

Social Features of Working Women of Fazilka District of Punjab: A Sociological Study

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Abstract:

The Study of social features of working women of Fazilka district of Punjab. Women are the image of beauty, softness, sacrifice, goodness of power as well as darling of her parents. Women are one of the most important wheels of society. Without women the Foundation of society would not be possible. This paper explores the social feature of working women like. Age, caste, religion, marital status, education, occupation, family type and family size. All these characteristics affect person's life. In Sociology, it is very important to gather the information about social features of the respondents. An individual personality can only figure out by his social features.

Keywords: Working Women, Family, Society.

Introduction:

A woman has many forms. Since, her birth she has been connected with others with different relations like daughter and sister. After marriage she is connected with new relations like wife, mother (Majumdar, 2004). The mother's relationship is the most precious relationship of all relationships which is why a woman is called 'World Maker'. When she becomes a mother, she is born again. The mother is also called the ocean of love. She smiles in the face of any adversity for her children. Explaining the mother's relationship in words is very difficult, Mother is another form of God (Aditi, 1997, Singh, 2016 and Patnika, 2000). Both men and women are an immortal creation of nature. Both are the basis of human society (Kapur, 2001). The woman is considered to be the backbone of every family. A family cannot be possible without a woman. Creation or development of a society without a woman is impossible. Over time the status of the women has undergone many changes (Kapur, 1979).

The status of women had changed in every period. In Modern times, women's life was not limited to livelihood. Today the position of women is better, far better than the past because they got all rights which only men were having (Kapur, 1988). Most importantly in the Indian constitution

(1950) the Indian woman was given right to equality (Patnik, 2000). Not only in Indian society, but all over the world women have vital positions. Without women development of any nation is impossible (Semi, 1997). There have been a number of variations in the forms of women but the women specialty is still in the place (Sharma, 2007). The women became aware of their rights through education (Mukhopadhaya, 2009). Women are happily adopting a profession in every field to gain honorable status in the society and to address growing economic hardship. In this way they are on the path to growth while enjoying family life (Rao, 1985, Hate, 1969 and Bathla, 1998). The modern age has become very complex. The economic situation of the people is not good. In this modern society not only married women do work but unmarried also. Married women work to help their husbands. If they are working in paid economy they are doing this for better future of their children. Whereas unmarried women are working in paid economy to raise their living standard as well as to improve their economic conditions (Singh, 2004 and Newman, 1992). Today women are working in two fronts- outside the home as well as inside home. They also play a paramount role in balancing the home and the job. Women are making a significant contribution to the development of the country and the nation. It is now expected from that India will some time becomes a prosperous and

developed country with the progress and increasing steps of women. In this way the situation of women has been changing since the beginning (Tiwari, 1997, Sarojini, 1989 and Doshora, 2013) Women's work and challenges are increasing day by day. They are facing struggle in career, society, personal etc (Chakrobarty, 2011). They face various challenges in every second. Yet women do not give up and continue to give progress. (Shirin and Sabina, 1998).

Methodology: The present study was conducted to examine the problems of rural working women of Fazilka District of Punjab. Three Blocks were randomly selected from Fazilka district and two villages from each block were taken for motive of research. The total sample size involved of 90 respondents from three blocks of selected district and 15 working women from each village were selected randomly.

Review of literature:

Quiresh (2005) discussed in his paper 'Role of Rural Women' that the part played by women in farming was crucial as that of men, moreover women should educate themselves in farming. He also enlightened the role of education to rural female and suggested to educate women in the field of floriculture and food preservation.

Alam (2006) in his article "Production hazards, Marketing risks" stated that most of the women were self employed and worked in hazardous conditions. They grew grain, cotton, fiber, fruits and vegetables and their routine work included looking after livestock at farms. The crop farmer's plant, fertilize sprays, harvest pack and stores the product. The livestock farmer feeds and cares for animals, while the horticulture farmer produced plants and nursery products.

Khera and Nayak (2009) examined that this act permitted rural households to 100 days of casual employment on public works at the statutory minimum wage, also contained special provisions to make sure full participation of women. This paper established on fieldwork in six states in 2008, studied the socio-economic results of NREGA for women workers. With some drawbacks women were benefited with better access to local employment, at minimum wages with safe work conditions.

