

Socio-Economic Status of Rural Women - A Realistic Study of Nalgonda District, Telangana State.

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ABSTRACT

The researchers conducted a study to find out the role of the rural women in the family, to know the family members ideas of the rural women are considering their opinion on various aspects, to find out the opinions of the rural women on financial changes i.e., choice to spend earnings, to analyse the perceptions of the rural women regarding whether the dowry improves their status in in-laws family, to examine the attitudes regarding developmental change in economic position in comparison to past. For this purpose, I collected the data from the rural women of Nalgonda district using interview schedule applying simple random sampling technique. The collected data was analyzed and the results were presented in tables appropriately. The findings proved that the rural women are playing a better role in their families, they have much liberty to spend earning of the family. Further it is also proved that dowry improved the status of rural women in in-laws family and there is a much change in respondent families regarding development of economic position in comparison to past. The results disproved regarding the family members do not consider the opinions of the rural women in family matters. Therefore, it is concluded that the socio-economic status of rural women of Nalgonda district is far better than earlier period.

Key words: Rural women, better role, improved status, economic position, consideration of opinions, choice to spend.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The society is made up of people of different taste. Social change is the result of a number of factors in modern India. Social changes occur in modern India due to the process of formation reformation or decay at various levels. In most of the cases, social changes occur as an imitation of the upper classes by their respective lower classes. Social change is a process, in the sense that it involves a series of events over a period of time. The idea of continuity is implies in it and shows a sequence of operations that bring about change. Thus the notion of process indicates two major dimensions of social change- its nature and direction. While the nature of change reveals contents of change, the direction speaks about the line in which it is moving.¹ Some sociologist makes a distinction between social change and modernization in order to assess the nature of change in the traditional India. Historically modernization in India started from the establishment of the British rule and continued up to independence even later to that. The contact with the west brought about far reaching changes in social structure and cultural institutions. Changes were witnessed in almost all-important areas of life. The western system was introduced towards the middle of the 19th century and expanded significantly thereafter modernization process has

¹ Kamallesh Singh (2008), "*Social Change in Modern India*", First Edition, New Delhi, p.2.

undergone some fundamental changes after the independence. Every domain of social system is under the active influence of modernizing process.

On the basis of various definitions expressed by social scientists it is concluded that social change refers to the modifications which take place in the life patterns of people. It does not refer to all the changes going on in the society. The changes in art, language, technology; philosophy etc., may not be included in the term 'Social change' which should be interpreted in a narrow sense to mean alterations in the field of social relationships.

According to Singh K. (1964)² "the causes of social changes may be accounted as four categories, which act independently. Hence, their contribution towards social changes is a matter of degree. They may be identified as the physical environment, the biological conditions, the technological order and the cultural order."

Women and their skills focused organizations have been created. Environmental changes like the higher education levels of women, participation of women in sports have brought laurels for India. Participation of women in employment areas like Police Department, Public utilities like metro transport, Airline pilots and space travel have boosted the image of women and the 21st Century women is quite different from her image of the earlier times. Banking and Financial services industry have seen several women in top positions and sharing a platform equally with men. Even in politics we have such figures as Mamta Banerjee, Chief Minister of Bengal, Sushma Swarj, Minister for External affairs who are examples of women empowerment and demonstration of rising power of women in India. In modern society, there are several research scholars and professors among women. In media entry of several powerful women and their decibel levels cannot be missed when switch on the TV.

The present study of changing status of rural women focuses in the area of Nalgonda district of Telangana state, because the magnitude of the problem is very wide due to similar trends which are emerging all over India specially in the context of changing status of women. As such, the study which is representative in nature reflects a very wide scope and its consequential implications help the women in all aspects such as demographic, geographical, biological, cultural, educational, technological, economic, political and sociological.

Keeping this in view, the researcher has taken up the present study on "**Socio-Economic life of Rural Women – A Realistic Study**" to know the demographic impact on social change among rural women of Nalgonda district.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is that there is a social change on the basis of demographic variables of the respondents on the following social changes and economical changes.

1. To find out the role of the rural women in the family
2. To know the family members ideas of the rural women are considering their opinion on various aspects
3. To find out the opinions of the rural women on financial changes i.e., choice to spend earnings
4. To analyse the perceptions of the rural women regarding whether the dowry improves their status in in-laws family.
5. To investigate the attitudes regarding developmental change in economic position in comparison to past.

² Singh K. (1964), "*Advanced Sociology*", First Edition, Lucknow, pp.150-152.

Hypotheses

1. There is a better role of rural women in their families.
2. Family members do not consider the opinions of the rural women in family matters.
3. The rural women has much liberty to spend earnings of the family.
4. Dowry improves the rural women status in in-laws family.
5. There is a change in the development of economic position in comparison to past.

