

## **A Study on Women Domestic Workers of Mysore District**

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### **Abstract**

There are several women domestic workers who have worked for long years under the same employer, without any hike in pay. Hence, this has led to economic and social exploitation of these workers, The economic exploitation further has extended that they do not have bargaining power in terms of wages. They do not have any organisation of their own which can protect their rights. This paper makes an attempt to look into the socio economic conditions of women and also tries to give suggestions to improve the socio-economic conditions of women domestic workers in the case study area.

### **Keywords**

Exploitation, Social, Economic, Women, and Domestic workers.

### **1. Introduction**

In the modern trend, the demand for domestic workers has increased mainly because of the lack of time and the physical inability of the housewives and also due to the emerging modern lifestyle among the city habitants. Nowadays, people are very much in need of the help of these domestic workers, but recognition is not given to them and to their job. Thus, there is importance of these domestic workers in an economy, but their value is not recognized in society.

### **2. Review of the Literature**

In ancient times, domestic work, in India, was largely performed by “serfs” who generally belong to the lower category and were denied to access education (Gothoskar, 2005).

Domestic maid servants are better known in the feudal ages as “Dasis”, are not new to the country (Mahadevan, 1989).

### **3. Research Methodology**

The present study is on empirical investigation based on a sample interviews of women domestic labourers in Mysore city. Mysore is a mid-sized south Indian city with a population of about 7.8 lakh and spanning an area of 128 sq kms. This is the second largest city in Karnataka after Bangalore, the capital city of Karnataka. This city is 140 kms away from the state capital Bangalore. The present study is based on both primary and secondary data and a systematic random sampling method has been adopted for the survey.

The primary data has been collected from 5 extension areas of Mysore city. Where large numbers of female domestic labourers are preferred by the home-makers as well as working women. The 5 extension areas are Vijayanagara, Kuvempunagara, Saraswathipuram, Gokulam, and Siddarth Layout. Firstly majority of the people of this area are economically well off and can afford to manage maid servants secondly, the number of apartments are also more in the study region. The survey has been conducted by taking 50 women domestic labourers of these areas and 10 respondents are randomly selected from each extension mentioned above. Simple tables, and percentage methods are used to analyse the result and have been depicted by simple bar graphs and pie charts.

### **4. Result and Discussion**

**Table 1: Age Composition**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
18-30	12	24
31-50	30	60
Above – 50	8	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* Field Survey

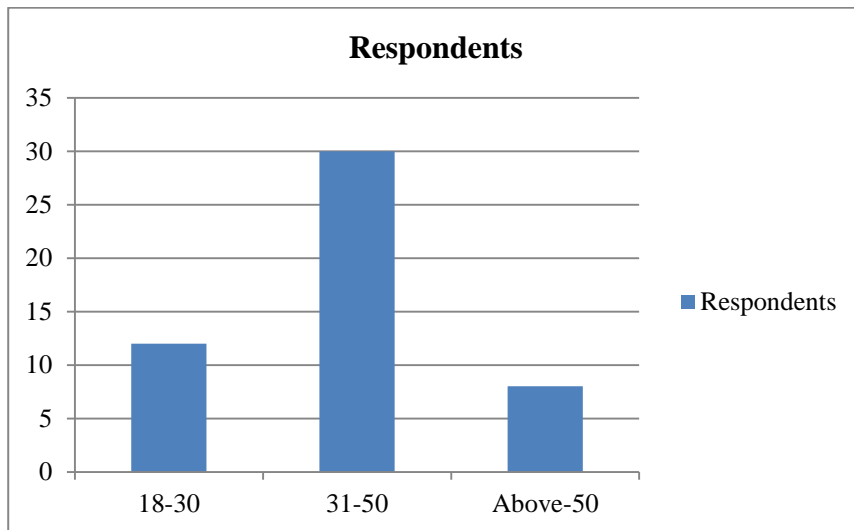


Table 1 explains that out of 50 respondents 30 of them belong to the age group of 31-50 years followed by 12 respondents belonging to 18-30 years and 8 respondents coming under the group of above 50 years.

