

TIME UTILIZATION OF THE WOMEN IN HOME ACTIVITIES

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Abstract : *Homemaking is multisided art and science with involves Varity of responsibility, various duties, and task and it is said to be a full time job. The present research study is planned with objectives to find out the Personal characteristics of rural and urban women, to investigate the time utilization of women in various Home activities, Six hundred (600) women from rural and urban areas of Vidarbha (Yavatmal) and Marathwada (Parbhani) region will be covered for the present study. This study will be investigated in one phases that was time utilization of rural andurban women.Results indicated that time utilization of the women was found in Chapati/ bhakri making, serving food, Washing cloth, Mopping floor and House decoration, Cleaning & cutting vegetables, Cleaning housing, Fetching water, Sending to school, Vegetable purchasing, Grain purchasing, Grocery purchasing, Utensil purchasing, Medicine purchasing, actual preparation of curry, ornaments purchasing and Cloth purchasing, while it was noticed that majority of time spend for child care.*

Introduction :

Woman plays an important role at home as well as in the society. In earlier days majority of Indian women were shy, illiterate, pessimistic and traditional and their traditional mind feels that being women they are subordinate in society and restricted themselves to household activity only. They also play a vital role as housewives and copartners in farming profession. As cultural and social endowment, they have the responsibility for all domestic tasks including cooking, fetching of water, washing, care of children and livestock. Thus women plays double role inside the home as a home maker and outside the home as a professional worker. Therefore woman works harder and longer hours than man. Their average daily input work is not less than 14-16 hours.

Objectives of the study :

1. To study the Personal characteristics of women from rural and urbanarea.
2. To investigate the time utilization pattern of women in various Home activities.

Methodology :

The study was carried out in Pusadand Parbhani Districts fromVidharbhaand Marathwada region. Total Six hundredrural and urban women respondents engaged in

various home activities and spend their time in these activities like Food Preparation, Clothing Housing and Household activities, Education of children, Farming activities, Business, Fetching water, Washing and Drying, Cleaning, Housing, Mopping floor etc. was selected and their time spent on above activities was recorded for 24 hours. The respondents were personally interviewed with the help of pre structured interview schedule.

Result and Discussion :

General profile of the selected rural and urban women :

Personal characteristics of the respondents were studied with the following variables i.e. age and family structure. Socioeconomic characteristics of respondents included main family occupation, education, organizational membership and media ownership. The findings presented in the table 1 indicates that majority 46.83 per cent of the women were from the age category 31-45 years, followed by the category 46-60 years 31.33 per cent while 21.83 per cent women were from the age category 18-30 years.

Table No. 1 General profile of the respondents n = 600

Sr. No.	Particulars	Frequency	%
1	Age (Years)		
	18-30 yrs.	131	21.83
	31-45 yrs.	281	46.83
	46-60 yrs.	188	31.33
2	Education		
	Illiterate	170	28.33
	School level	239	39.83
	Jr. College/ Diploma	085	14.16
	Graduate	045	07.5
	Post Graduate	061	10.16
3	Occupation		
	Farm labour	046	07.66
	Farming	075	12.5
	Service	098	16.33
	Business	050	08.33
	Labours/daily wage	031	05.16
	Household	300	50.00
4	Family Structure		
	<i>a) Family Type</i>		
	Nuclear	275	45.83
	Joint	321	53.5
	Extended	004	0.66
	<i>b) Family size</i>		
	Small (Up to 4 members)	237	39.5
	Medium (5-8 members)	294	49.00

	Large (> 8 members)	069	11.5
5	Family income (Rs.) Per yr.		
	Up to Rs. 25,000.00	022	03.66
	Rs. 25,001.00 to 50,000.00	273	45.5
	> Rs.50,000.00	305	50.83
6	Organizational membership		
	No membership	563	93.83
	Member of formal/non-formal organization	037	06.16
7	Media ownership		
	Newspaper/magazines	242	40.33
	Radio/transistor	162	27.00
	Television	505	84.16
	Land line /mobile	548	91.33
	Computer/Laptop	130	21.66
8	Extension contacts		
	Always	005	0.83
	Sometime	078	13.00
	Never	517	86.16

It was seen that less than half 39.83 per cent of the women were educated up to school level, more than one fourth 28.33 per cent of them could illiterate. The percentage of the higher education i. e. graduation and post-graduation among selected women was found less than fifteen per cent 7.5 and 10.16 per cent respectively. It was due to the reason that fifty (300) of the sample was from rural area. It can be also observed from the table that 14.16 per cent of the women were educated up to Junior College or Diploma level. The study clearly indicates that educational level of the women in the study is fair.

