

Chapter 4

ECONOMY AND THE SINGLE WOMEN

In most of the countries of the world, women are marginalized in economic activities and form a disadvantaged section and India is no exception in this regard. Economic reforms are one of the leading factors that have changed the entire scenario of social and cultural situation of one country. A sustainable economy is pre-condition for national economic growth and prosperity. It is only possible when women are equally participating in the mainstream economic activities as well as make them economically independent (Siddique 2015). Sarker and Srivastava (2011) mentioned that women's economic independence reflects their power within the family. With increased participation of women in earning activities, not only increase income of the family, but also gender inequalities and discrimination would be considerably reduced. Women's work participation, knowledge and inputs in every aspect of life were marginalized and their role shifted from primary to subsidiary worker. Traditionally women performed only domestic role, but after constant growth of industrialisation and urbanisation women have to maintain their home as well as professional work. According to Sharma (1990) the status of women workers in India is very unhealthy because 94% of them are found in unorganized sector and rest 6% in the organized sector.

In many cases women's own income is controlled by men. Situation is almost same in the case of single women who are the head as well as bread earner of their family. Economic status of single women reflected from their occupational patterns, income, ownership of land, monthly expenditure etc. The condition of unemployed or economically dependent single women is comparatively worse than earning single women. They are the burden of their family and often experience harassment and torture from family member and relative.

This chapter mainly deals with the economic condition of respondents so that a clear picture can be drawn from the micro setting about economic condition of single women, including their occupation, monthly income, control over their income, spending of monthly income etc.

OCCUPATION

Occupation is an activity or task in which one occupies oneself, specifically the productive activity, service, trade or craft for which one is regularly paid. Marxist feminist recognized that there are two types of labor present in a capitalist economic system: productive labor and reproductive labor. Productive labor refers to labor or work resulting in services and goods that have monetary value within the capitalist economic system. As a result, the producers of these goods and services earn money for their labor. Reproductive labor refers to things that people do to take care of themselves rather than for the purpose of earning money. This is often defined to include cooking, cleaning and raising children (Reinharz, S. 1992). Occupation of the respondents also found both productive and reproductive division of labour. Those respondents are not productive workers or unemployed have done reproductive labour. On the other hand majority of the respondents are doing both productive and reproductive labour. Due to industrialization and educational development, large number of women came out from home and engaged different formal and informal sectors for earning. Through still in Indian society women are discourage to work outside but single women have no other option for survival. The following table gives detail accounts of single women's occupational status.

Table 4.1: Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Their Occupation

Occupation of Respondent	Marital Status			Total (%)
	Widow	Divorce	Unmarried	
Government Service (Regular/Fixed/Contractual)	11 (8.59)	2 (1.97)	8 (11.42)	21 (7)
Private job/ Company job	27 (21.09)	12 (11.77)	8 (11.42)	47 (15.67)
Shopkeeper	22 (17.19)	30 (29.40)	12 (17.15)	64 (21.33)
Domestic work	50 (39.07)	43 (42.15)	28 (40)	121 (40.33)
Wage labor	16 (12.5)	6 (5.89)	13 (18.58)	35 (11.67)
Unemployed	2 (1.56)	9 (8.82)	1 (1.43)	12 (4)
Total (%)	128 (100)	102 (100)	70 (100)	300 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

The table reveals that 40.33% respondents are domestic workers, 21.33% respondents are shop keeper, 15.67% respondents are working in private sector, 11.67% respondents are daily labors, 7% respondents are doing job in government sectors and 4% respondents are unemployed.

Marital status wise 42.15% divorce, 40% unmarried, 39.07% widows are working as domestic worker. 29.40% divorce, 17.19% widow and 17.15% unmarried respondents are shopkeeper. 21.09% widow, 11.77% divorce, 11.42% unmarried respondents are doing private jobs. 18.58% unmarried, 12.5% widow and 5.89% divorce respondents are working daily labour. 11.42% unmarried, 8.59% widow and 1.97% divorce respondents are doing government job. 8.82% divorce, 1.56% widow, 1.43% unmarried respondents are unemployed.

Thus it shows that majority of respondents are involved in informal sector mainly in domestic work and daily labor. On the other hand nearly two third of respondents are shopkeeper. More than 95% respondents are involved in different occupational activities where as few of them are unemployed. To understand the nature of the occupational pattern of the respondents an analysis of their various occupations is undertaken in the following discussion.

Government Jobs

Government service is considered as formal sector which provides government benefit and services. According to the Oxford dictionary of Sociology, Government service is the places where government agencies, departments or other branches administer or perform various kinds of services. But some government sector give job on contract basis with some agreement. Those who work on contract basis did not get any kind of benefits like permanent employee. Departments may continue or may not continue them after completed their tenure. These kinds of government service the respondents perform are discussed here under.

