**A Review: Role of Women in Decision Making Related to Household Activity**

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Abstract: This study was mainly carried out to examine the role of women in decision-making process in the family. Women play a vital role in the society. Apart from the matriarchal society, women play a decisive role in most of the patriarchal society also. The future of children depends, by and large, upon the mothers who generally stay at home and take care of their children’s health and education. This is particularly so in countries like India where society and life of people are moulded by traditional and spiritual foundations. Although women’s role is crucial in the family and household economy, women have not been given equal rights in social, political as well as economic fields. Women take part in taking decision on important family matters, viz., settlement of marriage, purchasing and selling of land, improvement and construction of house etc., though the decision of the elderly male members is accepted in most cases, in selecting job for women themselves or for other members of the family, women express their opinion which get due weightage.

Keywords: Women, decision making ,household

Introduction: Equality of women is an idea of recent origin and emerged only from the beginning of the nineteenth century, when the individual gained more importance over his status in society. One of the indicators of a woman’s status in her participation in the decision-making process in the family and her husband’s participation in her household activities and their mutual sharing of leisure time activities. Women play role in taking decision on important family matters. The educated working women are enjoying more rights and privileges than those who are uneducated and unemployed. But these uneducated and unemployed women are also performing important economic roles in their respective households. Though, the women perform various roles in their family, yet women are not given due importance to unemployed women are also performing important economic roles in their respective households. Though, the women perform various roles in their family, yet women are not given due importance to associate themselves in the decision-making process in the family.

Review of literature: Women, the soul of the society, have been covered very little in the ‘He-History’ of India. Wherever her coverage is found, she has always been presented with a derogatory status, whereas, women are the nuclei of society. Hobhouse (1979) an eminent, sociologist has rightly pointed out, in unequivocal terms, that ‘the position of women in a given society is the sure index of the development of the country to which they belong” In India; most of the studies conducted on women so far have the focus on the status of women. Hate (1948) in her first study on “Hindu women and her future” and subsequently on “Changing status of women in post-independence India” in 1969 that depicted the plight of women of India is of great relevance. Kapoor (1970) studied on the working class of women in India in details

Priyaranjan Maral and Vipul Kumar (2017) In the nuclear family system, results showed that most of the decision-making powers were handled by jointly husband and women in both working and non-working women. In social activities, where joint decisions were preferred by both non-working (75%) and working women (66.7%); in health issues decisions were taken jointly by both non-working (54.2%) and working women (50%); in child education, non-working women (66.7%) working women (45.8%), in family disputes non-working women (68.8%) and working women (75%).

P. Saravanakumar, J. Elizabeth Vara kumari (2018) this study finds out decision making About 67% were homemakers in rural vs. 43% in urban. About 33% were BPL in rural vs. 21% in urban. Decision making regarding household decisions, about73% in rural vs. 87% urban had participated. In health seeking behavior,77 % in rural had no say while only 45% in urban. For Family planning, 33% in rural vs. 74% in urban had decision making which were statistically significant. Only 33% contributed to family income in rural vs. 47% in urban.

National Statistical Office survey 2019(January to December) More than 90% of Indian women participated in unpaid domestic work at home in 2019 compared to 27% of men. On the other hand, only 22% of women participated in employment and related activities compared to 71% of men. Though subtle regional variations existed, more than 84% of women participated in unpaid domestic work across all States, regardless of men's participation in such work and women's participation in employment and related activities.

Bhagwan Singh and Soma Srivastava (2016) In case of household activities it was observed majority of the decisions regarding clothing (66.67%), education of children (72.22%), marriage of children (100%), construction/ repair of house (69.44%), purchase of household appliances (55.55%) etc were taken jointly by spouse. Regarding decisions related to medical care of family it was observed that in 50 percent of cases the decisions were taken primarily by male members, and in another half with joint concern of both. The choice for the food for family and decisions related to meal preparation were dominated by females (80.55%).

