

Are They Gratified? Contemporary Revelation on How the Women's Rights on Decision Making Affect When They Are Unemployed

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Abstract:-Central to sociological understandings the gender cannot be identifiable just as difference between male and female or between the lives of women and men but more specifically it is the inequality. In particular, sociological perspective of gender has traditionally focused under different circumstances, basically along the lines of how the respective society is organized, through its social structure. According to similar studies, women's empowerment is the process, by which women gain greater control over material and intellectual resources and challenge the ideology of patriarchy and also to enjoy the rights of autonomous decision making within their family settings and in other social structures, too. In this context, several researches have proved that unemployment is a major life event and it can have a devastating impact on people's lives in particular on women also affecting their decision making capacities. It affects not just the unemployed woman but also family members and the wider community.

In this research paper, author has seen unemployed women in the contemporary society are unable to follow their rights on the autonomous decision making within family units as well as in other social settings. The selected research area is consisted by seven districts in Sri Lanka also, in focus of a 700 sample selected from both rural and urban unemployed categories of women. The selection process was followed by the random sampling method. Data were gathered through questionnaires, Interviews (Formal/ Informal/ Focus Group Discussions), Case studies and Observations. Quantitative and qualitative analysis of data and findings were applied. As revealed through several group discussions certain factors such as; being elders in the family, poverty, under-aged marriages are the blockades preventing them joining higher education also resulting unemployment, finally, limiting them for house hold activities. Accordingly, the data shows that unemployment of women affects their economic identity and this has a detrimental impact upon their social and domestic identities.

Key Words: decision making, discrimination, poverty, unemployment, women

I. INTRODUCTION

It is obvious that, woman being the leader of social existence she embellishes multitude of creations within the social setting. It is also visible that the moderate role of women prevailed in the society has fashioned to a complexity in the current social aspirations. In the current social context woman performs a multidimensional role such as delivering children feeding and caring them, management of domestic affairs

while also being employees. Within this milieu this research study focused on comprehensive comparison between unwavering gender values and the degree of women's participation on decision making events, the acceptance within the society, and the access for resource bases in current social setting etc. In reference to varied research studies focused on the effects of unemployment on socio-psychological aspects researcher expects that stakeholders and the policy makers to broaden their horizons on improved surroundings for women to access employment opportunities.

II. RESEARCH PROBLEM

Owing to the setback of unemployment how the status of women's rights for autonomous decision making can be affected and how it could create a detrimental impact on their lives due to the repercussions of unemployment, is the research problem.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To identify the background of unemployed women based on their marriages, education Etc., and to investigate how unemployed women contribute for the betterment and wellbeing of their families through effective decision making while also maintaining gender equality within the family system.
- To determine how women can play a major role on successful development initiatives without gender disparities or inequalities.

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

Classic sociology and other social theory contain little attention to the social differences between women and men. Marx, Weber and Durkheim are not noted for their insights into 'sex' inequality (the word gender was not known to them in its present usage) and in fact tended mostly to consider women's subordinate social role as a natural 'given' (Sydie, 1994). Durkheim thought of modernity's greater distinction between 'sex roles' as a functional, biologically based evolution resulting from the progressive forces of a shift to organic solidarity. To translate, he argued that as society became more complex, more distinct differences in body and mind emerged between women and men; they specialized in

their roles and this made the division of labour more efficient and society stronger. Weber also saw women's dependent social position as fundamentally determined by 'the normal superiority of the physical and intellectual energies of the male'. This marred an otherwise interesting analysis of traditional power as patriarchal – in the pre-feminist sense of older males exercising traditional domination through the family (Sydie, 1994). It seems slightly odd that these thinkers should view 'sex roles' as naturally determined, given that they were busy stressing how social forces affected everything else.

Delavande & Zafar – 2013, their study on Gender Discrimination and Social Identity: Experimental Evidence from Urban Pakistan - This paper investigates how gender discrimination depends on the social identities of interacting parties. They use an experimental approach to identify gender discrimination by randomly matching 2,836 male and female students pursuing bachelor's-equivalent degrees in three different types of institutions—Madrassas (religious seminaries), Islamic universities, and liberal universities—that represent distinct identities within the Pakistani society. Their main finding is that gender discrimination is not uniform in intensity and nature across the educated Pakistani society and varies as a function of the social identity of both individuals who interact. While this paper find no evidence of higher-socioeconomic-status men discriminating against women, men of lower socioeconomic status and higher religiosity tend to discriminate against women—but only women of lower socioeconomic status who are closest to them in social distance. Moreover, this discrimination is largely taste-based. Their findings suggest that social policies aimed at empowering women need to account for the intersectionality of gender with social identity (Delavande & Zafar, 2013). Through the study on *The Roots of Gender Inequality in Developing Countries* done by Jayechandran – 2015 discuss the high degree of gender inequality in developing countries in education, personal autonomy, and more explained by underdevelopment itself? Or do the societies that are poor today hold certain cultural views that lead to gender inequality? This article discusses several mechanisms through which gender gaps narrow as countries grow (Jayechandran, 2015).

As the Researcher of this paper I argue that although much of the GDP/gender-inequality relationship can be explained by the process of development, specific societal factors are also at play: Many countries that are poor today have cultural norms that exacerbate favoritism toward males. Norms such as patrilocality and concern for women's "purity" help explain the male-skewed sex ratio in India and China and low female employment in India, the Middle East, and North Africa, for example. I also discuss why the sex ratio has become more male-skewed with development. Finally, I lay out some policy approaches to address gender inequality.

V. METHODOLOGY

5.1. Study area and the Research sample

Seven districts were selected as the research area namely Gampaha, Galle, Kurunegala, Moneragala, Anuradhapura, Jaffna and Ampara. Whereas, 700 unemployed women were selected through random sampling on the basis that 100 respondents were to be from each district.

