

Economic Status of women working in Pharmaceutical companies of Sikkim, India

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Abstract

The women have various responsibility in the family because they have to take care of children, family members and also have to involve in the outdoor activities to generate income. Participation on of women in economic activities is high in Sikkim. Women also play a major role in trending activities. So the study has explored the economic status of working women. The study was conducted in Sikkim among the 385 women working in Pharmaceutical companies. The structured survey questionnaire was used to collect the data. The collected data were statistically analysed and presented in the tabular form. The findings show that the majority (50.9%) working women were getting less than Rs. 10000/- per month from the service which was not adequate as their basic household needs. It is found from the that maximum percentage (84.2%) of respondents didn't have any personal property in their name because of the society of patriarchal system and cultural practices of gender-based division of labour. The study suggests that concerned government and companies should enhance the capacity of working women and should increase their incentives considering the basic needs of workers.

Keyword: Economic status, Pharmaceutical companies, Sikkim, Working women

Introduction

The status of working women in India has changed a great deal in the midst of the years yet their defenselessness continues as before. The world is in twenty-first century still the women battles from similar hardships which they used to confront decades prior. The clout of religion, society, family obstructs their development and influences their own and expert life. India is as yet a male-centric culture where there is a control of men over women, be it country or urban regions women are as yet battling to look through their character. Regardless of whether they are occupied with agrarian exercises or are selected in the top administrative position they need to

achieve their family just as expert obligations at standard. In this manner, the pace of development is extremely drowsy as they need to contribute their energies similarly towards family and work (Bhadury & Mukherjee, 2015, p. 1613). In the Indian setting, the government through the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has communicated a profound responsibility towards improving female labour force participation. Be that as it may, huge difficulties endure, with gaps informal instruction as far as learning levels, drop-outs, and nature of training (ASER, 2019).

Current Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has been documented to be 54% and only 5% of Indians can be considered formally skilled (World Bank Group, 2019). Among 131 countries, India currently holds the 120th position in terms of the female labour force participation rates and gender-based violence witnessed (The World Bank, 2018). We can observe the gender-based division of labour in the workplace and household activities. Gender bias also means that any resource requiring funds such as health, nutrition, and education is denied for poor women (Vecchio & Roy, 1998). Due to inadequate education and low assets, a woman suffers greatly if her husband dies or abandons her (United Nations, Economic, Social Commission for Asia, & the Pacific, 2000). She doesn't have the ability to gain sufficient pay. Since a girl's work is progressively significant in the home, moms like to keep them at home. Women bear the most elevated weights of family tasks (Vecchio & Roy, 1998). Notions with respect to women's economic status fluctuate in light of contrasting reasonable systems and deficient observational proof. Reports battle with meanings of work utilizing different terms, for example, "casual segment", "work", "easygoing", "fundamental", "minor", "non-laborers", "disorderly", "unregulated", "leftover", "essential, auxiliary and tertiary segments" (Census of India , 1991; Devi, 1999; Ministry of Social Welfare, 1987; United Nations, Economic, Social Commission for Asia, & the Pacific, 1997).

Women's work is an important underpinning of society and economy in Sikkim as it is elsewhere. Indeed, participation on of women in economic activities is high in Sikkim. Women also play a major role in trending activities. Women take part in family management and contribute to the subsidiary income of the family by collecting firewood from the jungle, selling vegetables and other items in the markets, working as daily wage or agricultural labour, construction workers, porters etc. Besides that, they also involved in service and business to generate household income. Women workers of pharmaceutical industries in Sikkim a notable workforce. So, in this context, there is important to identify the economic status of women working in pharmaceutical industries.

Materials & Method

The study is based on the descriptive and exploratory research design because it has described the economic status of women working in the Pharmaceutical companies of Sikkim and it has also explored their experience about their own economic status. The study had collected the data from 385 working women by using the structured survey questionnaire. The respondents were

selected by using the simple random sampling technique. The collected data was analyzed from the statistical software (SPSS v. 20) and findings are presented in the tabular form. The frequency distribution, cross-tabulation and Chi-Square test are run to analyze the data.

Result & Discussion

In both village and cities, there has been a remarkable increase in the number of women going out of the four walls for the household and becoming workers. In the employment market, women are doing a tough competition for the menfolk. Basically, in the field of private sectors, the number of women employees is steadily increasing. Employment is directly related to the economic status; monthly status. Every family needs at least a minimum source of income to sustain the family and manage the family needs. It is well known that the economy of family, community and country describes their status among the larger mass. If they have good economic status then, they are regarded as successful and live above poverty. It is also important for improving the quality of life of people from their improvement in socio-economic status. Mostly, when people have a good source of income then they can easily manage their basic needs and will have time to graphs the other opportunity. The study had identified the economic status of working women by measuring their source of income, land, bank balance, or house or any other.

Monthly income of working women

The family needs money because, without any source of income, a family cannot well maintain the health and education of their family. So, people do work to earn some money and to run their family. We should not regard any work as small or big by evaluating the nature of work; we should do that work that one wants to do from heart, then only people become successful and can do good earning also.

The study had asked the respondents about their monthly income. It was seen from the table that the maximum percentage of respondents (50.9%) reported that their monthly income was up to Rs. 10,000/-. It indicates that the majority were from the less income group.

