



CHAPTER NO. VII

FINDINGS SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS



CHAPTER – VII

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CHAPTER – VII

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The present status of the single women of Chennai and their life style that is full of stress and risks, their fragile social status, their pain, loneliness, hopes and expectations have been the overall subject matter of this thesis.

The single mothers surveyed were basically optimistic about their new chapter in life as single parents inspite of the various socio-cultural and economic obstacles that they have to face on a daily basis. However, since optimism alone is not enough to redeem their lost dignity and well being, the various impediments that they are forced to face by the society need to be studied closely by all in order to enable them to overcome those hurdles. For that they need the goodwill and cooperation of the whole society as well.

This final chapter is meant for a brief and summarized manner of bringing together in one place the specific insights from the various chapters, thus, gradually leads this study towards some final suggestions, followed by a brief conclusion.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Single parent families are becoming wide spread. Most often the single parent with the responsibility of single handedly raising the children happens to be the mother. Almost all the single-parent families are identified as single mothers families. Therefore, there is a need to study the problems and the prospects of these single mothers from the perspective of Women's Studies. Society in general looks at the single mother families as strange entities that

are basically flawed and deficit and so predestined to fail on account of the absence of the male spouses. Overcoming such prejudices, Women's Studies could contribute to widening our perspective by looking at the single mother families in an objective manner. This research, therefore, intends to scientifically, realistically and non-judgmentally enumerate the strengths and weaknesses, the threats and the future prospects of these families, so that future single mothers could be enabled by this study to lessen the threats and increase the advantages that are specific to the single parent families.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In Indian society and culture, women are considered to be the weakest section of the society. They have been suppressed for ages due to gender bias and male domination. Indian culture from its origin to the present times has not been totally conducive for the fuller development of women. It is found that numerous research studies so far have highlighted how women are subjected to multifarious problems especially due to their status of widowhood or their status as separated single women or their status as spinsters. Hence, this study focuses on **A study of the problems and the prospects of the single parents in Chennai, with reference to the divorced, separated and widowed women.**

MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main aim of this research is to study the problems and the prospects of the single parents in Chennai – with reference to the divorced, separated and widowed women.

Specific objectives of the study are

1. To study the socio-economic profile of single parent in Chennai city.
2. To assess the socio-economic impediments of these single parent.
3. To analyse the problems and the prospects of single parent of the study area.
4. To gauge the single parent's autonomy in decision making about their life.
5. To suggest some ways and means by which the quality of life of single parent could be improved.

SAMPLE SELECTION PROCEDURE

In Tamil Nadu, Chennai district has been selected as it is the most densely populated district with 24,231 persons per sq.km. Rural people migrate to Chennai city in search of employment, business and better amenities. For the purpose of data collection, the researcher used questionnaire method. A total of 750 questionnaires were printed and distributed to the respondents (single parent) belonging to various categories in different parts of Chennai. The respondents were given one week time to fill in all the information required by the questionnaire. After a week, the researcher tried to collect the filled in questionnaire from the respondents. But it was found that, some respondents misplaced the questionnaire and some of them were reluctant to give the information. The researcher approached those respondents repeatedly, but all in vain. At last, the researcher could collect the **632** filled in questionnaires from the respondents and finally **525** properly filled in questionnaires were eligible for data analysis.

Table 5.2 Sample Selection Procedure

| SI. No. | Category | Issued Questionnaire to the respondents | Received Questionnaire from the respondents | Completed questionnaire received from the questionnaire | Eligible Questionnaire for the study received from the respondents |
|--------------------|------------------|--|--|--|---|
| 1 | Divorced | 250 | 205 | 176 | 175 |
| 2 | Separated | 250 | 210 | 179 | 175 |
| 3 | Widows | 250 | 217 | 174 | 175 |
| | | 750 | 632 | 529 | 525 |

Source: Primary data

A sample size of **525** respondents is considered eligible for the study. The respondents of the sample unit were chosen from all parts of Chennai city. Totally 525 single mothers who are either separated or divorced or widowed and now are living with their children were selected based on different cross- sections of the society such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, marketing executives, house wives, domestic servants and nurses. They were interviewed personally for this study and were asked to fill up the questionnaire. It is important to justify the sample unit to represent the population. Any unknown population is judged to be normally distributed and so its sampling distribution must also be normally distributed. In order to achieve the normal distribution of the sample unit, the purposive sampling method is employed as appropriate to justify the sampling statistics to represent the population parameters. Purposive sampling method is therefore chosen in view of justifying the sample unit as a reasonable representative unit of the single mothers of the over all population domain of the city of Chennai.

TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

For the present research study the data is collected by means of a questionnaire. The questionnaire itself is framed methodically to obtain the general information about the single mothers belonging to the category of those widowed or separated or divorced who now continue to take care of their children on their own. It comprises optional type of questions wherein each question is designed in Likerts 5-point scale ranging from 5-Strongly agree, 4-agree, 3-neutral, 2-disagree, 1- strongly disagree. This questionnaire along with a covering letter was handed over personally to the respondents. After briefly explaining to them the scientific and the academic purpose of this study, they were requested to return the filled-in questionnaire. They were very cooperative. It took about six months to get back the responses and assemble the outcome of the survey of the sample unit.

Statistical tools and measures:

The following statistical tools were used, for the analysis of data are Frequency table, t-test, Cluster analysis, Factor analysis, ANOVA analysis. After using all the above statistical tools, collected data analysed and the following are the major findings of the study.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The following are the findings derived out of regress statistical analysis of primary data. The findings of the research are presented in the order of the objectives.

7.2 FINDINGS OF THE OBJECTIVE-I

OBJECTIVE-I: To study the socio-economic profile of single parent in Chennai city.

It is found that 6.9% of the single mothers in the sample unit come under the age group of upto 35 years while 30.8% of the single mothers, the maximum category, fall between the age group of 36-45 years. It is also found that 24% of the single mothers in the sample unit belong to the age group 46-55 years, 20% of the single mothers belong to the age group of 56-65 years and 18.3% of single mothers are above the age of 65.

From the above table it is found that 74.7% of the single mothers in the sample unit are married and only 25.3% of the single mothers in the study are unmarried.

It is found that 71.8% of the single mothers in the sample unit have 'less than 2 children' and 1.3% of the single mothers the smallest number – have less than 5 children'. It is also found that 13.7% of the respondents have 'more than 3' children.

It is found that 1.9% of the single mothers in the sample unit are educated 'below tenth standard and twelfth standard'. In the next category is 29.7% single women who have completed above 'post graduation level'. It is also found that 34.9% of single mothers have finished 'above diploma or under graduation'; 33.5% of single women in the survey had completed their post graduation.

It is found that 5.71% of the single women in the sample unit are working in the private sector. The next category, 73.1% of single women are working in the government sector. It is also found that 13.9% of the single

women are doing business and 7.2% of them are doing various household jobs to earn their livelihood.

It is found that 1% of the single mothers in the sample unit are earning below Rs.5000. The next category of single mothers who are 35.4% earn above Rs. 30000. It is also found that 27.4% of them belong to the next income category of Rs.10000 – Rs.20000. Finally those who are within the income category of Rs.5000 to Rs.10000 are 17.5% and those within the income category of Rs.20000 to Rs.30000 are 18.7%.

It is found that 74.5% of the single women in the sample unit are living in the nuclear family; 25.5% of them are living in the joint family.

It is found that 43.4% of the single mothers in the sample unit have less than five members as dependants; 40.6% of them have less than two members as dependants. Finally, it is also found that only 16% of single mothers have more than three as dependants. Whereas all the single mothers of the chosen sample unit have to have at least a single child to be included in the sample unit of this research study, it so happened that there Is no single mother among them with five dependants.

It is found that 21.7% of the single mothers of the sample unit spend their leisure time listening to music. 21.3% of them are interested in gardening; 20.4% of them take time watch movies during spare time; 19% of them are interested in watching Television; 17.5% of them are interested in reading books whenever they find free time.

It is found that 31% of the single mothers have work experience of five to ten years; 28.8% of them have experience of eleven to twenty years and 21.3% of them are have work experience up to four years; 18.9% of them are have 21 years of work experience .

It is found 28.6% of the single women have only mental work and no physical work; 28.4% are having less mental work and more physical work. Finally, it is also found that 14.5% of them had both physical work and mentally work; 14.3% of them are have more mental work than physical work; 14.3% of them are have only physical work and no mental work.