Table 4.2: Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Types of Government Job

Type of Government Job	Type of Work	Marital Status			Total (%)
		Widow	Divorced	Unmarried	
Regular or Permanent Job	Lower Division Clark	1 (9.09)	--	--	2 (9.52)
	High School Teacher	--	--	1 (12.5)	
Fixed Salary job	Office Bearer	3 (27.28)	-	1 (12.5)	7 (33.33)
	Assistance supervisor	--	1 (50)	--	
	Clark in Municipal word office	1 (9.09)	--	--	
	M. E. School Teacher	--	--	1 (12.5)	
Contractual job	Helper/ Ground staff	4 (36.36)	--	1 (12.5)	12 (57.15)
	Office Bearer	--	--	1 (12.5)	
	Primary School Teacher	1 (9.09)	--	1 (12.5)	
	Data Entry Operator in the government Hospital	1 (9.09)	1 (50)	2 (25)	
Total (%)	--	11 (100)	2 (100)	8 (100)	21 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

Among the respondents 21 are government servants. Out of which 9.25% are permanent government servants and 57.15% are working on contract basis and 33.33% on fixed salary basis. Among the permanent government servant one is working as lower divisional clerk in Tripura state electricity Board and another is working as an assistant teacher in Maharani Tulshiboti High Secondary Government School. Indeed 33.33% respondents are working in different offices of Tripura government on fixed salary basis. Most of them express their dissatisfaction about the imbalance between work load and salary. They said that for a long time neither their salary increased and nor they get any assurance about the security of their job.

Case I

Kolpana Das 52 year's old widow working as office bearer in a government school said, 'after the death of my husband, I get this job on compensation ground, but as I am not qualified that is why I get job of office bearer on contact basis'. Contractual government servants get appointment for twelve months on contract basis with fixed salary. She said my salary is too less to maintain family.

Case II

Bindu Saha, 38 year old divorce is an educated woman who works in a government school. She said I got job in 2001 with a fixed salary of 7000 Rs per month. My work is no way less than permanent teacher of the school. Instead more workload is given on me as my job is contractual. I feel depress and exploited when I compare my salary with other permanent teacher. She also said 7000/- is too less to maintain family.

Case III

Another respondent Chandrani Chkaraborty, 37 years divorce said I am working as a data entry operator in Tripura State Child Welfare Society on contractual basis with 5,500 Rs as fixed salary. She said I always remain worried about my job because any time I may lost it and salary is very less according to the nature of the job. Contractual government servants always remain worried about their job situation and also remain dissatisfied with the amount of money they get salary.

Private Service

The private sector includes all profit businesses that are not controlled or owned by the government. It is a part of Countries economy and the people who engaged in these sectors for earning are generally known as company workers or workers in private sector. Among the respondents 15% are earning from private sectors. 12.77% respondents each are working as security guard and teacher in private school , 10.63 % working as helper in beauty parlors, 8.51% respondents are working as a attendants' in Doctors chamber and pathology lab, 6.39% respondents are working in garment shop as sales girl and 4.25% respondents are working in spice company. Almost all the respondents said that they are paid very less.

Case I

Mdhumita kar, 44 years old divorce working as assistant teacher in a private school named Pranvananda H.S. School. She said that from 8.00 A.M to 3.00 P.M. I have to take seven classes along with other clerical work. In spite of working from last nine and half years, neither I have job satisfaction nor financial security. From last few years the school authority started to deposit some amount in teacher's provident fund. She also expresses her grievance by saying that behaviour of the school authority is not good. We work ten times more than government school teacher but get twenty times less than them.

Case II

Almost similar experience share by Kothakoli Das, 42 years divorce, she is working in a garment shop as sales girl. She said that 'I always prepare mentally that anytime I may lost my job. She said the shop owner does not show any respect to me'. Any time even in front of customer, he scrolled me and cut some portion of salary as punishment. Kothatkoli also share that she does not have permission to take leave more the two days in a month. If she not able to do her work more than five days then the shop owner cut money and humiliates her. So most of the respondents who work in small private organization suffer from insecurity of job, exploitation and face humiliation in work place.