5.2. Data Collection Method:

Researchers who adopt an interpretive approach commonly use qualitative methods of data collection such as observation and interviewing (Terre Blanche et al., 2006). In this particular study in-depth interviews were conducted to obtain information of the impact of unemployment on the sample interviewees. Two instruments, a demographic questionnaire and a semi-structured interview guide, were used in particular on the socio-cultural and economic status research participants. In this regard;

- Survey questionnaires were used as the primary source of collecting data of the selected sample. Also, specific data gathering action was launched via Interviews through discussions (Formal and informal, Group basis, Focus Group Discussions and In-depth Discussions), and, by means of Observations, added with Case Studies.
- The following sources were used as secondary sources of information to aggregate more data and information :
 - a. Published reports, books, magazines, reviews, newspapers
 - b. Internet
 - c. Social Media

5.3. Data Analysis: Two processes were followed as mentioned below;

1) Quantitative Analysis

The transcribed data were analyzed by means of content thematic analysis and aided by thematic network analyses by evolving ;

- a. With SPSS, GIS,
- b. Statistical representation of data

2) Qualitative Analysis

Descriptive submission of research findings on the facts and observation outcomes following an explanatory process

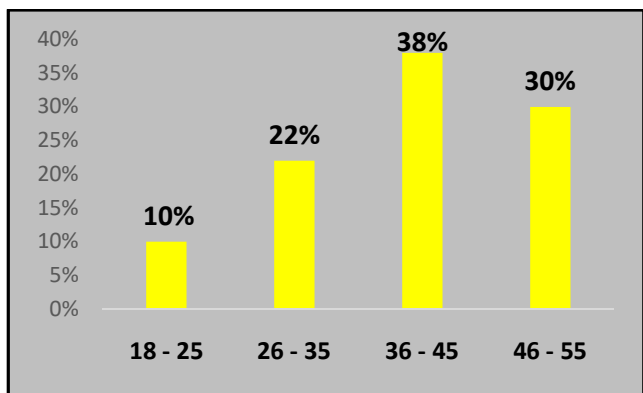
VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Data analysis related to unemployed women in rural and urban settings.

Personal Data

This section presents the findings and results added with points for discussion which were obtained from the interviewees conducted with unemployed women as well as selected stake holders. The themes that emerged from the data analysis are discussed and supporting verbatim quotes derived from the interview transcripts, are presented. Furthermore, an interpretation of the findings is provided. While, studies were carried out in a premeditated manner 700 unemployed women were included in the study sample to analyze their basic details of sociological profiles. Also, needed data analysis was attended based on community and social factors so as to assess the obstacles those hindering socio economic empowerment of rural women.

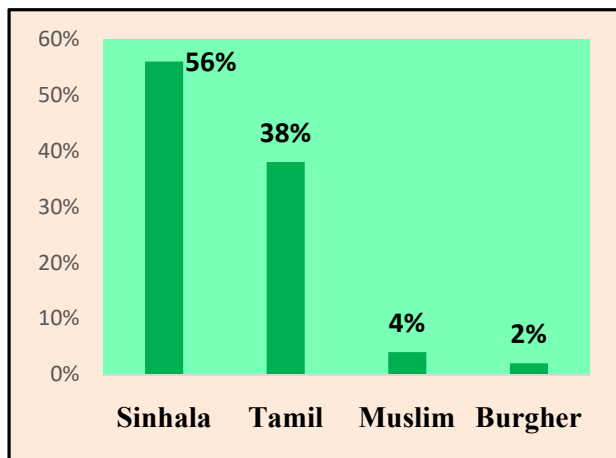
Figure No 01- Age Structure of Respondents (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

The upper age limit of unemployed women interviewed was in between 36 – 45 years which represents 38%. The lowest age limit of data providers was between 18 – 25 representing 10 % of the total. This reflects that a higher percentage of sample informants are in the middle age category.

Figure No 02- Ethnicity of Respondents (N=700)

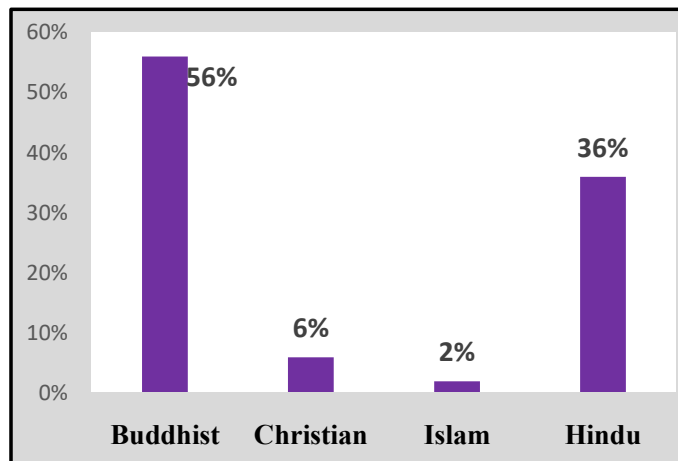


(Source- Field Data 2019)

Data gathered reflects that among those unemployed women 56% of an higher majority was consisted by Sinhalese while 38% represented by Tamil community. Whereas, minimal percentage of 4% to 2% was represented by Muslim and

Burger communities. Also revealed that there was no major influence of ethnic based analysis however, the graph reflects that Sinhalese women represent higher rate of unemployment in these regions.

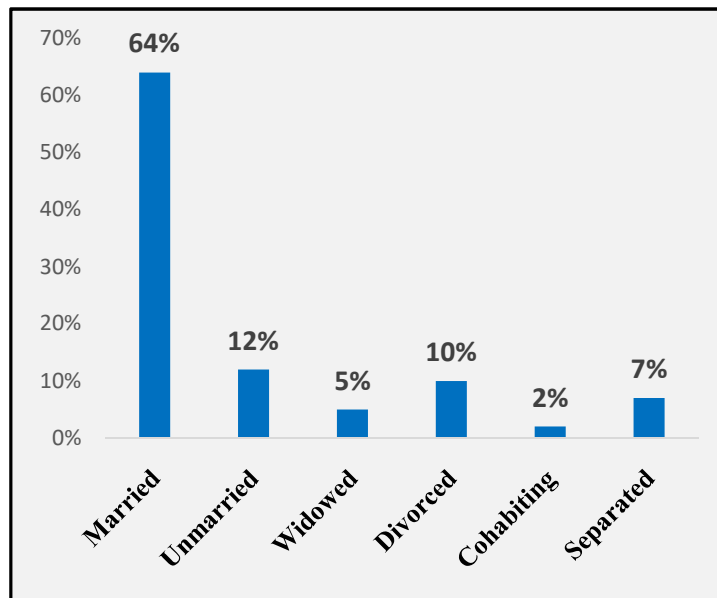
Figure No 03- Religion of Respondents (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

In consistent with these graphical representation of unemployed women. 56% of majority are Buddhists whereas, second higher percentage equal to 36% represents Hindus while 6% of them were Christians and the minute percentage of 2% were Islamic devotees.

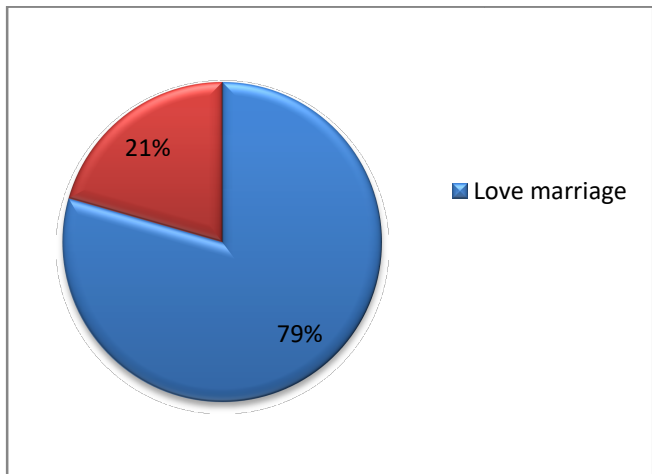
Figure No 04- Marital Status of Respondents (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

In reference to the data gathered 64% of total interviewees were married partners and 12% of the total was un-married. While, 10% found to be divorced and 7% were married but living separately. Also 2% were asserted as living together, and 5% were appeared as widows. An advanced percentage represents middle aged women.