It is found 50.3% of single mothers from the total sample unit work less than eight hours; 23.8% of them work between eight to ten hours. However 25.9% of them are forced to work more than 10 hours to earn their livelihood.

It is found 75.6% of the single mothers are getting refreshment from the organization, in between the work hours and 24.4% of the single mothers are not served any refreshment during work hours.

It is found that 72% of the single women have above Rs .two lakhs worth of movable assets and 28% of them have above rupees two lakhs worth of immovable assets. It is also found that 57% of them have rupees ten lakhs worth of immovable assets and 43% of them have about rupees ten lakhs worth of moveable assets. Finally, it is also found 46% of the single women family having movable assets worth below rupees five lakhs and 54% of them have immovable assets below rupees five lakhs.

It is found that 55.8% of the single mothers of the sample unit have borrowed less than rupees five lakhs from the banks. It is also seen that 24.8% of the respondents have borrowed more than rupees two lakhs from the pawn brokers; 19.4% of them have borrowed less than rupees one lakh from some local persons, friends and relatives in order to overcome their sudden financial troubles.

It is found that 27.2% of the single mothers have savings between Rs.7501 to Rs.10000; 27% of them have between.2500 to Rs.5000; 26.7% of them have savings above Rs.10000. Only few of the respondents (16.8%) stated that they have savings below Rs.2500 in their account; 2.3% of these single mothers have savings between Rs.5000 to Rs.7500 in their account.

Travel time in Chennai city is often an arduous moment, especially since single mothers mostly depend upon the public transport. From the above table it is found that every single mother has to travel between one hour to two hours to get their various tasks accomplished. 50.1% of single mothers need to travel for one hour; 49.9% of them travel for two hours to reach the places of destination.

Single mothers of the sample unit who are employed in offices have to travel for more than 8 hours; 67.9% of them spend more time in the office than at home, all in order to earn their livelihood and 32.1% of them work in the office between six to seven hours.

Among the single women of the survey 74.1% of them spend between one hour to two hours of their time in cooking and 25.9% of them spend about three hours time for both cooking and feeding their children and other family members.

Among the single mothers, of this study 56.6% of them spend nearly three to four hours per week for shopping whatever is very essential for their household needs and 43.4% of them spend between one to two hours per week for shopping in order to buy the essential needs of the family.

Among the single mothers nearly 73.4 % of them spend between three to four hours for finishing the household works; 26.6% of them spend between one to two hours to finish their household works before moving on

to finish their regular work. Parental care is another time consuming responsibility. 77.5% of the single mothers spend between three to four hours with their children; 22.4% of them spend little less than one or two hours with their children because of their long working hours; unfortunately due to lack of time they find it tough to concentrate on their various household chores including parental care.

Every human being needs a break from arduous work schedule in the form of moments of relaxation. Among the single women of the sample unit, 81.1% of them spend between three to four hours of their leisure time with the family and 18.8% of single women spend around one or two hours for relaxing with their families.

INFERENTIAL ANALYSIS

7.3 FINDINGS OF THE OBJECTIVE -II AND HYPOTHESIS-I

OBJECTIVE -II : To assess the socio-economic impediments of these single parent

HYPOTHESIS I: There is no significance difference in the socio economic impediments for single parent.

Result: Karl co-efficient of correlation analysis clearly revealed there is a significant relationship between socio economic profiles and impediments of the single parents. Therefore the Hypothesis I is rejected at 5% level and concluded that there is significant difference among the socio economic impediments of single parents.

On the basis of the objective-II the first Hypothesis -I was derived. Hence objectives-IIand Hypothesis-I findings areas follows

- **Economic impediments**

Some of the most common economic hurdles of single mothers are permanent scarcity of financial resources and the need to work long hours to make ends meet. Financial insecurity seems to be the never ending threat to the very existence of the single parent families.

- **Social impediments**

The most inhuman aspect of the social impediments faced by single mothers consists in the social stigma which the rest of the society attaches to their marital status as single mothers. It assumes that single women are deprived of something very essential to their human nature just because of the absence of their spouse. Such refusal of the society to accept them as someone on their own is what hurts these women most. It destroys their very sense of human worth.

