

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS INFLUENCING WOMEN WORKING IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY: A CASE STUDY OF KHURRIANWALA, FAISALABAD

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ABSTRACT

Khurrianwala is an industrial area. Many women work in Textile industries. This current study intended to explore the problems; such working women face in their respective fields. Previous researches about this problem showed that due to workload, women suffered many psychological and physical health-related issues. It was comparative cross-sectional research, where different variables compared at the same time on women sample size N=350. Convenient sampling technique was used for data collection. This particular study explored maximum types of working women problems. Data collection was done using questionnaire, interviews, field survey and observation. Chi-square analysis and frequency distribution were used to achieve the results. The results of current research showed that the risk factors of all physical and mental health-related issues were high because of low Socio-Economic Status and long-time workload. Findings of married working women were showing that they had more stress and work-family conflicts than unmarried working women. Sexual harassment (especially for young unmarried females), musculoskeletal problems, pregnancy risks, unavailability of child care, anxiety, stress, long working hours and many more constraints were affecting working women's physical and psychological health. It suggested that fundamental labor rights and facilities should be provided to working women as women belong to the feeble class in society. Wages should be as much as they could drive their home smoothly.

KEYWORDS: socio-economic, risk factors, women, Khurrianwala, recommendations

INTRODUCTION

In the world market factories, wages paid for women workers are generally 20-50% lower than men in comparable jobs and the concern of instability of job, pregnancy or many other reasons may often cause for dismissal of women because they can no longer meet time-keeping standards (Elson & Pearson, 1981). "The textile and garment industries have been among those industrial sectors most dependent on female labor" (Enloe, 1983) so, today, textiles remain the largest industry of Western Europe and by 1980, there

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were six out of ten shirts and three of every pair of jeans or trousers sold in Europe, were being made by Asian women, not American or European women.

The female textile workers may have an increased risk of nasopharyngeal cancer due to cotton dust, caustics, and acids (Li et al., 2006) and also due to work in dyeing and printing sectors in the textile industry. Hatch and Hatch, (1958) collected data from the top three working women's magazines, and in these magazines, most of the problems were indicated to be faced by female workers, particularly by married women. Socio-Economic Status (SES) disturbs overall social effectiveness, including human physical and emotional health. Evidence indicates that socioeconomic status influences on the overall quality of life in women. There is a link between inferior SES and destructive psychological and physical health outcomes among women and their children, too (American Psychological Association, 2011). Women living in lower SES neighborhoods receive lesser health-promoting physical exercises compared to higher SES areas (Wang et al., 2007).

In the preceding 15 years, research on health and SES has been significantly increased. Initial years' research revealed the nature of the association between SES and health, unveiling a graded link. So, SES is crucial to health not merely for that in poverty, but at all levels of SES (Adler and Ostrove, 1999). Psychological and mental health of married women could be affected due to overtime or full-time work. Married working women practiced stress, and work-family conflicts as (Matsui et al., 1995) discussed that parents demand the care of young children and to abolish such family conflicts and life strain, there is a major role of husband coping behavior and support. There is another reason for work-family conflict, which is illustrated by Greenhaus and Beutell, (1985) that family members require a working woman to spend more and more time in family activities. Coherent with this suggestion, Herman and Gyllstrom, (1977) found that married women experienced more work-family conflict than unmarried women. Similarly, it might be expected that parents would experience more work-family conflict than nonparents.