2.0 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kasturi Gogoi (2020)³ conducted a study on rural women and their livelihoods of Madhya Khangia Gaon Panchayat, Jorhat block in Assam state. The researcher chosen a road map for women empowerment, however, still there are miles to go on this path of empowerment. Ensuring active participation of women in the decision making process and income generation activities can make greater significance towards women empowerment. This will make them stand on their own and to develop entrepreneurship qualities.

Sakshi Sharma (2020)⁴ conducted a sociological study of the status and role of women in the Marwa village of Jharkhand and highlights the results based on the data collected from the women residing in the said village. The women in the village were reported to be assuming a better role in the process of decision making. The standard of education is poor in the village. The study also observed that most of the respondents were found to be more educated than their male counterparts.

According to Rashmi Arya (2019)⁵ “the process of urbanization in the development and transformation of the rural society also affected, through which rural women were also attracted towards the cities and their lifestyle, food habits, fashion, education, business and conservative ideology changed and today's women of rural society can be seen moving towards mobility and development.”

Tara Kumar Singh and Shyam Sunder Prasad (2017)⁶ analyzed the changing status of women in modern India which is based purely on secondary data. The analysis shows that although women in modern India have made a considerable progress in every sphere of life, they still have to struggle against deep-rooted patriarchal mentality of society.

³ Kasturi Gogoi (2020), “Inclusion of Rural Women in the Development Process: A Study of Rural Women and their Livelihoods with reference to Madhya Khangia Gaon Panchayat, Jorhat Development Block”, Journal of Critical Reviews, Vol.7, Iss:4, pp.2207-2213.

⁴ Sakshi Sharma (2020), “Status and Role of Women in Marwa Village: A Sociological Study in the State of Jharkhand”, <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3604006> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3604006>.

⁵ Rashmi Arya (2019), "Rural Society: Womens Mobility and Changing Perspective - Study based on Rural Women of Jawahar Jyoti Damwadhunga", International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR), Vol.8, Iss:2, pp.2173 – 2175.

⁶ Tara Kumar Singh and Shyam Sunder Prasad (2017), “Changing Status of Women in Modern India: A Sociological Study”, Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR), Vol.4, Iss:1, pp.366-369.

Yasaswini Y., Bhanu Bhava Tharaka U. and Bhagavanulu D.V.S. (2017)⁷ to observe the Socio-economic development of women in Arepalli Rangampet, Chandragiri Mandal, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. The investigators observed that most of the women earning from working in agricultural fields, tailoring, selling vegetables, fruits and working in Sulabh international as sweepers. It is found that most of the women are not educated and it is necessary to address socio-economic development of women in this village.

Kamlesh Singh, Jasleen Kaur, Dalbir Singh and Mohita Junnarkar (2014)⁸ addressed to understand the perception of dual role of rural women and to explore variation in the well-being. A large sample of 221 rural women (age range 18 to 56 years) drawn from villages of Haryana participated in the study. The relevant data were obtained through interview and observation. The findings showed that family and society appreciated the efforts of the rural women. Age and level of education emerged as significant factors in determining the experience of well-being.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Primary data was collected from a selected sample through an interview schedule and survey method using a questionnaire. The secondary data was obtained from various sources like research articles, books, reports of the Office of Project Director Anganwadies of Nalgonda district and other Mandal Revenue Office, etc. The universe of the study consists of all the households of Theratpally village of Chandur Mandal, Gurrampode village of Gurrampode Mandal, Pulimamidi village of Anumala (Halia) mandal situated in Nalgonda District, Telangana State. The total sample of the study consists of 207 women SHG members who are selected through stratified random sampling method. The investigator prepared a structured schedule which was distributed among the household women selected for this study to collect primary data. The collected data was processed with MS-EXCEL Sheet, analysed using SPSS Ver.17 and tabulated. The results were interpreted with the help of statistical tools like percentage, average, etc.

4.0 Data Analysis and Interpretation

4.1 Demographic Study

Demographic variables are independent variables by definition because they cannot be manipulated. In research, demographic variables may be either categorical (e.g., gender, race, marital status, psychiatric diagnosis) or continuous (e.g., age, years of education, income, family size).

⁷ Yasaswini Y., Bhanu Bhava Tharaka U. and Bhagavanulu D.V.S. (2017), "Socio-economic Conditions of Rural Women – A Case Study", International Journal of Research and Scientific Innovation, Vol.4, Iss:8, pp.52-53.

⁸ Kamlesh Singh, Jasleen Kaur, Dalbir Singh and Mohita Junnarkar (2014). Socio-Demographic Variables Affecting Well-Being: A Study on Indian Rural Women. *Psychological Studies*, 15(2), 197-206.

