

## A Social work Study on Social Status Women in Isfahan province. (Iran)

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### **Abstract**

*The present study is an attempt to assess the influence of age and type of occupation on social status among province women in Isfahan province. A total of 880 Isfahan province women randomly selected Isfahan from Isfahan province for the present study. They were administered social status questionnaire, which measured social status from friends, relatives, neighbors and other sources. The results were analyzed through One-way ANOVA. In view of the fact that jobs are different and are dependent on people's talents, capacities and mental and bodily differences, some jobs are suitable for men and others are suitable for women. But these differences should not make one group inferior to the other. In most countries, of course, there are such limitations for women and although the number of employed women in those countries has been increased since two decades ago, this increase in the number has not been in accord with a just distribution of jobs and incomes between men and women. In effects of some factors like economic depressions, unemployment, unequal job opportunities for men and women in labor market of Iran that has a immediate effect on the level of women's economic participation, we can add some other cultural and social factors like some certain interpretations of women's occupational role and negative attitudes toward women's activities that block the research processes and development of women's participation in economic activities. In this article, the author, based on some theoretical deliberations and findings of empirical researches, tries to study these blocks.*

**Keywords:** Isfahan province women, Feministic view, active population, general rate of woman activity.

### **Introduction**

The roles in the field of sociological domain and shows that the rate of separating the role of man and woman is correlated to network aggregation and the spouses keep it out the house. Whatever their relation became closer to family, friends and neighbors' network and these networks became more compact. The man-woman relation would be separated as marital spouse and follow the hierarchy. This is true about of the center of the proposition. Whatever the networks became less compact, the man and woman roles are a sign of divorce and separate. He says the point in the cultural pressure form. When people are familiar with someone have compact action to each other, when consensus about the norms and for obeying them, they apply informal social pressure.

### **Wallaby Theory**

Wallaby says that point view of all authors about exploiting women by men and man-oriented life by imbalance between them that can be referred to the entity of innocence of women due to capitalism, while the truth shows that this arrangement is older than capitalism. It is not logic to assume older social system. Man-oriented sway limits women's job opportunity for working out the house and so it supports ideological pressure of staying woman in the home and rearing children. Wallaby considers some aspects of man oriented sway and the methods of producing that could distinguish between different aspects of man-oriented relations. The cases like housework, position, men violence and gender that their relative importance is relating to coherency between and man-oriented sway and method of production.

The woman could be discriminated by the market place and also instructional institutions and training job centers. All of them after obtaining skills and educations show fewer tendencies to do social and economical activities between themselves and high difference based on income, so men do economical activities and women do housekeeping and totally follow the relation advantage rule. Also according to be high level of men jobs than by such jobs. (Aminzadeh, 1979, P: 114) It's obvious that the relation of education and tendency to work woman is strangely related to instructional facilities and professional training that give to men and, whatever ambivalent in economical activities can consider correlation between training and the level of women's activity but for doing precise and deep studies we are cautious.

By providing the balance between instructional facilities and professional rearing, we can expect contribution in economical life, totally all done studies show logic correlation between training and education degree. (Aminzadeh, 1979, P: 13) The women who are up to 50% of all world population do about 66% of all work hours (contributing with or without salaries), While just 32% are workforce receiving salaries and because all men have allocated salary to themselves have partial role in deciding and finally they get one tenth of global income and less of one percent of global grounds are relating to them, but work stress has overweight on their shoulders and averagely work 10-12 hours. When trained women withhold to accept professional activities, we have to think solutions to know barriers and problems and disappointed factors 7 other scores except of taking specialty and skill, moreover inactive social expenses, for example in the equal situation we can say trained women are readier than other and family health. (Aminzadeh, 1979, P: 116)

Since in the middle of solar 12th to 14th century when Qajar tribe governed in Iran, although social and economical positions are not equal in throughout of Iran and was different based on place and tradition and habitation and limited to local traditions wholly their situation was partial and limited to do housekeeping 7 sometimes agriculture and textiles and they didn't have responsibilities out of the house. (Behnam, 1977, P: 13) Wider relation of Iran with west industrial civilization in the period causes to change social economical structure of society and variations of life and situation in the capital and big cities. But there were no great changes in social situation of rural and tribal because being far from west values. Iran countered to deploy industries and services and internal and external capitalism and training of and since 19 the century A.D to now the schools were established by foreigners and influenced by the schools were methods for girls and sons motley or separately.

