

CHAPTER-6

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

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CHAPTER-6

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This final chapter presents the chapter introduction, summary of findings, the verification of the proposed research Hypotheses, the conclusion of the study, the suggestions for policy implications followed by avenues for the future research on this aspect.

6.1. INTRODUCTION

'Women' - The word sounds so powerful. Since eternity , women have played a role more important than men and that is no exaggeration. India has the world's largest number of professionally qualified women. The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past millennia. Women in India are socially , politically and economically weaker than men. As per 2011 census, 15.4% of Indian women are economically active. Status of women has to start from the social framework, social structures, cultural norms and value systems that influence social expectations regarding the behavior of both men and women and determine women roles and their position in society . Income generation alone does not increase the economic equality of women in India. Socio-economic forces combine to greatly influence the development of poor women in India. The working women are also deprived of proper nutrition, which has adverse effects on the sanitary workers especially women. Sanitation falls under the preventive type of public health. It is also another monopoly function to be undertaken by the municipality.

The status of women in India has been many ups and downs. The 20th century has been many changes in the global arena, economic, scientific and social. We have made noteworthy strides in all aspects of living of which the most exemplary

one would be in the social sphere. Women have been given equal opportunities to compete with men and one another. In the last century and the early 20th century women were mostly relegated to the home and their place was the kitchen. The 20th century has witnessed a great deal of independence and autonomy for many countries. Women have been equal fighters for freedom. They have demanded for and received equality in education and there lies the secret of their success. Education and the awareness that comes with it have enabled this gender to fight their cause. Although gender discrimination has been banned by the constitution and women have been guaranteed political equality with men, yet there is a difference between constitutional rights and rights enjoyed in reality by women. They have emerged out of their kitchens and taken their places along with the men in becoming supplementary breadwinners. This has lead to move work in actual fact-for now they are "Managers" of their home and family as well as part of the work force. They have penetrated almost all spheres of activity and figure prominently in all walks of life be it education, health, politics, science, social work or law. Today's women are joint partners in the world scheme.

The rapid industrialization paves the way to one important factor namely, women employment, the undue importance to material wealth and the economic necessity attracted woman to take employment public and private sectors, which in turn has given rise to changes in their roles and status in India. Working women, especially the sanitary workers have to perform both the domestic (child-rearing, taking care of husband if married and home management)as well as occupational roles simultaneously which needs adequate adjustment within themselves. Due to the transition in the role performance of women sanitary workers they face many adjustment problems when they play a dual role at their working places as well as their homes. Women sanitary workers working in different municipal bodies across the nation are facing acute problems in terms of social, economic, health, psychological and attitudinal nature. Hence the present study is initiated to address the demanding situation in the country under the research title, "SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN SANITARY WORKERS-- A STUDY ON SELECT MUNICIPALITIES OF GUNTUR DISTRICT IN ANDHRA PRADESH"

6.1.1 Objectives of the Study

1. To study the concept of status of sanitary workers and to explore the theoretical frame work of the aspects under study.
2. To examine the socio-economic conditions of women sanitary workers in the select municipal organizations.
3. To analyze the income, expenditure and savings pattern of the women sanitary workers in the select municipal organizations.
4. To estimate the living status, working and health conditions of the women sanitary workers in the select municipal organizations.
5. To assess the level of decision making capacities among the women sanitary workers in the select municipal organizations.
6. To suggest some policy measures that aim at promoting the status of women sanitary workers in the municipal organizations.

6.1.2 Research Methodology

For the purpose of the present research study, the Descriptive cum Diagnostic research design was adopted. Both primary and secondary were utilized for the study and data was collected by applying the interview schedule method with the help of a structured questionnaire. The sampling method applied was probability sampling method involving selective random sampling technique. The sample size fixed for the study was 330 women sanitary workers working in select study organizations comprising the job nature of Street Cleaning, Waste Carrying, Drainage cleaning, and loading and unloading the waste in Municipality. The sampling area was restricted to Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh and the sampling units were 11 Municipalities and 1 Municipal Corporation in the study area. In order to test the proposed alternate hypotheses , chi-square test was applied to verify the statistical significance. Pilot study was conducted for pre-testing the questionnaire on 40 respondents. The variables examined under the study were Socio-economic variables, Income , expenditure and saving patterns, Living status, Working and health conditions, Decision making capacity and Social attitudes.