Table 1: Socio-Economic Background of the Respondents

Sl. No.	Demography variables	Frequency	Percent	Total
1.	Age			
	18-25 years	28	13.5	207 (100%)
	26-33 years	51	24.6	
	34-41 years	79	38.2	
	42-49 years	32	15.5	
	50-57 years	17	8.2	
2.	Caste			
	OC	14	6.8	207 (100%)
	BC-A	22	10.6	
	BC-B	108	52.2	
	BC-D	18	8.7	
	BC-E	2	1.0	
	SC	38	18.4	
	ST	5	2.4	
3.	Religion			
	Hindu	190	91.8	207 (100%)
	Christian	15	7.2	
	Muslim	2	1.0	
4.	Education			
	Illiterate	7	3.4	207 (100%)
	Read & Write	21	10.1	
	Primary level	14	6.8	
	Upper Primary Level	22	10.6	
	High School	28	13.5	
	Intermediate	29	14.0	
	Degree	55	26.6	
	Post-graduation	31	15.0	
5.	Occupation			
	Household work	48	23.2	207 (100%)
	Agriculture/Any other	25	12.0	
	Casual Labour	15	7.2	
	Caste occupation	30	14.5	
	Petty business / Self employment	30	14.5	
	Private job	35	16.9	
	Government job / Service	24	11.6	
6.	Family income			
	Upto Rs.5,000	33	15.9	207 (100%)
	Rs.5,001 to Rs.10,000	35	16.9	
	Rs.10,001 to Rs.15,000	40	19.3	
	Rs.15,001 to Rs.20,000	20	9.7	
	Rs.20,001 to Rs.25,000	35	16.9	
	Rs.25,001 to Rs.30,000	20	9.7	
	>Rs.30,000	24	11.6	
7.	Marital Status			
	Married	177	85.5	207 (100%)
	Unmarried	8	3.9	
	Divorced	6	2.9	
	Widow	16	7.7	
8.	Type of family			
	Nuclear	101	48.8	207 (100%)
	Joint family	104	50.2	
	Extended	2	1.0	
9.	Family size			
	2-4 Nos.	152	73.4	207 (100%)
	5-6 Nos.	37	17.9	
	7-8 Nos.	15	7.2	
	8 Nos.& Above	3	1.4	

Source: Primary data

The Table 1 shows the socio-economic status of respondents in the present study i.e., Nalgonda district. Majority of the respondents are in the age group of 34-41 years and their percentage is 38.2 and it is followed by 26-32 years age group with 24.6%. A significant percentage (15.5%) of respondents fall under the age group of 40-49 years. 28 respondents i.e., 13.5% are in the age group of 18-25 years and a small percentage (8.2) of respondents are in between 50-57 years age group. Therefore, it can be understood that majority (2/3rd) of the respondents are younger age group. The respondents divided into four groups, they are OC, BC, SC and ST groups, again the backward caste was divided into BC-A, BC-B, BC-D and BC-E. Among 207 respondents, OCs are 14 (6.5%), BCs are 150 (72.5%), SCs are 38 (18.4%) and STs are 5 (2.4%). The BC sub-caste respondents are: BC-A (10.6%), BC-B (52.2%), BC-D (8.7%) and BC-E (1.0%). It is found from the study that majority (52.2%) of the respondents are BC-B. The religious distribution of the respondents are Hindu, Christian and Muslim category and their percentages are 91.8% (190), 7.2% (15) and 1.0 (2), respectively. In the present study, there are Hindu community are more than other religion respondents. Out of 207 respondents, majority (26.6%) are completed their degree level of education, 15.0% are qualified with post-graduation and 29 respondents (14.0%) are stopped at intermediate level of education. A significant number of respondents i.e., 13.5% are completed their high school level of education, 10.6% are at primary level and 6.8% of the respondents completed their education at primary level. Considerable number of respondents (21) can read and write and their percentage is 10.1. A small percentage of respondents i.e., 3.4% are illiterates. This findings shows that majority (55.6%) of the respondents completed their education intermediate level are more than that. In the occupation category, majority (23.2%) of the respondents are attending their household work and the other major work of the respondents is private job with 16.9%. An equal number of respondents i.e., 30 (14.5%) in each category engaged in caste occupation and petty business / self-employment. Twenty five respondents (12.0%) are in agriculture or any other works and 24 respondents (11.6%) are in government job or service orientation in government departments. An insignificant number of respondents (7.2%) are attending casual labour. So, it is concluded that more than 1/4th of the respondents are involving in the caste occupation and pretty business / self-employment. Nearly twenty percentage of the respondents' income ranged from Rs.10,001 to Rs.15,000. Similarly percentage of respondents i.e., 16.9% are in two groups i.e., Rs.5,001 to Rs.10,000 and Rs.20,001 to Rs.25,000. Reasonable number of respondents (33, 15.9%) are in the income group of upto Rs.5,000. A considerable number of respondents i.e., 11.6% are in the income group of more than Rs.30,000. A small percentage (9.7%) of respondents are in income range of Rs.15,001 to Rs.20,000 and Rs.25,001 to Rs.30,000. It means that majority (19.3%) of the respondents are in lower income group i.e., Rs.10,001 to Rs.15,000. The marital status of the rural women in the related village, most of the women i.e., 177 (85.5%) are married, 16 (7.7%) are widows and remaining respondents are unmarried and divorced and their percentage are 3.9 and 2.9% only. The data indicates type of family of rural women. Above fifty per cent of the respondents i.e., 104 (50.2%) belongs to joint family, slightly 101 respondents (48.8%) belongs to nuclear families and only 2 (1.0%) respondents are in extended families. Nearly three-fourths of the respondents are staying with 2-4 Nos. of family size. A sizeable respondents are in the 5-6 Nos. of family members. Below ten per cent respondents are in the family size of 7-8 Nos. A least number of respondents i.e., 3 (1.4%) are belong to 8 numbers and above range of family size.