The relations became further between Iranian and European women and they resulted in peering in social life than the past and they were recharge off social activities. (Jarallahi, 1992, P: 258) After recognition of imperial of Reza Shah by the parliament in 1925, they could obtain their purposes such as general education for daughters and by increasingly establishing high schools and entering to university they were able to get particular works in government systems. Economical development in the period causes to employment out of the house and nearly the society accept that can play useful social roles in out of the house so all of younger daughters of traditional families were entering to the high school and even university. (Jarallahi, 1992, P: 264) Cultural, social, and economic development will not be possible unless all sections of a society take part in the process. Their economic participation in line with their cultural contribution is of great importance. Economic participation is very important, but it is not the final determining factor in women's social life. The emphasis national and international organizations put on women workforce, their participation in economic spheres and emphasizing on this index of development is in fact a deviation of women's position. Position of her standing can be possible through development in education. High illiteracy of women compared to men is the essential factor in limiting their participation in economic and social development.

Therefore, the promotion of education of women and the level of their contribution and participation in society is a necessity, not an economic device (Shaditalab, 2002: 26). Studied cases are contributing in political fields. Special persons make decision in every institution on exceptionable movement. Individual politics contain skills, clear activities and mental features like views, motives and conceptions. Contributors act as active actors in political senses, culture and structure. Behaviorisms studied political leader's interaction and people contribution. New theories of social learning that are discussed in same group' relatives, friends, neighbors and colleagues. when leaders support political freedom into improper orgs, the people who are imposed by such consequents, liberalism theory is adapted but liberalism norm ( David, et al, 2001, P: 138)

The victory of Islamic evolution of Iran in 11 February 1978 changed considerably the position. In vital law of Islamic republic of Iran exceptional the norm 115 that the women cannot president, and men have equal social rights based on education and employment. In the 20th norm we can see that all people of society like and men are equal in supporting the value and human political and economical cultural rights by observing Islamic principles (Jarallahi, 1992, P: 260) By considering developments and successes in correct implement of her role as mother and wife and in the society as active and useful member and corresponding to men in productive and economical activities, but there is discrimination and inequalities in the activities out of the home that we hope to eliminate by informing them from their role and adopting correct programs in new policies and have potential force for their success and economical efflorescence of Islamic republic of Iran.

There is sexual ambivalent of men and according to training and cultural position in all countries but in low boomed and developing countries it is observed in the current decades government by making new policies and learning mentioned consequents try to achieve the results of equality and men in the training filed and use equal educational facilities for two genders and could take educational success corresponding to men that eliminate all personal and social problems of women. The daughters pass same mental exams with sons and take state positions. (Durant, 1991, P: 36) Man by the reason of intensity of genius among men is that the ratio of educated men is more than women and pending the ratio of men to women are not equal, the comparison is not correct, male genius are originating from several millions of educated men and female genius are originating from several hundreds of educated women. (Durant, 1991, P: 151)

### **Background**

Doing researches in the Brazil in the field of skill and progression and education show that in evaluating men and by testing men consider to achieving high occupational hierarchy and indeed women want to other position , while the would be low occupation position stably and it is resulting from training and experiencing men And could not obtained. Providing necessities of growth and blooming human making responsibilities and internal undertake, growth and training people for governing affair and making unity in work environment. So contribution has more benefits. In Islam, women like men have proper place on social problem and don't inhibited from social movements and collective activities. According to Quran and anecdotal instruction, social responsibilities are equal between them (Fakour, 1994, 45)

The researches show that the main role of mother and wife. So these main roles cause to not employ and employment became second best role. The probably of finding the job is relating to different factors like the manner of socializations. They learn from childhoods that are not equal with obtaining positions and social scores. Feminist sociologists unlike structural functionalism rely on the difference and diversity of social roles and different performances in different structures with social relation. They believe that this proposition could not true for social rules, because women play different and coequal roles in social life and they connect social institutions by combining these different roles. They make balance by playing compound role according to them massive structures like father based role doesn't allow that participate equally and so achieve common meaningful with men. moreover, this occupying woman should defiant in three fields : 1- field of career and job2-field of motherhood and keeping house 3- field of appealing elegance for her wife that this attempt break her than other non occupying.