6.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The study will be analyzed on the foundations of qualitative and quantitative perspectives involving both theoretical foundations and empirical findings. The findings of the study will be presented chapter wise with the main inferences drawn from the analysis of the collected data and by the verification of theoretical perspectives of the study.

Chapter -1

This chapter presents the introductory aspects on the status of women, position of women in the pre-independence and post independence periods, religion and women, the modern women and their prospects in India, social problems of working women, meaning of sanitation, significance of the study, need for the study , scope of the study and the chapterization of the research study.

Chapter -2

This chapter deals with the Review of Conceptual Literature and presents the Research gaps identified in the earlier studies.

Chapter -3

This chapter deals with the Statement of the problem, Operational Definition , the objectives of the study, Hypotheses formulated for the present research study, the Research methodology adopted for the study and the limitations drawn for the present research work.

Chapter -4

This chapter presents the profile of the Guntur District comprising Historical origin, growth, Physical Characters, mineral resources, Demographic profile of the district population and profile of the sample units.

Chapter -5

This chapter presents the analysis of the data. Based on objectives of the study, data are analyzed and interpreted; data are represented by using frequency tables with percentages. The proposed hypotheses were statistically tested by using non-Parametric tests like Chi-square test.

- Majority of the respondents (57.6%) are in the age group of 26-50 years.
- Majority of the respondents (79.6%) belong to Hindu religion.
- Majority of the respondents (45.4%) belong to Thoti caste followed by respondents (22.7%) belonging to Moti caste.
- Majority of the respondents (49.7%) are illiterates by educational standards.
- Majority of the respondents (84.6%) are married.
- Majority of the respondents (59.5%) are living with their husbands.
- Majority of the respondents (41.9%) are in the age group of 21-25 years at the time of their marriage.
- Majority of the respondents (25.8%) are drainage cleaners followed by 25.4% of the respondents working as street cleaners.
- Majority of the respondents (46.1%) are having a job experience of 11-20 years.
- Majority of the respondents (72.7%) belongs to nuclear family system which is said to be underlying characteristic feature of urban society in which the women sanitary workers live in.
- Majority of the respondents (51.8%) are having medium size family comprising 5-6 members.
- Majority of the respondents (45.5%) have family properties with value upto Rs. 50000.

- Majority of the respondents (56.3%) are drawing a salary upto Rs. 10000.
- Majority of the respondents (67.3%) have debt or other forms of liabilities.
- Majority of the respondents (45.9%) have debts below Rs.50000 followed by 28.4% of the respondents having debts to a tune of Rs. 500001 to 100000.
- Majority of the respondents (59.1%) are repaying their debts weekly. Hence it can be assessed that the repayment time schedule for the existing debts among the women sanitary workers is weekly in nature and a certain amount of stress definitely exists in them in order to counter their debt clearances.
- Majority of the respondents (76.4%) are having their expenditure levels of up to Rs.5000.
- Majority of the respondents (74.6%) among women sanitary workers are having the habit of savings.
- Majority of the respondents (66.6%) are saving below Rs.500.
- Majority of the respondents (49.1%) are wearing low priced clothes.
- Majority of the respondents (74.6%) have all facilities in their houses. It shows that the women sanitary workers are having good housing facility with all the required amenities. It is a good sign of socio-economic conditions pertaining to the women sanitary workers.
- Majority of the respondents (83.6%) are living in rented houses and only a minor fraction of the respondents are having their own houses. It is interesting to note that there is no government quarter allotment for the sanitary workers working under the municipal organizations in the select study area.
- Majority of the respondents (53.7%) among the house owners are having tiled houses followed by 24.1% of the respondents with RCC type of houses.

- Majority of the respondents (73.3%) are practicing family planning methods and maintaining the composure of small families.
- Majority of the respondents (72.5%) had opined that their health was effected due to the nature of their job activities.
- Majority of the respondents (63.1%) are not having the habit of consuming alcoholic drinks.
- Majority of the respondents (50.4%) are taking joint decisions along with their husbands.
- Majority of the respondents (82.4%) had opined that they are spending their salary amount on their family members. It shows the amount of socio-economic responsibility of the respondents towards their family members.
- Majority of the respondents (73.9%) had opined that there were certain changes in their food habits after joining in their jobs.
- Majority of the respondents (57.3%) had opined that they had choose this job for running their family.
- Majority of the respondents (68.4%) had opined that there exists excess work load in their job activities.
- Majority of the respondents (64.3%) had opined that they are availing leave facility.
- Majority of the respondents (67.8%) had opined that they are receiving cooperation and moral support from their male colleagues.
- Majority of the respondents (65.4%) had opined that there do not exist any difference between the female job and male job in terms of job activities.
- Majority of the respondents (66.1%) had opined that they are not facing any type of problems in their job activities.