**Table 2: Educational Status**

Educational Status	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Illiterate	5	10
1-10	38	76
PUC	7	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

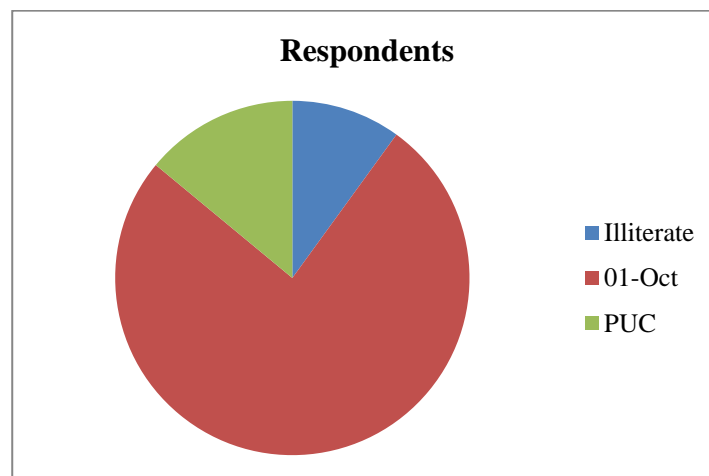


Table 2 analyses the educational status of the respondents, out of 50 respondents 38 of them have studied between 1 - 10<sup>th</sup> standards of their schooling followed by 7 respondents who studied PUC, and 5 are illiterate.

**Table 3: Type of House**

Type	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Kaccha	10	20
Pacca	40	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* Field Survey

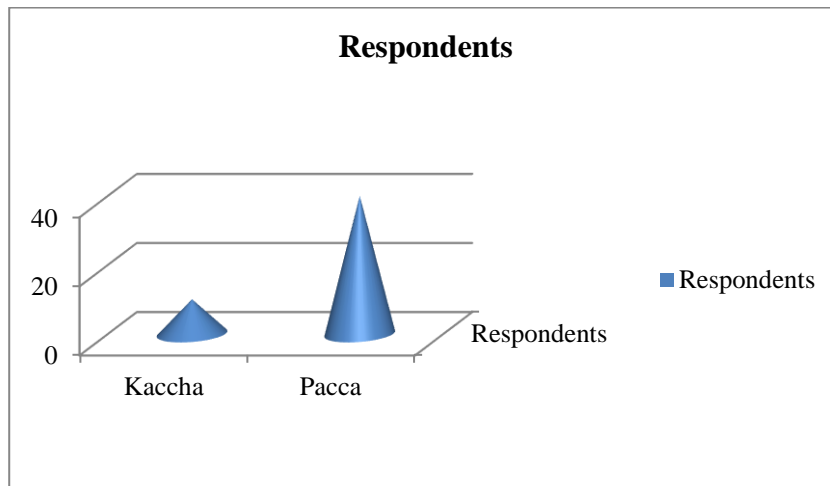


Table 3 highlights that out of 50 respondents 40 of them live in pacca houses and only 10 of them still live in kaccha houses.

**Table 4: Access to Potable Drinking Water**

Access	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	40	80
No	10	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* Field Survey

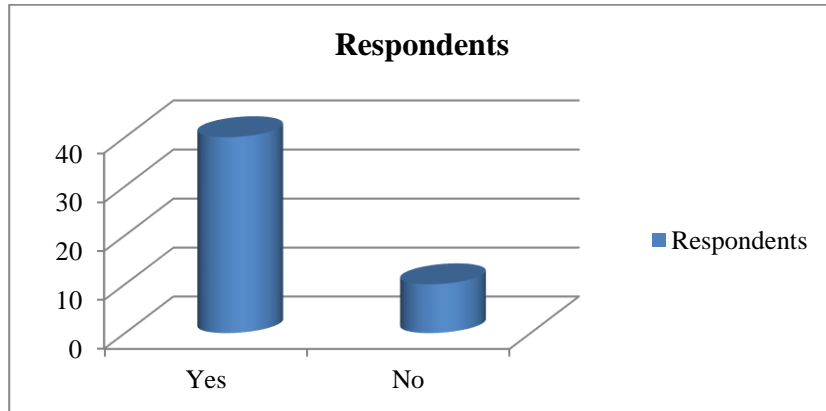


Table 4 explains that 40 respondents have access to potable drinking water and hardly 10 of them do not have access to potable drinking water.