Almond and Pavel pointed out education, income and occupational order of individuals to determine economical social base relating to affect on social economical contribution. Most done studies show that educated and wealthy citizens with obtaining professional skills have high probably to find contributive stations. Resources and skills of such individual are obtained by formal life, in some cases tasks or necessities mandate that we attract them to political contribution. As a result, these studies show that richer citizens are more active than poorer ones. (Almond, et al, 2001, P: 163)

According to this group existing sexual ideologies and social prejudicial structures don't allow to reach adaptive and common meanings and notions. Because of interfering this ideology and adaption and after passing several years they are strangers against each other.

After Islamic revolution, more attention is focused on training of particularly completion education, obtained statistics show that in the educational year 2001, female accepted applicants with 60 % have more share than men that is the sign of their mental and social growth and high potential. According to increase accepted in the universities, it's natural that we could use correctly of great forces. Regarding to increasing trend of accepted number in the future years in the on hand an exceptional opportunity is provided in the society to consider and exploit these capacities and on the other hand without programming and correct salary other employment crisis is obvious , ignoring work and economical activities of is similar to the half of active population in the country in the work and activity and without considering the principles, reaching to construction and appealing the economy of country and main principle o f development wouldn't be possible.

**Table (1), Distribution of employed women in public sectors including draftee and Non-draftee separated by the name of ministry and other organizations**

N	Name of Ministry and other organizations	Ratio of women employment to the total employees in ministries	Ratio of men employment to the total employees in ministries
1	Presidential Institution and the related organizations to it	12.6	87.4
2	Ministry of Education & Training	43.8	56.2
3	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	8.8	91.2
4	Ministry of Economy & Finance	9.6	90.4
5	Ministry of Commerce	8.0	92.0
6	Ministry of Treatment & medical Education	40.0	60.0
7	Ministry of Post, Telegraph, & Telephone	6.5	93.5
8	Ministry of Constructive Jihad	1.9	98.1
9	Ministry of Roads & Transportation	3.5	96.5
10	Ministry of Industries	12.1	87.9
11	Ministry of heavy Industries	3.7	96.3
12	Ministry of Culture & Higher Education	16.9	83.1
13	Ministry of Culture & Islamic Guidance	14.8	85.2
14	Ministry of Labour & Social affairs	12.3	87.7
15	Ministry of Agriculture	5.5	94.5
16	Ministry of Interior	7.5	92.5
17	Ministry of Development & Housing	9.9	90.1
18	Ministry of Mines & Metals	1.6	98.4
19	Ministry of Power	3.4	96.6
20	Ministry of Oil	3.4	96.6
21	Administration of Justice in Islamic Republic of Iran	12.4	87.6
22	Parliament of Iran	6.3	93.7
23	Accounts Court of Iran	4.2	95.8
24	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting	13.3	86.7
25	General Inspection Organization	15.0	85.0

### Sample

The sample population is drawn from the entire parts of Isfahan province, that's why, clustering sampling is adopted. To achieve the goal the researcher considered the latest census of year 2006 with regarded the Isfahan province on the basis of three classifications as low, medium and high density of population. Then two provinces from each division and one city and village from each province were selected at random. Due to the statistics 2006 on the city settlement ratio, 76.3 percent of the samples are selected from city dwellers, 23.8% from villages. Table 1 presents the distribution of the sample by age groups.