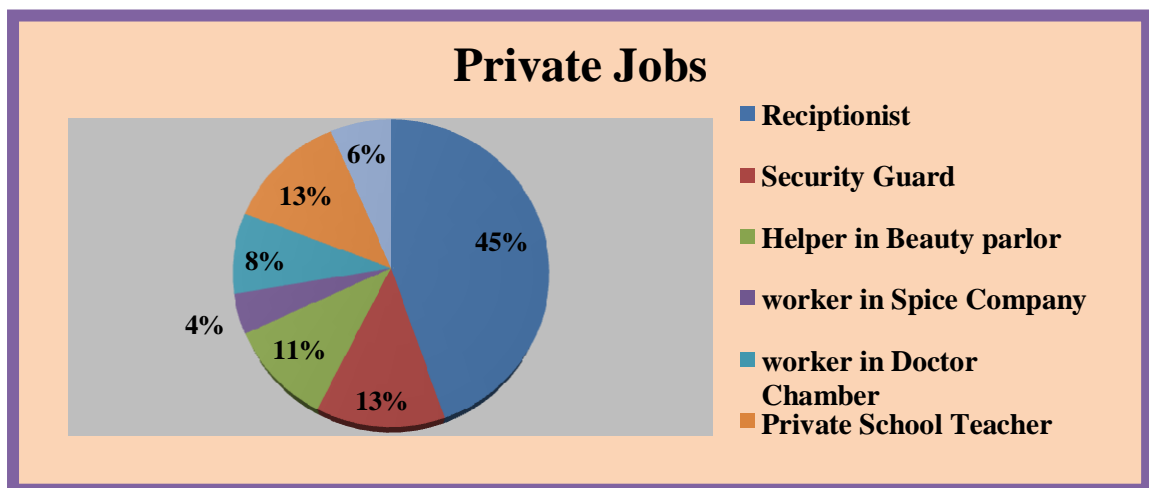


Figure 4.1: Types of Private Jobs

Shop Keeping

A person who own or manages a shop or small store is called shop keeper. Among the respondent 21% maintain their livelihood by shop keeping. Out of which 18.75% have their own glossary shop in markets near to their residence, 7.8% respondents running shop from their house, 15.62% respondent make pickles, snacks items and sell in their locality, 42.18% respondents have photocopy and printout shop. 12.5% has catering business and 3.12% respondents have small tea stalls.

The respondents who have photocopy center basically borrowed Xerox machine in rent. They have to pay 150 Rs daily to the machine owner and other expenditure like repairing of the machine; purchasing ink etc also they have to bear. Many of them share that only running photocopy shop is not sufficient for maintaining family.

Case I

Kolpona Sutradhar, 42 years old unmarried run her father shop. She said my father started one telephone booth in Battala market in 2000. But after his death our family fall in huge economic crisis. At that time I was the student of class nine. But as I was the elder children so I have to take all responsibility of my family. Therefore I reopen my father's telephone booth. But in 2007 – 2008 my business goes down because of increasing use of mobile phone by the people. So I was suggested by one of my cousin brother to open a photocopy centre accordingly I manage one Xerox machine and my shop is started running. I also started selling mobile along with recharge top up, T.V recharge, down loading music, scanning etc.

Case II

Shilpi Shing 47 year old unmarried, also run a photo copy shop in front of Government Employment Exchange Office. But in 2001 this office was shifted another place and her business run in losses. Then one aged customer suggests her for sale Patanjali Ayurvedic products along with photocopy. She started to sale that product along with photocopy. She said my monthly income approximately 5000 Rs and I am happy with my business.

Case III

Rukhiya Khatun 38 year old, divorce said *'after divorced I was in financial crisis. I even bag in market for maintaining livelihood of me and my son. By watching my condition one neighbor lends me some money and advised to start small garment shop as she was the garment supplier'*. From that day Rukhiya started to sell different types of garments from her parental house and gradually became able to earn money and contribute to her parental family. Presently she open one shop within her parental house and started to sell garments along with cosmetic jewelry.

Domestic Worker

Domestic workers are those who do cooking, cleaning utensils, washing clothes, sweeping etc in others house in returns of wages. There are two types of domestic worker- part-time and full-time. Part-time workers are those who work in others house for limited time with an agreement of limited duties and leave the work place after completing assigned work. Full-time domestic workers are residential helpers. Around 40% respondent's occupation is domestic work. Among them 90.09% are part time and 9.91% are fulltime workers. Following table make it clear.

Table 4.3: Distribution of the Domestic workers on the Basis of the Types of Occupation and Marital Status

Type of Occupation	Marital Status			Total (%)
	Widow	Divorced	Unmarried	
Part-Time	46 (92)	41 (95.34)	22 (78.58)	109 (90.09)
Full-Time	4 (8)	2 (4.66)	6 (21.42)	12 (9.91)
Total (%)	50 (100)	43 (100)	28 (100)	121 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

Above table shows that among the domestic workers 90% are part-time and rest are full-time workers. Marital status wise 95.34% divorced, 92% widows and 78.58% unmarried are part-time domestic workers. Whereas 21.42% unmarried, 8% widows and 4.66% divorced respondents are full-time domestic workers.

Part-time domestic workers usually did cleaning houses, utensils and wash cloth in morning and evening time. In return they get 800 Rs to 1000 Rs per month

with one time tea. Most of them said that they work three to four houses everyday otherwise it became impossible for them to survive. Full-time domestic worker are mostly live with their masters family. They practically did all the work including cooking, cleaning, looking after younger and elder person etc. in return they get 1500 Rs to 2500Rs per month along with three time meal, cloths etc.

Case I

Anjana Dey, 52 years old widow said that she has been working as a maid in others house from last 11 years for maintaining family. She has five children and when her drunker husband died they did not have any saving. Since then she is managing family and take all major family decision. Anjana said that I bear all expenses of my family and many times I am bound to do overtime to fulfill all requirements. My two sons are working in different places but not contribute any thing for family'. My two married daughter also sometimes asked for financial help. So for full feeling their demand I am overburden with work.