**Table 5: Access Sanitation**

Access	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	40	80
No	10	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

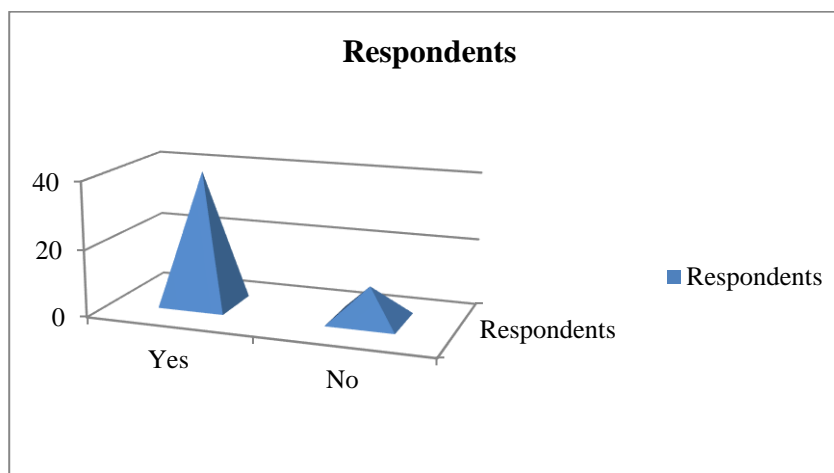


Table 5 reveals that 40 respondents have access to sanitation facilities and 10 respondents do not have access to sanitation.

**Table 6: Access TV**

Access	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	20	40
No	30	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

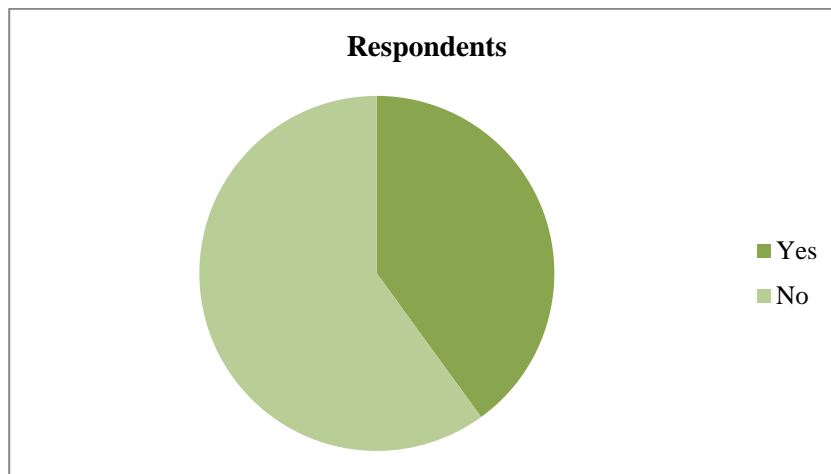


Table 6 explains that 20 respondents have access to TV and 30 respondents do not have access to TV.

**Table 7: Income per Month**

Income Level	Respondents	Percentage %
< 5000	15	30
5001-8000	20	40
8001-10000	10	20
> 10000	5	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

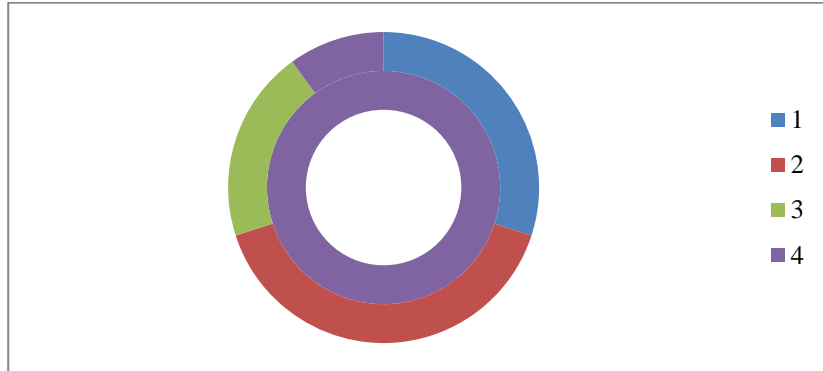


Table 7 explains that 15 respondents have income less than 5000 per month and 20 respondents earn between 5001-8000 rupees every month followed by 10 respondents with between the income of 8001-10,000 and only 5 of them have monthly income above 10000.

