



HOW TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF HOUSEWIVES WITHIN THE HOME –AN EXAMPLE FROM KHADI VILLAGE INDUSTRIES IN KERALA

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ABSTRACT

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood"

United Nations, Charter 1945

Equality of men and women is the main motive of the welfare society . Economic equality is the first step to achieve the equal concept of men and women and in turn it accomplishes the evergreen dream of women empowerment. In the case of housewives their economic participation is very low . one of the important reason for this is their unpaid works in their family . The household jobs or unpaid activities are the main obstacles for the housewives to engage in other income gain works .The important works under the unpaid categories are cooking ,washing ,cleaning and caring of children and disabled persons . These unpaid works of housewives helps the children's to become good human assets of the labourmarket and also to be the good citizens of tomorrow . These unpaid activities are sometimes barriers to the housewives life in all aspects especially their entrance to the labourmarket for these reasons they are losing their self sufficiency in achieving their own income ,these income helps not only their own life and but also it strengthens their entire family . This paper shows how to improve the economic status of the housewives within the home by doing the income earning activities by not giving up their unpaid activities .This is an example from the kadhi village industries in Kerala.

KEY WORDS: *housewives, households, economic security, khadi ,unpaid activities ,labourforce participation rate ,self sufficiency ,women empowerment*

INTRODUCTION

Woman plays multiple roles in the society. She plays the role of daughter, wife, mother and at the sometimes she also participate in the economic activities. During the past decades the participation of women in economic activities depends upon the traditional customs and beliefs of the family. Now a days the educational status of women are increasing , so automatically the labourforce participation also increases. However in every cases we cannot assume the same trend. Even if the education level increases the intensity of unpaid work in the family draws them back from labour participation. The intensity of the time devoted to paid and unpaid work depends on many factors. The important factors are age ,gender ,number of children in the household , household size, geographical location and social class[1] .The number of children in the household is an important factor which determines how much time women spent on unpaid work [2]. The declining level of labourforce participation of women leads to financial insecurity .

For every financial matter they depend upon their male counterpart..

Equality is the main motive of every democratic society. The real meaning of equality can be only achieved through the equal participation of men and women in economic social and political matters. In the case of economic equality fulfillment, a wide range of platform is needed. Present economy provides wide range of opportunities for both men and women. In the egalitarian society housewives want employment opportunities to achieve their self realization and escape from the trap of depression [3]. In the case of housewives there are number of reasons responsible for their entry and exit from the economy opportunities. An important reason which restricts women to explore new fields is household jobs. The household jobs are generally said as unpaid activities which is entirely different from the Paid work . Paid work is mainly concentrated to men than women but women also participates in work which weighs the same efforts or more unlike the paid work . unpaid



work mainly concentrates women communities . Most of the unpaid works are done by women .The incorporation of the unpaid work of women in national income is an controversial subject .the boundary between unpaid and paid work is differentiated by the third person criteria. Third person paid to the activities for what he or she receives is considered paid work and otherwise it is considered as unpaid work [4]. The paid work is associated with remuneration whereas the unpaid work is not. Therefore It creates a negative relationship with paid and unpaid work .when the unpaid work of women increases their paid work participation in the economy decreases. One of the factor that determine the economic participation of women is unpaid activities.

Labourforce participation is one of the yardstick to measure the women empowerment . Thus inclusive growth is possible only if the female have an income earning capacity like male . The eleventh and twelfth five year plan mainly concentrate the sustainable and inclusive growth. On this part many empowerment programmes introduced by the government to empower the marginalised section especially women. However many housewives are not engaged in the economic activities due to unpaid works . Development cannot take place if we neglects the role of women in the economic activities. The 12th FYP recognises the need

for inclusive and sustainable growth. This can be achieved only if women progress equally. Since the economic reforms women have played a very significant role in the growth of the country, as per the United National Development Fund for women (UNIFEM), the term women's empowerment means:

- Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relations and the ways in which these relations may be changed.
- Developing a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life.
- Gaining the ability to generate choices exercise bargaining power.
- developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change, to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally [5].