4.2 Changing Status of Rural Women

The investigator presented the percentage responses of rural women regarding changes in their status on socio-economic conditions based on their age in Table 4.2.

It is found from the study that there is a change in the opinions of the respondents on (i) role in the family, (ii) consideration of respondents' opinion in family matters, (iii) choice to spend earnings

and (iv) dowry improves status in in-laws family and (v) Developmental - change in economic position in comparison to past based on their age.

Table 4.2: Changes in Status Vs. Age

Sl. No.	Changes in status		Age in years					
			18-25	26-33	34-41	42-49	50-57	Total
I. Social changes								
1.	Role in the family	Happy	19	36	54	18	12	139
			67.9%	70.6%	68.4%	56.3%	70.6%	67.1%
		Unhappy	4	5	8	0	2	19
			14.3%	9.8%	10.1%	0.0%	11.8%	9.2%
		Satisfactory	5	8	15	13	3	44
			17.9%	15.7%	19.0%	40.6%	17.6%	21.3%
		Any other	0	2	2	1	0	5
			0.0%	3.9%	2.5%	3.1%	0.0%	2.4%
Total	28	51	79	32	17	207		
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
Pearson Chi-square value:13.138; df:12; p-value: 0.359.								
2.	Consideration of your opinion in family matters	Yes	26	32	67	24	17	166
			92.9%	62.7%	84.8%	75.0%	100.0%	80.2%
		No	2	19	12	8	0	41
			7.1%	37.3%	15.2%	25.0%	0.0%	19.8%
		Total	28	51	79	32	17	207
Pearson Chi-square value:18.404*; df:4; p-value: 0.001								
II. Financial changes								
3.	Choice to spend earnings	Yes	24	37	66	19	16	162
			85.7%	72.5%	83.5%	59.4%	94.1%	78.3%
		No	4	14	13	13	1	45
			14.3%	27.5%	16.5%	40.6%	5.9%	21.7%
		Total	28	51	79	32	17	207
Pearson Chi-square value:12.410*; df:4; p-value: 0.015								
4.	Dowry improved your status in in-laws family	Yes	23	33	34	14	10	114
			82.1%	64.7%	43.0%	43.8%	58.8%	55.1%
		No	3	17	44	18	7	89
			10.7%	33.3%	55.7%	56.3%	41.2%	43.0%
		Not responded	2	1	1	0	0	4
			7.1%	2.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
Total	28	51	79	32	17	207		
Pearson Chi-square value:24.692 *, df:8; p-value: 0.002								
5.	Developmental - change in economic position in comparison to past	Yes	22	38	60	20	15	155
			78.6%	74.5%	75.9%	62.5%	88.2%	74.9%
		No	6	13	19	12	2	52
			21.4%	25.5%	24.1%	37.5%	11.8%	25.1%
		Total	28	51	79	32	17	207
Pearson Chi-square value: 4.474; df:4; n-value: 0.346								

Source: Primary data

Out of 207 respondents majority 139 (67.1%) are happy regarding role in the family, 44(21.3%) of respondents are satisfactory and 19(9.2%) are unhappy. In this regarding 18-25 age group are happy with 67.9% ,70.6% (26-33), 68% (34-41), 56.3%(42-49),70.6%(50-57).this shows that majority of respondents are happy and their age group of 26-33&50-57 regarding their respondents role in the family.

Regarding consideration of respondents opinion in their family members is accepted by majority of them as many as 207 respondents 80.20% respondents are accepted in this regards 100% of 50-57 group, 92.9% (18-25) age group 84.8%(34 to 41) age group , 75% respondents 40-49 age group and 62.7 of 26-33 age group respondents are highly accepted. So, it can be consider most of the respondents, 80.2% are accepted that their family members are considering their opinion.

Among 207 respondents 78.3% are said they have a chaise to spend their earnings. most of the respondents 94.1% are fall under age group of 52-57 and it is followed by 85.7% and remaining respondents fall under 34-41, 26-23&42-41 with 83.5%,72.5%.59.4%respectively.it can be find the study that rural women of Nalgonda district for huge chaise to spend on their earnings.