- **Cultural impediments**

The single mothers surveyed point to how innumerable cultural impediments could be at work within their own household very conspicuously inducing the other members of the family to treat them as socially undesirable entities. Since religious conservatism is used to subtly justify such cultural impediments, single mothers feel most helpless on account on them.

- **Career Elevation**

Basically due to their full involvement in household duties, lack of financial resources and the need to work full time to support the family, single women are prevented from aspiring towards career elevation. Also any additional training that would strongly qualify them for promotion continued

to be out of their reach. As single mother on their own they are unable to go beyond this specific hurdle known as 'double burden' in the area of workload.

- **Balance between Personal and Organizational Life**

The impediments related to lack of balance between one's personal and organizational life point to the inevitability of fatigue and stress in the life of single mothers. Since this causes various emotional problems and physical illnesses in these women, it has been frequently pointed out to them by many well-wishers that it is essential to strike a balance somehow between family and career in their life.

- **Quality of Life**

Even when single mothers become successful mothers at home and efficient and productive selves in society, people around them refuse to acknowledge their worth and attempt to put them down on account of their status as single parents. Also, these single women hardly find friends with whom they could discuss their unfulfilled sexual needs and personal desires. However, these impediments seem to be merely extrinsic obstacles to their intrinsic quality of life.

- **Gender Bias**

Faced with the stubborn gender bias in the mindset of the society in general, that women by nature are not equal to men, all women feel hurt. Particularly, single mothers are most hurt by such male chauvinism. Since they are women who are separated or divorced, men in general look at them with hostility and suspicion. Single mothers are more conscious than all women of the need for unity among women to overcome the impediments caused by gender bias.

- **Lack of Organisational Support**

Single mothers stand in need of additional support from the organizations where they work in the form of special loans and allowances to meet their financial contingencies; their emotional wellbeing which is so basic to efficiency at work which stands in need of the sympathetic presence and support of co-workers. Without these twofold additional supports these women could not excel in their career in spite of all their efforts and good will.

- **The Impact of Other Intrinsic and Extrinsic problems**

The single mothers surveyed point out that in spite of all their enthusiasm and hard work, without special support from the government in some form they cannot succeed as a family. The mistaken religious beliefs of the other members of the family too prove to be a difficult intrinsic obstacle to be overcome since those beliefs promoted discriminatory practices against single mothers. The fact that these single mothers become easy targets of the suspicion of others regarding sexual morality constitutes one of the basic vulnerabilities of being single in life. This danger hunted them most.

7.3 FINDINGS BASED ON OBJECTIVE III AND HYPOTHESIS II

OBJECTIVE III : To analyse the prospects of single parent of the study area

HYPOTHESIS II: There is no significance difference among the factors of prospects of single parent

Result: Factor analysis by principal component method derived three predominant factors of prospects of single parent. The hypothesis II is

rejected at 5% level and concluded that the factors of problems of single parent differs significantly

Economic impediments

It is found that both KMO measure of sample adequacy which is .712 and Bartlett's Test of sphericity along with in between chi-square value which is 912.829 are statistically significant at 5% level.

It is found that the variables of economic impediments range from .332 to 771. This would imply that the variable vary with the perception of single mothers from 33.2% to 77.1%, thus showing that the single mothers have very wide perception regarding economic impediments.

It is found that the eleven variables are extracted to form three predominant factors with Eigen values 2.156, 1.750, and 1.716 along with individual variances 19.601, 15.908 and 15.597. The cumulative variance of these three variances are found to be 51.106.

- The area of economic impediments along the path the single mothers is infact dominated by factors like '**Economic Compulsion**', '**Poverty Impact**' and '**Economic Impediments**'.

Social impediments

- It is found that KMO value is .635 and the chi-square value is 291.910; they are statistically significant at 5% level. This leads to the communality for the variance of factors extracted.
- It is found that social impediments variables range from 363 to 655. This indicates that the different opinions of the single mothers varies from 33.6% to 65.5%. This shows that these single mothers

have different opinions regarding social impediments. Infact these variances will be exploited to form the exact factors that are involved in the social impediments placed along the path of single mothers.