[Robin A. Richardson](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Richardson%20RA%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=31176057),[Sam Harper](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Harper%20S%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=31176057), [Lisa M. Bates](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Bates%20LM%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=31176057), and [Arijit Nandi](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Nandi%20A%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=31176057) (2020)These responses indicate that women reported high agency in the domain freedom of movement, with most women reporting they could go to many locations in the village alone, such as the market (91%) and a health center or doctor (89%). Women’s responses to measures of attitudes and perceptions also indicate high agency, with most women agreeing that a woman should be able to work outside of the home if she wants to (93%) and a wife has the right to express her opinion, even if she disagrees with her husband (93%). However, women’s responses to items capturing decision-making in the home indicate that women have lower agency in this domain, with many women uninvolved in decisions regarding their own healthcare (35%) and whether they could work (22%). Women also reported lower agency in the domain comfort with public engagement, with several women reporting they were not at all comfortable protesting the misbehaviour of elected officials (22%) or attending rural meetings unaccompanied (35%).

Parimita Routray1, Belen Torondel, Thomas Clasen, Wolf-Peter Schmidt (2017) the female head along with other females in the family were able to take decisions about their own health care in only 4.4% households. This proportion compares with 11.6% for decisions about visiting family and friends, 3.7% about upgrading the house (or make additions to their existing houses), 10% about tube-well installation, 5.4% about making large household purchases, 20.5% about purchase of farm animals or livestock, and 22.5% about making purchases for daily needs. Females mostly decided what to cook for daily meals, and there was not much involvement of men. The data also shows that women’s non-involvement in the decision making of other important household activities had no strong association with latrine possession or latrine functionality. Even in the 16% households with female heads, males decided for latrine installation in 68% households and the site selection was again done by males in 66% households.

Syed Muhammad Sajjad Kabir, AKM Shadika Jahan (2013) indicates that women involved joint decision in almost all of the thirteen areas but it differed in level of participation. According to composite scores their participation level was comparatively better in family planning (80.56%), education of son/ daughter (59.21%), purchase of household goods (53.92%), treatment of family members (56.25%), and membership in local institutions (65.63%); which showed high level of participation in household decision-making process. It has been observed that in the absence of household head/ husband, women’s responsibility in the family increased. In the study area, nine household was found, where decision-making by the women was higher in absence of household head/husband. According to composite scores, house building/repair (77.78%), land mortgage (61.11%), education of son/daughter (88.89%), household goods purchase (94.44%), treatment of family members (88.89%), other family expenditure (94.44%) and membership in local institutions (83.33%).

Rekha verma (2017)The explains that majority of the women in both the category were taking joint decisions in expenditure on house/house rent 53.33 and 49.33 percent and construction/renovation/expansion of house 38 and 32 percent followed by joint decisions. The majority of the working 60 percent and non-working 46.6 percent women were taking independent decisions in purchasing food items, clothing 46.66 percent and 33.33 percent respectively and household durables 64 and 44 percent respectively. The women in both the category were taking independent decisions in keeping clean inside the house 46.66 and 37.33 percent and keeping clean surrounding the house 64 percent and 50.66 percent with respect to hygiene practices. The majorities of the women in both the category were joint decision makers in kind and amount of saving and investments 46.66 percent and 46.33 percent respectively, bank deposits 65.33 percent and 50.66 percent, post office deposits 60 percent and 56 percent and purchase of LIC policy 46.66 percent The marriage ceremonies 46.33 and 41.33 percent and birthday parties 53.33 percent and 44 percent, visiting friends 48 percent and 46.66 percent, going for movies 53.33 percent and 40 percent and going out for vacations 46.66 percent and 42.66 percent followed by independent decisions. With respect to religious practices majority of the working and non-working women were taking independent decisions in attending religious activities 46.66 percent and 46.66 percent and going to different religious places 53.33 percent and 44 percent followed by joint decisions. The majority of the working and non-working women were taking joint decisions with their spouse in type of education 53.33percent and 46.66 percent, type of school, college 64 percent and 56 percent, education of sons 46.66 percent and 46.66 percent, education of daughter 46.66 percent and 37.33 percent and selection of occupation for their children 56 percent and 52 percent followed by independent decisions.