Das (2010) revealed that the life of working women and the dangers and difficulties they experience at work and in family life. Factor analysis was carried on the survey and it was found that two factors namely psychological and cognitive factor and organizational climate factors were the causes of work life imbalance among workers. The book recommends that organizations may use the insights to lower voluntary turnover among women employees an increase the workforce diversity.

Lal and Khurana (2011) revealed that contribution of women in farming sector. They talked about campout roles and problems faced by females in the areas of employment, wages, dual responsibilities, education level. Except had a high share in farming and working for more hours as compared to men but still getting less pay than males for similar work . Women were treated inferior because of existing belief that women are only a home maker. They finally came to the conclusion that as a result of absence of knowledge about their rights rural farmers. Women work force was exploited by their landlords.

It is important to have some knowledge about the Respondents. The main features like Age, Gender, Caste , Religion, Marital Status, Education, Occupation, Family Type, Family Size because these features have very important.

Age

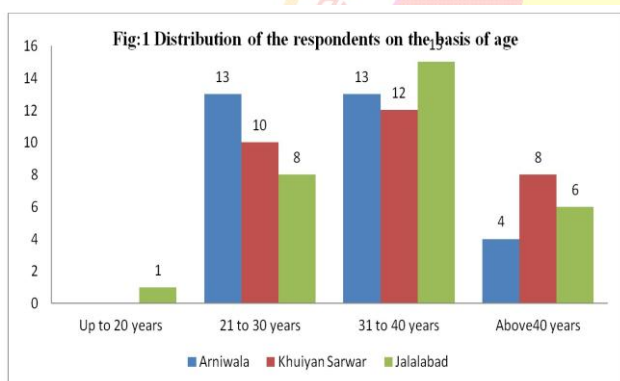
Age is a major factor that influences a person's mental, personal and social perceptions. Age is a biological concept, but its role is socially significant on the basis of age the person acts in the society. The individual values attribute is very much influenced by age as it determines and individual status in the society and family. The distribution of the respondents on the basis of age .In the Table 1 the data revealed that nearly half (44.44%) of the respondents were belonged to age group between 31-40 years, thirty four percent of the respondents were belonged to age group 21-30 years ,twenty percent of the respondents were belonged to more than forty years of the age group and just (1.11%) of the respondents were belonged to 20 years age category Overall in Fazilka district, majority of the respondents were belonged to age group 31-40 years and from the above data it is

clearly represented that all the women of all groups were affected at their work place.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents on the basis of age

Age	Block – 1 Arniwala (n=30)	Block - II Khuiyan Sarwar (n = 30)	Block – III Jalalabad (n = 30)	Fazilka (N = 90)
Up to 20 years	-	-	1 (3.33)	1 (1.11)
21 to 30 years	13 (43.33)	10 (33.33)	8 (26.66)	31 (34.44)
31 to 40 years	13 (43.33)	12 (40.00)	15 (50.00)	40 (44.44)
Above40 years	4 (13.33)	8 (26.66)	6 (20.00)	18 (20.00)

Note: Figure in the parentheses indicate percentage



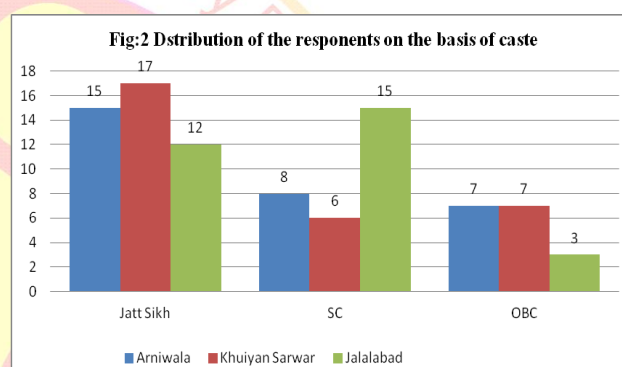
Caste

Caste plays a major role in Indian society. The caste system has kept the Indian society from falling apart. Caste system is one whereby a society is divided up into a number of self contained and completely segregated units (castes) the mutual relations between which are ritually determined in a graded scale (Rao, 2009). In the Table 2 data revealed that nearly half (48.88%) of the respondents were belonged to Jatt Sikh caste, thirty two percent of the respondents were belonged to scheduled caste i.e. Dhanak, Chamar, Ravidasi etc. Eighteen percent of the respondents were belonged to other backward class i.e. Kamboj, Lohar, Ramgarhia etc. Majority of the respondents were belonged to Jatt Sikh caste. Respondents of Jatt Sikh caste were living wonderful lives.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents on the basis of caste

