

# Women and Technology

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## ABSTRACT

This paper explores the relationship between women and technology in the context of modern Indian society, focusing on decision-making patterns within households. With rapid technological development, electronic gadgets such as washing machines, microwaves, refrigerators, and computers have become integral part of daily life. The research investigates whether women, particularly in middle-class families, fully benefit from these advancements. Using a sample of 30 respondents from Kalyani Township, Respondents were categorized into high, medium, and low groups based on gadget ownership. Findings indicate that decision-making is increasingly shared between husbands and wives, challenging the traditional view of male-dominated authority. Working women rely more on modern gadgets due to time constraints, yet their opinions often carry similar weight as non-working women. Younger women prioritize gadgets more than older women, reflecting generational shifts. Interestingly, many women still prefer entertainment devices over labour-saving appliances, suggesting that artificial needs often outweigh practical household considerations. The study concludes that despite the widespread availability of technology, women's access to its full benefits remains limited, influenced by income level, education, and persistent gender roles. Greater empowerment and awareness can enhance women's use of technology for reducing household burdens.

**Keywords:** Women, Technology, Electronic Gadgets, Urban Lifestyle, Empowerment, Household Labour Reduction, Decision making.

## INTRODUCTION

We are now passing through the twenty first century. Modern technology is so much developed all over the world. Even in India, which is a developing country technology spreads out at a fast speed. Electronic gadgets are available at a reasonable price. Different types of gadgets like microwave oven, mixer grinder, television, gas oven, washing machine, vacuum cleaner, refrigerator, and computer are very useful in our everyday life. In modern days women are becoming tech-savvy. In this paper the inter-relationship between women and technology are discussed.

In an ordinary middle-class family generally, the male member takes the decision. He plays the decision maker role. The role of female members is submissive. They generally obey the male member's decision. So, people usually buy a television first than microwave oven. Or they buy a computer before buying a mixer grinder. Need is the main thing. Without need people never do any works. There are two types of needs, Basic need and Artificial need. Hunger, thrust etc. are the basic needs. Need for entertainment etc. are the artificial needs. This is a common trend. If a family buy a washing machine, then labour of the women who serve the family can be saved. In many cases the women themselves are reluctant to buy those goods, they are more eager to buy a television. So artificial needs predominate here. Even in a family the opinion of the male member predominates than the female member. He thinks that a computer is more essential than a microwave cooking range. Because without it the cooking is possible.

The working women are more dependable on technical gadgets. Due to shortage of time they prefer using modern gadgets. The kitchens are also now-a-days modular. The concept of traditional kitchen is becoming obsolete.

So, a question emerges that though technology is more advanced today do women fully get the advantages of it?

## OBJECTIVES

Today women balance their work-life and their domestic life. Still, they are deprived in most cases in case taking decision in their family. Still, they play submissive role in family. The present study has been designed with following objectives.

- 1) In a family whose opinion gets more importance of male member or of female member in case of buying an electronic gadget.
- 2) Does the opinion of a working woman get more importance than a non-working woman.
- 3) what is the type of difference in opinion between an aged and a young woman?
- 4) Though technology spreads at a fast rate, do we use the gadgets properly in our daily life?
- 5) Whether this technological development can overcome their daily agony of household jobs or not? If this can do then how?
- 6) Which factor is responsible for removing their boring household job?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Modern civilization is totally based on technology. No country in the world is developed without the help of science and technology. Technology plays a great role in every aspect of human life. Without the combined effort of men and women a country is far from being a technology-based country.

S.N. Ghosh in his book “Impact of Science and Technology on Indian Society” (1980) suggests the benefits of these technologies have been flowing mainly to the upper classes if only because the industrial products pattern is not oriented to the poor people's need. The present orientation of science and technology would not be able to benefit the larger masses and that these are making ever more remote the chances of long-term improvement of conditions of the masses. The existing orientation of science and technology is not conducive to either the further progress of science or the generation of technology beneficial to life.