**Table (2), Distribution of the sample by age groups**

Age groups ( in years)	Frequency	Percent
Below 20	48	5.5
21-35	287	32.6
36-50	372	42.3
51-65	73	8.3
Above65	100	11.4
Total	880	100.0

The sample population of the study includes 880 women who are working in organizations and firms (Government and Private) of Isfahan province in Iran. The sample will be selected by use of random sampling technique in two stages:

- Selection of organizations and Firms, Government and Private separately.
- Selection of women

### Method of collecting data

The data will collect by use of Questionnaire that according to the objectives of study will developed.

### Preparation Stages of Questionnaire

Preparation of questionnaires was done by taking research objectives into consideration, and they are comprised of a number of open questions, and some tables.

- Identification Questions: these questions are posed to identify the individuals under study.
- Objective Questions: they are related to the objectives of this research.
- Complementary Questions: in addition to collected information under investigation, other complementary information is required for the issues under research.

#### Statistical Method

Appropriate statistical techniques depending on the hypothesis will be used to analyze the obtained research data.

#### Implication:

The present study will clear the current status of job opportunity and promotion for women in Iran. It is hope that The research provide beneficial means to improve the status and introduce necessary information to response to this question that why we have to pay serious attention to job promotion for women. There might be lot of reasons behind of that, however, we have already mentioned some of them. While the table shows that all occupying of statistical society work before marriage and all non occupying before marriage have no the job, it means that who have no job before marriage have no one after marriage while the who work before marriage continue it. Totally the correlation of training is positive with economical activity, but it's possible that the correlation can be negative. If the training increase woman's expectations the situation the woman can suffer hesitation in accepting available jobs, almost educated think that they are not corresponding to the work and income that are enquired. In most cases, low level jobs are allocated to than men ignoring its reasons, it causes soothed sense among men and sometimes leads t leave professional life them accepting lower jobs

#### Religious Sanction

**Table (3), Frequency and percent responses for various statements on religious sanction the results of chi-square test**

Sl. no	Statements	Frequency	Percent	Chi-square	P value
1 (A)	Whether Islam permits a woman to head the family?	816	92.7	646.62	.000
2 (B)	Whether Islam permits a woman to head an office or institution?	854	97.0	779.07	.000
3 (C)	Whether Islam permits a woman to wear a uniform dress other than veil?	842	95.7	734.56	.000
4 (D)	Whether Islam permits a Woman to Work Outside the Family?	853	96.9	775.31	.000
5 (E)	Whether Islam permits a woman to go for higher studies?	862	98.0	809.47	.000
6 (F)	Whether Islam permits a woman to go for Islamic studies?	777	88.3	516.22	.000
7 (G)	Whether Islam permits a woman to take independent decision?	796	90.5	576.07	.000
8 (H)	Whether Islam permits a woman to take part in political and other social institutions?	622	70.7	150.56	.000

When the respondents were asked whether Islam permits a woman to head the family, 92.7% indicated 'yes', 97% of them indicated that Islam permits a woman to head an office or institution, 95.7% opined 'yes' for Islam permitting a woman to wear uniform dress other than veil, 96.9% of them indicated that Islam permits a woman to work outside the family, 98% for higher studies, 88.% for Islamic studies, 90.5% for taking independent decision, and lastly 70.7% of the respondents indicated that Islam permits a woman to take part in political and other social institutions.

**Table (4), Frequency and percent responses for various statements on religious code for women the results of chi-square test**

Sl no	Statement		VI	I	SI	NI	NAI	X2	P value
1	One has to observe prayers for Three times strictly	F	742	95	24	-	19	1667.85	.000
		%	84.3	10.8	2.7	-	2.2		
2	One should observe fast strictly and compulsorily during Ramadan month	F	638	186	34	7	15	1637.44	.000
		%	72.5	21.1	3.9	0.8	1.7		
3	One should wear veil compulsorily	F	390	269	209	6	6	643.94	.000
		%	44.3	30.6	23.8	0.7	0.7		
4	Woman are allowed to enter tomb of the Muslim saints	F	162	177	364	146	31	326.51	.000
		%	18.4	20.1	41.4	16.6	3.5		
5	Woman can perform worship with offerings	F	146	114	270	251	99	142.81	.000
		%	16.6	13.0	30.7	28.5	11.3		

Note: VI-Very important; I-Important; SI\_Some what important; NI-Not important; NAI-not at all important

When the opinions on statements of religious practices were verified, following trends were observed. 84.3% of the sample had indicated that observing prayer for three times strictly is very important, 72.5% of them indicated that observing fast strictly and compulsorily during the month of Ramadan is very important, 44.3% of opined that one should wear the veil compulsorily is very important, 41.4% of the sample opined that women may be allowed to enter the tomb of the Muslim saints is somewhat important, and 30.7% of the sample opined that women may perform worship with offerings is somewhat important. The chi-square values obtained for all the statements indicating significant differences between frequencies of responses.