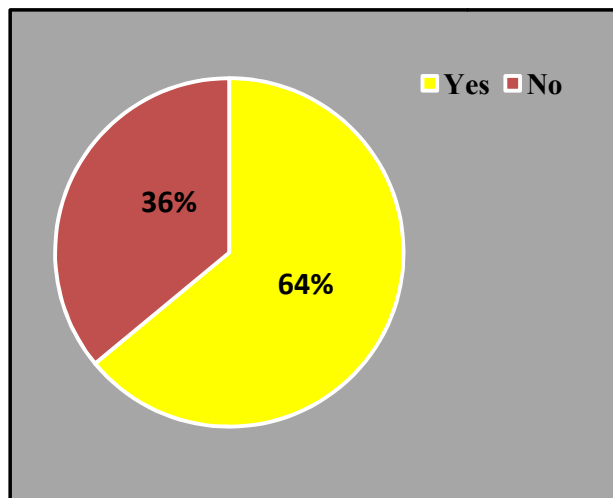
Figure No 05- Marriage Type (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

As per the data appearing in the above graph 79% of women had entered into marriages followed by love affairs whereas, 21% were married through proposals.

Figure No 06- Family Consideration about the affair (N=700)



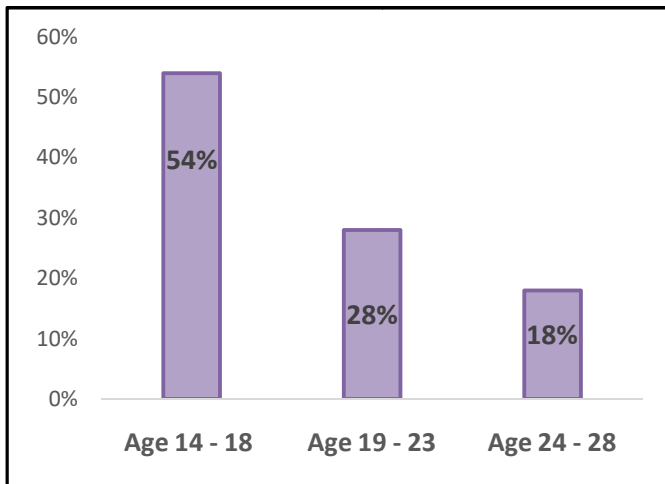
(Source- Field Data 2019)

Among the total data providers 64% of higher percentage asserted that some concerns and interest were there among the family members prior to their marriages and the balance 36% stated that there was no consideration among the family members on their marriages.

Reasons for absence of anxiety of family members before some of the marriages (N=252)

The main reason for not getting needed consideration of family members prior to the marriages was the dissatisfaction on the family status of the male partner. While 79% of married women were on the said category, the balance 29% commented differently that some disagreements were there as women’s family members had brought separate proposals.

Figure No 07- Age distribution of Marriage (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

As displayed in the Graph No. 07 a considerable number of women had entered into marriages at the ages below 18 years which represents 54%. The lowest indicator of 18% signifies the number of women got married at the ages between 24-28 years while, 28% indicates the number of women got married at the ages from 19 – 23 years having attained marital status in the most appropriate age. A fact revealed in the study was that those completed GCE O’level or GCE Ad. Level had moved into marriages owing to their love affairs. In total, the data gathered discloses that the majority of unemployed women in respective study areas had entered into marriages at lower age limits.

Causes of Teenage Marriages (N=378)

Those 56% of data providers among those who got married at the ages below 18 years commented that the causes affected for early marriages was the disruption or interruption happened to discontinue their education. Similarly, another segment of 33% brought up other reason of the influence of family members. One other reason was the minimum educational level of parents. A supposition can be made that ignorance of (5%), low education and poverty (6%) and also certain love affairs were the propensities affected on this setback. The tendency of entering into marriages at premature ages represents in higher ratio in rural areas in compared to urban settings yet, similar propensity is visible in a higher scale among those urbanized poverty groups in the urban areas too.

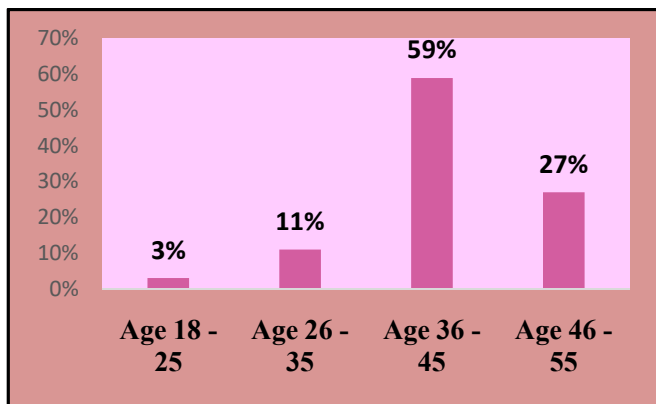
The study outcomes revealed that those entering into marriages in pre-matured ages are to suffer due to the challenges of inaccessibility for social privileges and rights as well as the depression over legal matters too.

Box : 1

Sumali From Medawachchiya - 26 years.

“ We belong to the poorest category in our villages. Even our parents are not properly employed and in contrary, the size of our family was somewhat bigger since the number of brothers and sisters were in an higher number. Due to the immensity of the family size which had ushered continuous living hardships In this context I had to start a love affaire with a fellow and also took the decision to flee away from the family with the decision to get rid off from the living hardships.

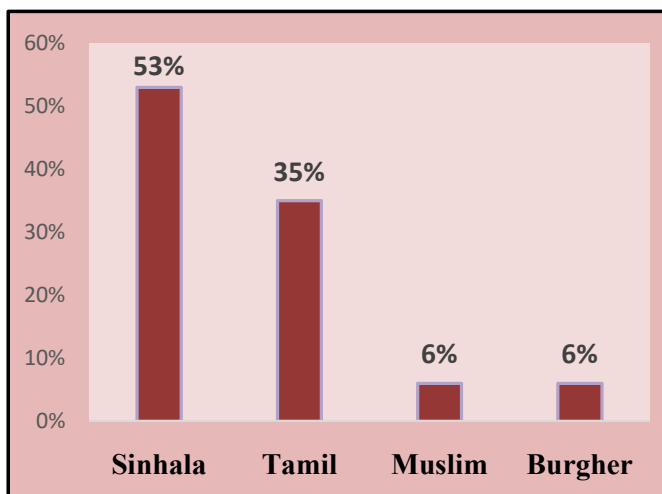
Figure 08- Age Categories of husbands' (N=630)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

The majority of husbands are in the age category of 36 to 45 years. Another segment of 27% represents age limits from 46 – 55. Barely, a minor percentage of 11 % represents an age range between 26 - 35 . Here-under, those had been divorced from their marriages did not attend the data gathering, however, the majority of data providers are found to be married with partners in equal ages.