Eyasu Regassaand  Nigatu Regassa(2016) in this study 74.7 percent of the respondents do not participate in the decision on the money generated by themselves while 14.7 percent reported joint decisions. Similarly 81.7 percent of the respondents have no say on the money coming from the husband. The large majority of the respondents (81.3%) reported that decisions regarding their visits to relatives are made by husbands, and only 10.4 percent of then decide jointly. Most decisions on major household sales and purchases are made by husbands (79.2 percent) and few jointly (9.1 percent).

In 64.9 percent of the households, decision maker on daily household needs are husbands, 16.9 percent by the respondent and 17 percent jointly. Husbands are also the one making most decisions regarding pregnancy and timing of next birth.

Usha Ahuja and prem Narayan (2016)decision making power of a female living in a nuclear family is 5% more than the one living in a joint family. A literate woman has 2.5% more decision making power than illiterate woman. Age also has a positive impact on decision making power of women. The youngest women falling in the age group of below 21 years has the lowest decision making whereas the eldest woman falling in the age group 50 years and above has the highest decision making power. Woman belonging to the intermediate categories enjoy decision making power lying somewhere between the two extremes. Woman falling in the age group 35-50 years, 21-35 years and below 21 years enjoy 3.5%, 5.8% and 11.2% respectively less decision making power as compared to the woman belonging to the age group 50 years and above. Further, it can be seen that female decision making power is 18% more for a household possessing livestock compared to one having no livestock. On the other hand, economic status has zero impact on woman’s decision making whereas size of landholding has a negative impact.

Gogdand and Hembade (2014) findings clearly showed that no women make decisions without the permission of their husband for selling the animals. For milk consumption at home a whole decision is taken by the husband therefore no women make their own decisions.

Sabina Bano (2014) stated that participation of women in Ray Titus, Debashish Sengupta, and Sahana Madan 1383 decision making is likely to be affected by socio-economic status of women. Gender differences led women to suppress in the decision making on various issues occurring in their daily activities. Roles and responsibilities of women and their choices are restricted to specific sphere .

Kavita Baliyan (2014) observed that women’s role was found prominent in petty household issues only. In most of the cases women acted as initiators in deciding about some major household affairs but final decisions were being taken ultimately by men. In rural India, even though women participate in economic activities they have little role in decision making particularly in matters related to agriculture and financial matters.

Mona Mehta and Shilpi Saraswat (2014) in a study titled “Decision Making Pattern of Working and Nonworking Women in Family Affairs” found that the decision-making pattern was collective with regards to certain areas of family affairs. Furthermore, it was also found that most of the women were educated but had lesser participation in decision making.

Raazia Hassan Naqvi and Muhammad Ibrar (2015) elicited that in majority of the rural family most of the decisions regarding household and agricultural matter are taken up by the family head alone. Wife is consulted for only households matter and not being involved for taking independent or joint decision in the agricultural matters. In a negligible proportion the wife takes independent decisions.

Indu Pathak (2016)the highest percentage was of those respondents who never participated in economic matters of family, but the proportion of these respondents was decreasing as their age was increasing. It was 74.44 percent in 20to35 age group, while this proportion was 63.91 and 61.61 percent among the women of 35 to 50 and 50 and above age group. Total percentage of all respondents whose participation was at high, medium and low level was 32.15. The proportion of participation at all levels was being seen increased according to increasing age group. It was lowest among the women of 20 to 35 age group (25.56%) and highest (38.40%) among the group of elder women (50 and above 50 age group). The data make it evident that elder women in the family have more decision taking power in rural societies. More than 30 percent respondent highly participated in purchase of foods items and cloths . Least participation was found in relation to ‘New house construction’ and ‘renovation of old house’. More than 65 percent women of all age groups never participated in these domestic activities

Ghimire (2009), women have less access to income, wealth, and modern avenues of employment. They have to Spend them much time in household work very 12 little time is left for activities with potentially higher economy development of the Country. Their access to property in their husband households, their less access to income, wealth and employment are the main Cause of their low Social Status. It directly affects their decision making power.