Table 1: Monthly income

	<i>Age</i>		<i>Education</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Up to 30 Years</i>	<i>Above 30 Years</i>	<i>Illiterate</i>	<i>Up to Matriculation</i>	<i>to Higher Secondary School and above</i>	
<i>Up to Rs 10,000</i>	44.2%	64.2%	62.2%	71.7%	27.3%	50.9%
<i>Rs 10,000-20,000</i>	47.5%	13.8%	37.8%	23.9%	47.6%	36.2%
<i>Rs 20,000-30,000</i>	8.3%				12.6%	5.5%
<i>Rs. 40,000-50,000</i>		11.0%		4.3%	4.2%	3.7%
<i>Rs. 50,000 and above</i>		11.0%			8.4%	3.7%
<i>Total</i>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<i>Chi-Square Tests</i>	<i>p = .000</i>		<i>p = .000</i>			

Source: Field Survey, 2019

From the table, it was known that the maximum percentage of the respondents aged above 30 years (64.2%) reported that their monthly income was up to Rs. 10,000/- were the comparatively higher number (47.5%) of respondents aged up to 30 years agreed that their monthly income was Rs. 10000-20000/-.

Similarly, from the educational perspectives, the maximum percentage of higher secondary school and above respondents (47.6%) reported that their monthly income was Rs. 10000-20000/-.

Where 71.7% of respondents who had up to matriculation level of education reported that their income was up to Rs. 10, 000/- only. The same amount of income was reported by the majority (62.2%) of illiterate women.

The statistical analysis of Chi-Square test shows that there was significant association in monthly income between the two different age groups' respondents as the p-value was 0.000 which was less than standard 0.05 significant level. Moreover, there was significant association between the educational level of respondents in their monthly income as the p-value was 0.000.

Do you have any personal property in your name?

The modernization has brought many changes in physical and technical development of society; people loves the physical goods than a person. Majority people have interest to have some personal property in their own name. Generally, people believe that they will be successful if they have enough property in their name. So, most of the people try to buy some property like land, house if they had enough money or simply earn through job.

In this section, researcher asked respondents whether they have any personal property in their name or not. It is found from the following Table 2 that maximum percentage (84.2%) of respondents didn't have any personal property in their name.

Table 21: Property in respondent's name

	<i>Age</i>		<i>Education</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Up to 30 Years</i>	<i>Above 30 Years</i>	<i>Illiterate</i>	<i>Up to Matriculation</i>	<i>Higher Secondary School and above</i>	
<i>Yes</i>	14.2%	18.9%	15.4%	11.1%	20.3%	15.8%
<i>No</i>	85.8%	81.1%	84.6%	88.9%	79.7%	84.2%
<i>Total</i>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Chi-Square Tests	p = .241		p = .069			

Source: Field Survey, 2019

From the table, it was known that maximum percentage of the respondents aged above 30 years (81.1%) and respondents aged up to 30 years (85.8%) disagreed that they take they had their own property. Similarly, maximum percentage of higher secondary school and above respondents (79.7%), matriculated respondents (88.9%) and illiterate women (84.6%) also disagreed with the statement.

The statistical analysis of Chi-Square test shows that there was no significant association between age groups of respondents regarding the property in their name as the p-value was 0.241 which was greater than standard 0.05 significant level. similar status was found among the educational level of respondents also. There was no significant association between educational level of respondents regarding the property in their name as the p-value was 0.069 which is greater than standard significant level.

Do you have bank account in your name?

In India, government is focusing in a bank account for every citizen. There are lots of bank in Sikkim which provide different facility to customer. Nowadays, bank account is needed for employment purpose as well as for the different business purposes also. On the one hand, banks are providing easy saving and credit service to customers though online system, on the other side, government is discouraging the direct cash exchange from the social security perspective also. So it has certainly made easy for the people to open the bank account.

In this section, researcher asked respondents whether they have bank account in their name or not. It was seen that maximum percentage of respondents (78.4%) agreed that they have bank account in their name.

Table 3: Bank account in respondent's name

	<i>Age</i>		<i>Education</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Up to 30 Years</i>	<i>Above 30 Years</i>	<i>Illiterate</i>	<i>Up to Higher Secondary</i>	<i>Matriculation School and above</i>	
<i>Yes</i>	76.6%	81.9%	37.8%	81.5%	86.0%	78.4%
<i>No</i>	23.4%	18.1%	62.2%	18.5%	14.0%	21.6%
<i>Total</i>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Chi-Square Tests	p = .237		p = .000			

Source: Field Survey, 2019

From the table, it was known that maximum percentage of the respondents aged above 30 years (81.9%) and respondents aged up to 30 years (76.6%) agreed have bank account in their own name. Similarly, maximum percentage of higher secondary school and above respondents (86.0%), and matriculated respondents (81.5%) agreed with the statement.

However, illiterate women (62.2%) disagreed with the statement.

The statistical analysis of Chi-Square test shows that there was no significant association between age groups in their decision of voting for political party or leader as the p-value was 0.237 which was greater than standard 0.05. Moreover, there was significant association between educational groups of respond in their voting decision as the p-value was 0.000.

Conclusion

The study found that majority (50.9%) working women were getting less than Rs. 10000/- per month from the service which was not adequate as their basic household needs. It is found from

the that maximum percentage (84.2%) of respondents didn't have any personal property in their name because society of Sikkim is also dominated by patriarchal system and cultural practices of gender based division of labor. Similarly, the study also asked the respondents about their own bank account. It was seen that maximum percentage of respondents (78.4%) agreed that they have bank account in their name. The study suggests that concerned government and companies should enhance the capacity of working women and should increase their incentives considering the basic needs of workers.

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