Married working women, who have the children less than five years of age, have the problem of satisfactory child care, as Presser and Baldwin, (1980) examined that due to unavailability of child care, the fertility expectations in working mothers was very low. Sexual harassment is another major problem among working women, as Lafontaine and Tredeau, (1986) studies especially for young unmarried females and found that the level of harassment was very high as compared to married and older women, moreover, in firms, women who had equal employment opportunities, faced low level of harassment then those in firms with low opportunities. Sexual harassment is a reality which began since women has been started

working outside their homes, as according to Fitzgerald, (1993), every one women out of two will be the preyed to sexual harassment in her academic or working life and can result in psychological and health related consequences.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Workplace stress is an endemic problem that is increasing day by day and the main reason behind workplace stress is the tremendous pressure on employees by their top management in productivity. Women are belonging to different occupations and level of satisfaction may vary individual to individual. Due to workload and long working hours, and so many other socio-economic issues, women especially working in Textile industry suffer many psychological/ mental (e.g. stress, depression, anxiety, headache, amnesia, etc.) and other physical health risks (e.g. eye sight, musculoskeletal problems, backbone problems, fertility issues, obesity, arthritis/ inflammation of joints, etc.) during their job. Health factors may be social environment, individual psychological and behavioral factors and obesity variables may be dietary restraints, physical activity, social mobility and inheritance. Social intolerance rate is also very high among employed women because they face every type of attitude of their family members, relatives and other people. The findings and results of this study were quantified and mapped by geo-spatial technique to visualize and measure prevalent risk existing in the socio-economic space of the industry. Consequently, measures suggested lessening the problems of employed women.

OBJECTIVES

- To investigate the nature of work and level of satisfaction of working women in textile factories in Khurrianwala vicinity.
- To examine the psychological and other health impacts on such women.
- To investigate the social intolerance rate for working women.
- To examine the working hours per month and income such women earn.
- To suggest measures to decrease the problems of women working in textile factories.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Working women have to face numerous problems related to work pressure, income issues, domestic life routine, children and health concerns. Khurrianwala is an industrial area and many women work in textile industries. This study intended to explore the problems, such working women face in their respective field and how these problems hindered and

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overcome. No research alike this one has been conducted study area ever before so, this is the first step to analyze the socioeconomic problems of women residing in this area.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

In the present study data was collected by field survey and observation to conclude the Socio-economic Problems of women working in textile Industry of Khurrianwala, Faisalabad. Khurrianwala is a town, residential area and industrial estate of Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan. It is situated at 31.5° North latitude, 73.27° East longitude and 178 (584ft) meters elevation above the sea level. It is a small city in Pakistan, with UC # 20, 21, having about more than 15, 0000 inhabitants. The data were collected during May-June 2017. Convenient data sampling technique was used. The respondents aged from 19-48 years old. The sample size of this section of research was 350 respondents. These respondents' women were working in 30 textile industries of study area (Figure 1). The names of selected factories are: Sadaqat Textile Pvt., Interloop Pvt. Unit 3, MTM Garments City, Kamal Hosiery Pvt., Gohar Textile Pvt., Al-Haq Spinning Pvt., Bismillah Fabrics Pvt., Niagra Textile Pvt., Rana Textile Pvt., Sumaira Fabrics Pvt., Maheen Textile Pvt., Bismillah Textile Pvt., AM Tex Textile, Interloop Private Limited, A.A Spinning Pvt., Best Export Pvt., Saffron Pharma Pvt., Aziz Textile Pvt., Ittehad Spinning Pvt., Al-Barka Pvt., Kausar Processing Pvt., Faisal Fabrics Pvt., Arshad Textile Pvt., Hassan Spinning Pvt., Arzoo Textile Pvt., M.K Sons Pvt., Kamal Textile Pvt., Magna Processing Pvt., Ali Textile Pvt., and Abdul Rehman Textile Pvt.

Questionnaire and Interviews

Structured questionnaire for primary data collection were designed that contained questions related to problem of interest. Both open and close ended questions were constructed in the form of two questionnaires. First questionnaire was based on 56 questions categorized on personal detail, physical & psychological health related issues, domestic issues, household and security. There were 35 questions which were used to acquire the socio-economic conditions of such particular area, e.g. conditions of roads, water, sewage system, environment, electricity, facilities and availabilities of food, schools, hospitals, Islamic madrassas and Sui-Gas. Interviews were also a part of this research to validate the questions by responders. MS Office was used for composing the data of the research.

