

Research Paper

## Impact of Educational Qualification on the Empowerment of Women Working as the Daily Wage Earners in the District of North 24 Parganas

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### ABSTRACT

Working women contribute a lot to build a family as well as a society. In the lower middle class and poor families, a great number of women go out of their home to earn for the purpose of running their household. This study was undertaken to discover how for they have achieved their empowerment and how far their educational qualification contributes to help them achieve this power. To verify the hypothesis formulated by them, the researchers employed survey type research and gathered relevant form 450 respondents, administering a self-made questionnaire. After elaborate analysis and synthesis of the accumulated data, it has been found that education has a crucial role in the process empowerment of working women who earn livelihood on daily basis.

**Keywords:** *Empowerment, Wage, Educational Qualification*

The development of any society or Nation depends mostly on the equal a progress of all its members. If any section is left behind, the very society or Nation walks limping towards progress. In a third world country like India where there are 950 females for every 1000 male persons, women are left behind their male counterpart India, which has made its positions as one of most fastest developing countries, the empowerment of women is identical with their economic independence. Truly, economic independence paves the way for empowerment as it is related to other criteria of empowerment. Therefore, participation of women in work force ensures their achievement of empowerment. According to the periodic labour force survey (2021-2022) 32.8% women in India take part in work force on are looking for potential work. In West Bengal the data is quite depressing. Here the participation of women in workforce is 28.7%. It should be kept in mind that a large part of this woman workforce, belongs to the poor or lower middle -class section of the society. Many of them do not get proper nutrition, health facilities and minimum elementary education. As per Planning Commissions Report 20% of population in West Bengal belong to the poor or economically weaker section of the society. Therefore, the women from such facilities are compelled to shoulder the load of their families along with their male members of the house. Due to lack of enough educational qualification and training and expertise in

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professional jobs, majority of them choose paid work in agriculture sector, labourers in building construction daily wage-earning job as domestic help, sales-executive and so on. In our usual experience, we see that such women are paid only on the basis of their daily work. If they are absent, they are not paid for that day. But in a family which lives below poverty-line, their earning stood much-supportive for the growth of the family. But the question arises, what is the actual status of such women who do have much they are fighting for the improve betterment of their families when a considerable past of educated and economically upgraded women enjoy comfortable zone with the empowerment status, what sort of empowerment do their achieve? this paper tries to explore their answer of such questions. Further, it is found that there is an assumption that education has little to do with the empowerment of women who work as daily wage earner. Therefore, the researcher in this study wish to verify this hypothesis.

Therefore, the researchers here define the concept of empowerment in a true sense. According to them, empowerment not only engages getting economic independence but also it includes healthy physical condition to enjoy the basic amenities freedom of speech, choice and making decision, possession of a liberal, superstition free mind, ability to think rationally and a state of existence without being dominated by others in the family as well as in the society and an across to avail the opportunity of enjoying basic amenities of life and leading a safe and cheerful life in family, work place society.

### ***Objectives:***

- To find out actual status of empowerment of women working as daily wage earners.
- To compare and contrast the empowerment status of pre-matric and post-matric women.
- To determine the effect of educational qualification of women their empowerment.

### ***Hypothesis:***

- There is no significant relationship between the education and empowerment of women working as daily wage-earner.

### ***Variables:***

- Independent variable:

Educational status of women working as daily earner.

- Dependent variable:

Empowerment of women working as daily earners.

### ***Population:***

All women working as daily wage earner of North 24 Parganas district.

### ***Sampling:***

To get valid and reliable data, 450 women were chosen randomly from both urban and rural areas of 24 Parganas North District.

### ***Data Analysis:***

The present researchers have collected raw data from the teachers and categorised them into three heads namely supportive, medium stand, and opposing. They have further divided them into four fields as per the questionnaire such as family related matters, work, physical and Lifestyle related matter. Total data have been broadly divided into two major categories-

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pre matric and post-matric female workers. All the categories, their numerical and percentage distribution have been shown in the following tables;

**Table no :1 Family matters**

	<b>Supportive</b>	<b>Medium stand</b>	<b>Opposing</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Pre- matric</b>	1500(57.69%)	250(11.57%)	410 (18.98%)	2160
<b>Post- matric</b>	410(75.92%)	60 (11.11%)	70(15.55%)	540
<b>Total</b>	1910(70.74%)	310(11.48%)	480(17.77 %)	2700

Table no:1 highlights percentage distribution of responses given by women who on their family related issues regarding their work. It shows out of 2160 responses of pre-matric women, 1500(57.69%) were of supportive, 250 (11.57%) were of medium stand, and 410(18.98%) were opposing responses. Again among 540 responses given by Post matric women 410(75.92%), 60(11.11%), 70(15.55%) responses were supportive, of medium stand and opposing women empowerment respectively.