More than 50 (55.1%) of the respondents stated that the dowry improved their status in in-laws family. 43% of them not accepted and little percentage 1.9 not responded. 82.1% of the 18-25 years age group respondents are accepted it. The other group are 26-33, 52-57, 40-49 & 34-41 are also agreed with 64.7%, 58.8%, 43.8% and 43.0%, respectively. This shows that a considerable no of respondents accepted that the dowry improved their status in their in-law's family.

With regard to economic position in comparison to past on developmental change, 3/4^{ths} (74.9%) of the respondents of them are positively opined. In this context, 88.2% are in the age group of 50-57. The remaining age groups are 18-25 (78.6%), 34-41 (75.9%), 26-33 (74.5%) and 42-49 (62.5%), respectively. The study indicates that majority (74.9%) of the respondents said as 'yes' in respect of developmental change in economic position in comparison to past.

Table 4.3: Changes in Status Vs. Caste

Sl. No.	Changes in status		Caste				
			OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
1.	Role in the family	Happy	6	109	21	3	139
			42.9%	72.6%	55.3%	60.0%	67.1%
		Unhappy	0	8	11	0	19
			0.0%	5.3%	28.9%	0.0%	9.2%
		Satisfactory	6	31	5	2	44
			42.9%	20.7%	13.2%	40.0%	21.3%
		Any other	2	2	1	0	5
			14.2%	1.4%	2.6%	0.0%	2.4%
		Total	14	150	38	5	207
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
Pearson Chi-square value: 37.206 ^a df:9; p-value: 0.000;							
2.	Consideration of your opinion in family matters	Yes	12	119	32	3	166
			85.7%	79.3%	84.2%	60.0%	80.2%
		No	2	31	6	2	41
			14.3%	20.7%	15.8%	40.0%	19.8%
		Total	14	150	38	5	207
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 2.008 ^a df:6; p-value:0.571							
II. Financial changes							
3.	Choice to spend earnings	Yes	7	122	30	3	162
			50.0%	81.3%	78.9%	60.0%	78.3%
		No	7	28	8	2	45
			50.0%	18.7%	21.1%	40.0%	21.7%
		Total	14	150	38	5	207

			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 8.395 ^a *, df:3; p-value: 0.039							
4.	Dowry improved your status in in-laws family	Yes	8	79	24	3	114
			57.1%	52.7%	63.2%	60.0%	55.1%
		No	6	68	13	2	89
			42.9%	45.3%	34.2%	40.0%	43.0%
		Not responded	0	3	1	0	4
			0.0%	2%	2.6%	0.0%	1.9%
	Total	14	150	38	5	207	
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 1.992 ^a **, df:6 p-value: 0.920							
5.	Development al - change in economic position in comparison to past	Yes	14	109	29	3	155
			100.0%	72.7%	76.3%	60.0%	74.9%
		No	0	41	9	2	52
			0.0%	27.3%	23.7%	40.0%	25.1%
		Total	14	150	38	5	207
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 5.717 ^a ; df:3; p-value: 0.126							

Source: Primary data

Based on the caste, the respondents' role in the family is presented in the above table. Out of 207 respondents, 139 (67.9%) of them are happy, 21.3% are satisfactory and 9.2% are unhappy. In OC category, an equal percentage of the respondents (42.9%) are happy and satisfactory regarding their role in the family. Similarly, 72.6% of BCs, 53.3% SCs and 50.0% of STs are also happy. The study indicates that majority (67.1%) are happy, and BCs (72.6%) are happier than other categories.

Most (80.2%) of the respondents accepted that their opinion is considered by the family members. Category-wise percentage opinions are as follow: 85.7% OCs, 84.2% SCs, 79.3% BC and 60.0% of STs are also opined the same idea. It can be found that most of the respondents accepted as their opinions are considered in family matters.

More than 3/4th of the respondents (78.3%) have their own choice to spend their earnings. The BCs are more liberal in this regard as their percentage is 81.3% and other type of respondents are 30 (78.9%) SCs, 3 (60.0%) STs and 7 (50.0%) are OCs.

More than fifty per cent of the respondents (55.1%) said that the dowry improved the respondents' status in in-laws family. The results clearly shows that 63.2% SCs and 60.0% of SCs are strongly accepted and whereas it is less in other communities such as OCs (57.1%) and BCs (52.7%).

Nearly seventy five percentage of the respondents opined that developmental change in economic position in comparison to past. It is observed that hundred percent of OC respondents accepted, nearly 3/4th of the BC and SC respondents also opined the same view, whereas 60.0% of the ST respondents also accepted.

