



## A Feminist study on Women Domestic Workers in Bangalore urban

**Dr Kavitha. G.N**

Lecturer,

Centre for Women's Studies, Jnanabharathi Campus,  
Bangalore University, Bangalore-56

**Abstract:** The paper is based on a study of women in domestic services in Bangalore city. It particularly focuses on their problems and perceptions of empowerment. The study examines how the women play a dual role and the ways by this affects their life. Infact quite a few respondents espoused that they would gladly give up their job if they could find an alternative source of income. Since there is none and the burden of poverty use heavily upon their should due they are compelled to cling to their job, despite many hardships and undesirable consequences. As a class, the women domestics belong to the unorganized section of the working class, protected by neither legislation nor social security. It is one of the lowest ranking occupations in society characterized by a meager income & a lack of opportunity for advancement

**Keywords:** women, working conditions, domestic services, stress in work, empowerment.

### **Introduction:**

A domestic worker is a person employed to perform an array of miscellaneous household chores either on temporary or relatively permanent basis and on a full or part time basis. As a newly emerged class, the domestic worker find their origin in the age old institution of slavery and bonded labour in several European countries. Domestic work continued to be performed by the household slaves until their manipulation.

### **Objectives:**

The main objectives of the study are as follow:

To focus attention on the socio-economic background & problems of women engaged in an unorganized sector of labour called domestic work.  
To understand the risk & stresses involved in domestic work

To study the relationship between the employees & employers.

To analyze the implications of working women's dual role on their families.

To assess the low status of domestic workers.

To delineate the cause for the increasing demand for domestic workers in urban areas.

### **Methods:**

60 women's in different age group who were engaged domestic work in Bangalore city. I have used convenient sampling method for my field study. This research uses the descriptive and narrative technique for presenting research data. Both primary and secondary sources of data would be perused.

### **Findings:**

Migration; 60% of the women workers are native of Bangalore rural area &



40% of women have migrated to Bangalore from Kerala, Tamilnadu & Andrapradesh.

caste:45% of women belongs to SC/ST, 5% of Besta, 20% of Naidu, 10% Mudaliyar,

**Religion** : 76.8% of the women are belonging to Hindu, 21.5% of women are Christian, & 1.7% of the women are belonging to Muslim religion.

**Family**: 67% of joint families & 37% of nuclear families.

**Marital status**: 18% of the respondents are unmarried & 82% of the women are married.

**Education**: 73.5% of the women are illiterate, 22.3% of the women got primary level education, & 4.2% of women got secondary level education.

Housing condition: 53.3% of women live in rented houses, 20% of them have their own house, while 26.7% of women live in the premises of their employers.

Reasons for choosing domestic work: majorities of the women have taken up domestic service for- poverty, unemployment, survival of family, to solve economic problems etc...

**Working hours**: 31.6% of the women spend the whole day, 38.6% of women spend to work for half a day & 11.6% of

**Treatment by the employer**:

them spend 2-3 hours per day, 16.6% of women spend 3-4 hours per day.

Domestic works: women in domestic works like cleaning the house, washing utensils, washing clothes, marketing, cooking, taking the children to school, take care of children as well as old age peoples, gardening etc...

Salary:

Salary (in rupees)	No	Percentage
500-1000	15	25.0%
1500-2000	13	21.6%
3000-4000	17	28.4%
Above 4000	15	25.0%
Total	60	100

Majorities of the women are getting Rupees 3000-4000, and only 25% of women are getting 500-1000 rupees low salary for their work.

Leisure & leave facility: 20% of women worker having leave facilities while 45% of women are not having this. 35% of women request their employees to grant then get leave. 70% of the women have not leisure in their work, while 30% of them having leisure between the work or after finishing the work only few minutes not too.

Treatment	Master Fre per		Mistress Fre per		Children Fre per	
Kindly	10	16.66%	20	23.33%	12	20.00%
Business	20	33.32%	10	16.66%	18	30.00%
Servant	29	38.33%	28	26.66%	20	33.33%
No response	1	01.66%	02	03.32%	10	16.66%
Total	60	100	60	100	60	100

Here we can see women employer are treated like servant, because of the tenure of the work.

Satisfaction with employer: 88% of women worker were satisfied with their work. These employers manifested their satisfaction by giving the domestics certain benefits like periodical increase in wages, gifts such as household articles, toys for



children etc.. 12% of were not satisfied because of contribution of their employer's family.

#### Violence in work:

violence	Master Fre per		Mistress Fre per		Children Fre per	
Mentally	29	38.33%	20	33.33%	28	46.66%
Physically	20	33.33%	25	41.66%	22	36.66%
Sexually	11	28.33%	15	25.00%	10	16.66%
Total	60	100	60	100	60	100

Majorities of the women were faced mental torture , and 36.66% of the women are psysically, only 16.66% of the women are sexual abused.

#### Conclusion:

In this study domestic perform all the household work single handed. For some women, at least it means or extradiary physical strain to cope with the heavy work demanded from them in and out of their house. Infect quite a few respondents espoused that they would gladly give up their job if they could find an alternative source of income. Since there is none and the burden of poverty use heavily upon their should due they are compelled to cling to their job, despite many hardships and undesirable consequences. as a class, the women domestics belong to the unorganized section of the working class, protected by neither legislation nor social security. It is one of the lowest ranking occupations in society characterized by a meager income & a lack of opportunity for advancement.

#### References:

Karnika.V.B (1974), Indian labour: problems and prospects, Minerv publication, Calcutta.

Kapur.P (1970), Marriage the working women in India, vikas publications, Delhi.

Kapadiya.K.M (1975), marriage and family in India, third edition, oxford university press, Calcutta.

Dubin.R (1958), The world of work: Industrial society & Human relation, Englewood cliffs prentice hall, New jersey

Mehta.A.B (1960), The Domestic servant class, popular book dept, Bombay.

Rani.K (1974), Role conflict in working women, chetana publications, New Delhi.

Tyagi.B.P (1980), Labour economic and social welfare, Jai prakash Nath & company, Meerut.

Tellis-Nayak & Jessie Tellis-Nayak.V: Women domestic works in south India, the paradox of bonding & bondage social action, Indian social Institute, Delhi, October, Vol-34, No-4. 2003

Desai.A.R (1980), Urban family & family planning in India, popular prakashan, Bombay.

Mamoria.C.B (1981), Social problems & social Disorganization in India, kitab Mahal, Alahabad.