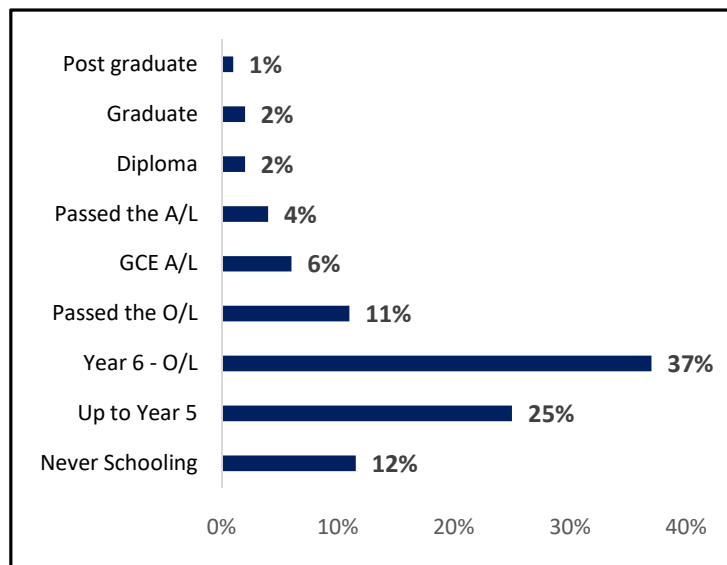
Figure 09- Ethnicity of husband's (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

As exposed through above Graph a majority of 53% of women had married with persons belong to the ethnicity group of Sinhalese, while, 35% had married with Tamil persons. Another segment of 6% had entered into marriages with ethnic groups of Muslims and Burgher. Based on the above analysis, the supposition can be arrived at that the mainstream of women has found their partners within similar ethnic category.

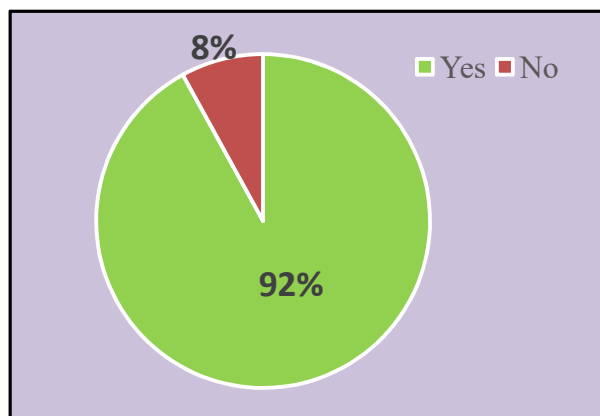
Figure 10- Educational Level of Married partners (N=630)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

As per the above data revelation, 37% of married partners had studied from 6th. Grade to O' Level. Besides, 25% of other segment had possessed education from Grade 1 – 5th. Further, 12% of married partners had not attended education. While, the majority of data providers had entered into marriages with partners signifying low educational standards. Among those studied up to degree levels or post graduate level could be categorized as either 2% or 1%, respectively. .

Figure 11- Occupational Status of husbands of interviewees (N=462)

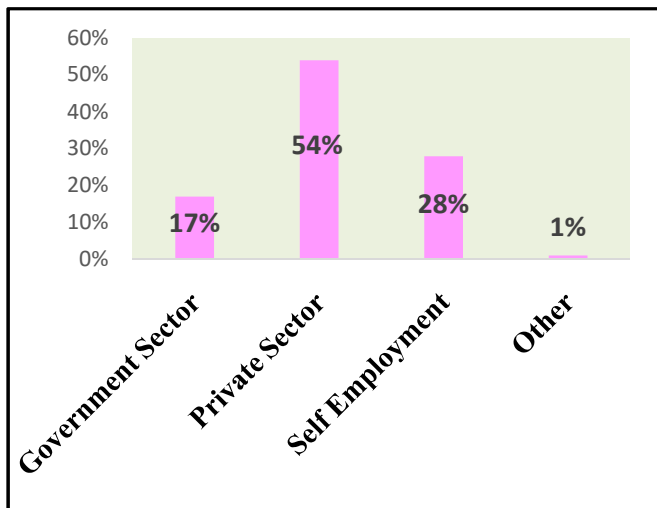


(Source- Field Data 2019)

The data shared revealed that 92% of married partners are employed while, 8% are found to be unemployed. Also

perceived during the interviews that some of the husbands are living away from their family settings for longer time spans due to the specific nature of their jobs.

Figure 12- Occupation of husbands' (N=644)

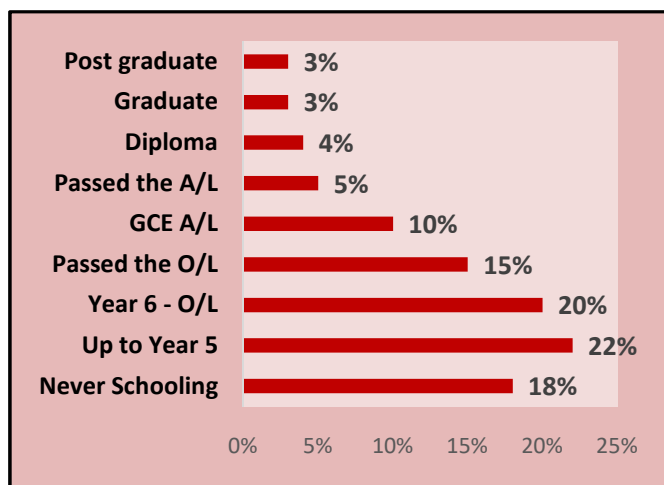


(Source- Field Data 2019)

As disclosed, the major part of the family income is managed by husbands whereas, 54% of them are found to be employed under private sector institutions. Further revealed that, 28 % of them are involved in self-employed avenues, whereas, a segment of 17% are reported as Government servants. An extremely marginal segment of 1% found to be employed on other courses of action and those employed overseas are categorized under this section.

