SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF EDUCATED UNEMPLOYED WOMEN IN NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

Unemployment has a major problem all over the countries. According to NSSO 2017-18 data shows that 19.8 per cent women are educated unemployed. According to a report of secretary general of United Nations, women constitute 50 per cent of human resources, the greatest human resource and key to sustainable development and quality of life in the family. The objectives of the study understand the socio-economic and cultural background of the educated unemployed women in select areas of Nagapattinam district. The varieties of role the women assume in the family are those of wife, leader, administrator, manager of family income and last but not the least the most important the role of mother.

Key words: Education, Unemployment, socio-economic

1. INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is the major problem to the world economy, particularly for women in developing countries. Gender inequality is common in employment market. The rate of unemployment is remarkably higher for women-folk due to various social, economic, cultural, institutional, historical and environmental factors. According to International Labour Organization, the current global labour force participation rate for women is close to 49 per cent and for men is 75 per cent. The difference is 26 per cent, with some regions facing a gap

of more than 50 per cent (ILO, 2021). Unemployment among women is greater challenge to the goal of inclusive and sustainable social and economic development of developing countries (Gopinath, 2020a). There are numerous studies undertaken on different aspects of women unemployment in various regions of the world.

Number of studies on women employment and unemployment were initiated after the active women's liberation movement in the western world, during the 1960s. During the early period much of the researches were conducted in developed as well as industrialised countries. After the increased awareness and understanding on women's role in economic development many authors were contributed on research on this field (Gopinath, 2020b). Pioneering work was undertaken by Collver and Langlois (1962) on female economic participation in 38 countries comprising both developed and developing nations. Studies conducted by Boserup's (1970), Youssef (1974), Miranda (1977), and Chinchilla (1977) found that trends in female participation in developed countries were positively related to economic development, but such kind of relationship was absent in developing countries (Gopinath, 2020c). Women employment in the developing countries received the attention all over the world only since the declaration of the United Nations Decade for Women in 1975. Tinker, et al, (1976), Rogers (1980), Deitch (1980), Dauber and Cain (1981), Beneria (1982), Whyte and Whyte (1982), Buvenic, et al. (1983), Charlton (1984), Roos and (1985) are some of the early studies that gave attention on the women employment in developing countries.

Relatively a large number of studies related to women employment in India have come out during the past three to four decades (Gopinath & Chitra, 2020a; Suchithra & Gopinath, 2020a). However, most of the studies were conducted at macro-level by using secondary data sources like Census or National Sample Survey. Study by Datar (1958) examined female employment during the period 1901-1951; Thorner (1962) analysed the trend in female employment during 1881-1951. During the late 1970s a number of studies were conducted by using data from the report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India submitted in 1975

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

International Labour Organization (ILO) has recently released 'World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2020'. This report says that about 188 million people are unemployed in the world during 2019. This report states that global unemployment was stable for the past nine years but as the global economic growth is slowing down and the number of workers is increasing, new jobs are not being created in the market in that proportion. ILO's very recent report on 'World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021' estimated that the global unemployment is expected to be at 205 million in 2022, surpassing the 2019 level. India is an emerging economy. However, two major social issues in India are unemployment and poverty. As of September 2018, according to the Indian Government, India had 31 million jobless people. Women workers are affected relatively at higher rate. Women workforce participation rate in India is very poor. Women are withdrawing from the work force in large numbers and Indian women are less active professionally than women in neighbouring countries. According to World Bank data, in China 43.6 per cent women are in the workforce, in Sri Lanka 33.5 per cent, Bangladesh 30.5 per cent, and in India 20.3 per cent, during 2019. Another important problem is that more educated women are unemployed than before.

According the recent NSSO survey, 2017-18, in urban areas unemployment among educated women is twice when compared with their male counterparts. The rate went up to a high of 19.8 per cent in 2017-18 from 10.3 per cent in 2011-12. For rural educated women, unemployment stood at 17.3 per cent in 2017-18 increasing sharply from 9.7 per cent in 2011-12. Government at centre and states implement various employment generation programmes in

general and particularly for women during the planning era to recent times. However, the educated unemployment is not reduced.