Salma Jabeen et.al.(2020) rural women, our study respondents whether educated or uneducated, married, unmarried, or widowed are involved in various domestic activities from dawn to dusk, and 43.47% of the women reported that they spent 6–10 h a day on domestic tasks, such as cooking, fetching water, cleaning, and washing as unpaid productive activities. This means that every woman spends more than half of the day on average working and taking care of children and old age dependents. A majority (45.42%) of them were managing their household activities themselves, and 41.04% of the women were managing their household activities with the assistance of other family members if they lived in joint and extended family system.

Representation of women in executive government and parliament is extremely low in India, both in absolute numbers as well as globally. Only a miniscule progress is observed in the entire post-independence era. In the cabinet, formed after the general election in 2014, there were **only 5 women ministers out of total 27 ministers**. **India’s global rank is 88 in this regard as per the ‘**[Women in Politics Map 2017](https://beta.ipu.org/resources/publications/infographics/2017-03/women-in-politics-2017)**’,** published by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women.

Dinku Dadi,Daniel Bogale,Zenebe Minda, Sintayehu Megersa(2020) Half of the participants decide on their husband earning and on household purchases jointly. The study revealed that 16% of participants made decision related to visiting family, friend or relatives jointly with their husband. Surprisingly, one-third of the husbands decide on women's health independently, and 210 (61%) of the women decide on their children health with their husbands. Again, half of the respondents reported to decide visiting health facility jointly. Overall, 193 (56%) of married women in the study area have good participation in household decision-making.

The UNDP’s Human Development Report 2013 categorized India as the worst place in the south-Asian region for women with a poor Gender Inequality Index rank of 132 out of 187 countries. All countries in South Asia with the exception of Afghanistan (147th), were a better place for women than India, with Sri Lanka (75th) topping them all while Nepal ranked 102nd, Bangladesh 111th, and Pakistan 123rd.

Natasha and Beena (2009)In both rural and urban areas, far fewer women than men had paid jobs. Interestingly, less than half of women in rural (35%) and urban (17%) areas described themselves as (full-time) housewives2. Among those women with paid employment, about one-fifth (19%) of the women respondents from the rural area were daily wage workers, while 39% were unpaid agriculture labourers. About one-fifth of urban female respondents and very few rural female respondents were engaged in some type of household business; for those that were engaged in such business, this work was unlikely to include any payment. Up to a quarter (15% of urban and 25% of rural areas) of the female respondents said that they had no income because they were (full-time) housewives. They stayed at home to carry out their responsibilities as mothers, managing the day-to-day activities of the family: feeding children, cooking, cleaning and so on.

Natasha and Beena (2009 )participation by men and women in caring for family members. As shown, 60% of the female respondents reporting taking care of their young children (bathing, feeding, tending), whereas 40% of the women had children who were independent and could care for 13 themselves. Only 24% of the male respondents reported engaging in those activities. More than one-third (36%) of women guided their children in doing their homework, while one-fifth (22%) of men helped their children in their studies. Half of the women reported providing daily care for their husbands, while no men indicated that they looked after their wives. While the figures are very low, both men and women reported equal involvement in caring for sick family members and in looking after guests.

Conclusion: For a happy family, both husband and wife's equal participation in family decision-making are necessary. In rural women decision-making powers are limited to patriarchal ideology. Although in rural women generally possess low decision making power, resources (Education, occupation, income) effect on women decision-making power in this country. In this context the present research explored the variables that significantly contribute to explaining the variation of the family decision-making pattern of husbands and wives in family. The results of multiple regression analyses in the wives' model showed that education and employment were found to have a positive effect on wives' involvement in family decision-making. The research showed that education, occupation, incomes have significant effect in explaining the variance in household decision-making power. Women's educational attainment, occupation and income were positively related to their decision-making power.

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Salma Jabeen 1,\* , Sanam Haq 2 , Arif Jameel 1 , Abid Hussain 1 , Muhammad Asif 1 , Jinsoo Hwang 3,\* and Abida Jabeen 4 Impacts of Rural Women’s Traditional Economic Activities on Household Economy: Changing Economic Contributions through Empowered Women in Rural Pakistan Downloads/sustainability-12-02731-v2.pdf.

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