2. Educational background of Respondents

Figure 13- Educational level of the Women interviewees (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

In accordance with the educational perspectives, the majority of data providers had studied only up to 5th. grade representing 21% of the sample, whereas, 20% were among those studied from 6th. grade to O’level. Segment of 15% represents as those completed A’ level. Also a category of 3

% exemplifies as Post Graduate Degree holders while, 18 % embodies as none schooled. Further, it could be determined that this sample of respondents do represent mixed levels of education. Specifically a majority has attempted to follow the levels of primary education.

Causes affected to interrupt the continuance of Education

The reasons triggered to discontinue education were in varied circumstances, whereas, 40% of informers had failed to continue education due to economic hardships, while 32% had failed in exams, whereas, 13% were due to their marriages. One other factor affected was the low advertency of parents owing to their low scale of education, which emphasized by 7% of respondents. Also revealed through the data analysis that 8% of interviewees had failed in continuation of education due to love affairs as well as owing to some psychic reasons

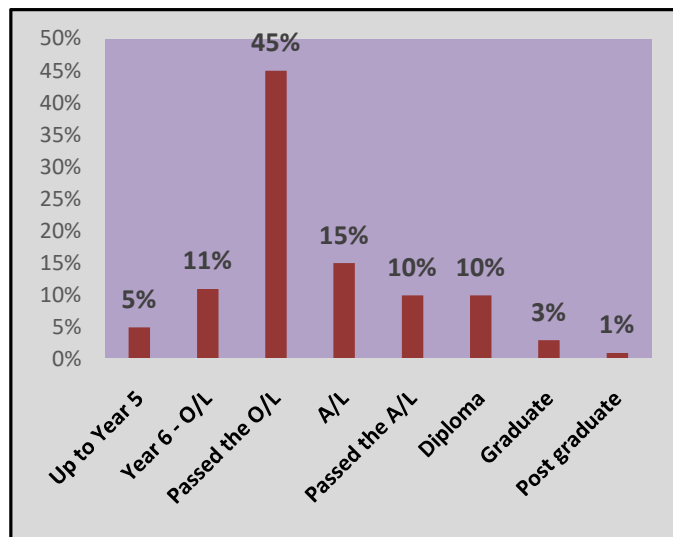
Box - 2

Declarant – Champika at Kobeygane Aged 34.

“ We were not monied people. Hence, our mothers were to follow frugality lifestyles. Though I use the term frugality actually, our mothers were followed too much of make-shifts. Owing to this practice certain things had gone out from our control. Education was one of such. Because of prevailed economic hardships and also due to the low stimulus feelings of mothers to educate us, my education too was to be discontinued”.

The above assertions endorse that low income standard within families had been an obstacle to continue their education. It is also noticeable within this interview that women who lost the opportunities for secondary and tertiary education had fallen to the category of ‘hidden ‘un-employees.

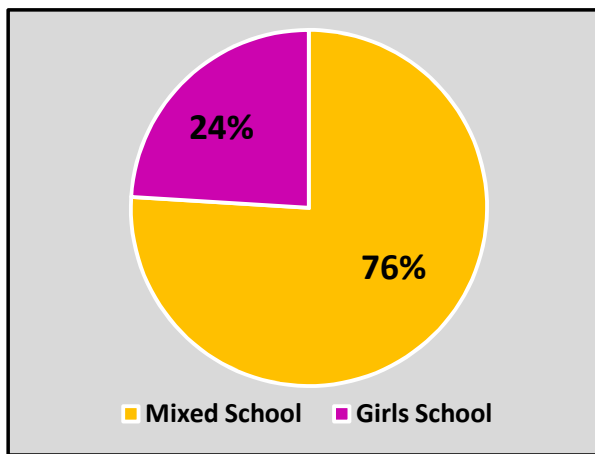
Figure 14- Highest Educational Qualification attained before Marriages (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

It has been disclosed that, the highest educational qualifications acquired by the majority of 40%, before their marriages was the succeeding of O'Level examination. The second category of respondents were those who studied up to A'level and this category represents as 15%. Similarly another batch of 10 % of the interviewees who had succeeded through A' level and also qualifying for Diploma certificates prior to their marriages.

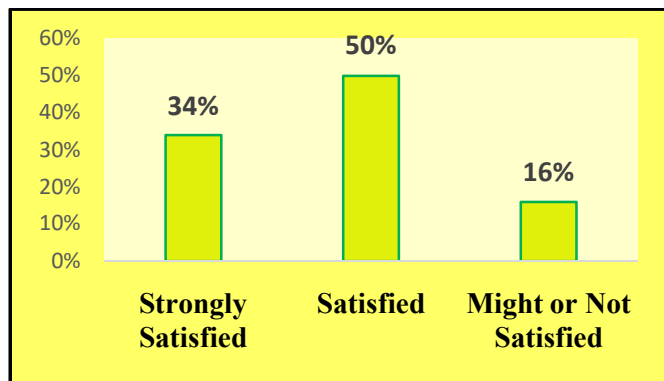
Figure 15- Types of Schools attended by the data providers (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

When the types of schools attended by the interviewees are concerned, 76% of them had attended mixed schools, while the balance of 24% had admitted to girls' schools. Few criteria followed in selection of schools were; the nearest school, the school attended by their mothers too, and the school being a popular school. Some of the data providers had entered into girls' schools after succeeding through boundary exams leaving mixed schools. Availability of teachers for higher number of classes, identified for best exam results and the influences of parents. Moreover, the students respected the level of freedom existed in girls colleges than mixed schools.

Figure 16: Diplomacy of adults to pay equal attention on education of children without gender disparity. (N=700)

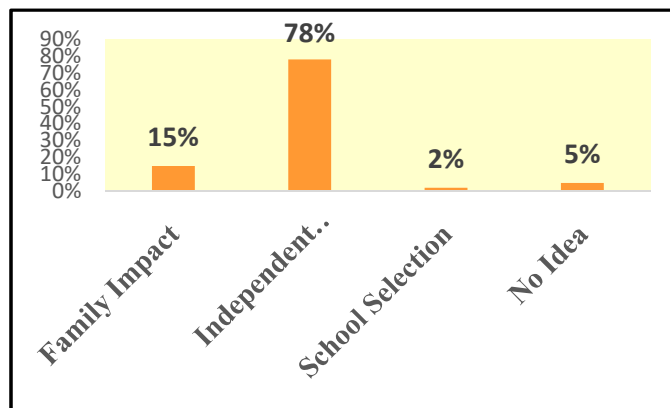


(Source- Field Data 2019)

In respect of the levels of attention paid by parents to provide equal courtesy to both male and female children on their

education, 34 % were expressed that the level of courtesy they experienced was rather satisfactory. In addition, more than 50% of data providers stated that the said constituent was happened in a satisfactory level, except a marginal segment of 16% commented that the courtesy level was in an average level. In this regard, it could be presumed that there had not been a negative situation on the courtesy of adults to assert the rights of children for education since no one committed saying that the said matter was happened either in an unsatisfactory or in a rather unsatisfactory level.

