

# Problems of Working Women in Faisalabad

REHANA QURESHI

*Laboratory Girls High School, University of Agriculture-38040, Faisalabad*

## ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to investigate different problems faced by working women residing in "working women hostel" Faisalabad. The women belonged to different professional categories namely, teaching, health and others. The data were collected with the help of interview schedule. Open ended questions were asked on problems in parent's home, in-laws home and in hostel. More than a half of the respondents (54%) from all professions considered that they were unable to give proper time to their family members which they otherwise should have given. Majority of the respondents (78%) felt that health of their family members suffered greatly due to their jobs. The working women (20%) also felt that they were unable to attend their family functions regularly. The respondents from all professions placed the common utilities problem on priority-I, while, conveyance was placed on priority-II. About 23% complained against the conveyance problem and 18% felt that home sickness was the real problem.

**Key Words:** Working women; Problems; Parents; In-laws; Hostel

## INTRODUCTION

Women have been equally participating in socio-economic life from the stone age. Inflation and rising prices have resulted in economic tension. Pakistani middle class working women feel incumbent upon them to financially contribute to the family well-being and prosperity. For this they have to maintain an equilibrium and balance between home and career.

Different problems such as attitude of the society members, prejudice and non-recognition which the working women encounter with regard to their status and role in the economic life adversely affect the utilization of their talents and work capabilities. These problems may reduce the efficiency of working women and act as hindrance for entering the females in different jobs. The present study, therefore, was designed to investigate different problems faced by the working women residing in "working women hostel".

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The residents of "working women hostel" Faisalabad were included in the sample and interviewed. The respondents for the study belonged to teaching, health and others (banks, state-life insurance etc.), the number (%) being 30(60%), 8(16%) and 24(24%), respectively. The data were collected with the help of interview schedule. Before the actual data collection, pretesting was done to check and improve the workability of interview schedule. Open ended questions were asked on problems in parent's home, in-laws home, and in hostels. The data thus collected were statistically analyzed and systematically tabulated to bring the data into a comparable form.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Parent's home problems.** Results have been presented in Table I.

**Table I. Parent's home problems**

Profession	P-I n (%)	P-II n (%)	P-III n (%)	Total
Teaching	26(54.17)	13(27.00)	9(18.75)	48
Health	6(50.00)	5(41.67)	1(8.33)	12
Others	8(47.00)	5(29.41)	4(23.53)	17
Total	40(51.95)	23(29.87)	14(18.18)	77

P-I=Priority-I= Family members neglected; P-II=Priority-II= Attendance of functions; P-III=Priority-III= Household chores

Others = Include Banks, State Life Insurance, Pakistan International Airlines, Police, Hosiery, Water and Power Development Authority, Pakistan Study Council, Telephone and Telegraph Department, Travelling Agency, Social Welfare Department and Fauji Foundation.

Majority of the respondents (54%) from all professions considered that they were unable to give proper time to their family which they otherwise should have given. Due to which health of the family members has suffered and the education of their younger brothers and sisters was adversely affected. The results of the present study are compatible with those reported by Rizwani and Sabir (1976) who observed that employed women neglected their family members. The results of the study also exhibited that the working women (20%) also felt that they were unable to attend their family functions regularly. According to the respondents, their inability to attend the family functions was due to the difficulties in travelling from hostel to their homes, or due to intensive work load.

**In-law's home problems.** Results have been presented in Table II.

**Table II. In-law's home problems**

Profession	P-I n (%)	P-II n (%)	P-III n (%)	Total
Teaching	4(100)	-	-	4
Health	2(50)	1(25)	1(25)	4
Others	1(100)	-	-	1
Total	7(77.78)	1(11.11)	1(11.11)	9

P-I=Priority-I= Health of family members; P-II=Priority-II= Conflict with husband; P-III=Priority-III= Attendance of function

All (100%) the respondents in teaching and in other professions and 50% in the health profession placed health of their family members on priority I. The results of the present study are in line with the findings of Rizwani and Sabir (1976), Henning and Jardin (1977), Azhar (1978) and Parveen (1984), where majority of the respondents were of the opinion that their jobs created problems in looking after of their children. A probable explanation of this may be the absence of the women residing in the hostels away from their families for a longer period. The respondent from teaching and other professions except health, hardly experienced any conflict with their husband. Bano (1970) while studying about the career women in higher education, concluded that 65% of the married women were satisfied with their profession and thought that their profession did not affect their marital life. It may be due to a positive effect of the income of working women, on the socio-economic status of the family (Sultana, 1965; Azhar, 1978; Akhtar, 1984). However, 25% of working women in health profession experienced this type of conflict. Probably the conflict may be due to a stress of heavy workload resulting from their longer duty hours than the women working in teaching or other professions. The same is also apparent from their response about the attendance of their family functions.

**Hostel problems.** Results are presented in Table III.

**Table III. Hostel problems**

Prof.	P-I n (%)	P-II n (%)	P-III n (%)	P-IV n (%)	Total
Teach.	30(50.85)	13(22.00)	11(18.64)	5(8.47)	59
Hlth.	8(50.00)	5(31.25)	2(12.50)	1(6.25)	16
Oth.	12(57.14)	4(19.00)	4(19.00)	1(4.76)	21
Total	50(52.00)	22(22.92)	17(17.70)	7(7.29)	96

Prof.= Profession; Teach.= Teaching; Hlth.= Health; Oth.= Others; P-I=Priority-I= Common utilities; Priority-II= Conveyance; Priority-III= Home sickness

The results exhibited that respondents from all professions placed the common utilities problem on priority-I, while, conveyance was placed on priority-II.

The working women in other professions gave equal number to 'conveyance' and 'home sickness'. The results of the present study are in agreement with those reported by Parveen (1984), who concluded that conveyance problem ranked second most important problem for the working women such as teachers and nurses. A small percentage told that room-mates were not co-operative due to which they faced a number of problems in the hostel. However, all the respondents told that the women utilities were the major problem in the hostel. About 23% complained against the conveyance problem and 18% felt that home sickness was the real problem. Similar findings have been reported by Khalid (1990).

## CONCLUSIONS

Majority of the respondents thought that they were not able to give proper time to the family members and felt that the health of their family members suffered due to their absence from their homes. Lack of common utilities in the hostels and conveyance problems have been recognized as the major issues.

## REFERENCES

- Akhtar, R., 1984. Female Participation in economic activities with special reference to selected community of "Kachi Abadi". *M.Sc. Thesis*, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
- Azhar, R., 1978. Attitudes of male towards career women. *M.Sc. Thesis*, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.
- Bano, M., 1970. Study of career women in higher education. *M.A. Thesis*, Department of social work, University of the Punjab, Lahore.
- Henning, M. and A. Jardin, 1977. Women in the work force. Editorial research reports on women's movement, achievements and effects by Sandra Stencel. Published by Congressional Quarterly Inc., Washington, Feb. 18, pp: 40.
- Khalid, S., 1990. An investigation into the problems of working women. *M.Sc. Thesis*, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
- Parveen, S., 1984. An investigation into the problems of working women. *M.Sc. Thesis*, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.
- Rizwani, S. and M. Sabir, 1976. Attitudes towards employment of women in an urban perspective. *Proc. 10th Sociological Annual Conf.* Held at Lyallpur (Faisalabad).
- Sultana, R., 1965. Role and status of financial independence of women in the family. *M.A. Thesis*, Department of Sociology, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

(Received 14 August 2000; Accepted 08 September 2000)