- Majority of the respondents (58.7%) had opined that they are not satisfied with their existing job activities in the course of their employment.
- Majority of the respondents (71.6%) had opined that the preferable age at marriage should be 18-20 years.
- Majority of the respondents (76.4%) had opined that they are having positive attitude towards inter caste marriage practices.
- Majority of the respondents (67.8%) had opined that they have a positive inclination towards the practice of widow's remarriage.
- Majority of the respondents (71.6%) had opined that they are against to the evil practice of dowry system.
- Majority of the respondents (81.2%) had opined that there is an increase in their income level after getting their job.
- Majority of the respondents (83.1%) had opined that there is an increase in their expenditure level after getting their job.
- Majority of the respondents (65.7%) had opined that there is an increase in their savings level after getting their job.

6.3 VERIFICATION OF HYPOTHESES

In order to prove the empirical validity of the research objectives, the following Alternate Hypotheses were framed and they were statistically tested.

H_{a1} : There is an association between Employment and Caste of the respondents.

- H_{a2}: There is an association between Income and Type of House owned by the respondents.
- H_{a3}: There is an association between Income and Facilities available in house of the respondents.
- H_{a4}: There is an association between Type of house and Employment of the respondents.
- H_{a5}: There is an association between Employment and Educational Qualification of the respondents.
- H_{a6}: There is an association between Income and Ownership of House of the respondents.
- H_{a7}: There is an association between Type of house and Decision Making capacity of the respondents.
- H_{a8}: There is an association between Type of Family and Decision Making capacity of the respondents.
- H_{a9}: There is an association between Educational Qualification and Decision Making capacity of the respondents.
- H_{a10}: There is an association between Caste and Decision Making capacity of the respondents.
- H_{a11}: There is an association between Age and Decision Making capacity of the respondents.
- H_{a12}: There is an association between health affected by Job and Alcohol Drinking Habits of the respondents.
- H_{a13}: There is an association between Income and Alcohol Drinking Habits of the respondents.

- H_{a14} : There is an association between Savings Amount and Alcohol Drinking Habits of the respondents.
- H_{a15} : There is an association between Marital Status and Purchase of Clothes of the respondents.
- H_{a16} : There is an association between Income and Purchase of Clothes of the respondents.
- H_{a17} : There is a significant difference between income and expenditure levels before and after joining in the employment by the Respondents
- H_{a18} : There is a significant difference between income and Saving levels before and after joining in the employment by the Respondents
- H_{a19} : There is a significant difference between expenditure and saving levels before and after joining in the employment by the Respondents

Hypotheses	Type/ Nature of Hypothesis	Test applied	Result
Hypothesis-1	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha1)	Chi-square test	Rejected
Hypothesis-2	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha2)	Chi-square test	Accepted
Hypothesis-3	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha3)	Chi-square test	Accepted
Hypothesis-4	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha4)	Chi-square test	Rejected
Hypothesis-5	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha5)	Chi-square test	Rejected

Hypothesis-6	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha6)	Chi-square test	Accepted
Hypothesis-7	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha7)	Chi-square test	Rejected
Hypothesis-8	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha8)	Chi-square test	Accepted
Hypothesis-9	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha9)	Chi-square test	Accepted
Hypothesis-10	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha10)	Chi-square test	Rejected
Hypothesis-11	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha11)	Chi-square test	Accepted
Hypothesis-12	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha12)	Chi-square test	Accepted
Hypothesis-13	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha13)	Chi-square test	Rejected
Hypothesis-14	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha14)	Chi-square test	Accepted
Hypothesis-15	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha15)	Chi-square test	Rejected
Hypothesis-16	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha16)	Chi-square test	Accepted
Hypothesis-17	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha17)	Chi-square test	Accepted
Hypothesis-18	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha18)	Chi-square test	Accepted
Hypothesis-19	Alternate Hypothesis(Ha19)	Chi-square test	Accepted

6.4 CONCLUSION

An estimated 1.2 million sanitary workers in India are occupied in the sanitation work. The working conditions of these sanitary workers have remained virtually unchanged for over a century. Sanitary worker comes under the urban informal and occupational hierarchy at lowest in the context of Indian society. Despite the social atrocities faced by these workers, they are exposed to certain health related problems by virtue of their occupation. Women's emancipation gained

of women sanitary workers are very moderate and some more awareness is to be created among them in order to adopt moderate living standards.