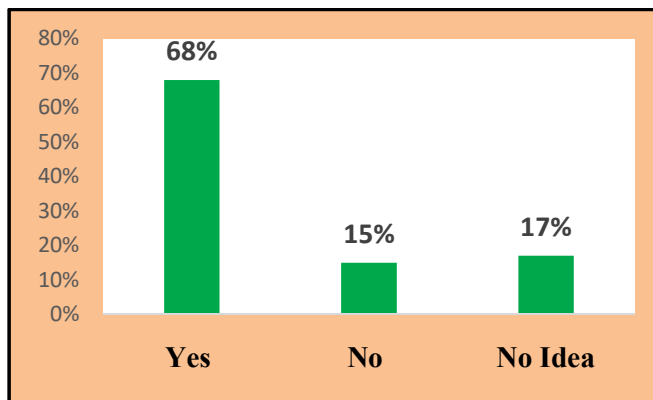
Figure 17 Causes affected in selecting subjects as main streams (N=175)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

Out of 175 data providers 78 % who had followed A'Level, had selected main streams of subjects by their own, whereas, 15% had been influenced by their families in selecting their subject areas. It was surfaced in the data analysis process that expectations of parents, financial viability and the influence of others had been some of the causes affected to select respective subject areas. A range of 2% appearing in the graph reflects other reasons too, such as the subject streams available in particular schools and the itineraries exist therein. Also the profile of information disclosed that 5% of interviewees had not shared any comments. The conclusion reachable is that the majority of data providers those who studied at A'Level had selected subject areas without future aspirations on Eg: in focus of a desirable job.

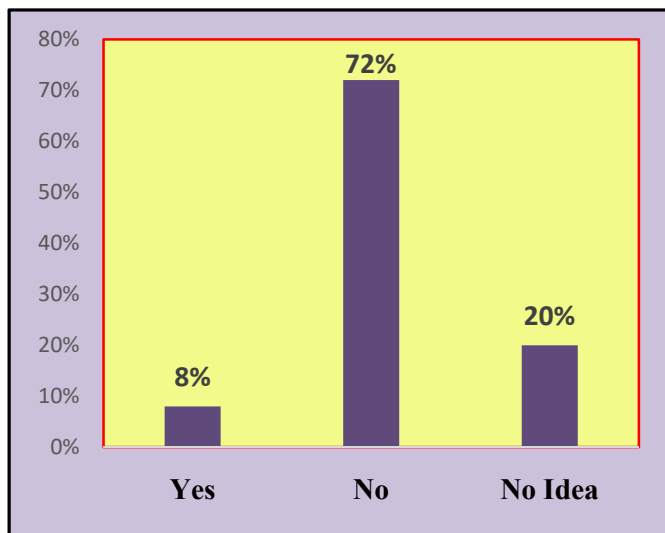
Figure 18- Selected main streams of subjects vs. self-motivations



(Source- Field Data 2019)

As per the Graph No. 19, that 68% of interviewees confirmed that they had followed A'Level education by choosing the academic field which falls in line with their skills. In this regard the data providers stated few added points too, stating that studying the main stream of subjects as they be partial to and also due to specific attractiveness prevailed since their childhood. In addition 15% of interviewees said "no" with comments that they didn't receive needed support for them to select subjects fitting into their skills. One other reason was that they were compelled to stick into subjects which were available in the school. Apart from the above two categories, 17% of data providers did not volunteer to present their comments.

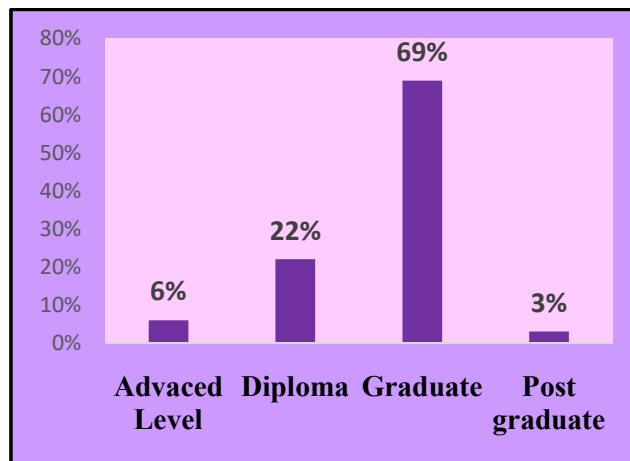
Figure 18 – Degree of satisfaction on the subjects covered under Higher education (N=175)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

As per the analysis executed on the level of satisfaction on the higher education they attained, it was revealed that 72% of them are not satisfied. One of the reasons bestowed was their compelling situation to attend marriages leaving from further education including those were qualified to enter the University. Second reason emphasized was the inadequacy of marks in possession at A'levels to find a job in the current context. The analysis also disclosed that the majority of those expressed their dissatisfaction on their academic standards were due to their prevailed ambitions on higher level of education. Nevertheless, 8 % of respondents stated that they are satisfied on the highest level of education they have completed. The reason they brought up by expressing their satisfaction was that they could successfully complete A'level education amidst of an unsupportive environment prevailed due to extreme economic hardships in their families. The 3rd. category of 20% didn't want to share any comments in this respect.

Figure 20- Expected Levels of Higher Educational Qualifications (N=175)

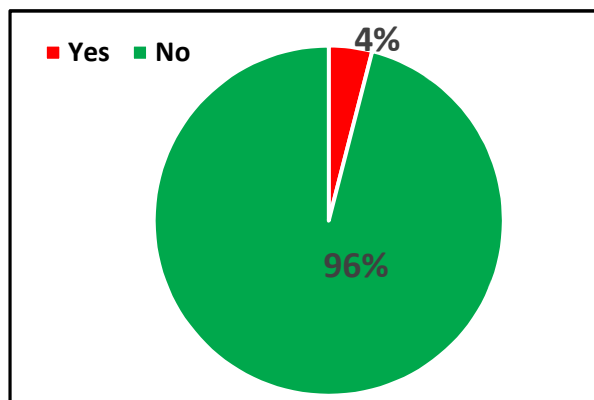


(Source- Field Data 2019)

In response to the question on the highest scales of ambitions the data providers had in their academic path, 69 % of them expressed that their desire was to be Graduates. Whereas, 22 % of the balance had expressed their desire to attain Diploma level education, while, 3 % had articulated their aspirations to reach up to Post Graduate levels. Besides, 6 % of them stated that their desire was were to go up to A'level only. The data analysis had unveiled that the majority of data suppliers had expressed their intended higher education is based on their current academic backgrounds.