He also tells about a few items which have spread to the villages and have immensely widened their scope and activity, mobility and communication are bicycles, sewing machine, radio, Bicycles have improved the mobility, increased the circle activity of a villager, sewing machine helps a woman to be able to earn her own living, radio has brought the villagers closer to the world can be regarded as examples of appropriate technology.

A technophile is completely at ease with computers and all the associated technology. He uses it to save time, keeps in touch efficiently and keeps his work organised. Other people probably rely on him to help them out when they do not know what to do. A technophobe is terrified of anything electronic, and not prepared to try anything new for fear of failing.

Thomas R. Degregori discussed in his book “A Theory of Technology” that the issues concerning the selection of technology and its impact upon women; minorities: local, regional and national identities. The discussion of technologies has led to discourses on future life styles, new eras or ages of human kind, and the exploration of cosmic issues such as the nature of life and physical processes.

As the year 2000 dawned, our biggest worry was whether computers would suffer from the Y2K bug and cause widespread damage surely, a comment on our technological age. At the threshold of the new millennium, humanity has never been more dependent on science and technology. Today our lives are intertwined with the fruits of science and technology. A thousand years of scientific and technological, progress have changed the nature of human experience in a fundamental way.

Today computers are common device in every home. Our lives have been changed by technology. Urban life is unimaginable without devices like the laptop, smartphone and also modular kitchen. These are all the innovations of this century.

If the women adopt the technology more intensively then the work of women will be easier. A working woman will be more able to concentrate at her working place if she does not face the daily household problems. Her household jobs will be performed by machines. So, the relations between women and technology are an important topic now-a-days.

## METHODOLOGY

The area of my field survey is Kalyani Township. The numbers of the respondent in my field survey are thirty. All of them live in Kalyani. I choose the female member of a family like mother, wife as my respondents. They are from different economic classes; they have different education level; some of them are working women also; some respondents are aged, some are young.

Simple random sampling method was undertaken for collection of my data, as well as interview method was followed with questionnaire. The researcher selected each family. The numbers of family as mentioned above are thirty.

There are the names of several electronic gadgets and vehicles in the questionnaire. The researcher gives them numbers from 1 to 10 and ranked them serially.

Gadgets, Vehicles	Numbers
Gas Oven	1
Mixer Grinder	2
Refrigerator	3
Vacuum Cleaner	4
Immersion heater, Geyser	5
Washing machine	6
Television, Music system	7
Microwave Oven	8
Scooter	9
Car	10

After that the researcher scored 30 respondents on the basis of the numbers of gadgets in their home.

Then the respondents are divided into three categories – High, medium and low. The researcher takes forty percentile (P40) and sixty percentiles (P60) first to find the actual scores. The following method has been used -

Class interval	Frequency	Cumulative frequency
Upto 15	11	11
15-30	12	23

30+	7	30
	<b>30</b>	

$$\frac{40N}{100} \times F$$

$$100$$

$$P_{40} = L + \frac{f}{f_h} \times h$$

$$f$$

$$12-11$$

$$= 15 + \frac{12}{12} \times 15$$

$$12$$

$$= 16.25 \rightarrow 16$$

$$\frac{60N}{100} \times F$$

$$100$$

$$P_{60} = L + \frac{F}{F_h} \times h$$

$$F$$

$$18-11$$

$$= 15 + \frac{18}{12} \times 15$$

$$12$$

$$= 23.75 \rightarrow 24 \text{ scores}$$

So, the low category begins from 1 to 16 scores. The medium category is upto 24 scores. The high category is above 24 scores.

High (24+)	Medium (up to 24)	Low (up to 16)
46	22	13
43	20	07
54	19	11
55	20	10
47	20	10
25	17	08

28	18	11
31	18	11
33	18	13
27	---	7
---	---	7

10 respondents      09 respondents      11 respondents

## Tables

There are thirty respondents in my field survey. Among them 11 respondents are in low category. Nine respondents are in medium category and ten respondents are from high category.

**Table - 1**

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of the decision among working and non-working women and of the high, medium and low category.