Table 4.4: Changes in Status Vs. Education

Sl. No.	Changes in status	Level of Education					
		Illiterate	Upto High	Intermed iate	Graduatio n	Post- Graduatio	Total

				school			n	
1.	Role in the family	Happy	4	58	17	42	18	139
			57.1%	68.2%	58.6%	76.4%	58.1%	67.1%
		Unhappy	0	9	2	3	5	19
			0.0%	10.6%	6.9%	10.6%	16.1%	9.2%
		Satisfactor y	2	14	10	10	8	44
			28.6%	16.5%	34.5%	18.2%	25.8%	21.3%
		Any other	1	4	0	0	0	5
			14.3%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%
Total	7	85	29	55	31	207		
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
Pearson Chi-square value: 17.696 ^a ; df: 12 p-value: 0 .125.								
2	Considera tion of your opinion in family matters	Yes	6	64	24	45	27	166
			85.7%	75.3%	82.8%	81.8%	87.1%	80.2%
		No	1	21	5	10	4	41
			14.3%	24.7%	17.2%	18.2%	12.9%	19.8%
		Total	7	85	29	55	31	207
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 2.983 *, df:7; p-value: 0.887								
II. Financial changes								
3.	Choice to spend earnings	Yes	6	67	22	44	23	162
			85.7%	78.8%	75.9%	80.0%	74.2%	78.3%
		No	1	18	7	11	8	45
			14.3%	21.2%	24.1%	20.0%	25.8%	21.7%
		Total	7	85	29	55	31	207
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 2.560 ^a ; df: 4; p-value: 0 .634								
4.	Dowry improved your status in in-laws family	Yes	5	51	16	34	8	114
			71.4%	60%	55.2%	61.8%	25.8%	55.1%
		No	2	31	13	20	23	89
			28.6%	36.5%	44.8%	36.4%	74.2%	43.0%
		Not responded	0	3	0	1	0	4
			0.0%	3.5%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1.9%
Total	7	85	29	55	31	207		
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 17.194; df: 8; P-value:.028								
5.	Developm ental - change in economic position in compariso n to past	Yes	5	66	22	43	19	155
			71.4%	77.6%	75.9%	78.2%	61.3%	74.9%
		No	2	19	7	12	12	52
			28.6%	22.3%	24.1%	21.8%	38.7%	25.1%
		Total	7	85	29	55	31	207
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 3.768 ^a ; df:4; p-value: 0.438								

Source: Primary data

Considering the education status of the rural women, majority of the respondents are happy regarding role in the family. A high percentage (76.4%) of SC respondents are happy and it is followed by other categories such as: high school level (68.2%), intermediate level (58.6%), PG level (58.1%) and illiterate (57.1%).

The perception of the respondents on consideration of opinion in family members, most of the respondents are accepted and their percentages are 87.1% of PG students, 85.7% illiterates, 82.1% Intermediate students, 81.8% graduates and 75.3% of high school level students.

From the results, it is found that more than seventy five percent of the respondents of all educational levels are have plenty of choice to spend their earnings. The breakup particulars on

the level of education are as follows: 85.7% illiterates, 80.0% graduates, 78.8% high school level respondents and 75.9% of intermediate level respondents.

In an average, the respondents are positively accepted that the dowry improves their status in in-laws family. More number (5, 71.4%, out of 7) of illiterate respondents positively opined in this regard. With a less percentages, the other level of educated respondents are: 61.8% of graduates, 60.0% of high school level, 55.2% of intermediate level and 25.8% of PG level students.

It can be observed from the study that majority (74.9%) of the respondents positively accepted that there is a developmental change in economic position in comparison to past. 78.2% of graduates, 77.6% of high school respondents, 75.9% of intermediate level respondents, 71.4% of illiterates and 61.3% of PG level respondents are of the same opinion.

Table 4.5: Changes in Status Vs. Occupation

Sl. No.	Changes in status		Occupation					
			Household work	Agriculture / Casual Labour	Caste Occupation / Any other	Petty business/ Self-employment	Private/ Got. Job/ Service	Total
1.	Role in the family	Happy	37	28	20	18	36	139
			77.1%	75.7%	60.6%	60.0%	61.0%	67.1%
		Unhappy	6	3	5	0	5	19
			12.5%	8.1%	15.2%	0.0%	8.5%	9.2%
		Satisfactor y	4	6	8	10	16	44
			8.3%	16.2%	24.2%	33.3%	27.1%	21.3%
		Any other	1	0	0	2	2	5
			2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	3.4%	2.4%
Total	48	37	33	30	59	207		
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0 %	100.0 %		
Pearson Chi-square value: 18.120 ^a ; df: 12; p-value: 0.112								
2	Consideratio n of your opinion in family matters	Yes	40	29	27	27	43	166
			83.3%	78.4%	81.8%	90.0%	72.9%	80.2%
		No	8	8	6	3	16	41
			16.7%	21.6%	18.2%	10.0%	27.1%	19.8%
		Total	48	37	33	30	59	207
100.0%	100.0%		100.0%	100.0 %	100.0%	100.0 %		
Pearson Chi-square value: 4.232 ^a ; df: 4; p-value: 0.376								
II. Fina ncial chan ges	Changes in status		Occupation					
			Household work	Agricult ure / Casual Labour	Caste Occupatio n / Any other	Petty business/ Self-employ ment	Private/ Got. Job/ Service	Total
	Choice to spend earnings	Yes	36	29	25	28	44	162
			75.0%	78.4%	75.8%	93.3%	74.6%	78.3%
		No	12	8	8	2	15	45
			25.0%	21.6%	24.2%	6.7%	25.4%	21.7%
		Total	48	37	33	30	59	207
100.0%	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%	100.0 %	100.0 %		
Pearson Chi-square value: 4.899 ^a ; df:4 ; p-value: 0.298								
4.	Dowry improved your status in in-laws family	Yes	23	24	18	24	25	114
			47.9%	64.9%	54.5%	80.0%	42.4%	55.1%
		No	24	12	15	6	32	89
			50.0%	32.4%	45.5%	20.0%	54.2%	43.0%
		Not	1	1	0	0	2	4