- As found in the above table eight variables are derived to form three main factors with Eigen values 1.522, 1.372, 1.345 along with individual variances like 19.029, 17.144, and 16.818. The cumulative variance of these three variances is given by 52.991.
- These factors are crucial in determining the social and economic status of these women in Chennai. In this study, the social impediments are seen to be at work in the following factors like '**Irresponsible Society**', '**Socialization**', and '**Unpleasant Projection**' which together show that the single mothers face innumerable social problems in going ahead with their family life.

Cultural impediments

- It is seen that KMO measure of sample adequacy is 709 and Bartlett Test of sphericity along with the chi-square value is 416.217; both are statistically significant at 5%. It is indicated that the sample size taken is sufficient regarding cultural impediments. The eight variables taken for the study are sufficient to form the new factors..
- It is found that the variables of cultural impediments range from 298 to 636 that will vary with the opinion of single women from 29.8% to 73.6%. This shows that the single women have different views regarding the cultural impediments.

- It is found that the eight variables are chosen to form two key factors with eigen values 1.814, 1.682 along with the individual variances like 22.680, 21.029. The cumulative variance of these 3 variances is given by 43.709. This shows that three factors are derived meaningfully.
- The area of cultural impediments is dominated by these two important factors: '**Gender Stumbling Blocks**' and '**Cultural bias**'. These factors pull them down in their life, curbing their freedom in matters related to decision making.

Career elevation

- It is found that KMO measure of sample adequacy 793 and Bartlett's test of sphericity along with chi-square value 877.649 are statistically significant at 5% level. The seven variables selected for the study are adequate to form the exact factor with meaningful approach.
- It is found that the variables of career elevation range from 418 to 773. This implies the variables vary with the perception of single mothers from 41.8% to 77.3%. This shows that the single mothers have very different views regarding economic impediments. Infact, these variances will be exploited to form the exact factors that are involved in carrier elevation of the single mothers.
- It is found that the seven variables are extracted to form the two main factors 2.279 and 1.751 along with the two individual variances 32.554 and 25.017. The cumulative variances of this variance are given by 57.571.

- The career elevation is an important area where '**Domestic Interruption**' and '**Poor Carrier Elevation**' block the progress of single mothers in their attempt towards certain degree of autonomy and prosperity.

Both in personal and organizational life

- It is found that KMO measure of sample adequacy is .604. Bartlett's Test of sphericity, along with in between chi-square value which is 394.831, both are statistically significant at 5% level. This implies that the sample size of the single mothers is sufficient with regard to an analysis of personal and organizational life. Six variables are selected to form the predominant factors.
- It is found that the variable of personal and organizational life ranges from 560 to 771. This implies that the variables vary, corresponding to the different ideas of single women from 56.0% to 77.1%. This shows that the single women, have very different views regarding personal and organizational life. This information is used to arrive at the predominant factor.
- It is seen that six variables are extracted to form the three main factors 1.638, 1.366 and 1.130, along with the individual variances 27.299, 22.775 and 18.831. The cumulative variance of these variances is given as 68.905. These three factors are clearly shown in the rotated component matrix in a meaningful way.
- Both in personal and in organizational life the single women face factors such as '**Work Life Imbalance**', '**Family Interface**' and '**Work Stressors**' leading to much fatigue and stress.

Quality of life

- It is seen that KMO measure of sample adequacy is .704; Bartlett's Test of sphericity along with in between chi-square value 432.392; both are statistically significant at 5% level. This sample size of the single mothers is enough with regard to the quality of life. Eight variables are needed for the study to form a new factor.
- It is found that the variable called 'quality of life' ranges from .187 to .638. This implies that the variable vary corresponding to the many views of single women from 18.7% to 63.8%. This indicates that the single women have very different perception regarding 'quality of life'. This will pave the way to identify the new factor.
- It is seen that the eight variables are extracted to form the two predominant factors, which are 1.776 and 1.707, along with their individual variances 22.195 and 21.334. The cumulative variance of these variables is given by 43.529.
- The quality of life of the single mothers is severely affected by different factors like '**Social Clutches**' and '**Optimistic Extraction**'.

Gender bias

- It is found that KMO measure of sample adequacy is .605. Bartlett's Test of sphericity along with, in between chi-square value is 187.943; both are statistically significant at 5% level. This implies that the sample size of the single mothers is adequate regarding 'gender bias'. The six variables chosen for this study do form the exact factors with meaningful approach.