Caste	Block – 1 Arniwala (n=30)	Block – II KhuiyanSarwar (n = 30)	Block – III Jalalaba d (n = 30)	Fazilka (N = 90)
Jatt Sikh	15 (50.00)	17 (56.66)	12 (40.00)	44 (48.88)
SC	8 (26.66)	6 (20.00)	15 (50.00)	29 (32.22)
OBC	7 (23.33)	7 (23.33)	3 (10.00)	17 (18.88)

Note: Figure in the parentheses indicate percentage



Religion

The word religion is derived from Sanskrit language word ‘Dhri’ which means to keep together and to preserve. Such acts which do not harm any creature in the universe are according to Religion. Thus Religion is the ‘embodiment of rules that are capable of preserving the creation. Religion moves a person’s thoughts and behavior towards truth and a good path. Religion is integral part of society (Bhatnagar and Rehal, 2014). The table 3 deals with the distribution of the respondents on the basis of Religion and showed that majority (80.00%) of the respondent were belonged to Sikh religion, eighteen percent of the respondents belonged to Hindu religion and not even a single respondent belonged to Muslim religion. Overall in Fazilka District majority of the respondents belonged to Sikh Religion.

Table: 3: Distribution of the respondents on the basis of Religion

Religion	Block-I Arniwala (n=30)	Block – II KhuiyanSarwar (n = 30)	Block – III Jalalabad (n = 30)	Fazilka (N = 90)
Sikh	30(100.00)	22 (73.3)	18(20.00)	72(80.00)
Hindu	-	8(26.66)	10(33.3)	18(20.00)
Muslim	-	-	-	-

Note: Figure in the parentheses indicate percentage

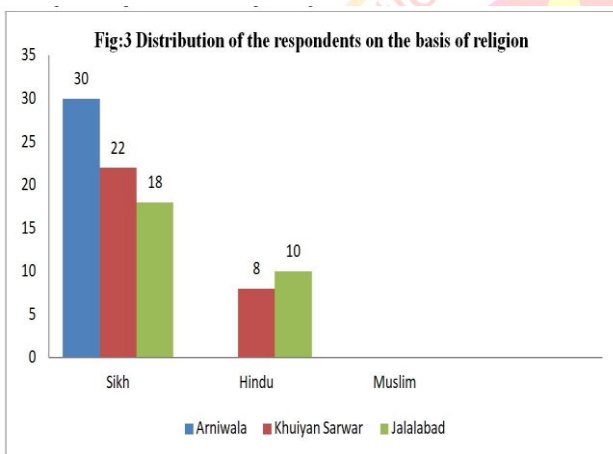
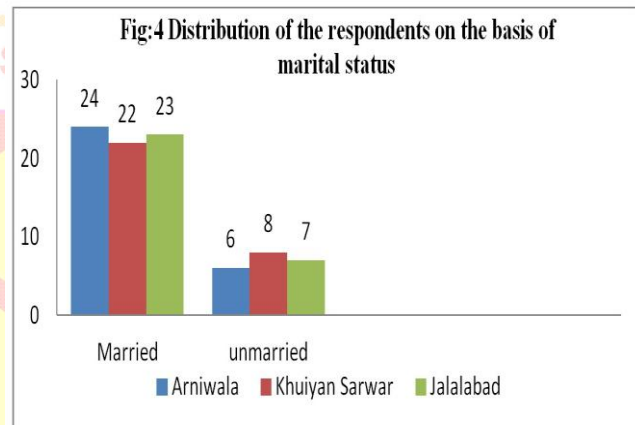


Table: 4 Distribution of the respondents on the basis of Marital Status

Marital status	Block-I Arniwala (n=30)	Block – II KhuiyanSarwar (n = 30)	Block – III Jalalabad (n = 30)	Fazilka (N = 90)
Married	24 (80.00)	22(73.33)	23(76.66)	69 (76.66)
Unmarried	6 (20.00)	8 (26.66)	7 (23.33)	21 (23.33)