**Table no: 2 Work matters**

	<b>Supportive</b>	<b>Medium stand</b>	<b>Opposing</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Pre matric</b>	840(55.62%)	530(35.09%)	140(9.27%)	1510
<b>Post matric</b>	430(68.25%)	180(28.57%)	20(3.17%)	630
<b>Total</b>	1270(59.34%)	710(29.46%)	160(7.47%)	2140

Table no:2 highlights percentage distribution of responses given by women who on their work-related issues regarding their work. It shows out of 1510responses of pre-matric women, 840 (55.62%) were of supportive, 530(35.09%) were of medium stand and 140(9.22%) were opposing responses view. Again among 630 responses given by post-matric women 430 (68.25%), 180 (28.57%), 20(3.17%), responses were supportive, of medium stand and opposing women empowerment respectively.

**Table no:3 Physical matters**

	<b>Supportive</b>	<b>Medium stand</b>	<b>Opposing</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Pre-matric</b>	910 (36.4%)	540 (21.6%)	1050(42%)	2500
<b>Post matric</b>	290(6.77%)	160 (25.80%)	170(27.41%)	620
<b>Total</b>	1200(38.46%)	700 (22.43%)	1220(39.10%)	3120

Table no:3 highlights percentage distribution of responses given by women who on their physical related issues regarding their work. It shows out of 2500 responses of pre-matric women, 910(36.4%) were of supportive, 540(21.6%) were of medium stand, and 1050(42%) were opposing responses views. Again among 620 responses given by Post-matric women 290(46.77%), 160(25.80%), 170(27.41%) responses were supportive, of medium stand and opposing women empowerment respectively.

**Table no:4 Life-style matters**

	<b>Supportive</b>	<b>Medium stand</b>	<b>Opposing</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Pre-matric</b>	1220(69.71%)	380(21.71%)	150(8.57%)	1750
<b>Post-matric</b>	340(66.66%)	120(23.52%)	50(9.80%)	510
<b>Total</b>	1560(69.02%)	500(22.12%)	200(8.84%)	2260

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Table no:4 highlights percentage distribution of responses given by women who on their life- style related issues regarding their work. It shows out of 1750 responses of pre-matric women, 1220 (69.71%) were if supportive, 380(21.71) were of medium stand, and 150(8.57%) were opposing responses views. Again among 51 responses given by post-matric women 340(66.66%), 120(23.52%), 50 (9.80%) responses were supportive, of medium stand and opposing women respectively empowerment.

**Table no: 5 Over all Pre- matric matters**

<b>Pre-matric</b>	<b>Supportive</b>	<b>Medium stand</b>	<b>Opposing</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Family related</b>	1500(57.69%)	250(11.57%)	410(18.58%)	2160
<b>Work related</b>	840(55.62%)	530(35.09%)	140(9.27%)	1510
<b>Physical related</b>	910(36.4%)	540(21.6%)	1050(42%)	2500
<b>Life-style related</b>	1220(69.71%)	380(21.71%)	150(8.57%)	1750
<b>Total</b>	4470(56.43%)	1700(21.46%)	1750(22.09%)	7920

Table no:5 Depicts a holistic picture of empowerment of pre-matric women. It highlights that out of 2160 responses related to Family issues of pre-matric working women, 1500, 250, 410, were supportive, of medium stand and Opposing views. Among 1510 responses related to work issues 840, 530, 140, were of supportive, medium stand and opposing views. Out of 250 responses related to physical condition of pre-matric women 910, 540, 1050, were of supportive, medium stand and opposing views. Among 1750 responses related to life – style of Pre-matric working women 1220, 380, 150were of supportive, medium stand and opposing views.

**Table on: 6 Over all Post –matric matters**

<b>Post-matric</b>	<b>Supportive</b>	<b>Medium stand</b>	<b>Opposing</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Family related</b>	410(75.92%)	60 (11.11%)	70(12.96%)	540
<b>Work related</b>	430 (68.25%)	180 (28.57%)	20(3.17%)	640
<b>Physical related</b>	290 (46.77%)	160 (25.80%)	170(27.41%)	620
<b>Life-style related</b>	340 (66.66%)	120 (23.52%)	50(9.80%)	510
<b>Total</b>	1470 (63.91%)	520 (22.60%)	310 (13.47%)	2300

Table no:6 Depicts a holistic picture of empowerment of post -matric women. It highlights that out of 540 responses related to family issues of post -matric working women, 410 (75.92%), 60(11.11%), 70 (15.55%) were supportive, of medium stand and opposing views. Among 640 responses related to work issues 430 (68.25%), 180 (28.57%), 20 (3.17%) were of supportive, medium stand and opposing views. Out of 620 responses related to Physical condition of post metric women 290 (46.77%), 160(25.80%), 170(27.41%) were of Supportive, medium stand and opposing views. Among 510 responses related to life -style of post -matric working women 340(66.66%), 120 (23.52%), 50(9.80%) were of supportive, medium stand and opposing views.

**Table no: 7 Pre-matric & Post-matrices matters**

	<b>Supportive</b>	<b>Medium stand</b>	<b>Opposing</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Pre-matric</b>	4470(56.43%)	1700(21.46%)	1750(22.09%)	7920
<b>Post-matric</b>	1470(63.43%)	520(22.60%)	310(13.47%)	2300
<b>Total</b>	5940(58.12%)	2220(21.72%)	2060(20.15%)	10220

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Table no:7 Depicts a holistic picture of empowerment of pre-matric and post-matric women. It highlights that out of 7920 responses related to all (family, work, physical, life-style) issues of pre-matric working women, 4470(56.43%), 1700(21.46%), 1750(22.09%) were supportive, of medium stand and opposing views. Again among 2300 responses given by Post-matric women, 1470(63.91%), 520(22.60%), 310(13.47%) were supportive, of medium stand and opposing women respectively empowerment.