Working								Non-working						
Category		Husbands		Wife		Both	All		Husbands		Wife		Both	Total
-y														
	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	No	Percentage		No	Percentage	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	
High			1	33.33	5	50.00	6			1	33.33	3	25.00	4
Medium			1	33.33	3	30.00	4			1	33.33	4	33.33	5
Low		100.00	1	33.33	2	20.00	5			1	33.33	5	41.67	6
Total		100.00	1	100.00	10	100.00	15			3	100.00	12	100.00	15

**Table – 2**

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of the impact of technology among working and non-working women

Status	CATEGORY						
	High		Medium		Low		Total
	No.	Percentage	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	
Working women	6	60.00	4	44.44	5	45.45	15

Non-working women	4	40.00	5	55.56	6	54.55	15
Total	10	100.00	9	100.00	11	100.00	30

**Table – 3**

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of who is the decision maker in the family

Occupation of the Husband	Decision						Total
	Husband		Wife		Both		
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	
Service	2	100.00	4	66.67	16	72.73	22
Business			2	33.33	1	4.55	3
Teaching					3	13.64	3
Retired					2	9.08	2
Total	2	100.00	6	100.00	22	100.00	30

**Table – 4**

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of the education of respondents that their will either be honoured or not in their family de

Education	Will be served								Total
	Always		Sometimes		It depends on situation		Never		
	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	
Up to Madhyamik	5	27.78							5
Up to Higher Secondary			1	14.29					1
Up to Graduation	8	44.44	4	57.14					12
Above	5	27.78	2	28.57	3	100.00			10
Illiterate							2	100.00	2
Total	18	100.00	7	100.00	3	100.00	2	100.00	30

**Table – 5**

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of the priority of a kitchen electronic gadget or a laptop among the working and non-working women

	Electronic gadget		Personal computer		Total
	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	
Working Women	9	42.86	6	66.67	15
Non-working women	12	57.14	3	33.33	15
Total	21	100.00	9	100.00	30

**Table – 6**

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of the differences in opinion between aged and young women that electronic gadgets are essential or not

Age	Essential		Not Essential		No Comment		Total
	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	
20 – 45 Years	13	52.00	1	33.33	-		14
Above 45 years	12	48.00	2	66.67	2	100.00	16
Total	25	100.00	3	100.00	2	100.00	30

### Table Analysis

Table 1 shows the decision maker in a family of working and non-working Women Husband, or both. The family of the respondents are divided into three categories - High, Medium and Low - according to the number of gadgets available in their family. Among 30 respondents 15 are working women, and 15 are non-working women.

Table - 2 defines the number of gadgets in the family of working and non-working women. Three categories are used High, Medium and Low on the basis of the number of gadgets in the respondent's family.

Table – 3 highlights who takes decision in a family - Husband, wife or both. It has been assessed on the basis of the occupations of Husbands, viz. - Service, Business, Teaching and the retired persons also.

Table – 4 shows the will and want of a woman is honoured or not in a family. It has been done on the basis of the respondents' education.

Table – 5 shows the priority in between an electrical gadget and a computer among the working and non-working women. 21 respondents give priority on the electronic gadget and only 9 respondents put priority on the computer.

Table - 6 describes the differences in opinion among aged and young women that electronic gadgets are essential or not now for their daily household work.

## CONCLUSION

The study reveals that both husband and wife take decisions while purchasing modern amenities. It is our belief that only male member of a family has the sole responsibility and authority to take decisions. But the result shows that the traditional belief changes its course generally – specially in urban areas. Working or non – working women’s opinion gets more or less same importance in a family. The study shows that few women who belong to the higher income group are unwilling to have modern electronic gadgets. They prefer traditional way of life style. But their numbers are few. Therefore, the study concludes that despite the widespread availability of technology, women’s access to its full benefits remains limited, influenced by income level, education, and persistent gender roles. Greater empowerment and awareness can enhance women’s use of technology for reducing household burdens.

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