Furtherance of education After Marriages

Figure 21- Education Qualification (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

As per the above Figure, an outsized majority of 96 % of the interviewees, had not achieved any types of academic qualifications after their marriage. A minute percentage of 4% of the interviewees had continued education even after their marriages. Accordingly, they had involved in academic fields such as Teachers' Dip. On Preschool education, Computer technology and Degree courses and had achieved expected results.

Also revealed that these data suppliers had been assisted by husbands, children to continue their education. In addition

they had also received guidance through social media and communication channels to reach their academic targets. The notable barriers those affecting after marriage to continue education was the extreme time limitations, as well as financial shortfalls within families. It was further revealed that more avenues and opportunities are available for urban women than rural women to continue education after their marriages.

Identified causes for stalling access for academic avenues after marriages (N672)

In this respect, data had been gathered only from 672 married data suppliers. Data gathered accordingly, showed several key reasons affected them to be away from higher education after their marriages. One of the causes behind as stated by (37%), was the unacceptance of Husbands. Other vital fact as shared by (28 %) was the Inability to perform both academic and domestic affairs together. Despite the fact that those studying in advanced academic institutions are women, the rate of women employed is 36.5% according to the report of *Sri Lanka Population and Statistics 2016*. The analysis of the study disclosed that the hard-working lifestyle and the motherhood are usual factors encountered after marriages as blockades for the lower rate of low occupation.

Other factors brought up were; business on Childcare activities (12%), difficulty to coop up with the domestic actions (13 %,) and also the shortfall of finances to meet the cost of education articulated by (10%). Further, a marginal number of interviewees uttered that their disinclination for higher education after the marriages.

Box – 3

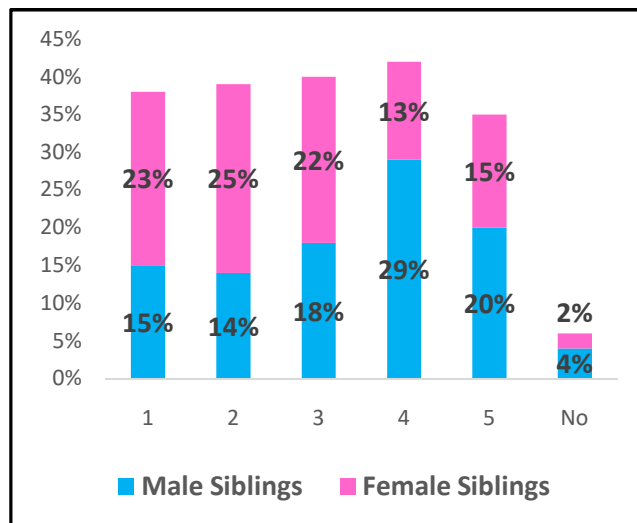
Awanthi (38) from Nittambuwa

“ Upon completion of A’Level, I could complete successfully the Diploma Certificate Course on Information Technology. Thereafter, I had the desire to continue the Degree course as well on the same stream. At this juncture I had to attain my Marriage, too. At this time my husband’s mother was unwell due to some sicknesses. As a result, I had to evolve my time to maintain domestic affairs while taking care of the sick mother, hence, time became as a crucial factor. Finally I had to give up hopes upon further education.”

The outcomes of the focused group discussions had on the above topics revealed that; the inspirations of family settings, social status and particular life cycles are basic factors affecting after marriages, to trigger obstacles to proceed ahead on academic needs.

3. Family Background of Respondents

Figure 22- Siblings in Family (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

When the composition of families of the interviewees is concerned, the data gathered displayed that 29% of respondents are members of families with four brothers while, 25% of respondents live with sisters in their respective families. As shown in the above Graph, 25% of respondents live in families with 5 brothers and those who born in families with one sister represents 23 %. The above Graph also exhibits that 4% of data providers born in families without brothers whereas, 2 % are from the families without sisters. As a whole it reflects that majority of data providers are from families with higher percentage of male members.

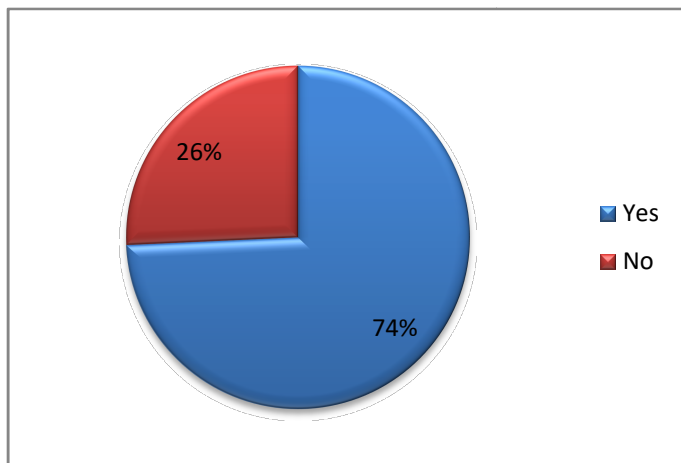
The prestigious status in the family (N=700)

Among the total, 45% of data suppliers are born as eldest in their families. Those who being the eldest in families could enjoy certain advantages such as possession of higher affection of parents and the receipt of maximum support for educational needs. The disadvantages brought up by some of the data suppliers were the added responsibility comes on the eldest to take care the youngsters and also to be an inspiring character.

The second category of the 30% of data suppliers articulated that being in the middle rank in families they could enjoy constant protection and attention of elders, yet, the control and enforcing limitations are certain disadvantages they had experienced.

The balance 25% of respondents being youngest in their families, shared their views too. Being juniors in families it is obvious that they are loved by all and no added responsibilities to be held similar to elders. While these are rewards there became castigates as well owing to constant supervision and to come under the force of adults.

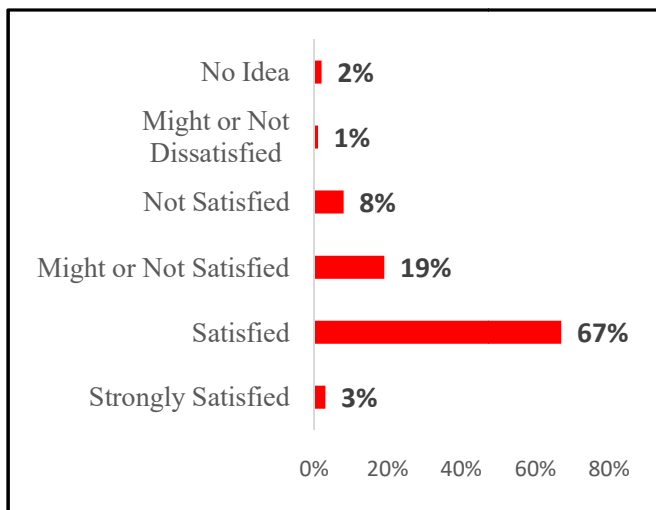
Figure 23- The levels of affections shown on male as well as on female children. (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

The level of affection on children in particular, on gender proportions is a subject being taken for assessment on different events. In this respect the majority of data providers (74 %), stated that there is no specialty on affection on male or female children in their families. In contrary, 26%, of interviewees revealed their experience saying that male children get higher affection than female children within families. Further, the analysis asserted that the single male child receives higher affection and love and based on cultural factors male children enjoys higher fondness.