Mapping

ArcGIS was used for mapping to show the exact location of the identification of research study areas and problem hotspots. The study area was digitized

by using ArcGIS and all issues were quantified by using Geo-statistics. Three maps were digitized on which 30 factory points were showed representing the study area of Khurrianwala.

SPSS

SPSS software was used for data analysis and to find the results of the research. First, descriptive statistics was used to analyze data. Cross-tabulation and Chi-Square analysis were used to find out the results of this research.

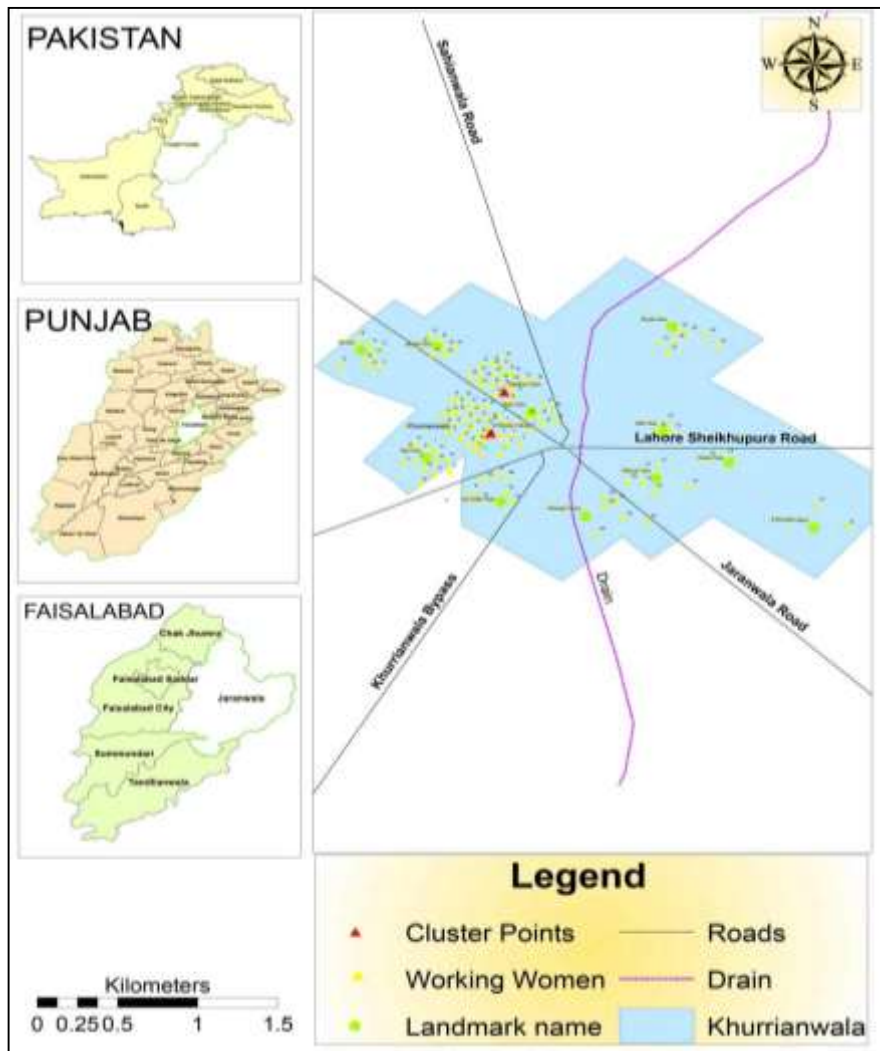


Figure 1: Map of the study area showing thirty factories in the Khurrianawala.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The present study was carried out in Khurrianwala, District Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan, during 2017. Primary data were collected from 350 respondents randomly selected from 30 textile industries, situated in Khurrianwala vicinity. Questionnaires responses were collected and analyzed using statistical tools. The indicators, types, responses frequency were interpreted. Table 1 to Table 3 shows the responses pattern of women in percentages to workplace and family, working hours, household and societal conditions. Monthly working hour and wages were investigated and results showed that the majority of women worked in the range of 208 hours per month and the majority of women earned the wages in the range of 11000-1500 rupees. The women, who are working in textiles industry, facing a lot of problems in their whole life span. The socio-economic conditions of present comparative cross-sectional research respondents forced them to take step of job. Work load, poor socio-economic conditions, social intolerance, long working hours and bad work, badly affected the physical and psychological health of women working in textile factories of Khurrianwala.