**Table (5), Frequency and percent responses for various statements on time schedule for women the results of chi-square test**

Sl no	Statement		Time spent (weekly hours)				X2	P value
			<5	6-10	11-15	15+		
1	Time spent in cooking	F	462	383	23	12	760.03	.000
		%	52.5	43.5	2.6	1.4		
2	Time spent in cleaning the house	F	509	285	84	2	1093.66	.000
		%	57.8	32.4	9.5	0.2		
3	Time spent in washing the clothes	F	465	348	55	12	667.72	.000
		%	52.8	39.5	6.3	1.4		
4	Time spent to look after the young children	F	506	262	104	8	645.27	.000
		%	57.5	29.8	11.8	0.9		
5	Time spent to look after the elderly or sick person	F	368	344	98	70	339.38	.000
		%	41.8	39.1	11.1	8.0		
6	Time spent to educate the school going children	F	507	243	108	22	612.03	.000
		%	57.6	27.6	12.3	2.5		
7	Time spent in purchasing or Marketing the family needs	F	462	268	121	29	487.05	.000
		%	52.5	30.5	13.8	3.3		
8	Time spent in looking after the husband/other family members	F	474	158	89	159	405.65	.000
		%	53.9	18.0	10.1	18.1		

As far as time schedule for various activities are considered, following information was revealed by the respondents. 52.5% of the sample reported that they spend less than 5 hours for cooking, 43.5% spent 6-10 hours, 2.6% spent 11-15 hours and only 1.4% of the sample spent more than 15 hours for cooking. 57.8% of the sample reported that they spend less than 5 hours for cleaning the house, 32.4% spent 6-10 hours, 9.5% spent 11-15 hours and only 0.2% of the sample spent more than 15 hours for cleaning the house. As far as the time spent for washing the clothes are considered, 52.8% spend less than 5 hours, 39.5% spent 6-10 hours, 6.3% spent 11-15 hours and only 1.4% of the sample spent more than 15 hours. In the case of time spent for looking after children it was found that 57.5% of the respondents spent less than 5 hours, 29.8% spent 6-10 hours, 11.8% spent 11-15 hours and only 0.9% of the sample spent more than 15 hours.

As far as the time spent for looking after elderly or sick persons is considered, 41.8% of the respondents spent less than 5 hours, 39.1% spent 6-10 hours, 11.1% spent 11-15 hours and 8% of the sample spent more than 15 hours. In the case of time spent to educate the school going children, it was found that 57.6% of the respondents spent less than 5 hours, 27.6% spent 6-10 hours, 12.3% spent 11-15 hours and only 2.5% of the sample spent more than 15 hours. As far as the time spent for purchasing or marketing the family needs is considered, 52.5% of the respondents spent less than 5 hours, 30.5% spent 6-10 hours, 13.8% spent 11-15 hours and only 3.3% of the sample spent more than 15 hours.

In the case of time spent for looking after the husband/other family members, it was found that 53.9% of the respondents spent less than 5 hours, 18% spent 6-10 hours, 10.1% spent 11-15 hours and 18.1% of the sample spent more than 15 hours. For all the time schedules, chi-square tests revealed significant differences

**Table (6), Frequency and percent responses for various statements on time schedule for women in their non-domestic works (weekly) the results of chi-square test**