**Table 8: Savings Level**

Savings	Respondents	Percentage (%)
< 1000	20	30
1001-2500	15	40
2501-5000	10	20
> 5000	5	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

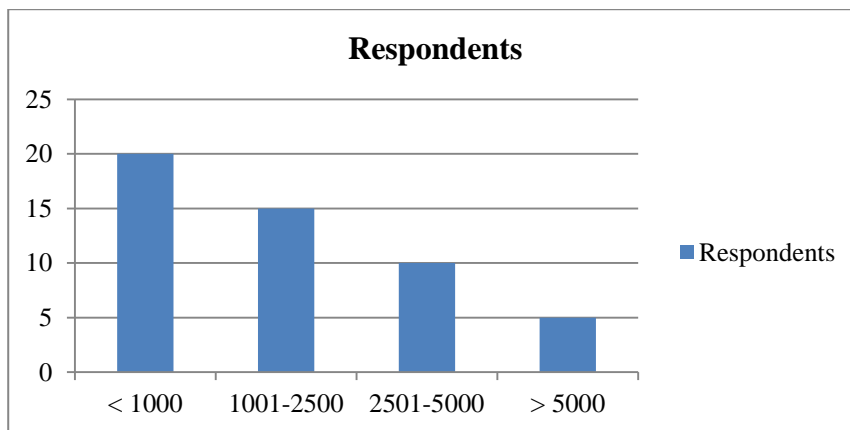


Table 8 examines the savings of the respondents, 20 respondents have less than 1000 rupees of savings every month, similarly, 15 of them have between 1001-2500 savings followed by 10 respondents having savings between 2501-5000 rupees and 5 of them have above 5000 monthly savings.

**Table 9: Sources of Loan**

Sources	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Loan from Bank	10	20
Loan from Employer	28	56
Money Lenders	04	08
Loan from Finance	08	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

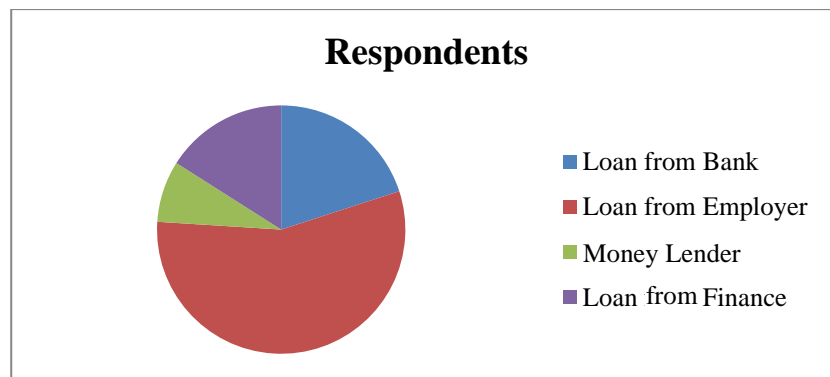


Table 9 explains that 10 respondents have taken loans from banks, 28 of them have taken as advance amount from their employers, 8 of them have taken loans from some private finances, and followed by 4 respondents have taken loans from money lenders for a huge amounts of monthly and weekly interest.

**Table 10: Reasons for Accepting this Job**

Reasons	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Easy to do	19	38
Less tedious than casual labourers	12	24
No other skill	19	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey



Table 10 reveals that 19 of the respondents have adopted this job mainly because that it is easy for them to pursue and similarly other 19 respondents said that they do this job since they do not know other skills and followed by 12 respondents considered this job as less tedious compare to casual labour.