Table 1. Socio-economic indicators influencing working women- workplace and family

Indicators	Type	Percent
Behavior of Supervisor	Kind	55.44
	Friendly	15.144
	Arrogant	3.7
	Professional	25.43
	No one	0.29
Provocation from Supervisors	Sexual harassment	15.7
	Verbal abuse	40
	Physical beating	8.6
	Unnecessary criticized	22.6
	no one	13.1
Behavior of other Workers	Kind	33.7
	Friendly	27.7
	Arrogant	26.9
	Professional	11.7
Attitude of Area People /Neighbors	Skeptics	33.143
	Friendly	47.43
	Aggressive	10.86
	Unaggressive	8.57

Society Response to Your Job	Appreciated	68.57
	Depreciated	31.143
Marital Status	Unmarried	26.6
	Married	57.4
	Divorced	7.4
	Widow	8.6
Qualification of respondents	Primary	15.7
	Middle	20.9
	Metric	28.6
	F.A	15.7
	B.A	14.9
	Never Visited School	4.3
Family Size	1 – 3	31.7
	4 - 6	40.6
	7 - 9	22.9
	More than 9	4.9
Husband Behavior	Rude	42
	Friendly	44.56
	Beating	2.29
	Affair other women	8.9
	Drinking habits	2.29

Table 2. Socio-economic indicators influencing working women- working hours

Indicators	Type	Percentage
Working sector	Cutting	41.428
	Stitching	32
	Spinning	11.1428
	Weaving	7.7143
	Cleaning	7.429
Working Hour (Hours)	8	58.85
	9	6.285
	10	20.6
	11	0.6
	12	11.14
	More than 12 Hours	2.6

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Any Other Income Source	No	45.143
	Husband	24.86
	Father/Brother	24.86
	Pension	2.29
	Son/Daughter	2.86
Job Satisfaction Level	Satisfied	26
	Highly Satisfied	3.1
	Unsatisfied	39.7
	Highly Unsatisfied	24.6
	Neutral	6.6
Participation in House Expenditures	Yes	96.3
	No	3.7
Participation In House hold Work	Do all work	32
	Half work	26
	Some work	36.29
	Not at all	5.3
Relaxation Time Per Day (Hours)	1-3	61.7
	4-6	29.143
	7-9	8.9

As the research has disclosed that a large amount of social and economic problems is linked to working women. By all counts and with proven results, there is no overcapacity of skeptical that the combination of low education, low income lead to low socio-economic conditions, and here into poverty, domestic and workplace issues make such circumstances, which lead to poor health (both physical and mental) of working women.

Table 3. Socio-economic indicators influencing working women- society, food, health

Indicators	Types	Percentage
Condition of Roads	Cobblestones	52.8
	Soling	47.2
Water Condition	Salinized Water	100
Drinking Water Facility	Purchased	37.6
	Operational Filtration Plant	40.8
	Govt. Water Supply	21.6