The major occupation of the selected women was found to be household (50.00 %). The working women were engaged in service i. e. Teacher, Lecturer, Professor, Doctor, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, Supervisor, Sarpanch, etc were less than one third (16.33 %) while 12.50 per cent of the women were working on their own farms i. e. farming, only 8.33 per cent of them were involved in Business related activities like, Grocery shop, Beauty parlor, Tailoring, Classes (Mehandi, Rangoli, Plates making), selling of agricultural implements, preparation of agricultural edible products at home (turmeric, chilli powder making, masale making etc.), dhal making, selling vegetables, flowers and selling preserves (papad, pickles, vermicelli etc.), and very few of them i.e only 7.66 per cent women were working on others' farms as farm labour and very negligible 5.16 per cent women were working as labour like, home servant, hotel servant etc.

As far as family type was concerned, joint type of families were seen to be predominant 53.5 per cent, followed by nuclear type families 45.83 per cent and lastly very

negligible percentage of extended families 0.66 per cent were found. Extended families are those in which related kin in addition to parents and children live together in the same household (Dasgupta and Saha, 2012). It is clear from the data that the trend of nuclear families has been decreasing. The trend of medium sized (5-8 members) families was found to be in less than half 49.00 per cent of the selected families, while small sized (up to 4 members) families were also nearly equal i. e. 39.5 per cent and lastly it was noted that few of them 11.5 per cent had large families comprising > 8 members.

The annual income of the respondent families was categorized under three income groups as up to Rs. 30,000/-, between Rs. 30,001/- to Rs. 1,00,000/- and above Rs. 1,00,000/-. It was observed that half 50.83 per cent of them had their annual income up to above Rs. 1,00,000/- whereas 45.5 per cent of them had their annual between Rs. 30,001 to Rs. 1,00,000/- and only few of the families 3.66 per cent had the annual income up Rs. 30,000/-. It is due the fact that most of the families were having their occupation as service, farming, and business. As regards organizational membership of the respondents, it can be stated from the table, that most of the respondents 93.83 per cent had no membership while very few 6.16 per cent of them had membership of formal/non-formal organization. The reason behind the low organizational membership of the women is that most of the women were from rural areas where they are not allowed to participate in other activities and also majority of them were involved in service, business, farm and farm labour who reported that they had no time from their daily work.

In case of media ownership, it was noted that majority of the families 91.33 per cent were having land line/mobile phones, 84.16 per cent of them were having television, less than half of them 40.33 per cent were having newspaper/magazines. Only 27.00 per cent of the respondents listening the programmes on radio/transistor, whereas computer/laptop owning families were 21.66 per cent. Hence it can be concluded that media ownership was quite good among the selected respondents. As far as extension contacts of the respondents were concerned, it can be depicted that a huge majority 86.16 per cent of the women had no contacts with any extension agent whereas 13.00 per cent of the women had extension contacts sometimes only, The percentages for always extension contacts were very less i.e. 0.83. So it can be said that extension contacts of the selected women was found to be very low. It may be due to the reason that majority of the women in this investigation were from rural areas and they had low extension contacts due to lack of confidence, family pressure, customs etc.