Sl no	Statement		Time spent ( hours/week)						X2	P value
			Never	<20 hrs	21-40 hrs	41-60 hrs	60+ hrs			
4	Time spent in the Carpet – weaving	F	715	95	40	30	0	1496.14	.000	
		%	81.3	10.8	4.5	3.4	0			
5	Time spent in the tailoring and embroidery with flower designs:	F	804	54	16	6	0	2072.84	.000	
		%	91.4	6.1	1.8	0.7	0			

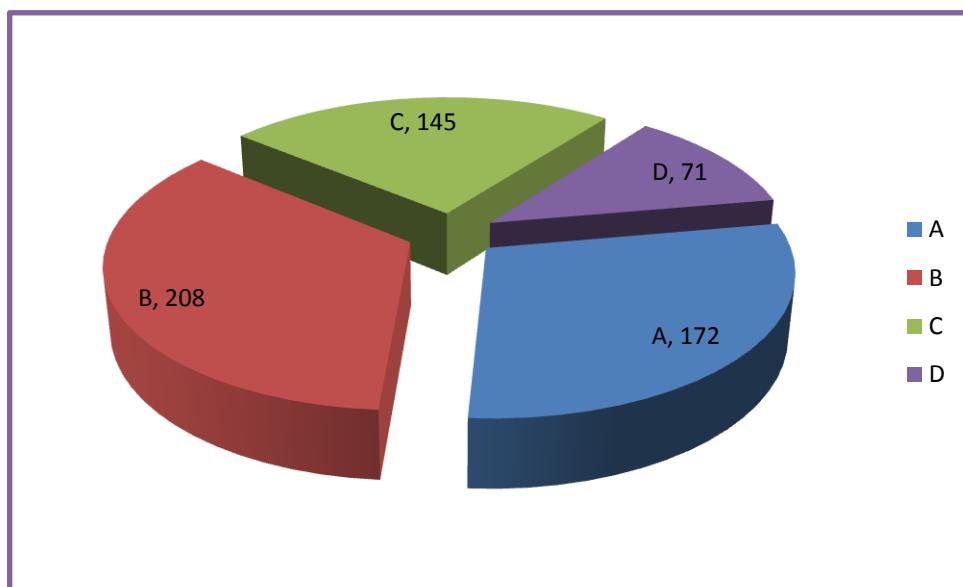
As far as time schedule for non-domestic works are considered, following information was revealed by the respondents. As far as the time spent for carpet weaving is considered, 81.3% of the respondents were devoid of it, 10.8% of the sample spent less than 20 hours, 4.5% spent 21-40 hours, and only 3.4% of the sample spent 41-60 hours. In the case of time spent for tailoring and embroidery, it was found that 91.4% of the sample did not involve in it, 6.1% spent a time of less than 20 hours, 1.8% spent about 21-40 hours, and remaining 0.7% of the sample spent 41-60 hours. For all the time schedules for different schedules on no-domestic activities, chi-square tests revealed significant differences

**Table (7), Frequency and percent responses for statements on helping hands for employed women and results of chi-square statistics**

Sl no		Statements	Frequency (max. 250)	%	Chi-square	P value
1	A	Whether employed woman expects the help of her husband in domestic works	172	68.8	18.32	.000
2	B	Whether employed woman expects the help of the elderly people of the family	208	83.2	61.94	.000
3	C	Whether employed woman expects the help of her children	145	58.0	3.22	.073
4	D	Whether employed woman prefer to Employ a servant maid	71	28.4	24.47	.000

(Employed women are only 250 out of 880)