Type of Household Water	Operational Filtration Plant	10.4
	Ground Water	73.6
	Govt. Water Supply	16
Condition of Sewage System	Open System	66.4
	Gutter System	33.6
Common Disease	Cholera	19.2
	Diarrhea	0.8
	Malaria	14.4
	Typhoid	4.8
	Hepatitis	20
	Skin Allergy	19.2
Security Measures	Eye Infection	21.6
	Street Camera	8.8
	Security Guard For Community	44.8
	Not at All	46.4
Dignity Self Respect Safety	Yes	75.2
	No	24.8
Recreation Point	Yes	99.2
	No	0.8
Environment Condition	Less Polluted	30.4
	More Polluted	69.6
Condition of Electricity	Less Than 4 Hours	11.2
	Less Than 8 Hours	88.8
Sui Gas Facility	Yes	100
Type of Houses	Brick House	12
	Semi Pucca	39.2
	Stone Using House	48.8
Income Enough for Basic Needs	Yes	36.57
	No	63.43
Flour Type	Unprocessed Flour	64.8
	processed Flour	35.2
Type of Food Used	Desi Food	100
Basic Necessity of Food	Subsistence Farming	10.4
	Purchased	89.6

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Govt. Hospital Facility	Yes	100
Health Problem	Yes	57.1
	No	42.9
Health Facilities	Yes	76.285
	No	23.7
Major Areas affected by Pain	Neck/Shoulder	54.25
	Upper back	8.57
	Lower back	9.7
	Lower limbs	6.86
	Arms	3.7
	Hands/Wrists	2.57
	No one	14.29
Satisfied with Govt. Hospital	Yes	77.6
	No	22.4
No of Private Hospitals	7-9	100
Number of Homeopathic Clinics	3-4	100
Preference of Treatment	Govt.	43.2
	Private	42.4
	Homeopathic	11.2
	Herbalist	3.2
Gynea Treatment Preference	Gynecologist	86.4
Govt. School Facility	Midwife	13.6
	Yes	100
No of Private School	9-12	100
Preference about School	Govt. School	50.4
	Private School	49.6
No of Islamic Madrassa	7-9	100

Chi-Square analysis along with cross tabulation were used to investigate the nature of work and level of satisfaction of working women in textile factories, examine the psychological and other health impacts on such women and working hours per month and income such women earn. These results shown in Table 4 revealed that all these factors are significantly associated with women's psychology and health related issues. The women worked as long hours per day, so their health was much disturbed including with anger and depression. Mostly women notice Neck/ Shoulders pain due to working hard for long working hours.

Table 4. Chi-Square results of different variables influencing working women

Variables	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-Sided)
Nature of Job and Level of Satisfaction			
Pearson Chi-Square	62.77649	36	0.004
Likelihood Ratio	62.969472	36	0.004
Psychological Problems Due to Long Working Hours			
Pearson Chi-Square	57.92404	25	.000
Likelihood Ratio	67.11851	25	.000
Physical Problems Due to Long Working Hours			
Pearson Chi-Square	40.2119473	15	.000
Likelihood Ratio	46.5408587	15	.000
Body Part Affect by Long Working Hours			
Pearson Chi-Square	185.1603	30	0
Likelihood Ratio	152.4372	30	0
Working Hours and Monthly Income			
Pearson Chi-Square	65.1459	25	.000
Likelihood Ratio	66.384	25	.000

Women further responded that they had health issues due to work in factory (behavioral problem, child birth complications, muscle skeletal problem, backbone pain and psychological problems. Mostly women were participating in their household expenditures and they had no household head as they were widowed or divorced. Majority of respondents respond their income was not enough for their basic needs and without their job, they hardly meet their necessities of life. These results are corroborated with previous studies where household management, working environments, income problems, stress related health issues have been linked with female workers (Chee and Rampal, 2004; Sikhdar et al., 2014, Ahmad et al., 2015)

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The overall study showed that the social and economic background of those women was not much strong and healthy, but compelled to support their families and to fulfill their basic necessities. On the basis of results, it there

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are some recommendations for improvements of Socio-economic conditions of working women. Child care facility should be provided so that the mother workers can perform their duties without any tension. In every factory emergency first aid could be provided. For the brightness of future, free education facility should be provided to the workers' children, so that they could be able to get a good job after completing study. Wages should be according to the schedule of Government and special allowances should be for widows, divorced and disabled persons. Pension facility should be provided by factories and overall working environment should be calm and tension free.

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