Thus the study was analyzed on qualitative and quantitative perspectives and the concept involves both macro and micro dimensions on the subtle base of the research title.

6.5. SUGGESTIONS:

In order to promote the socio-economic status of the women sanitary workers, the following suggestions were made as a matter of policy implications.

- Awareness programs on the application of modern infra structural equipment in terms of sanitation are to be conducted for the women sanitary workers to reduce work load and job stress.
- Congenial work atmosphere is to be created in order to create the sense of job satisfaction among the women sanitary workers.
- Salary structures are to be revised and payment of better salaries is to be done for the women sanitary workers in order to raise their standard of living.
- Financial assistance is to be provided for the women sanitary workers for constructing their own houses in order to promote their living standards.
- Modern sanitary appliances (mechanical and automobile logistics)are to be provided for the women sanitary workers in order to counter the health hazards that arises out of their job nature.
- Awareness programs on the effects of alcohol on the health is to be conducted through paramedical camps and community medicine program.

momentum and they were considered equal if not superior to men. But when all is said and done, the status of women in India had been a fluctuating one sometimes encouraging and sometimes discouraging. However, the present status of women in society is quite encouraging but the women in marginalized section deserve careful study. Evocation of manual scavenging is mostly done by lower caste people and closely linked to the practice of untouchability. Sanitation workers mostly carry out their work in unsafe working conditions without protective gears or other safety gears or other safety devices.

The study was initiated with the help of identified research gaps through which the Research objectives were laid in order to answer the existing research lacunas and research hypotheses were framed in order to verify the statistical significance of the proposed research objectives. Due to the transition in the role performance of the women sanitary workers they face many adjustment problems when they play a dual role at their working places as well as their homes.

The study shows that though the women sanitary workers are upto the mark in terms of socio-economic concepts, their status is very low and steps are to be taken in this direction to uplift and empower them on socio-economic platform. The income, expenditure and savings pattern of the women sanitary workers is marginal and there is every need on part of the municipal organizations to increase the income levels of the working women sanitary workers as such their savings level and capacity to spend will increase certainly.

The health conditions of the women sanitary workers are very pathetic and there is every need to formulate the effective steps in order to raise the health standards of the women sanitary workers. The living conditions of the women sanitary workers are substandard and there is every need in terms of the organizational support. The decision making capacity among the women sanitary workers is very low and perhaps it may be due to low literacy rates and high dependency on other family members. The women sanitary workers are not satisfied with their jobs and necessary steps are to be taken in order to curb this negative job orientation. The social attitudes

- Literacy rates are to be increased among the women sanitary workers in order to provide them with better education standards, capacity to make decisions and to increase their perceptual standards on the modern society.
- Due social honour and respect is to be given by the society for women sanitary workers in order to raise their dignity and moral turpitude.
- Special medical assistance in the form of periodical medical check up and financial allowance are to be provided for women sanitary workers in order to raise their health conditions.
- Modern appliances like radium aprons, gloves , masks, shoes and disposable brooms are to be provided for the women sanitary workers in their daily course of job activities.
- The government should provide special financial allocations for the women sanitary workers in order to safeguard their social interests and economic well being.
- Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should place a prominent role in uplifting the socio-economic status and empowerment of women sanitary workers working in different municipal organizations across the nation.

6.6 SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The present study had analyzed and verified the aspect of the “SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN SANITARY WORKERS-- A STUDY ON SELECT MUNICIPALITIES OF GUNTUR DISTRICT IN ANDHRA PRADESH”. In the interests of the research community the following avenues for further research are here with postulated.

1. Research studies can be made on psychological aspects among the women sanitary workers working in municipal organizations.
2. Exploratory research studies can be made on the impact of advanced machinery in sanitation on the employment status of women sanitary workers.
3. Comparative research studies can be made on men and women sanitary workers in terms of their socio-economic status and their level of productivity.
4. Diagnostic research studies can be made on the impact of sanitary environment on the health conditions of women sanitary workers in municipal areas.
5. Descriptive research studies can be made on the empowerment process of women sanitary workers working under different municipal organizations across the nation.
6. Analytical research studies can be made on the effect of contractual sanitary workers on the economic status of permanent sanitary workers working in municipal organizations.