Time utilization of the respondents in home activities

Table No. 2 Average Time utilization of the respondents in home activities (n = 600)

Sr. No.	Activity	Time utilized (minutes) Mean \pm SD
	Food preparation	
1	Cleaning & cutting vegetables	26.1 \pm 23.6
2	Actual preparation of curry	26.7 \pm 17.8
3	Chapati/ bhakri making	40.2 \pm 28.2
4	Serving food	11.65 \pm 11.42
	Clothing	

5	Washing	31.07± 23.86
6	Drying	13.3± 9.92
7	Cleaning housing	16.2 ± 11.9
8	Cleaning surrounding	16.6 ± 12.4
9	Mopping floor	26.5 ± 19.4
10	Fetching water	19 ± 47
11	House decoration	9.92 ± 12.7
12	Child care	81.55 ± 91.76
13	Sending to tuition	3.54 ± 12.11
14	Getting them ready for school	6.69 ± 12.8
15	Sending to school	3.87 ± 11
16	Helping/Supervising children in study	10.2 ± 23.27
	Purchasing	Time utilized (hours) Mean ± SD
17	Vegetable purchasing	1.60 ± 0.49
18	Grain purchasing	2.56 ± 1.63
19	Grocery purchasing	2.57 ± 0.57
20	Utensil purchasing	3.12 ± 1.01
21	Medicine purchasing	2.78 ± 0.77
22	Ornaments purchasing	2.2 ± 1.9
23	Cloth purchasing	3.3 ± 0.7
24	Farm equipments purchasing	1.02 ± 1.41
25	Electrical purchasing	2.86 ± 1.07

Table 2 reflects the information about the average time utilization of the respondents in 25 different home activities.

It is clear from the table that all the home makers performed all activities, in Cleaning & cutting vegetables and Actual preparation of curry, the women spent 26.1 and 26.7 min. this activity performed joint with females or males. Out of the time spend on food preparation the maximum time spend in the Chapati/ bhakri making activity they utilized majority of the time 40.2 min. as this activity was performed by the females or joint with females only. Among the meals serving for dinner or lunch they spent very less time 11.65 min in this activity where women's participation was found less. The reason behind this was the family members they didn't wait for females for serving. Under the care of clothes for washing routine, folding and drying they found to be spending 31.07 and 13.3 min. respectively for both the work, majority of female members were involved in this activities. The various cleaning activities sweeping house, Cleaning surrounding and mopping the house consumed equally same time of 16.2, 16.6 and 26.5 min. While dusting and arranging the house they took 9.92 min. Thus the total time used for cleaning the house came up to 42.72 min. In rural area, the women have to plaster the house with dung, especially floor, which is very time consuming and tedious job.

It was observed that in the activity of fetching water they utilized 19 min. During investigation it was noted that in summer seasons this activity was performed by all the

family members i.e. joint with male and female in the rural area. Hence more time utilized by them for this activity. A total time of 105.85 min. was spent in child care which included 81.55 min. spent for on putting the child to sleep and eating them meal, in this activity where joint with female participation was found more. Almost a similar time for getting them ready for school and Helping/Supervising children in study also they spent 6.69 and 10.2 mins was availed for bathing, dressing and grooming the child respectively.

The other house hold tasks like purchasing, vegetable purchasing was the activity where women's participation was found very less they utilized 1.60 hour. The respondent's utilized 2.56 and 2.57 hour. respectively same time for the grain and grocery purchasing, in this activity where male participation was found more. It can be seen that for medicine purchasing, Farm equipments purchasing, and Electrical purchasing they spent fair amount of time 2.78, 1.02 and 2.86 hours. respectively in these activities women had to spend less time. It was noted that very few women had more participation in utensil purchasing, they spent 3.12 hour. It can be also expressed that for ornaments purchasing and cloth purchasing they utilized only 2.2 and 3.3 hour. respectively in both activities joint with male involvement was more. The result in this regard is not supporting to the result of Gatti. (1996) it was seen that for cleaning house 119.62 min. was the activity in which they spent their major time whereas for child study 2.50 min. was the activity in which they spent least time.

Conclusions :

Almost a similar very few time for child, sending to school, sending to tuition, utensil purchasing and cloth purchasing in which the respondents spent very less time i. e. nearby 3.87 min. respectively. Negligible time spent (1 - 2 min.) activities were Farm equipment's purchasing, vegetable purchasing, grain purchasing, grocery purchasing, medicine purchasing, electrical purchasing, ornaments purchasing. It was seen that now women are conscious about their health. So they were preferred to time consuming homestead technology in their daily work.

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