Note: Figure in the parentheses indicate percentage



Marital Status

Marriage is a universal organization. The marriage is found in all societies whether ancient or modern. Every society must have a marriage system. Marriage is socially approved union of male and female, or as a secondary institutions by society to sanction the union and mating of male and female, for the purpose of (a) establishing a household (b) entering into sex relations (c) procreating and providing care for offspring (Rao, 2009). The marital distribution among the respondents had been tabulated in Table 4. It has been revealed from the study that three fourth (76.66%) of the respondents were married and twenty three percent of the respondents were unmarried. The data showed that majority of the respondents were married in the study area. Chi-Square valued established significant association between three blocks of Fazilka district and marital status of the respondents.

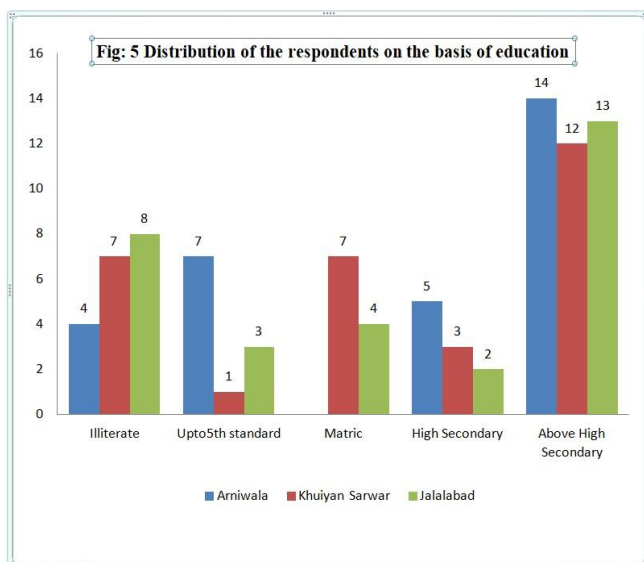
Education

The importance of education is found in every society. Everyone become aware of the importance of obtaining education according to the prevailing social situation. Individual have to get relevant education to pursue any occupation. The data on the basis of education was highlighted in the Table 5 that nearly half (43.33%) of the respondents were belonged to above high secondary education, one fifth (21.11%) of the respondents were illiterate, twelve percent of the respondents were up to 5th standard and Matric, only (11.11%) of the respondents were belonged to High secondary education category. Majority of the respondents who belonged to above high secondary education category were reported that in today’s time, only the educated person can be self-sufficient and it is impossible to make any progress without education. But due to the advancement in society, the trend of education is also changed now.

Table 5 Distribution of the respondents on the basis of Education

Education	Block-I Arniwala (n=30)	Block – II Khuiyan Sarwar (n = 30)	Block – III Jalalabad (n = 30)	Fazilka (N = 90)
Illiterate	4 (13.33)	7 (23.33)	8 (26.66)	19 (21.11)
Upto5th standard	7 (23.33)	1 (3.33)	3 (10.00)	11 (12.22)
Matric	-	7 (23.33)	4 (13.33)	11 (12.22)
High Secondary	5 (16.66)	3 (10.00)	2 (6.66)	10 (11.11)
Above High Secondary	14 (46.66)	12 (4.00)	13 (43.33)	39 (43.33)

Note: Figure in the parentheses indicates percentage



Occupation

Occupation determines a person’s social status. The occupation is a major factor affecting a person’s behavior. The way a person lives depends on his occupation. Occupation is the basis of social stratification. Occupation describes a person’s ability to earn and spend. In ancient times occupation was based on caste. The Caste in which a person was born had to follow a caste related occupation. But in today’s time occupation is selected on the basis of education. During the study two categories of respondents were created on the basis of occupation-skilled or semi-skilled. The Table 6 revealed that sixty percent of the respondents were related to skilled occupation i.e. Doctor, Teacher, Clerk etc. only forty percent of the respondents were belonged to semi-skilled

occupation i.e. Labor worker, Aganwadi worker, tailor etc. Overall majority of the respondents were engaged in skilled occupation on the basis of education.