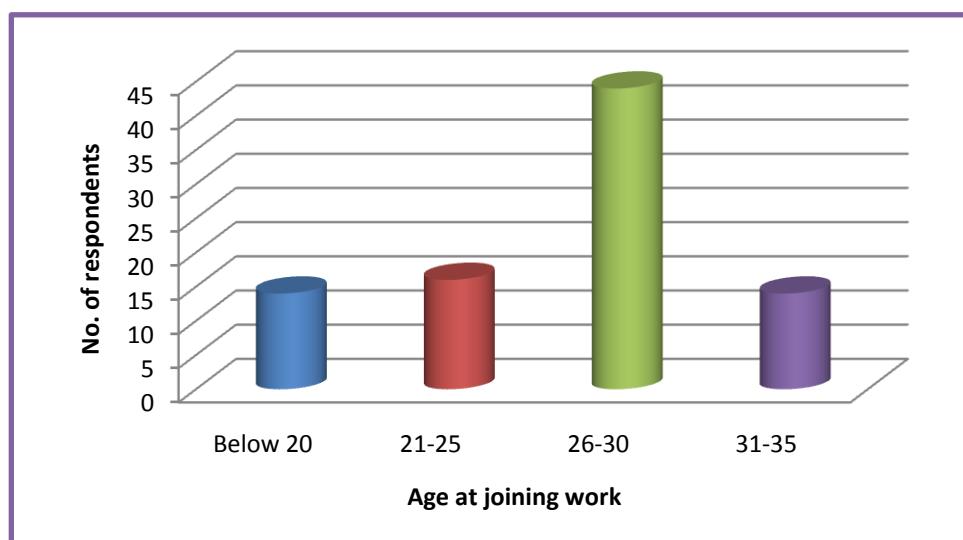
When the statements on helping hands are verified for working women, it was found that 68.8% of the sample opined that employed woman expects the help of her husband in domestic works, 83.2% of the respondents felt that employed woman expects the help of the elderly people of the family, 58% of them felt that employed woman expects the help of her children and only 28.4% of the respondents felt the need of servant maid. Chi-square tests revealed significant differences for all the statements except for women expecting the child to help her.

**Figure (1), Responses for statements on helping hands for employed women****Job Satisfaction****Table (8), Frequency and percent responses for “at what age did you start to work” and results of chi-square test**

Age at work	Frequency	Percent
No employment	792	90.0
Below 20	14	1.6
21-25	16	1.8
26-30	44	5.0
31-35	14	1.6
Total	880	100.0

Chi-square=880.77; P=.000

Of the 88 respondents who were employed, 14 of them indicated that they started working at the age of below 20 years, 16 of them indicated at 21-25 years, 44 of them indicated that they started working at the age of 26-30 years and 14 respondents indicated that they started working at the age of 31-35 years. Chi-square test revealed significant difference between frequencies on different ages when respondents started working.

**Figure (2), Percent responses for the question ‘at what age did you start to work?’**

**Table (9), Frequency and percent responses for “how long you are serving here” and results of chi-square test**

Experience	Frequency	Percent
Not applicable	792	90.0
Below 5	31	3.5
6-10	28	3.2
11-15	16	1.8
16-20	8	0.9
Above 20 years	5	0.6
Total	880	100.0

Chi-square=962.23; P=.000

31 of the 88 respondents indicated that they are serving since last 5 years, 28 from 6-10 years, 16 from 11-15 years, 8 since 16-20 years, and 5 of them indicated that they are working since more than 20 years and chi-square test revealed a significant difference between frequencies of experience.

### **Conclusion**

Women's employment can result from social-cultural effects and maybe due to absence of mother in the house that by adding work hours. This effect would be higher and even has been efficacious on women mentality. The barriers for employing out unlike public ideas without financial needs and interests or enough education, main reason of employment among women is existing children in the family, we can say women due to have children don't go to work. Secondly some women have more than one reason for unemployment. The future adopting suitable thoughts will be eliminating barriers of women. For acquiring this aim equality of opportunity and salaries for women and men should be considered. Social events have close relations together, we should reassess them and study for changing in the woman situation, this case cannot be easy because of considering available values of life, most individuals naturally believe to priority man amongst woman in the political, economical, social affairs.

Among motivations of employment of women is financial needs and incomes and eliminating life needs if husband's income is enough to response financial needs of family, women has low tendency to work out. Also there is direct relation among women's employment, marriage age and cultural-social contribution with their education. The results of humanities research cannot be exact and we should study it in other fields but obtaining results show that women's employment out of the house economically can be effective on individual and family, mental and moral fields of women, education of children and women, providing better possibilities and more welfare, decreasing the commitment load of family, participating in conducting of house have positive effects, socially it leads to raise social position of women, control of population, facility of access to development, using all capacities, ability of people and other social aspects.

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