		responded	2.1%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%	1.9%
		Total	48	37	33	30	59	207
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0 %	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 15.168 ^a *; df: 8 ; p-value: 0.056								
5.	Developme ntal - change in economic position in comparison to past	Yes	29	29	25	28	44	155
			60.4%	78.4%	75.8%	93.3%	74.6%	74.9%
		No	19	8	8	2	15	52
			39.6%	21.6%	24.2%	6.7%	25.4%	25.1%
		Total	48	37	33	30	59	207
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 11.026 ^a ; df:4; p-value: 0. .206								

Source: Primary data

The role in the families of respondents is high as per the analysis results. A high percentage (75.7%) of agriculturists and casual labour, 77.1% of household work, 60.6% of caste occupation, 60.0% of petty business/self-employment and 61.0% of private/government job/service feeling happy in their family roles.

Considering the occupation, 90% of respondents doing petty business/self-employment, 83.8% of household workers, 81.8% doing caste based occupations, 78.4% of agriculturists and 72.9% of private/government job/services holders are positively stated that their family members considering their opinion in the family matters.

Majority (78.3%) of the respondents have plenty of choice to spend their earnings. More than 90% of the respondents doing their petty business/self-employment are accepted. It is followed by agriculturists with 78.4%, caste related occupation with 75.8%, household workers with 75.0% and 74.6% of private/government job/service holders.

Majority (80.0%) of petty business respondents, 64.9% of agriculturists, 54.4% of different caste occupation holders, 47.9% of household workers and 42.4% of private / government job / services holders are stated that dowry improved their status in in-laws family.

93.3% of respondents who are in petty business / self-employment, 78.4% of agriculturists, 75.8% of artisans, 74.6% of private/government job/service holders and 60.4% of household workers said as 'yes' for developmental change in economic position in comparison to past.

Table 4.6: Changes in Status Vs. Income

Sl. No.	Changes in status		Income Level				
			Upto Rs.10000	Rs.10001 to Rs.20000	Rs.20001 to Rs.30000	Above Rs.30000	Total
1.	Role in the family	Happy	32	41	44	22	139
			47.1%	68.3%	80.0%	91.7%	67.1%
		Unhappy	13	4	2	0	19
			19.1%	6.7%	3.6%	0.0%	9.2%
		Satisfactory	22	15	5	2	44
			32.4%	25.0%	9.1%	8.3%	21.3%
		Any other	1	0	4	0	5
			1.5%	0.0%	7.3%	0.0%	2.4%
Total	68	60	55	24	207		
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
Pearson Chi-square value: 37.077 ^a ; df: 9 ; p-value: 0.000							
2.	Consideration	Yes	54	40	48	24	166

	of your opinion in family matters		79.4%	66.7%	87.3%	100.0%	80.2%
		No	14	20	7	0	41
			20.6%	33.3%	12.7%	0.0%	19.8%
		Total	68	60	55	24	207
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 14.601 ^a *, df:3; p-value: 0. 002							
II. Financial changes							
3.	Choice to spend earnings	Yes	56	31	51	24	162
			82.4%	51.7%	92.7%	100.0%	78.3%
		No	12	29	4	0	45
			17.6%	48.3%	7.3%	0.0%	21.7%
		Total	68	60	55	24	207
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 39.044 ^a df:3; p-value: 0.000							
	Dowry improved your status in in-laws family	Yes	46	24	36	8	114
			67.6%	40.0%	65.5%	33.3%	55.1%
		No	21	34	19	15	89
			30.9%	56.7%	34.5%	62.5%	43.0%
		Not responded	1	2	0	1	4
			1.5%	3.3%	0.0%	4.2%	1.9%
Total	68	60	55	24	207		
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
Pearson Chi-square value: 17.896 ^a df:6 p-value: 0.006							
	Developmental - change in economic position in comparison to past	Yes	46	39	52	18	155
			67.6%	65.0%	94.5%	75.0%	74.9%
		No	22	21	3	6	52
			32.4%	35.0%	5.5%	25.0%	25.1%
		Total	68	60	55	24	207
			100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Pearson Chi-square value: 16.313 ^a ; df:3; p-value: 0.001							

Source: Primary data

On the basis of income levels of family, more than ninety percent of respondents are happy regarding to their role in the family and their family income ranges from Rs.10,001 to Rs.20,000, the other groups are Rs.20001 to Rs.30000 with 80.0%, Rs.10001 to Rs.20000 with 68.3% and the income group upto Rs.10000 with 47.1%.