Education and employment are the basis for the development of any section of society. Socio-economic independence is an essential pre-requisite for improving the socio-economic status of the women population and ultimately for attaining the all-round economic and social development (Suchitra & Gopinath, 2020b). This seeks attention of the researchers to analyse the reasons for unemployment prevailing among educated women in the changing economic and social environment. This particular study is initiated in this direction.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

On the basis of the above said aim, the study has laid down following specific objectives:

1. To understand the socio-economic-cultural background of the educated unemployed women in select areas of Nagapattinam district;

2. To examine the nature of unemployment prevailing among educated women in the study area;

3. To analyze the various social, economic and institutional factors those cause the unemployment among the educated women;

4. To examine the consequences and problems faced by the educated unemployed women;

5. To examine the extent to which various state sponsored employment generation programmes that reached the educated unemployed women in the study area;

6. To provide relevant suggestion to reduce the rate of unemployment among the educated women.

4. AREA OF STUDY

Nagapattinam District was formed out of erstwhile Thanjavur District on October 18, 1991. Subsequently it was bifurcated in 1997 as Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur Districts. Nagapattinam is a coastal district of Tamil Nadu. It lies on the east coast, surrounded by Cuddalore district and part of the Nagapattinam district lies to the south of Karaikkal and Tiruvarur districts with an area covering 2,715.83 sq. km. The district constitutes just 2.09 per cent of the area of the State. This district has 11 *panchayats* unions, 4 municipalities, and 8 town *panchayats* on its development side. On the revenue side it has 2 revenue divisions, 7 *taluks* and 523 revenue villages. As per the Census India 2011, Nagapattinam district has 4,13,837 households, population of 16,16,450 of which 7,98,127 are males and 8,18,323 are females. The sex-ratio of Nagapattinam district is around 1025 compared to 996 which is average of Tamil Nadu state. Population density of the district is 629 per sq.km. The literacy rate of the district is 83.6 per cent, higher than the literacy level of the state Tamilnadu, which accounts 80 per cent. The literacy rate of males is higher than the females (Gopinath & Chitra, 2020b).

5. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Following is the sample design for the study. The present study has been based on multistage random sampling technique. In the first stage, the study district Nagapattinam has been selected at random, because it represents the state, Tamilnadu in terms of dominance of rural population, agriculture and fisheries are the major activities, close to the state average literacy rate, prevailing a reasonable number of educational institutions at different levels, and scattered industrial activities. In the second stage, three out of eleven development blocks viz. *Keelaiyur, Kilvelur* and *Nagapattinam* have been chosen again at random basis. From the three selected development blocks 6 localities have been selected at random basis in the third stage. At the final stage of sampling process, 354 educated unemployed women households, which accounts

10 per cent in the total household are selected again at random basis. The present study has been based on both the primary and secondary data. The Secondary data were collected from the office of the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) of Nagapattinam, National Informatics Centre of Nagapattinam, District Collectorate, print and electronic versions of various reports including Economic Appraisal of Tamilnadu, Statistical Abstract of Tamilnadu, Season and Crop Report, National Sample Survey Organization, International Labour Organization, United Nations Organization, etc. The Primary data were collected from the 354 sample respondents of the select blocks through a well-structured and pre- tested survey schedule (Gopinath et al., 2020).

Data collected from primary and secondary sources have been analysed appropriately by different statistical tools like Mean, Standard Deviation, Coefficient of Variation, Pearson's Correlation Coefficient, Correlation Matrix, Multiple Linear Regression, Logit Regression, 't' -test, χ^2 test, F-test, and ANOVA.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

On the basis of analysis and discussions carried out in the two analysis chapters, following key results are obtained:

1. Among randomly selected 354 uneducated unemployed women households, 68 percent of the households come under low income category (less than Rs.25,000), 21 per cent of the households come under middle income category (between Rs.25,000 and Rs.75,000) and high income group (more than Rs.75,000). These income groups are classified and assigned on the basis of size of relative income of the households come under the survey.

2. Among the total households, 94 percent belongs to Hindu religion and 4 percent belongs to Islam and less than 2 percent belongs to Christianity.