Case II

Priyanka Banik, 46 years old, got divorce from her husband Mr. Dilip Banik four years ago. Prior divorce she was housewife and totally depended upon her husband for survival. After this incidence she suddenly fall in financial crisis as because children's responsibility also lies on her .She face lots of problems and finally decided to return back to her parental home but her parents denied to accept her. Then she somehow manages a rented house and started to work as a house maid. She spend whole day in work place and in the evening time she come back home. Priyanka said her elder daughter did all household work and take care of younger siblings.

Wage Labour

Wage labour is those who work under any organization, individual or agency on the basis of daily wages. In urban areas women participation in labour market is comparatively less than rural areas. 11.67% respondent's occupation is wage labour. Generally those who have no education and other source of income they adopt wage labour as their source of income. Among the wage labour 80% respondents work on daily wage basis in different public and private construction/repairing side. All these respondents are daily wage labourers, either in MNREGS, rode repairing side, construction site, taking care of cattle, etc. They look for work on a daily basis and do

not have a constant employer. Most of them share that through out the year they did not get work. In off season (rainy days) they have to remain home.

Unemployed Single Women

In all, 4% respondents had to depend on their family, they are not in a part of the economic workforce. Unemployment makes respondents more dependent on their family members for survival. The respondents do not take part in any workforce one generally less educated or illiterate. Among them 41.67% respondents have physical problem, 25% respondents have very small child and 33.33% respondents are preparing themselves through different skill training like tailoring and embroidery, beautician course from their locality. Krishnakumari (1987) of the view that unemployed single women are constantly feel dependent on their family members or relative. Most of the time family members treat them as an extra burden and ignore them in any decision making process.

Case I

Indrani Shil, 42 years old divorce said after divorce my parents denied to give shelter but lastly her elder brother understand her problem and took her responsibility. She said my child is too young that is why I can not go out for work. It is very shameful for me to depend upon brother for survival.

Case II

Parboti Rishi Das, 42 year old unmarried said I meet an accident in 2008 and since then I could not able to walk and sit without support. I became disable due to accident and depend upon my family member for survival. She also said my family condition is not good. My mother is aged women and regularly suffers from different types of diseases. Our family totally depends upon my younger sister who works in a tobacco factory.

WORK ENVIRONMENT AND SINGLE WOMEN

Majority of the respondents work outside to insure their livelihood and survival. Among them those who were house wife earlier, fall sudden economic crisis due to separation from their husband. But situation is quite different in the case of unmarried respondents because they are well aware about their condition and mentally prepared that they have earn to maintain themselves and contribute to their parental family. Around 96% respondents are working and among them 73% enter in work force after becoming single. Before divorced or become widow most of them

were essentially housewife and engaged with domestic work and bringing up of children. So entering in workforce is a kind of new experience for them. Most of working respondents said that they faced adjustment problem in the beginning in work place. The women who are working in government office said work environments is quite friendly whereas, the housemaid, sales girls, attendants' of doctors' chamber, shop keeper express different views about their work environment. Some said it is quite satisfactory, some said not well at all, while other is of the view that it is manageable. The experiences of the respondents in their workplace are discussed here under.

Table 4.4: Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Occupation and Experience in Work Place

Experience in Work Place	Occupation of the Respondents					Total (%)
	Government service	Private Job	Shop Keeper	Domestic Worker	Wage Labour	
Sexual harassment	-	3 (6.38)	-	10 (8.26)	-	13 (4.51)
Humiliation and torture	-	6 (12.76)	-	32 (26.44)	2 (5.71)	40 (13.88)
Humiliation and less payment	-	14 (29.78)	20 (31.25)	42 (34.71)	6 (17.14)	82 (28.48)
Overburden of work and less pay	2 (9.52)	10 (21.27)	-	12 (9.91)	12 (34.28)	36 (12.5)
Facing criticism for single status	6 (28.57)	8 (19.02)	22 (34.37)	6 (4.95)	4 (11.42)	46 (15.98)
Domination attitude of co-male worker/colleague	2 (9.52)	2 (4.25)	-	-	6 (17.14)	10 (3.48)
Behave roughly	7 (33.33)	-	14 (21.87)	2 (1.65)	-	23 (7.98)
No problem in work place	4 (19.04)	4 (8.51)	8 (12.5)	17 (14.04)	5 (14.28)	38 (13.19)
Total (%)	21 (100)	47 (100)	64 (100)	121 (100)	35 (100)	288 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

Above data shows that most of the single women who are working in unorganized sector face different types of problem in work place like 8.48% experience humiliation and less payment, 15.98% face criticism for single status, 13.88% humiliation and torture, 13.19% experience bad behaviour, 12.5% experience over burden of work and less pay, 5.55% respondents did not find any problem in work place, 4.51% sexual harassment and dominating attitude of co-worker. While

those single women who are working in government office face less harassment and humiliation as 28.57% government servant face criticism for their solo status, 19.04% respondents face rough behaviour at workplace, 9.52% experience overburden of work and less payment and 9.52% face dominating attitude of their co-workers and colleague.