The real meaning of women empowerment cannot be achieved without the economic participation of women .the real courage of self sufficiency arises from one persons economic independency . Now a days the government implement many programmes for women empowerment . Economic participation or labourforce participation is an yardstick of women empowerment . The labourforce participation of male and female of india and kerala is the following:

Table :1 Labour Force Participation Rate for Kerala and India (percent) Urban and Rural (PS+SS)*

Year	Rural				Urban			
	India		kerala		india		kerala	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1987-88	54.9	33.1	55.8	33.6	53.4	12.9	59	26.1
1993-94	56.1	33	56.8	26.4	54.3	16.5	59.9	25
1999-2000	54	30.2	58.7	27.3	54.2	14.7	59.1	25.4
2004-05	55.5	33.3	58.9	32.1	57	17.8	58.3	30.1
2009-10	55.6	26.5	58.3	26	55.9	14.6	56.4	23.3
2011-12	55.3	25.3	58.3	25.8	56.3	15.5	56.7	22.2

(Source : Secondary Data , various reports of NSSO , [6])

*Refers To Principal Status Plus Subsidiary Status, The Most Inclusive Definition Of Worker

In this data shows that in 1987-88 the rural male and female labourforce participation of kerala is comparatively better than the all india average level. But the four following consecutive periods 1993-94 ,1999-2000,2004-05, and 2009-10 male labourforce participation of kerala is much better than the Indian average but in the case of female participation it is decline to compare the all india average. Kerala's rural female labourforce participation rate is decreasing over the years. In the case of urban areas of Kerala the participation rate is decreasing 2010-2011 as compared to the 2009-2010 ratio. But it is slightly higher than the all India female labourforce participation rate. in the period 2011-12 the male

labour force participation is also high in kerala as compared to all india average and female labourforce participation is slightly improving .The case of urban labourforce participation the year 1993 to 2012 in the six consecutive periods the male and female labourforce participation of Kerala is higher than the all India average .In the case of female it has huge different existing . keralas urban female labourforce participation is much better than the all india average level .in the case of rural this is shows a decreasing trend.

One of the reason for declining trend in the rural women labourforce participations is their unpaid work in the family .they care their family members for their



lifelong time. from Early mornings to night they do all the household jobs for their family members . They did not even think about their own matters ,some times they did the entire household jobs without caring their physical illness . their entire life is fully dedicated to others and their economic dependency is depend on male counter part in the household . The economic participation of women directly and indirectly depend upon the households. The economic participation of women is an important factor determines the women empowerment. In the case of unpaid worker it is not possible because the increasing role of women in the housework does not increases their economic participation .here There is an inverse or negative relationship between economic empowerment .as well as the household responsibility and also it negatively affect their wellbeing and also effect the social, political and economic participations [4].However these works are not priceless or valueless and it is an important unrecognized economic activity to the economy.

This study highlights the Economic earnings of housewives through khadi yarn making process within the home after completing their unpaid activities.

A SMALL INTRODUCTION TO- KHADI

Khadi or kadhar is a natural fiber cloth which is made up of cotton . The khadi movement was started in India in 1918. The main ideology of this movement was self reliance and self government .this was the part of swadeshi movement . Mahatma Gandhi called the khadi the ‘livery of the freedom’.All india khadi and village industries came in to existence in 1953. In this industry Womens are the majority they are taken by the different stages of production[7]. There are mainly four types of khadi . there are cotton ,muslin ,woolen ,silk and poly vastra . Polyvastra is a combination of polyester and cotton .

kadhi is one of the village industrial unit agency , government also encourage to promote employment through this unit . the name of the other important agencies which increases the promotion of the industrial units are following

- (1) MSME Development Institute (formerly SISI)
- (2) Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC)
- (3) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- (4) Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)
- (5) Infrastructure Kerala Ltd (INKEL)

- (6) Directorate of Industries and Commerce (DIC)
- (7) Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
- (8) Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB)
- (9) Kerala Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO)
- (10) Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC)
- (11) Kerala Industrial and Technical Consultancy (KITCO)
- (12) Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-Bip)
- (13) Centre for Management Development (CMD) [8]

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal implementing agency at the national level. Khadi & Village Industry Boards (KVIB) and District Industry Centres are the implementing agencies in the States. The kerala khadi and village industries board constituted by the act 1957 . This programme mainly constituted the employment opportunities in the rural area more concentrate the socio economic weaker sections of the society[9] . In keral total number of khadhi village industrial units is 371.out of these 138 are weaving and 233 are spinning . the government also promote financial assistance to start the khadi units by the BPL womens . a unit contain 10 members .

The study area of this paper is Thrissur district in kerala . The district was formed on 1949 July 1. Thrissur is situated in the central part of the state . It is the revenue district of kerala and cultural capital city of kerala and also the land of poorams . It cover the 10 percentage of keralas population . The north area of this district bordered by the districts of Palakkad and Malappuram to the north and the districts of Ernakulam and Idukki to the south . the Arabian sea lies to the west and the east is bounded by the strches of western Ghats . The district office controlled and coordinated the khadi village industries activities of the district . Khadi sector of this district consist of 14 Weaving Units and 17 Spinning Units . There exist 210 Charkhas and 155 Looms in this district in the working condition..Olarikkara is a dyeing unit ,the speciality of this unit is colouring the yarn . The yarns from the districts of Ernakulam, Idukki, Kottayam, Alappuzha and Palakkad are taken to this unit for dyeing. A readymade warp unit is also functioning in olarikkara another peculiar kadhi unit is vinissery ,a panchayath in Thrissur . it is known as vardha in south india[10]



Figure:1 A weaving unit

Double burden of the work is the main reason which restricts housewives from entering in to the market labor force. Even if she is a working women burden of household work affects[3]. Majority of the Educated womens are not entering into job after marriage because of the increasing intensity of household works and to care children and elderly members of the family. In this situation how will these housewives earn within the home who also suffer other kinds of difficulties to enter the market is a relevant question. This study focus on how the to improve the economic status of housewives by using their residual time after doing their household works. This study is an example from the the kadhi village industries of kodakara from kerala.