- It is found that the variables of gender bias range from .339 to .648; this implies that the variables vary corresponding to the different opinions of single women from 33.9% to 64.8%. This shows that the single mothers have very different perception regarding gender bias .This will help to identify the exact factor.
- It is analyzed that the six variables are extracted to form the 2 key factors which are 1.615 and 1.281, along with the individual variances 26.922 and 21.349. The cumulative variance of these two variables is 48.272.
- In the areas of gender bias different kinds of factors like '**Pricking Environment**' and '**Male Spillover**' function as oppressive elements.

Other intrinsic and extrinsic problems

- It is found that KMO measure of sample adequacy is. 702. Bartlett's Test of sphericity along with, in between chi-square value is 679.494; both are statistically significant at 5% level. This implies that the sample size of the single mothers is adequate with regard to other intrinsic and extrinsic problems.
- It is found that the variable of other intrinsic and extrinsic problems ranges from .460 to.655. This implies that the variables vary with the different opinions of single mothers from 46.0% to 65.5%. This shows that the single mothers have very different perception regarding other intrinsic and extrinsic problems. This will help to identify the predominant factors.

- It is found that nine variables are extracted to form three predominant factors with Eigen values 2.183, 28.374, and 16.554 along with individual variances 24.250, 18.507 and 13.622. The cumulative variance of these three variances is given by 56.380.
- Finally, the factor analysis of other intrinsic and extrinsic problems pointed to other road-blocks along the way of these women, such as '**Extrinsic Influence**', '**Support Lagging**' and '**Conglomerative Negations**'.

7.4 FINDINGS BASED ON OBJECTIVE-IV AND HYPOTHESIS-III

OBJECTIVE – IV: To gauge the single parent's autonomy in decision making about their life.

HYPOTHESIS III: There is no significant relationship between single parents autonomy and their decision making capabilities

Result: In order to test the hypothesis one way analysis of variance is used to find the influence of single parent autonomy on their decision making capabilities. The analysis of variance also indicated that the hypothesis (iv) is rejected at 5 % level and concluded that there is significant relationship between the single parent autonomy and their decision making capabilities.

Economic impediments:

- **Economic compulsion; 2.poverty impact; 3.pecuniary consequences** are the three significant factors of the economic impediments of the single women of the sample unit. These single women perceive these 3 factors from different angles. These perceptual differences are identified through cluster analysis. This

analysis is meant to classify the sample unit into three heterogeneous groups.

- It is found that in the sample unit 43% of the single mothers are strongly affected by their status known as '**Poverty Stricken**'; 30.29% of the single mothers are affected due to the problems of '**Economic Domain**'; it is further identified that 26.67 % are able to '**Withstand**' the economic impediments.

Social impediments

- **Irresponsible society; 2.Socialization; 3.Unpleasant projection** are the social impediments factors. The single mothers in the sample unit view these three factors with different perspectives. These varying opinions are identified through cluster analysis. This analysis is meant classify the sample unit into three heterogeneous groups.
- It is found that in the sample unit 48.76% of the single mothers are strongly affected in the area of '**Social Clutches**'; 32.95% of the single mothers are affected by '**social imbalances**' and 17.33 % are weak in their social life since they are forced to be '**Socially Withdrawn**'.

Cultural impediments

- The cultural impediments factors are found to be: **1.General stumbling blocks; 2. Cultural bias.** These two cultural impediments factors affecting the single mothers in the sample unit are viewed by them differently. These varying views are identified

through cluster analysis. Thus, the sample unit is divided into three heterogeneous groups.

- It is found that 50.09% of the single mothers are strongly affected by '**Cultural Forces**'; 12.95% of the single mothers are affected by '**Cultural Disturbances**' around them; 36.95 % of them are very weak due to '**Cultural Erosions**'.

Career elevation

- The career elevation factors are found to be: **1.Domestic interruptions; 2. Poor career elevation.** The single mothers of the sample unit view these two factors with varying perceptions. These variations are identified through cluster analysis. This analysis is meant to classify the sample unit into two heterogeneous groups.
- It is found that 12% of the single mothers of the sample unit are rather weakly affected by '**Career Constraints**'; 14.09% of the single mothers are moderately affected by '**Career Blocking Forces**' that work against them; nearly 73.9 % are very strongly affected by '**Career Interruptions**'.