It appears that majority of the respondents faces various challenges in the work places. It can be said that respondent's work environment is not good, healthy and safe for them. Sima Sarkar, 47 years old housemaid said 'I was working in Mr. Subrata Das's family as a maid. One day his wife was absent by taking this chance he propose me to spend night with him because he said his wife became old and less charming. He also proposed me if I agreed then he will increase my wage up to 3000/- per month. Due to fear I remain silent at that time but from next day I did not visit his home and engaged myself in others house.

Suchitra Das (48 year old) housemaid said 'I am working a fulltime maid in one family. I cook for five to six people everyday, wash utensils, cloth, clean flour, look after one old woman etc. From morning (5.00 AM) to evening (10.PM) I did not find any leisure time. After doing all these work, if I made any mistake then wife of my master scolded me by saying – you have lots of fault that is why your husband kicks you out from his home. As I am divorce, so every time she scolded me in this way. But I have no other option but to work there, because they paid me 2500/- per month. Another thing they are not ready to give me one day leave, if remain absent for one day they cut money from my salary.

Sahara Khatun, Gita Rani Saha, Sapna Majumdar, they are working as a part-time house maid said humiliation and torture in work place is common for us because we are doing (*Choto Kaj*) polluted work so it is a part of our work. Jhulan Sarkar, 46 years old widow working as a data entry operator in Tripura State Agriculture Office said though most of the colleague behaves normally but one or two tried to humiliate me. One of my male colleague borrowed 5000/- Rs from me and said that he will return within three days. But he did not return even after one month. So when I asked for my money first he denied but latter started to abuse me by saying that you are telling lie, who will believe you? You are not good women because of your character

your husband abandoned you. At that time not a single colleague supports me. I feel so humiliated that I could not sleep properly for more than one month.

Karuna Das, 39 years old unmarried shop owner said that male customers always try to create problem on the basis of payment. They thought that female do not understand loss or profit and tried impose their decision on me. One day a male customer makes photocopy of 500 pages and give 450/- Rs but the rate of per page photocopy is one rupee. When I denied to takes 450/- Rs then he started to quarrel with me and lastly he said, 'Duty of women is to produce children, cooking and taking care of husband not to run shop'. You are unmarried, no one accept you as a wife. So what you will do with money? Keep 450/- Rs otherwise I will not pay any piece to you. His behaviour make me anger, I felt humiliated. But ultimately I did not say anything to him because I have to run my shop for survival.

Sabita Debbarma, Shadhana Sutradhar, Ranu bala Das said we always face criticism in work place not because of our work quality but because of our single status. Sabita Debbarma said one of my male colleagues told me, 'you are divorce so you have lots of chance to enjoy life with anybody'. Almost similar view express by Shadhana Sutradhar and Ranu Bala Das. They said it is our destiny to face criticism at work place and social gathering because we are single.

From above cases it appears that the environment where single women working is not good for them. They were humiliated, face harassment, criticism not for their work quality but mostly for their single status. Unfortunately most of them fail to protect themselves from this type of exploitation in workplace rather they consider it as their destiny.

MONTHLY INCOME

Monthly income of a person or group indicates the standard of living as well as economic status. Following table mainly divided into six different segments 1000/- – 3000/- Rs, 4000 – 6000/- Rs, 7000 – 9000/-Rs, 10,000/- – 12,000/- Rs, 13,000/- – 15,000/- Rs, 16,000/- -- 18,000/- Rs, 19,000/- -- 21,000/-Rs and above 21,000/- Rs. Monthly income of the respondents are discuss here under.

Table 4.5: Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Their Monthly Income and Marital Status

Monthly Income (in Rupees)	Marital Status			Total (%)
	Widow	Divorced	Unmarried	
No income	2 (1.56)	9 (8.82)	1 (1.43)	12 (4)
1000 – 3000	35 (27.34)	49 (48.03)	15 (21.42)	99 (33)
4000 – 6000	41 (32.03)	23 (22.55)	34 (48.58)	98 (32.67)
7000 – 9000	20 (15.62)	16 (15.68)	6 (8.58)	42 (14)
10,000 – 12,000	13 (10.15)	3 (2.95)	3 (4.28)	19 (6.33)
13000 – 15000	5 (3.90)	2 (1.97)	9 (12.85)	16 (5.33)
16000 – 18000	4 (3.12)	-	1 (1.42)	5 (1.66)
19000 – 21000	2 (1.56)	-	1 (1.42)	3 (1)
Above 21000	6 (4.69)	-	-	6 (2)
Total (%)	128 (100)	102 (100)	70 (100)	300 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

The above table shows that 33% respondents monthly income is between 1000 – 3000 Rs, 32.67% respondents monthly income is between Rs 4000 to Rs 6000/-, 14% respondents monthly income is between Rs 7000 – 9000/-, 6.33% respondents monthly income is between 10000 – 12000/- Rs, 5.33% respondents monthly income is between 13000 – 15000/- Rs, and 4% respondents have no income. 2% respondent's monthly income is more than 21000 Rs. 1.66% respondents income is between 16000 – 18000 Rs per month. 1% respondent's monthly income is between 19000 to 21000 Rs per month.