Hundred percent of the respondents of above Rs.30000 income group are accepted regarding consideration of their opinion in family matters. The remaining income groups are Rs.20000 to Rs.30000 with 87.3%, Rs.10000 below respondents with 79.4% and 66.7% of Rs.10000 to Rs.20000, respectively.

Similarly, 100% of the respondents of above Rs.30000 income group have liberal choice to spend their earnings. 92.7% of respondents whose income range from Rs.20000 to Rs.30000, 82.4% of respondents of Rs.10000 below and 51.7% of respondents whose income group ranged from Rs.10,000 to Rs.20,000 have choice to spend earnings.

Majority (67.6%) of the respondents of income groups of below Rs.10,000 have stated that the dowry improved their status in in-laws family. In the same way, 67.6% of the respondents whose income is below Rs.10,000, 65.5% of the respondents whose income ranged from Rs.20000 to Rs.30000 also viewed similarly, whereas a little percentage i.e., 33.3% of the respondents whose income group is above Rs.30000.

More than ninety five percent of the respondents whose income ranges from Rs.20001 to Rs.30000 positively opined that developmental change in economic position in comparison to past. And 75.0% of the respondents whose income is more than Rs.30000, 67.6% of respondents whose income is below Rs.10000 and 65.0% of respondents who are in the income range of Rs.10001 to Rs.20000 also expressed the same view.

5.0 FINDINGS

- (1) The findings of the study shows majority (67.1%) of the respondents are happy on the role in the family. However, a change was found based on their demographic variables and that majority (80.6%) of the respondents of 50-57 age group, 72.6% BC category, 76.4% of graduates, 77.1% of household workers and 80.0% respondents of income group of Rs.20001 to Rs.30000 and are happy role in the family.
- (2) Regarding consideration of respondents' opinion in family members, 80.2% of them accepted. Based on various demographic variables, it is found that 92.9% of 18-25 years age group, 85.7% of OC respondents, 85.7% of illiterates, 83.3% of household workers and 100% of the respondents whose income range is above Rs.30000 are considering the respondents opinion in family matters.
- (3) With regard to choice to spend on their earnings, 78.3% of them accepted the statement. However, the results shows that there is an influence in the demographic variables, 94.1% of respondents of 50-57 age group, 81.3% of BC category respondents, 85.7% of illiterates, 93.3% of petty business holders and 92.7% of Rs.20001 to Rs.30000 income groups respondents.
- (4) On the whole 55.1% of the respondents accepted that dowry improved the status of respondents in in-laws family. Whereas there is a change in their opinion based on their demography, they are: 82.1% of 18-25 age group, 63.2% of SC category respondents, 71.4% of illiterates, 80.0% of respondents whose occupation is petty business/self-employment and 67.6% of the respondents whose income is below Rs.10000.
- (5) The findings shows that majority (74.9%) of the respondents accepted regarding developmental change in economic position in comparison to past. Even though, there are change in their opinions based on their demographic variables. 88.2% of 50-57 years age group, 100% of OC respondents, 78.2% of graduates, 93.3% of petty business/self-employment and 94.5% of the respondents whose income ranges from Rs.20001 to Rs.30000.

6.0 Conclusions

1. It is concluded that there is a better role of rural women in their families as majority of the respondents are feeling happy based on demographic variables. Hence, the hypothesis is proved.
2. The findings of conclusions states that the family members consider the opinions of the rural women in family matters. Therefore, the hypothesis disproved.
3. According the results the rural women has much liberty to spend earnings of the family. So, the hypothesis is proved.
4. The statement 'dowry improves the rural women status in in-laws family' is correct as majority of the respondents positively accepted. Hence, the hypothesis is proved.
5. As per the results obtained from the field data there is a change in the development of economic position in comparison to past, which is also accepted by majority of the respondents. Hence, the hypothesis is proved.

7.0 Implications

The research implications of the present study are drawn as follows:

- (1) As said in the findings, the rural women playing a better role in their families and the family members are considering their opinions in family matters and they are spending their earnings according to their choice and there is a change in the development of economic position in comparison to past.
- (2) The study of the results will be more useful to the government organizations in general and for social welfare department in particular as they can focus the same points in their reports for the development of rural women in other districts of Telangana state.
- (3) As it is a motivational study, it inspires the other rural women to set right their families for social and economic development of individual families among rural community.
- (4) The study acts as a conduit for the social activists, academicians and research scholars for their future work.
- (5) Based on this study, the researcher can approach central or state government organizations for post-doctoral fellow in sociology / social work disciplines.

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