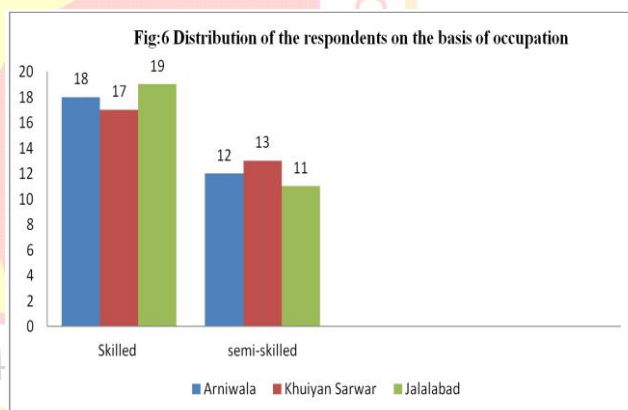
Table 6 Distribution of the respondents on the basis of occupation

Occupation	Block-I Arniwala (n=30)	Block – II Khuiyan Sarwar (n = 30)	Block – III Jalalabad (n = 30)	Fazilka (N = 90)
Skilled*	18 (60.00)	17 (56.66)	19 (63.33)	54 (60.00)
Semi-skilled**	12 (40.00)	13 (43.33)	11 (36.66)	36 (40.00)

Note: Figure in the parentheses indicate percentage

*Skilled-Doctor, Teacher, Clerk etc.

**Semi-skilled-Labourworker, Anganwadi worker, Tailor etc.



7 Duration of occupation

The distribution of the respondents on the basis of duration of occupation, the data is given in the Table 7 showed that three fourth (77.00%) of the respondents were belonged to above 2 years duration of occupation, eight percent of the respondents were belonged to 2 years of duration, where as seven percent of the respondents were belonged to one and a half year of duration and three percent of the respondents were belonged to 6 month duration. Just (2.22%) of the respondents were belonged to 1 year duration. The duration of occupation was seen in 2 years of the respondents. Most of the working women were well experienced.

Table 7 Distribution of the respondents on the basis of duration of occupation

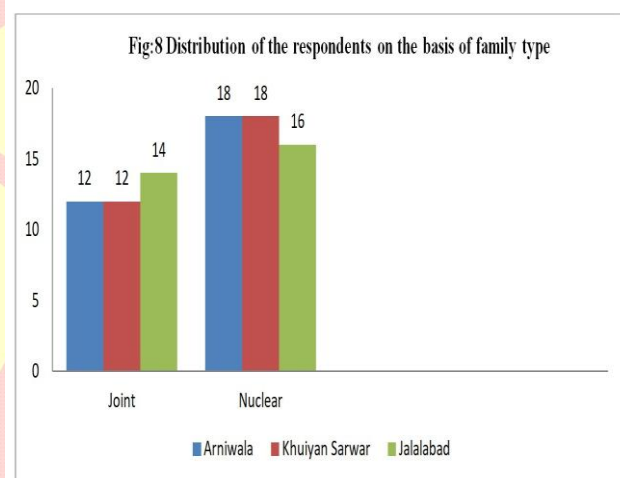
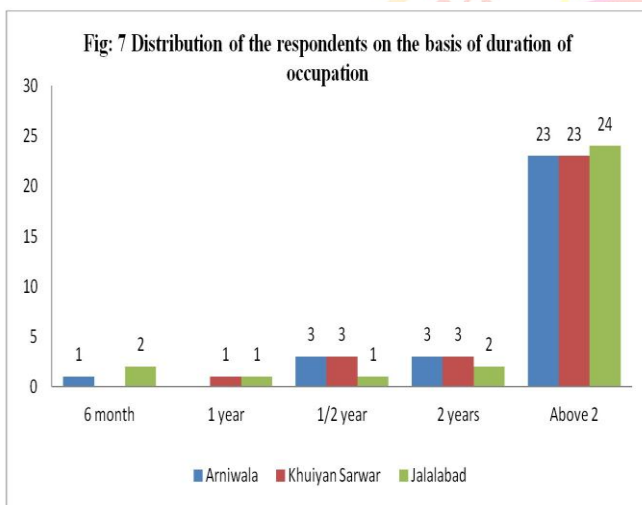
Duration of occupation	Block-I Arniwala (n=30)	Block - II Khuiyan Sarwar (n = 30)	Block - III Jalalabad (n = 30)	Fazilka (N=90)
6 month	1(3.33)	-	2(6.66)	3(3.33)
1 year	-	1(3.33)	1(3.33)	2(2.22)
1/2 year	3(10.00)	3(10.00)	1(3.33)	7(7.77)
2 years	3(10.00)	3(10.00)	2(6.66)	8(8.88)
Above 2	23(76.66)	23(76.66)	24(80.00)	70(77.77)

