

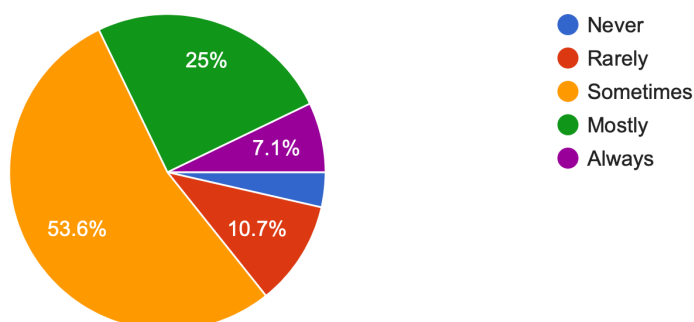
IMPACT of covid on married women

1. *Covid had brought in a lot of changes in everyday life, a new virus of unknown origin and unknown potential had broken havoc into the lives of everyone and with rising number of cases and deaths around them the “Pandemic induced Claustrophobia” (1) had resulted in a change in the moods and schedules of everyone in the world. People from every aspect of life were affected ranging from the doctors to the daily wage workers. We will be focusing on the impact of the COVID pandemic on married women.*
2. *India has a lower labor participation from women as compared to the world average with the figure for India being “19.23%” (2) while the world average is just a little above “50%” (3) so the impact on the economic aspect of the country might not have been as direct as much it was for other countries but in an indirect way the impact of the married women to the economic aspect of a country and even the societal aspect is huge. A women is regarded as the backbone of any home and any extra pressure on it sure had implications for everything that went on in a house.*
3. *Majority of the women were not accustomed to the work from home system which had resulted in an increase in the number of hours they had to work at home. On top of it the added distractions of household chores or childcare added up to their misery. An average employed women used to work “2.3 hours” before the pandemic compared to the “1.6 hours” of an average man (4), but during the pandemic the workload had increased exponentially. At an average a married women had to limit the amount of work she did “by about 5 per cent (two hours a week)” (5) whereas the working hours of an average married man remained constant. To give an idea about the huge fluctuation during the great recession in the USA the number of hours the women had to “scale back was approximately 30 minutes” (5). The case for married women with children was even worse with results from the “USA cps (current population survey)” showing that “the reduction in hours worked per week between February and April is nearly 4.5 times larger for mothers than fathers” (5).*
4. *With the above data and data from our google form and countless sources online we can easily say that this pandemic increased gender inequality for working class women. But with the Covid-19’s huge negative impact on the economy and companies worldwide the unemployment rates skyrocketed and with women losing their jobs it became increasingly hard for them to sustain their families. “The Economic Survey 2018 shows that Indian women typically earn low wages working in highly insecure jobs. India had the largest gender gap in median earnings of full-time employees in 2015” and with a huge disparity in the*

number of women working in major sectors like “oil and gas (7%); automotive (10%); pharmaceutical and healthcare (11%); and information technology (28%)” (7) the working class women were among the worse affected during the pandemic because not only the amount of hours they had to work in a day had increased there was increased insecurity regarding their professional life and adding on that their salaries also didn’t nearly compensate for the amount of work they had to do.

How often do you feel fatigued/stressed by house work?

28 responses



The above graph shows the percentage of the women that actually felt the burden during the covid time as gathered by our google form.

5. A variety of surveys online have researched upon the impact of the work from home culture on married women many of those who were actually working on their own. With reports showing that this impacted their mental health, daily schedules, work-life balance and many more things. Similar to the data of the survey conducted by our group, a survey conducted by the “JOURNAL OF WOMENS HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT” shared similar findings on which aspects of their lives were impacted. The data below has been collected by a survey conducted by the group and shows the various aspects of a women life that were impacted and aims to give a broad picture on the impact of covid on married women.