**Table 11: Travel Distance**

Distance	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Near	5	10
< 1 km	11	22
1-4 km	26	52
> 4 km	8	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* Field Survey

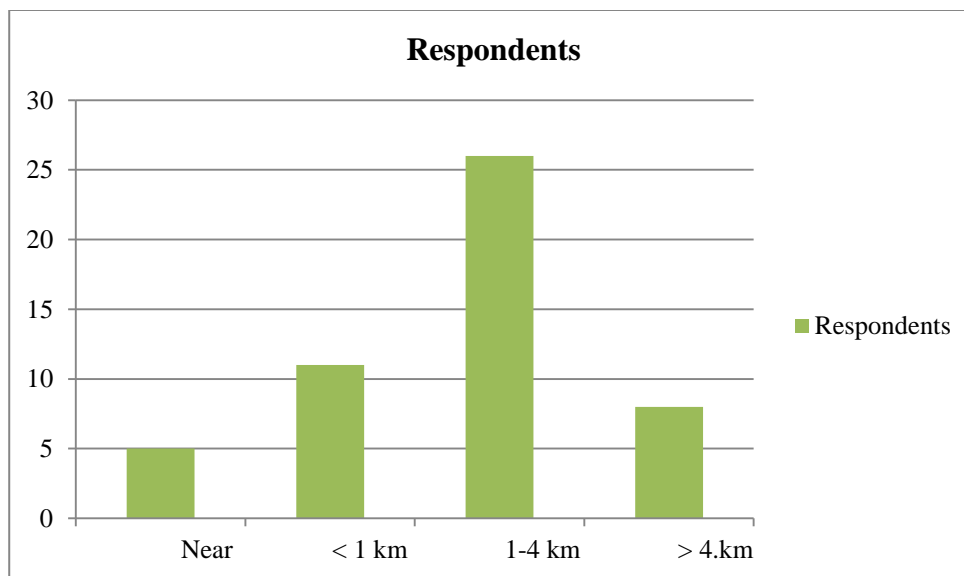


Table 11 explains that 5 respondents work near by their dwelling areas, 26 of them travel between 1 to 4 km every day to their work places followed by 11 respondents who travel less than 1 km every day, and 8 of them travel more than 4 km every day from their living places.

## 5. Findings

1. The majority of the respondents belong to the age group of 31-50 years because it is the core age for earning and contributing to the income of the family.

2. 38 respondents have studied between 1-10<sup>th</sup> standards of their schooling because of free schooling facilities they have gone up to 10<sup>th</sup> standard and due to various sociological, and economic issues they are not able to go beyond 10<sup>th</sup> standard.
3. The majority of them live in pacca houses because of various governmental schemes.
4. The majority of them have access to potable drinking water and sanitation facilities.
5. The majority of them have a monthly incomes between 5001 - 8000 rupees and most of them have savings of less than 1000 rupees per month.
6. 28 Respondents have borrowed loans from their employers.
7. 38 respondents have the opinion that they adopted this job because it is easy and few of them do not have other skills than this job
8. A large number of respondents travel to their working places between 1-4 km everybody.

## **6. Suggestions**

1. This paper makes an attempt to suggest suitable measures to improve the socio-economic conditions of women domestic workers.
2. Non-Governmental Organization must organize general health camps once in 6 months for these women domestic workers.
3. Education plays an important role in the life of every individual to lead a successfully life, but in the case study many of them are illiterates, there is a need for making these domestic workers educated which in turn contributes for them to get better employment and good health. Therefore meticulous efforts are all necessary to bring the measures, which are already on paper to practice.
4. Central Social Welfare Board, and National and State commission for women should take proper measures for improving the socio economic conditions of women domestic workers.
5. NGO's and volunteers have to educate the members of the family about the problems faced by the women domestic workers in their working places to make their work secure.

6. They should also maintain a Registered Welfare Association of these women which in turn helps them to get secure in their job places.
7. Registered Welfare Associations has to register the homes of domestic workers along with their phone numbers so that if any employer wants the service of domestic servants can approach this association for booking the domestic servants.

## **7. Conclusion**

They themselves are not aware of the importance and value of their job. So the necessary steps have to be undertaken by the Government regarding their job as a respectable one. It is also in the hands of the general public in the country to respect these domestic workers with humanitarian concerns.

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