Marital statuswise, 48.03% divorced, 27.34% widows and 21.42% unmarried respondents monthly income is between 1000 – 3000/-. 48.58% unmarried, 32.03% widows and 22.55% divorced respondents monthly income is Rs 4000 to Rs 6000/-. 15.68% divorced, 15.62% widows and 8.58% unmarried respondents monthly income between 7000 – 9000. 10.15% widow, 4.28% unmarried and 2.95% divorced respondents monthly income is between 10000 to 12000 Rs. 12.85% unmarried, 3.90% widows and 1.97% divorced respondents income is between 13000 to 15000/-

Rs, 8.82% divorced, 1.56% widows and 1.43% unmarried are unemployed. 4.67% widows respondents monthly income is above 21000 Rs per month. 3.12% widow and 1.42% unmarried respondents income is between 16000 – 18000 Rs per month. 1.56% widow and 1.42% unmarried respondents monthly income is between 19000 Rs to 21000 Rs per month.

Thus, it reveals that more than one third respondents belongs to 1000 to 3000 Rs income group and near half of the respondents belongs to 4000/- to 9000/- income group. Therefore it can be said that near three fourth respondents belongs to marginal income group. The insignificant fraction (2.66%) of respondents' monthly income is above 15000/- Rs. Almost all respondents' income derived from secondary sources. The low economic condition directly reflects financial instability among the single women of Agartala town.

CONTROL OVER INCOME

A large number of women earn from different sources but the pattern of control over their own income is reflects level of empowerment among them. In most of the cases, it is found that women do not have the right to spend their own income. They are just act like earning machine and their money were snatched by family members, like husband, in-laws, brother, children. So there is a need to examine whether the same situation prevail among the single women in Agartala Town.

Table 4.6: Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Control over Their Income

Control over Income	Marital Status			Total (%)
	Widow	Divorced	Unmarried	
No Control	104 (81.26)	73 (71.57)	19 (27.15)	196 (65.33)
Partially Control	3 (2.34)	10 (9.80)	29 (41.43)	42 (14)
Full Control	21 (16.40)	19 (18.63)	22 (31.42)	62 (20.66)
Total (%)	128 (100)	102 (100)	70 (100)	300 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

The above table shows that, 65.33% respondents have no control over their income, 20.66% respondents have full control over their income and 14% respondents have partially control over their income.

Marital statuswise, 81.26% widow's, 71.57% divorce and 27.15% unmarried respondents do not have any control over their income. 41.43% unmarried, 9.80% divorce and 2.34% widows have partial control over their income. 31.42% unmarried, 18.63% divorce and 16.40% widows have full control over their income.

It means that single women have less control over whatever they earn and those who have the control over their income do not constitute more than one fifth. To know in details about the relationship between the control over income and social structure data are further examined. It is shown in the table.

Table 4.7: Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of the Types of Control over Income by Marital Status

Income Control by	Marital Status			Total (%)
	Widow	Divorced	Unmarried	
Father	8 (6.34)	9 (9.67)	8 (11.59)	25 (8.68)
Father and Brother	22 (17.46)	31 (33.33)	28 (40.57)	81 (28.12)
Son and Daughter	50 (39.68)	21 (22.58)	-	71 (24.65)
In-Laws	9 (7.14)	-	-	9 (3.12)
Father and Self	5 (3.96)	6 (6.45)	7 (10.14)	18 (6.25)
Son and self	8 (6.34)	4 (4.30)	-	12 (4.16)
Son, Daughter and Self	2 (1.58)	2 (2.15)	-	4 (1.38)
Sister and Self	1 (0.79)	1 (1.07)	4 (5.79)	6 (2.08)
Only by Self	21 (16.66)	19 (20.43)	22 (31.88)	62 (21.52)
Total (%)	126 (100)	93 (100)	69 (100)	288 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

Above table shows that among the working respondents 28.12% income controlled by their father and brother, 24.65% respondents income controlled by their

son and daughter, 21.65% respondents income utilized by themselves, 6.25% respondents income utilized by themselves and their father, 4.16% respondents' income controlled by themselves and their son, 3.12% respondent's income controlled by their in-laws, 2.08% respondents income controlled by themselves and their sister and 1.38% respondents income controlled by themselves along with their son and daughter.

Marital statuswise, 40.57% unmarried, 33.33% divorced and 17.46% widows respondent's income controlled by their father and brother. 39.68% widows and 22.58% divorced respondent's income controlled by their son and daughter. 31.88% unmarried, 20.43% divorced and 16.66% widows respondent's income utilized by themselves. 11.59% unmarried, 9.67% divorced and 6.34% widow respondent's income utilized by their father. 10.14% unmarried, 6.45% divorced and 3.96% widows respondent's income utilized by themselves and their father. 6.34% widows and 4.30% divorced respondent's income controlled by themselves and their son. 7.14% widows respondent's income controlled by their in-laws. 5.79% unmarried, 1.07% divorced and 0.79% widows respondent's income controlled by themselves and their sister. 2.15% divorced and 1.58% widows respondent's income controlled by themselves along with their son and daughter.