Balance between personal and organizational life

- The single mothers in the areas of personal and organizational life are classified into: **1. Work life imbalance; 2. Family interface; 3.Work stressors.** Single mothers in the sample unit view these three factors from different angles. These varying views are differentiated through cluster analysis. This analysis points to three heterogeneous groups.

- It is found that 46.85% of the single mothers are strongly affected by '**Family Interface**'; 35.04% of the single mothers are to be ranked as '**WorkAlcoholics**'; 18.09 % are in a very weak position in personal life due to '**Emotional Blocks in Family Life**'.

Quality of life

- The quality life factors consist of **1.Social clutches; 2.Optimistic extraction**. The single women of the sample unit viewed these two factors from different perceptions. These varying views are identified through cluster analysis. This analysis is meant to classify the sample unit into three heterogeneous groups.
- It is found that 30.85% of the single mothers are moderately affected by '**Life Imbalances**'; 44.76 % of the single mothers are strongly helped by '**Life Interventions**'; 24.38% of them are very weak due to '**pricking issues**'.

Gender bias

- The gender bias factors consist of **1.Pricking environment 2.Male spillover**. Single women from the sample unit view these two factors with different perceptions. These varying factors are identified through cluster analysis. This analysis is meant to classify the sample unit into three heterogeneous groups.
- It is found that 72.38% of the single mothers are strongly characterized as '**Work Alcoholics**'; 14.48 % of the single mothers are found very weak due to '**Emotional Blocks in Family Life**'; 13.14 % of them are very strongly affected by '**Stumbling Lacuna in Work Life**'.

The impact of other intrinsic and extrinsic problems

- Other Intrinsic and Extrinsic problems consist of **1. Extrinsic influence; 2. Support lagging 3. Conglomerative negations.** Single women of the sample unit view these three factors with different perceptions. These varying views are identified through cluster analysis. This analysis is meant to classify the sample unit into three heterogeneous groups.
- From the final cluster analysis it is found that 41.90% of the single mothers are strongly affected by '**Family Withdrawers**'; 35.80 % of the single mothers are found to be moderately affected by '**Lack of External Support**'; 22.28 % of them are very weak due to '**Ineffective Support Systems**'.

7.5 FINDINGS BASED ON THE ANOVA TEST

- It deals with 5 types of age group. 1. upto 35 years; 2. 36-45years; 46-55 years; 4.56-55years; 5.above 65 years. The analysis of the variances regarding the age group of the respondents reveal that there are no significant changes with respect to the different age groups within the sample unit.
- It is noted that regarding the marital status, significant changes are found in the areas of the social impediments.
- It deals with the group of single women having 2 to 5 children. Regarding the number of children of the respondent there are no significant differences found.

- It deals with 5 levels of education 1. School level (x+2); 2. Diploma/UG; 3.PG; 4. ABOVE PG; 5.Doctorate. With respect to the educational status of the respondent, it is seen that there are no significant differences found.
- It deals with four types of working sector 1. Government; 2.Business; 3.private; 4.household. It is also found that regarding the occupation of the respondent there is no significant difference at all.
- It deals with 5 types of income groups. 1. below 5000; 2.5000-10000; 3.10000-20000; 4.20000-30000; 5.above 30000.regarding factors such as the income level, who are living along with the single mothers, no significant difference is found in the variables.
- It deals with 2 types of families 1 Joint family; 2.Nuclear family. The family structure who are living along with the single mothers, no significant difference is found in the variables.
- Finally it also deals with 3 types of groups of dependants. 1. Below 2; 2.Above 3; 3. Below 5. The number of dependants who are living along with the single mothers, no significant difference is found in the variables.

7.5 FINDINGS BASED ON OBJECTIVE V

OBJECTIVE V: To suggest some ways and means by which the quality of life of single parent could be improved.

- Most of the single women belonging to the age group of between 36 and 45 years suffer immensely within themselves. The non-

governmental as well as government organizations should identify the factors causing much distress to the single women and implement programmes that could be of assistance to the single mothers to achieve considerable degree of success and peace of mind.

- Single mothers could be encouraged and assisted by voluntary organizations to form cooperative societies and micro finances self-help groups so that they could pool their limited financial resources together and support each other along their path towards entrepreneurship and economic success.