OBJECTIVES

Main objective of this study is to find out the economic self sufficiency of housewives through kadhi industries – special reference to kodakara.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To satisfy this objective both primary as well as secondary datas were used. in the case of primary data datas collected from the khadhi industry of

kodakara. secondary data also collected from the books journals articles, newspaper etc.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION ECONOMIC SELF SUFFICIENCY OF HOUSEWIVES THROUGH KADHI VILLAGE INDUSTRIES -PRIMARY DATA ANALYSIS FROM KODAKARA KADHI VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

This study concentrates the alathur khadhi industrial unit. Alathur is situated in Thrissur district. The name of the khadhi unit is kerala kadhi industries association - kodakara production centre. Under the kodakara kadhi village industrtries there are 5 sub centers existing. These are at kuttikadu pattepadam, kuthaattukunnu ,pulani, alathur. in the total subcentres there are presently 82 spinning workers and 35 weaving workers. out of these 82 spinning workers 75 are housewives. They do their yarn making by using charkha in their home after doing their entire household jobs. charkha is provided by the khadi unit. Lots of housewives are doing the yarn making process within the home and they reach the khadhi industrial unit in a weekly or monthly basis with this yarn. The target of every housewives is to produce 20 -54 yarn.

**Table :2 the minimum wage rate of different periods**

Year	Spinning (Minimum Wages per month) in rupees	Weaving (Minimum wages per month) in rupees
2019	10075	14244
2018	6581	7791
2017	6389	7599
2016	6048	7258

(Source: primary data)

One yarn is thousand meter. the payment is done within the 25 days .the half payment is done by the government and half is done by the industrial unit . Many housewives are crossing the target of 20-24 yarn and they produce more than the target to get high level income. Spinning is also possible in the households . weaving is possible in the industrial unit. In the case of spinning the wage rate for making one yarn is 17 rupees and 90 paise and also they get the incentives of 45 rupees per yarn . There are two types of yarn produced in the industry, one is soft and another one is hard. Soft yarn production target is one day 20 yarn and hard yarn production target is 24yarn per day. The target is 100 count yarn it means 10 gram. So the

workers main target is to produce 20 yarn. The yarns for the entire sub centers are produced by women .in these 75 housewives do it in their home . Rest of the seven are working in the khadi unit . In the case of weaving, the workers target is 3 lungis per day . one lungis is consist of 1.80 meter so they produce a total 5.60 meter per day . the weaving of one lunge they get 93 rupees 71 paise and also get 45 rupees incentives . This is the weaving and spinning rates of 2019 wages . The target influences their wage rate . However 10478 is the average level of salary with incentives . This table shows that the minimum wage rate is increasing with every year . The highest wage rate shown in the period of 2019 .



Figure:2 Lungis-a khadi products produced by womens in the khadi unit by using yarns made by the house wives in their home .the price of one lungi is four hundred rupees .

The difference in the wage rate is because of increasing demand of khadi products in kerala. To compare the spinning and weaving wage rate weaving wage rate is higher than the spinning because Weaving is only possible in the khadi unit ,it need big machinery . spinning is also possible in houses by using charkha . so the weaving workers daily travel to this unit for work and comparatively it is tough . the spinning and weaving workers are womens . women are the major labourforce. Technicians are males and females. These works are their main sources of income for the

housewives and it is not only for them but also for their entire family.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Women empowerment is not possible without the economic empowerment of an individual. In the case of housewives how to achieve economic empowerment is an important questions. Household jobs are the main barriers for the women to enter to the market. This paper shows that how to improve the



economic status of housewives within the home an example from khadi village industries. the purpose of the establishment of khadi is to achieve self reliance and self sufficiency. the mantra of khadi is also applicable in the case of housewives. they can achieve the economic self sufficiency and self reliance within their home. This is a good sign to the way of achieving gender equality

This study is an example for housewives those who really want a source of income without sacrificing their unpaid works and care for their family. This study recommended that the knowledge of khadi yarn making is limited among the peopleso we should conduct courses for housewives those who are really interested in this field and also make awareness of this scheme among the women community about the yarn making process of khadi in home.

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