Note: Figure in the parentheses indicate percentage

Table 8 Distribution of the respondents on the basis of Family Type

Family type	Block-I Arniwala (n=30)	Block - II Khuiyan Sarwar (n = 30)	Block - III Jalalabad (n = 30)	Fazilka (N = 90)
Joint	12(40.00)	12(40.00)	14(46.66)	38(42.22)
Nuclear	18(60.00)	18(60.00)	16(53.33)	52(57.77)

Note: Figure in the parentheses indicate percentage



8 Family Type

Family is one of the important social organizations in the society. The family is a social group characterized by common residence, economic co-operation and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship (Rao, 2009). Table 8 revealed the distribution of the respondents on the basis of family type. It showed that more than half (57.77%) of the respondents were belonged to nuclear family and forty two percent of the respondents were belonged to joint family. Results of the data indicated that majority of the respondents in rural area preferred nuclear families and were shading the joint family system.

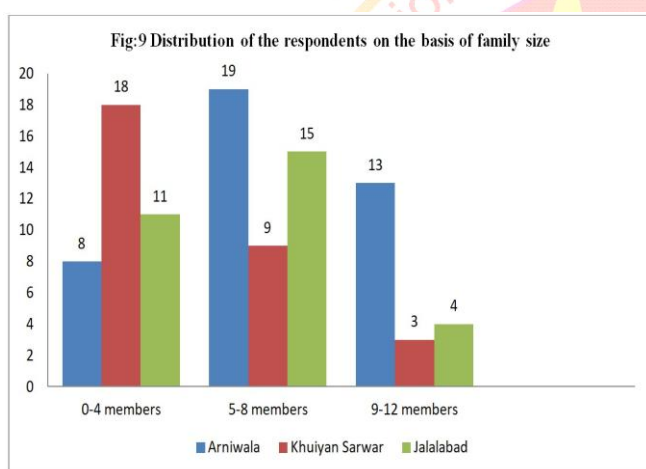
9 Family Size

Family organization is found in every society. Some families are small and some are large in size. In some families the number of members is high and in some they are less. The distribution of the respondents on the basis of family size, in the Table 9 showed that nearly half (47.11%) of the respondents were belonged to family size between 5-8 members, forty one percent of the respondents were belonged to family size up to 4 members and only (11.11%) of the respondents were belonged to above 8 members in the family. This may be attributed to the shift from joint family to nuclear family in the rural area. The overall results indicated that majority of the respondents were having 5-8 members in their family.

Table 9 Distribution of the respondents on the basis of family size

Family size	Block-I Arniwala (n=30)	Block – II KhuiyanSarwar (n = 30)	Block – III Jalalabad (n = 30)	Fazilka (N = 90)
0-4 members	8 (26.66)	18 (60.00)	11 (36.66)	37 (41.11)
5-8 members	19 (63.33)	9 (30.00)	15 (50.00)	43 (47.77)
9-12 members	13 (10.00)	3 (10.00)	4 (13.33)	10 (11.11)

Note: Figure in the parentheses indicate percentage



Conclusion

This paper present the social features of the respondents. This paper included nearly half (44.44%) of the respondents were belonged to age group between 31-40 years while the majority (48.88%) were belonged to Jatt Sikh caste, three forth (76.66%)of the respondents were married and twenty three percent of the respondents were unmarried, nearly half (43.33%)of the respondents had achieved above high secondary education, majority (60.00%) of the respondents were related to skilled occupation, most of the working women were well experienced, the majority (57.77%)of the respondents were belonged to nuclear family, nearly half (47.11%) of the respondents were reported that family size between 5to 8 members.

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