Figure 24- Competence of decision making within families. (N=700)

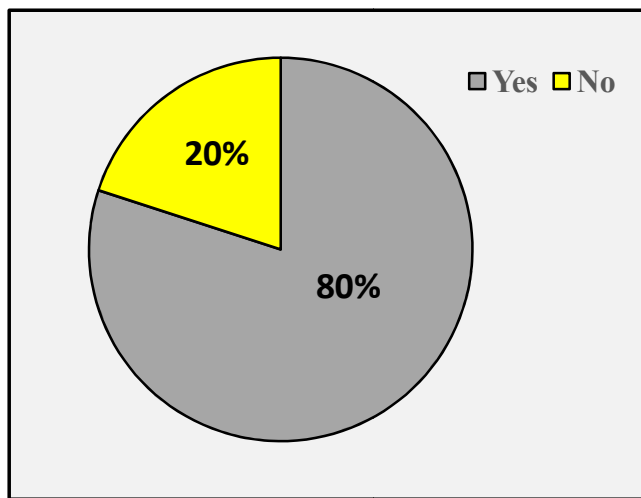


(Source- Field Data 2019)

The decision making environment prevailed within families was satisfactory as expressed by 67% of data suppliers. Whereas, 19% expressed their views revealing that prevailing status of decision making is somewhat satisfactory while 3 % of respondents said that it is highly satisfactory. Also, 8 % of respondents stated that the prevailed atmosphere for decision making at home was unsatisfactory. One added comment was to say that brothers are persuading in decision making

processes while father and mother also inducing. The analysis confirmed that the influence of rest of brothers is very much low.

Figure 25- The difference between male and female children in decision making within families. (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

In the process of this research, the majority of data suppliers (80 %), stated that there is a visible difference between male and female children in the freedom of decision making within families . Whereas, the balance 20% expressed views to say that no such difference prevailed. However, the data providers had commented that there was a difference of the freedom on decision making in particular incidences such as; on Marriages, issues related to Education, on travel/visits and in relation to friendships with outsiders.

Box – 4.

Kalhari (42) from Damana.

“Whatever the action to be attended either by myself or my sister there are taboos from our father and mother. When we are to visit a friend’s house or to buy some garments or to do other thing we get blockade at least from our elder brothers. Even in my marriage the partner had to be selected in line with the consent of family members. However we don’t enjoy the freedom.”

The above expression upholds that there is an ascendancy on women when they are to take decisions, in rural societies. Also noticeable that even in urban communities the decision making scale in comparison to male members in families exists at a lower level.

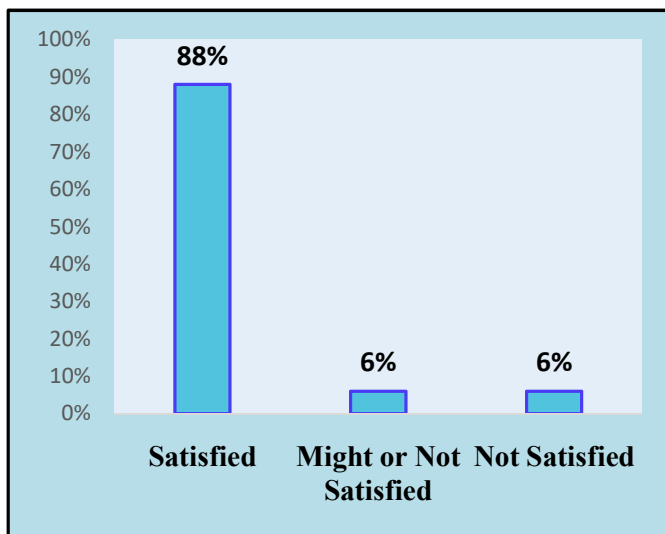
Box -5.

Amitha (45) From Gampaha

“ We are from one of the better-off families hence, we did not face any living hardships. Our father paid specific attention on all our requirements. However, my family members disagreed on my love affair. They all intended to bring forth the proposal for me to marry with a son of a businessman. Nevertheless, the pattern existed for my brothers was different. They were allowed to go to any places they preferred and to build up friendships with anyone they like. Even for me to select subject areas on my higher studies I had to do it in consent of family members giving first priority to their decision.”

As revealed through above expression there is a manipulation or pressure against women in both rural and urban settings in particular, in decision making, in comparison to the male partners

Figure 26- Level of competence on family based decision making after the marriage (N=700)



(Source- Field Data 2019)

As shown in the above Graph a majority of (88%) among the data suppliers expressed views that decision making within families after the marriage is in a satisfactory level. Another category of 6% said that the decision making process is somewhat satisfactory whereas, the balance 6% says it is unsatisfactory.

VII. CONCLUSION

This section furnishes a summary of the findings of the research study on the perceived impact of unattainability of rights for decision making by the unemployed women in Sri Lanka. It was revealed that limits of decision making by female within families before marriages and after marriages are ensued in a moderate scale. Based on the data gathered,

6% said the decision making process is somewhat satisfactory whereas, the balance 6% says it is unsatisfactory. Accordingly, this study has revealed that the domestic level decisions are not attended in line with the preference of women as well which indicates the difference between the tasks and roles of men and women.

When the findings of the research is concerned unemployment of women exerts a negative effect on their status at family level as well as in the social level. Also, poverty had been disclosed as a wider influential factor that affects unresolved matters in families and the status of women. In this regard the employment of husbands alone cannot avoid relinquishing the considerable amount of unresolved issues in each family. Also asserted in the study that cooperation of children and the parents of households was in at a satisfactory level. Although there is some cultural issues in society women don't think those are highly affect in negative way to their development. They consider those are a part of life. Majority of unemployed men or women would like to assert any kind of occupational opportunities. But owing to their educational background, Family matters, Age, and attitudes emerge as obstacles to endeavor these expectations, so that women think their role is exclusively to manage all affairs through husband's earnings including house hold activities. Furthermore, the financial impact due to unemployment has an effect on the social life of interviewees to withdraw from social interaction and to be isolated themselves because of the limited available resources. Also noticeable that the incapacity to enjoy the rights of decision making by the unemployed women affects their psychological well-being as well. Although women live in the contemporary social settings in 21st century, the majority of them are still living with conventional attitudes and with traditional believes.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Identifying the barriers affecting the empowerment of women

In order to change the negative attitudes prevailing within those family settings or within marriages in relation to the prejudicial treatments causing against girl children and women

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