3. Respondents have different levels of education. A 4 per cent of the respondents studied up to primary school, 5 percent up to middle school, 12 percent up to high school, 54 percent up to higher secondary school, 25 percent up to degree level, and 2 percent studied ITI certificate courses. More proportion of respondents from higher income attained higher level of education, when compared to respondents from lower and middle income groups.

4. An important social factor, the marital status of educated women is observed under the study. A 38 percent of the respondents are married and remaining 62 percent of the respondents are unmarried.

5. Main source of income of the households is received from primary sector for 58 percent of the households. At the same time 42 percent of the households receive income from secondary and tertiary sectors.

6. Exactly 50 percent of the sample households have nuclear system of family and rest of the households comes under joint-family system.

7. The size of households varies between 3 and 8. Thirty-four percent of the households have up to 4 persons, 42 percent between 5 and 6 and 24 percent have more than 6 persons. Since half of the households follow joint-family system, the size of household is relatively large.

8. Almost all the households have agricultural land. The size of land holding for them varies between 1 and 4 acres. However, households of higher income group have lands up to 2 acres, and households belong to lower and middle income groups have lands between 1 and 4 acres.

9. More than half-of-the households have thatched house, and more than one-fourth of the households have tiled house and one-fifth of the households have terraced house. No polarization appeared in the types of houses held by the different income groups. Observation on house ownership of the sample households gives an interesting result. Ninety six per cent of

the households have own house, and only 4 percent of the households livening in rented house. All the households from higher income group have own house.

10. Households receive income from farming, agricultural wage work, livestock rearing, small business, government services, non-agricultural wage work, income from abroad, etc. Farm income and agricultural wage income are the important sources of income for the sample households.

11. Households have the properties of different kind and the aggregate value of them ranges between Rs.50,000 to Rs.35,00,000. Asset held by the household positively move with income groups. Land is the important property for the households.

12. Almost all the households have borrowed money from different sources to meet the investment needs in farming, to run business, and to meet the gap between income and expenditure. Most of the households rely upon to non-institutional sources for their borrowings. Similarly the households save some amount of money either compulsorily or voluntarily to meet expected and unexpected expenditure either in cash or non-cash form. Mostly savings of the households held as deposits in post-offices or commercial banks (Gopinath, 2016a).

13. The type of unemployment prevailed among educated women in the study are disguised unemployment. They accept any type of employment available for them, but lesser than their formal or informal education.

14. Duration of unemployment is more than 5 years for most of the respondents. Most of the respondents registered in employment offices immediately after the completion of their education.

15. Most of the respondents attended interview for jobs more than one time. But, many of them failed to attain it, because they are unable to fulfill the expectations of employers, lack of money, lack of recommendation for the jobs, etc. The main reason for the failure in the interviews is the respondents' under skill against the norms provided by the potential employers (Gopinath, 2016b).

16. Unemployed women respondents searching job to earn income, become independent and self-reliance, attaining economic and social empowerment, etc.

17. Main reasons for prevailing unemployment among educated women are non-availability of suitable jobs, waiting for suitable job, unwillingmess of parents and in-laws in allowing them to take job, and inadequate experience in the preferred line of job.

18. Various institutional (caste, community, religion), economical (size of households, employment of other members in the households, size of assets held by the households) and social, cultural and technical factors play important role in determining employability of the educated unemployed women in the study area.

19. Unemployed women face many problems within the family, within the households, and from the society. They are affected psychologically and they face problems like self-pity, need of consolation from families, households and society.

20. Unemployed women, except few, are not benefited from the various employment generation programmes implemented by the government.

7. CONCLUSION

Women are important in shaping the society and economy. According to a report of secretary general of United Nations, women constitute 50 percent of human resources, the greatest human resource and key to sustainable development and quality of life in the family. The varieties of role the women assume in the family are those of wife, leader, administrator, manager of family income and last but not the least the most important the role of mother. Their contribution to

economy is under-estimated by keeping them in unpaid household works. Now they are well educated, trained, and ready to perform all the work on par with menfolk. But, in practice most of them are unemployed and relevant employment opportunities are denied by the way of negative influence from many social, economic, cultural, institutional, and technical forces. Women should be provided with adequate opportunity to get employment both in public and private sectors to reach Millennium development goals of inclusive and sustainable growths of nations, and also women empowerment.

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