7.6 SUGGESTIONS

- Single mothers of various neighbourhood of Chennai could be encouraged by voluntary organizations by providing space and support to form solidarity groups or quality circles where they can meet and share their various experiences on a regular basis, thus learn to stand together against common problems that arise from various socio-cultural impediments.
- Single mothers could be helped by various organizations of other women to avail themselves of free psychological counseling and guidance from experienced women psychologists. This would go a long way in enabling single women to go beyond the traumatic experiences of the past and move on in their personal life.
- Children of the single mothers could be helped by the schools where they study through additional coaching, special scholarships and sympathetic follow up. The parents- teachers associations and the school management could identify and invite the single parents

individually for a dialogue so that the progress of their children in studies could be specially followed up.

- Most of the single women belonging to the age group of between 36 and 45 years suffer immensely within themselves. The non-governmental as well as government organizations should identify the factors causing much distress to the single women and implement programmes that could be of assistance to the single mothers to achieve considerable degree of success and peace of mind.
- Single mothers could be encouraged and assisted by voluntary organizations to form cooperative societies and micro finances self-help groups so that they could pool their limited financial resources together and support each other along their path towards entrepreneurship and economic success.
- As single women often lacked financial resources to hire legal assistance that would enable them at the moment of separation to claim substantial compensations from the estranged spouse, their men go scot-free leaving these mothers behind as mere destitutes, now left to the mercy of strangers along the streets. More and more persons of goodwill should join hands with committed women's organizations in organizing camps on holidays, offering free legal-aid, meant specifically for single mothers living in various localities of Chennai.
- The society in general and men in particular should learn to broaden the present socio-cultural horizons of the public mind-set that is often insensitive to the sufferings of the single mothers and thus insist that all begin to treat the single women as free, noble and

constructive members of the society; that all realize that they too are somehow collectively responsible for the various socio-cultural impediments and the economic hardships that the single mothers are forced to face on a daily basis; that all recognize the overall social benefits the entire society would enjoy in and through the socio-economic upliftment of the single mothers.

7.7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protection should be given to single mothers at the time of leaving her husband as always a threat from husband in the form of harassment physical and mental torture for which no social support, in the intermittent period upto separation by mutual consent or legal action.
- Single mother also need social security in the form of unemployment till she gets a job
- Free Vocational training to earn a dignified livelihood.
- Social stigma attached to widows and single mothers should be eradicated by suitable law as in the case of caste discrimination.
- Reservation shall be made for single mothers in admission in educational institutions and professional colleges.
- Reservation in employment in private and government undertakings and also in appointment to government jobs.
- Formation of single mothers Association, clubs, counselling centres and free legal aid should be encouraged.

- Priority should be given in allotment of business loan for the single mothers to start independent business.
- Priority should be given for educational loans to the children of single mothers

7.8 CONCLUSION

Economic compulsions drag the life of the single women in different directions. They are totally exhausted because of the heavy financial burden and the increasing personal demands from the children and the other dependants. Poverty becomes the resultant predominant factor of the economic impediments. In many single parent families children are starving, having only one square meal a day. Education of children too adds to the burden of the single mothers; it is made worse when more and more demands are made by the educational institutions. Financial burden has become an ever growing strain on the family life of the single mothers.

The social life of the single women is found to be terribly impoverished merely on account of their marital separation. Because others speak ill of them, single mothers themselves hesitate to participate in social gatherings such as marriage, puberty rite functions etc. These unpleasant experiences, further, reinforce the resolve of the single mothers to remain single.

Even the family atmosphere of the single mothers is found to be rather unfriendly and hostile. On the one hand relatives and friends reminded them that women cannot manage without their male spouse. On the other hand they too clearly discouraged the single mothers from remarriage. Since single mothers in general, widows in particular are considered to be inauspicious members of the society they are prevented deliberately from participating in

most of the social gatherings including their own daughter's wedding. The social stigma that is attached to the single mothers by society in general is blindly reinforced also within their own family circle. This is something that has paralysed the personal life of all single women. Having been enlightened by this reviewing of relevant literatures available in the field, the next chapter intends to establish the fact that today single parent family has become a sociologically significant issue both in the western as well as in the Indian Society.