE INVOLVED	CONSULTS WOMEN
WOMEN'S JOB	56.5%	13.0	26.0	4.3
SIZE OF THE FAMILY	0	8.6	91.3	0
PERSONAL EXPENSES OF WOMEN	43.4	8.6	47.8	0
DIALY FAMILY EXPENSES	13.0	21.7	65.2	0
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	13.0	17.3	69.5	0
ENTERTAINMENT	13.0	21.7	60.8	4.3
PURCHASING OF DURABLE GOODS	4.3	30.4	56.5	8.6
PURCHASING OF PROPERTY	0	21.7	65.2	13.0
CHILDREN'S MARRAIGE	0	0	100	0

STATUS OF WORKING WOMEN

DECISION MAKING ON	DECISION MAKING BY WOMEN	DECISION MAKING BY MEN	BOTH ARE INVOLVED	CONSULTS WOMEN
WOMEN'S JOB	31.0%	25.6	41.8	1.3
SIZE OF THE FAMILY	5.4	22.9	70.2	1.3
PERSONAL EXPENSES OF WOMEN	40.5	24.3	35.1	0
DIALY FAMILY EXPENSES	28.3	29.7	40.5	1.3
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	16.2	18.9	64.8	0
ENTERTAINMENT	16.2	35.1	45.9	2.7
PURCHASING OF DURABLE GOODS	10.8	36.4	51.3	1.3
PURCHASING OF PROPERTY	1.3	32.4	60.8	5.4
CHILDREN'S MARRAIGE	2.7	6.7	87.8	2.7

STATUS OF HOME MAKERS:

DECISION MAKING ON	DECISION MAKING BY WOMEN	DECISION MAKING BY MEN	BOTH ARE INVOLVED	CONSULTS WOMEN
WOMEN'S JOB	28.3%	44.4	24.6	2.4
SIZE OF THE FAMILY	8.6	43.2	48.1	0
PERSONAL EXPENSES OF WOMEN	43.2	38.2	18.5	0
DIALY FAMILY EXPENSES	37.0	37.0	24.6	1.2
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	24.6	20.9	53.0	1.2
ENTERTAINMENT	4.9	44.4	45.6	4.9
PURCHASING OF DURABLE GOODS	12.3	41.9	43.2	2.4
PURCHASING OF PROPERTY	7.4	48.1	39.5	4.9
CHILDREN'S MARRAIGE	1.2	11.1	86.4	1.2

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

Based on the above statistical results we can say that men are dominating in decisions making at home level in general. Decisions regarding entertainment, purchasing of durable goods and purchasing of properties are taken by men to the maximum extent. Women's personal expenses, daily family expenses, children's food, clothing & education are the things where women participation is good. Educated women are better in choosing their employment options. The role of non-working women is not at all considered while deciding the size of the family. The only area where gender equality is maintained in decision making is children's marriages. In 90% of the families, this decision is taken by both men and women together.

SUGGETIONS:

The following suggestions are offered based on the study findings.

- ❖ Parents must concentrate on female child education and their financial settlement before marriage.
- ❖ Men are needed to change their tendency in term of consulting their partner while taking decisions in regard to all family matters.
- ❖ Most of the women feel that they are weak in financial knowledge than men. It is strongly recommended that women have to spend their time on quality matters and upgrade their knowledge in all the developments.
- ❖ Women have to reduce their dependency and feel free to express their opinions in all the situations.
- ❖ Silence is not at all good. Women have to speak out.