### *Findings*

To have a clear picture of the present state of empowerment of women and the influence of their educational qualification on their employment status, the present researchers have divided the samples into two groups 450 pre-metric and post-metric group. Then they have attempted to make a comparison between the feedbacks provided by them and thus, have tried to find out a convening conclusion regarding the hypothesis formulated for this study.

### *Findings of the study:*

Here in this study, the researchers have further categorized all the responses of the samples (total 450) into four sections. Each section comprises varying number of questions. Thus, all the feedbacks related to each section has cumulatively been taken and expressed in terms of percentage. At the same time all the sections have been sub-divided into three sub-sections such as 'Supportive' 'Medium stand' and 'Opposing'.

As the category 'Median stand' remains neutral to both supporting or opposing the empowerment of daily working women, the researchers have considered this category as insignificant to the conclusion / findings of this study. Therefore, the data relating to this category has been excluded and 'supportive' and 'opposing' categories have been calculated and considered to have a convincing conclusion. After elaborate analysis, classification and synthesis, the data yield the following findings.

- 57.69 % pre-matric women consented that they enjoy power in their work place while only 18.58 % oppose to it. Thus, it is clear that they have progressed much better and got much empowerment in this section.
- Regarding work related matters, 55.62 % pre-matric women expressed positive views while only 9.27 % expressed negative views. It yields that they have made satisfactory progress in this sector.
- 36.4 % pre-matric working women reported healthy physical condition but 42% reported physical ill-health. It reflects that in case of physical condition, pre-matric working women remain quite behind.
- In respect of life style, 69.71% pre-matric women enjoy power to lead their life-style as per their wishes while 8.57 % women expressed negative feeling towards life-style. Therefore, it shows that in this section, pre-matric women have progressed along.
- 50.49 % pre-matric women have become empowerment while 22.09% pre-matric women still remain far backward.
- 75.92 % Post-matric working women reported that they exercise power in the family related issues while only 12.76 % expressed that they did not have empowerment in family matters. It yields that majority of post- matric working women have acquired empowerment in the field of family affair.
- In case of working place related affair,68.25 % post-matric working women have achieved empowerment while only 3.17% women reported negative feeling towards

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their working place, signifying a major shift of empowerment of post-matric women in this section.

- 46.77% post-matric women possess healthy physical condition while only 27.41 % fail to achieve so.
- In case of life style, 66.66 % post-matric working women can lead their life according to their own wishes while 9.80 % fail to do so.
- 63.91 % post-matric women have achieved overall empowerment while 13.47 % responses show that they fail to do so.

Therefore, in an overall sense, it is clear that a large part of post-matric women have acquired empowerment in almost all walks of life.

- In case of family matters, 75.92 % post-matric women enjoy their empowerment in comparison to 57.69 % of pre-matric women.
- 68.25 % post-matric women enjoy power in contrast to 55.62 % pre-matric women in their working-place.
- 46.77 % post-matric women possess healthy physical condition but only 36.4 % pre-matric women enjoy physical health.
- In respect of life style, 66.66 % post-matric women can lead their life as per their own wishes whereas 69.71 % pre-matric women have the some opportunity of leading their life in accordance with their own wishes.
- Overall, 63.91 % post-matric women show that enjoy their power cumulatively in comparison to 56.43 % of pre-matric women.
- The difference of empowerment status of pre-matric and post-matric women yields as  $(63.71 - 56.43) \% = 7.28$ . The calculated value here 7.28 exceeds critical value of Z-test (Two-tailed) which is 1.96 and 2.58 for 0.05 and 0.01 confidence level. So, the hypothesis on 'There is no significant relation between educational qualification and empowerment of daily working women is reject and it is established that there is a significant impact of education on the empowerment of women working as daily wage earner.

### CONCLUSION

There is an assumption that Education has little bearing on the empowerment of women who work and earn on daily basis. But from our study, it is revealed that major out of four sectors, of in three fields, post-matric women display their power than their pre-matric counterpart. Thus, it is clear that Education has a significant role to play in the process of empowerment of women working as daily wage-earner and support their family. It is clear that most of such women who work as daily wage-earner generally belong to lower-middle class or poor families. Usually most of such families to afford the cost of their children Education. Again, in our country many people of such families feel that it is useless to Educate female children. So, they hardly want to spend money to Educate their girl children. Keeping this reality in view, the government of India, has passed RTE 2010 which made provision to free and compulsory Education to all children up to 14 years of age. It expects that this will enable them to access high quality Education which will help materialise actual empowerment of women folk economically, mentally, sociologically, physically, psychologically and in every walk of life. And to do so, not only women but also their parent, teachers, family members, and all stake holders of the society should come forward and then only three empowerments of women will be possible.

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### ***Conflict of Interest***

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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