

Work Burden of Rural Girl Child in Relation to the Selected Variables

Today's girl child is tomorrow's woman and day after tomorrow's mother of future generation. It is her physical, mental, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development which will determine the quality of life of her family and the generation to come.

The girls not only undertake productive work by shouldering the burden of household work and taking care of their siblings. But infact, in many cases people don't identify many of the tasks undertaken by the girls as labour in strict sense. Domestic chores are the best example of this. They are seen as the tasks that girls should perform automatically without any monetary compensation. Apart from this non-recognition for the work done, they are faced with a wide range of problems like poverty, lack of access to education, health facilities, inadequate sanitation, low wage rates, etc. Traditions, blind beliefs also add to the drudgery of the girls. For a vast majority of the girls, the question is not for rights but of the basic decencies and requirements. Hence, the present study is an effort to assess the work burden of the rural girl child in relation to the employment status of mother and type of family.

The study was carried out in randomly selected four villages of Northern Karnataka viz., Hebballi, Somapur, Maradagi and Nigadi during the year 1993-94. The sample consisted of the girls of 6-12 years and their either of parents. Pre-tested schedule was used to elicit the information by personal interview method. For analyzing the time spent on different activities such as domestic, paid and leisure time activities all the 180 girls were taken into consideration. But only those girls from the families having children below four years of age were taken into consideration for analyzing the time spent on

child care activities. Similarly only those girls who were from the families, which owned land holdings and possessed livestock were taken into consideration for analyzing the time spent on unpaid agricultural activities and animal care activities respectively. Based on the individual time spent on different activities, the respondents were grouped into three categories i.e., less, moderate and high work burden by using the formula $X \pm 0.452 (S.D)$. The work burden of the girls was assessed by the amount of time spent by them on different activities. 'Chi-square' was used to assess the association between the time spent on different activities and the employment status of the mothers and type of family.

The association between time spent on different activities by the girls and the employment status of the mothers is shown in table 1. The chi-square value reveals the significant association between the time spent on domestic, unpaid agricultural and paid activities by the girls and employment status of the mothers. All the girls irrespective of the employment status of their mothers were involved in different activities, but the amount of time spent by them was different. The girls whose mothers were employed had more work burden than the others. The probable reason may be that the employed mothers left the responsibility of doing all these activities on girls as they had to leave the home early in the morning for work. They were tired to do any household work after returning from the work in the evening.

The rural girls did not get sufficient time for play and rest from their long working hours. This is at par with results of Karunanithi (1990) and Dharmalingam (1993). The employment status of mothers had significant relation with the amount of leisure time the girls had. The girls whose

mothers were employed had lesser leisure time compared to others. The association between the time spent on animal care and un-paid agricultural activities with type of family was found to be statistically significant (Table 2). The girls from the joint families spent more time on these activities. This is due to the reason that the size of the livestock and land holdings possessed by the joint families was more than that of nuclear families. The table also reveals that the work burden of the rural girls from the nuclear families

was comparatively lesser than girls from joint families. This is probably because the elder members of the joint families might have taken the major responsibility of performing different activities. However all the girls irrespective of type of family were involved in all the activities. The parents' expectation from the girls to help in the household activities was the reason for this. It may be concluded that the work burden of the rural girls was more whose mothers were employed and from nuclear families when compared to others.

Table 1. Association between the time spent on different activities by girls and employment status of the mothers

Employment status of the mothers	Percentage of girls			Total	Chi square value N-180
	Time spent on domestic activities				
	Less	Moderate	More		
1. Employed	13.27	46.90	39.83	100	16.084**
2. Unemployed	38.80	37.31	23.89	100	
Total	22.78	43.33	33.89	100	
	Time spent of childcare activities				n=45
1. Employed	19.05	19.05	61.90	100	2.737 NS
2. Unemployed	16.67	4.17	79.16	100	
Total	17.79	11.11	48.90	100	
	Time spent on animal care activities				n=10
1. Employed	26.69	48.44	21.87	100	2.600 NS
2. Unemployed	39.13	50.00	10.87	100	
Total	24.54	49.09	17.27	100	
	Time spent on unpaid agricultural activities				n=17
1. Employed	10.14	65.22	24.64	100	20.075
2. Unemployed	67.16	5.97	26.87	100	
Total	62.22	20.56	17.22	100	
	Time spent on leisure time activities				n=180
1. Employed	38.08	48.67	13.27	100	15.836*
2. Unemployed	23.89	37.31	38.80	100	
Total	32.78	44.44	22.78	100	

** significant at 1 % level

NS- Nonsignificant

Work Burden of Rural Girl

Table 2. Association between the time spent on different activities by girls and type of family

Type of families	Percentage of girls			Total	Chi square value N-180
	Time spent on domestic activities				
	Less	Moderate	More		
1. Nuclear	39.47	35.09	25.44	100	0.772 NS
2. Joint	42.42	34.85	22.73	100	
Total	40.56	35.00	24.44	100	
	Time spent of childcare activities				n=45
1. Nuclear	25.00	12.50	62.50	100	3.861 NS
2. Joint	4.76	9.52	87.71	100	
Total	15.56	11.11	73.33	100	
	Time spent on animal care activities				n=10
1. Nuclear	41.79	50.75	7.46	100	12.388**
2. Joint	23.25	44.19	32.56	100	
Total	34.55	48.18	17.27	100	
	Time spent on unpaid agricultural activities				n=117
1. Nuclear	16.42	76.12	7.46	100	10.240**
2. Joint	24.00	50.00	26.00	100	
Total	19.66	64.96	15.36	100	
	Time spent on paid agricultural activities				n=180
1.Nuclear	59.66	7.01	33.33	100	5.714 NS
2. Joint	65.15	15.15	19.70	100	
Total	61.67	10.00	28.33	100	
	Time spent on leisure time activities				n=180
1. Nuclear	33.33	52.63	14.04	100	2.294 NS
2. Joint	34.36	42.43	21.21	100	
Total	34.44	48.89	16.67	100	

** significant at 1 % level

NS- Nonsignificant

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