So it appears that near one third respondents has total and partial control over their own income and rest of two third's income are controlled by others like father, son, brother, sister and in-laws. Madhumita Kar (44 years), Kathakoli Das (42 years) said that they willingly gave their income to their parents for proper utilization.

FAMILY PROPERTY

Land or property ownership is an important component of women empowerment and their social security. If any women has own property that means it reduce her economic instability. In Hindu Succession Act 1956 recognized the sons and daughters are equal heirs to the property of parents, regardless of whether the daughter is married or not, and widows have the right to heir deceased husbands property. In spite of these, acceptability of property rights for women is very less. Divorce and widow can take shelter to their parental home but socially can not claim right over the property. Ghadially (1988) stated that in India, property rights of dead husband is socially consider as that of their sons and widow is consider as the

caretaker of the property. The following table explores the land and property ownership of the respondents.

Table 4.8: Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of the Land Holding by Marital Status

Land Holding	Marital Status			Grand Total and Percentage (%)
	Widow	Divorced	Unmarried	
Yes	23 (17.97)	14 (13.72)	6 (8.58)	43 (14.33)
No	93 (72.66)	80 (78.43)	64 (91.42)	237 (79)
No response	12 (9.37)	8 (7.85)	-	20 (6.67)
Total (%)	128 (100)	102 (100)	70 (100)	300 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

Above table reveals that 79% respondents do not have any property in their name, whereas 14.33% respondents have property in their name and 6.67% respondents do not give any response.

Marital statuswise, 91.42% unmarried, 78.43% divorced and 72% widows' respondents do not have any property in their name. 17.97% widows, 13.72% divorced and 8.58% unmarried respondents have property in their name. 9.37% widows and 7.85% divorced respondents do not give any response.

Thus, it reflects around four fifth respondents do not have any property or land. Where as near one fifth have property ownership. Most of the respondents who do not have property are found themselves in most disadvantage position comparison to those who have property.

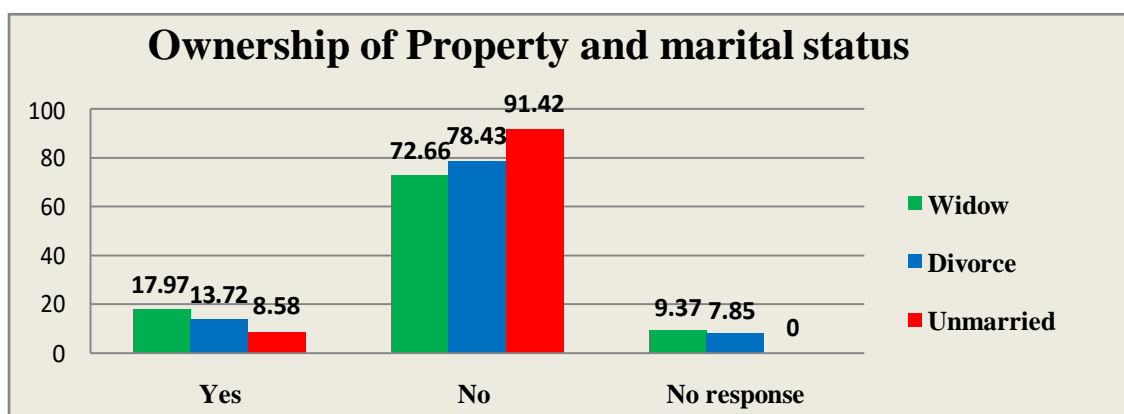


Figure 4.2: Distribution of the Percentage on the Basis of Property Ownership

SIZE OF LAND HOLDING

Land holding is the prime source of the property for existence and living. The landholding statuses of the respondents are shown in the following table:

Table 4.9: Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of the Size of Land Holding by Marital Status

Size of Land Holding	Marital Status			Total (%)
	Widow	Divorced	Unmarried	
Nil	93 (72.66)	80 (78.43)	64 (91.42)	237 (79)
Less than one Bigha	28 (21.88)	18 (17.65)	5 (7.14)	51 (17)
One Bigha	7 (5.46)	4 (3.92)	1 (1.42)	12 (4)
Total (%)	128 (100)	102 (100)	70 (100)	300 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

The data shows that 79% respondents do not have land in their name. 17% respondents hold less than one bigha land in their name and 4% respondents hold approximately one bigha land in their name. Marital status wise 91.42% unmarried, 78.43% divorce and 72.66% widow respondents do not have any land in their name. 21.88% widow, 17.65% divorce and 7.14% unmarried respondents have less than one bigha land in their name and 5.46% widow, 3.92% divorce and 1.42% unmarried respondents hold approximately one bigha land in their name.

Therefore, it can be said that one fourth respondents hold less than one bigha of land in their name and very negligible portion (4%) of the respondents hold one bigha land in their name.

Case I

Lakhmi Rani Das, 48 years old widow said after death of my husband I was continuously torture by my in-law. Lakhmi said her mother-in-law and father-in-law tried their best to through out her from their property, because she does not have children. Her in-law parents denied to accept her as their family member. But all property was owned by her husband and she has legal paper related to the property. Laksmi's filed case by calming ownership of her diseased husband's property.

Case II

Minoti sarkar, 44 year old divorce gets one small portion of land from her father. Minoti share that ‘I get the land but my parents not agree to give this because they told me you get your share during marriage in the form of dowry, now what’s remain it is your brothers only. She also said after lots of debate and discussion I at last convince my parents that I have legal right over the property. Then they give me one portion of land in my name.

TYPES OF PROPERTY THEY OWNERSHIP

Property ownership is an important factor in women's empowerment and their social status. It also means reduced economic vulnerability and more security for future. The respondents who have property in their name have the feeling of strength and security about their future. Following table explore the types of ownership among respondents those have land in their name.

Table 4.10: Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Ownership of Land

Type of Property Ownership	Marital Status			Total (%)
	Widow	Divorce	Unmarried	
Husband property	6 (26.09)	-	-	6 (8.21)
Self own	10 (43.48)	13 (92.86)	5 (83.33)	28 (65.76)
Prenatal	3 (13.04)	1 (7.14)	1 (16.67)	5 (20.55)
Jointly owned with husband	4 (17.39)	-	-	4 (5.48)
Total (%)	23 (100)	14 (100)	6 (100)	43 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

Above table reveals that 65.76% respondent’s have land in their name which they earn by themselves, 20.55% respondents get share of parental property, 8.21% respondents get their husband property and 5.48% respondents have joint ownership of property along with their husband.

Marital statuswise, 92.86% divorced, 83.33% unmarried and 43.48% widow’s earn property by themselves. 16.67% unmarried, 13.04% widows and 7.14% divorced respondents get property from their parents. 26.09% widows get their husband’s property and 17.39% widows have joint ownership of property along with their husband.

More than two fourth respondents own property which are earned by themselves and rest either get share of parental property or husband's property. So it appears that negligible numbers of single women inherit their parental property and husband's property. The property is always inherited through male line. It shows male dominance of economy and it deeply rooted in social value.

SAVING

Savings of one portion of income provide future financial security and mental satisfaction. People can save their income in different private and public banks, insurance companies etc. As majority of respondents are belongs to low income group, so it is difficult for them to save some position of their income for future. The saving status of respondent is shown in the following table.

Table 4.11: Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Their Saving Status

Saving Status	Marital Status			Total (%)
	Widow	Divorce	Unmarried	
No	71 (55.47)	75 (73.52)	43 (61.42)	189 (63)
Yes	57 (44.53)	27 (21.09)	27 (38.57)	111 (37)
Total (%)	128 (100)	102 (100)	70 (100)	300 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

The data express that 63% respondents do not save their income and 37% respondents save one portion of their income. Marital status wise 73.52% divorce, 61.42% unmarried and 55.47% widow respondents do not have any savings. 44.53% widow, 38.57% unmarried and 21.09% divorce respondents have savings.

Only saving is not enough to understand their capacity to utilize money in near future place. So following table give a clear picture about respondents' mode of savings

Table 4.12: Distribution of Respondents on the Basis of Their Mode of Saving

Mode of Saving	Marital Status			Total (%)
	Widow	Divorce	Unmarried	
No Saving	71 (55.47)	75 (73.52)	43 (61.42)	189 (63)
Post Office Recurring Deposit	18 (14.07)	2 (1.97)	3 (4.29)	23 (7.67)
LIC Policy	2 (1.57)	5 (4.90)	5 (7.14)	12 (4)
Fixed Deposit in Bank	6 (4.68)	3 (2.94)	7 (10)	16 (5.33)
Savings in Chit Fund Company	31 (24.21)	17 (16.67)	12 (17.15)	60 (20)
Total (%)	128 (100)	102 (100)	70 (100)	300 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during February 2013 – January 2015.

The table reveals that 63% respondents do not have any kind of savings. Whereas 20% respondents have monthly savings account in various private or chit fund companies, 7.67% respondents have monthly recurring deposit in post office, 5.33% respondents has fixed deposit in bank for particular period of time and 4% respondents has LIC policy.

Marital statuswise, 73.52% divorced, 61.42% unmarried and 55.47% widows do not have any savings. 24.21% widows, 17.15% unmarried and 16.67% divorced respondents have savings in Chit Fund Companies. 14.07% widows, 4.29% unmarried and 1.97% divorced respondents save money in post office on monthly basis. 10% unmarried, 4.68% widows and 2.94% divorced respondents have fixed deposit savings in bank. 7.14% unmarried, 4.90% divorced and 1.57% widows have savings as LIC.

Thus it is found that majority of respondents do not have any savings and those who have, most of them save their part of income in chit fund companies. Very few respondents have savings in reliable agencies like post office, LIC and in bank.

In sum, economic condition of single women is not good. Most of them belong to low income group. Near nine tenth respondents neither have property in their name nor have control over their own income. Those who have control over their own income spend for domestic consumption only. They are over burdened with work as well as they humiliation, torture, sexual harassment, less payment, criticism in their

work place. The condition of unemployed single women is worse in comparison to working single women. They always depend on others for their day to day need. It looks patriarchal value and custom restrict them to get economic self dependency.